



Friends of  
ACADIA

Spring 2009  
Volume 14 No. 1

Journal

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

Rich Johnson



# 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:

### Open Year-Round

- ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS  
(on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

### Open May – November

- HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER
- THOMPSON ISLAND INFORMATION STATION
- SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION
- BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND
- SEAWALL CAMPGROUND
- JORDAN POND AND CADILLAC MTN. GIFT SHOPS
- MOUNT DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- VILLAGE GREEN BUS CENTER

*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



## THE GATEWAY TO ACADIA

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Island Explorer—the local fare-free shuttle buses that run on clean-burning propane fuel. Since 1999, these buses have carried more than 2.9 million people, beating their all-time season record last year with a whopping 8,000 passengers on a single day in August.

During these last 10 years, more than 1 million vehicle trips have been eliminated. Were all those parked cars to line up, they would create a traffic jam reaching from Bar Harbor down around the southern tip of Florida, heading past St. Petersburg to Yankeetown. Over the years, individuals who chose to ride rather than drive into the park have eliminated more than 16 tons of smog-causing pollutants and reduced greenhouse gases by more than 10,000 tons—a great gift to Acadia and the region.

The Island Explorer is the largest public bus fleet in the state of Maine. It is also arguably the most popular. Last summer, 99 percent of surveyed riders showed their strong support for the system, saying that it is “very important” for it to continue. Currently, this efficient and popular service operates out of the parking lot of a local market on Route 3 in Trenton. In order for it to operate—and grow—more efficiently, however, it needs a permanent home.

From the earliest planning days, the Island Explorer partners envisioned a location that would include a site for maintenance and operations, a welcome center to provide community and Acadia National Park information to visitors, and a place where day visitors could easily board the bus and explore the park before heading back home or to their next Maine destination.

Now, the Acadia Gateway Center—the capstone of the Island Explorer system—is proposed on 150 acres in Trenton. Friends of Acadia acquired the Crippens Creek property in 2007, exercising a four-year option on the land, and selling what was needed for the Gateway Center to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). The center will have a national park-like setting, protecting the

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### The Acadia Gateway Center should stand as a model of conservation and environmental leadership.

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creek, the big heath, and other natural features. The development will incorporate conservation, outdoor recreation, and facilities that fit within the character of the area. A fitting prelude to Acadia.

Design plans include LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification. That is only the starting point. Partners are exploring additional opportunities for energy conservation, efficiency, and innovative technological models. Pioneering technology will draw people to the center to explore and learn about energy efficiency, as well as renewable energy alternatives.

Earlier this year, the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, composed of state appointees and citizen representatives from the surrounding communities, passed a resolution urging Acadia National Park and the MDOT to make the Acadia Gateway Center a demonstration project, incorporating energy efficiency and generating and using renewable energy.

Simply stated, the Acadia Gateway Center should stand as a model of conservation and environmental leadership—a gateway center worthy of an iconic American destination.

In a time of calls for “shovel ready jobs” and “economic stimulus,” the Acadia Gateway Center has the potential to be a welcome resource for the region. Acadia National Park generates more than \$130 million of the State economy each year. As the Gateway Center reaches its potential, Trenton will find itself on the map as home to a place where people come to learn about and experience creative energy conservation, discover what the region has to offer, and hop on the bus to Acadia.

The Gateway Center will bring jobs and customers to the area communities. Downeast Transportation, the nonprofit



Noreen Hogan

organization that operates the Island Explorer, employs more than 85 workers, including seasonal bus drivers, year-round charter bus drivers, office staff, maintenance crew, and others. Building the first two phases of the center will require more than 150 construction jobs, of one- to two-year duration, over the next three to four years.

When you see the snappy white Island Explorer buses with their distinctive blue and green stripes this summer, consider how much they benefit the park and surrounding gateway communities. If you haven't already ridden one, give it a try. Schedules are online at [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com), and available at many businesses and town offices on Mount Desert Island.

With ample space for bus maintenance, operations, and visitor information, the Acadia Gateway Center will surely build upon the great successes of the Island Explorer.

*Marla S. O'Byrne*

—Marla S. O'Byrne

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# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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## SPECIAL PLACE, SPECIAL PARTNERS

I love to cruise the waters off Mount Desert Island, observing the spectacular coastline, examining the contrast between beautiful cottages and long stretches of undeveloped shore. Without the combined visions of Charles W. Eliot, George B. Dorr, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., there would likely be little undeveloped public land along the shore today. And yet, Acadia is still a work in progress.

Many do not realize that some of Acadia's most significant resources are not fully protected. In fact, within the park's legislated boundary, set in 1986, there are more than 1,000 acres of private land. Ultimately, this land should be protected to complete the park—or "fill in the holes," as I like to say.

One such example is the 123-acre Burnt Porcupine Island in Frenchman Bay. The island is currently undeveloped, appearing as it has for hundreds of years, but that could change very quickly. It was the intent of Congress that Acadia National Park preserve all such islands in their natural and scenic condition for future public use and enjoyment. This mirrors the legislated mandate of the National Park Service: to protect nationally significant natural and cultural resources for present and future generations, while at the same time making them available for the enjoyment of all Americans.

There are many other private parcels within Acadia's boundary that the park would like



to protect. Recently, the National Park Service completed the purchase of the former Pooler Farm on Northeast Creek, thanks in large part to a partnership with Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT). The Northeast Creek area has long been a popular recreation spot for canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, hiking, cranberry picking, and even ice skating. Now, its future is assured.

This joint effort began several years ago, when Friends of Acadia drafted a plan to raise funds for land protection purchases and work with MCHT to negotiate with landowners.

For the Pooler Farm, MCHT teamed up with the Bar Harbor Housing Authority to purchase the land, with the idea that the portion of land outside park boundaries could be utilized for affordable housing. Today, this housing serves many island residents.

The National Park Service's role in the process was to seek federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, established with off-shore oil royalties, and set aside for land acquisition. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Collins, this funding was acquired in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The National Park Service used these funds to purchase the property from MCHT, allowing the money to be used again for future projects. This is the essence of Friends of Acadia's and MCHT's land protection partnership: to help Acadia protect key parcels, avoiding further development inside the park.

I believe that land is the very essence of a park, for it is the land that comprises the natural beauty and recreational potential. The land is what people come to experience. For this reason, protecting holdings inside the boundary of the park must continue to be our number one priority. We cannot expect to preserve the value of Acadia without maintaining the integrity of the land within its boundaries.

Federal funding for land acquisition has declined over the course of the last decade. Because of this, the role of partners like Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust is that much more important to the long-term protection of Acadia. Because of the work that we have done, and continue to do, visitors today enjoy a high-quality experience in Acadia. With the help of generous contributions from many donors and volunteers, we have kept Acadia very special indeed.

### Heart of the Matter

*"Time and space—time to be alone,  
space to move about—these may well become  
the great scarcities of tomorrow."*

—Edwin Way Teale

—Sheridan Steele

### Schoodic Education Adventure a Success

Dear Superintendent Sheridan Steele,

This past October, 103 sixth grade students from Hampden, Maine took part in the Schoodic Education Adventure program in Winter Harbor. This program was an outstanding educational opportunity for the students. We are grateful, and want to congratulate you for offering such opportunities to schools in Maine.

The program was amazing, and the students loved it. Questions like "why can't we learn like this all the time?" were asked upon our return.

The facility was beautiful, and the staff were well-trained, not only in the subject matter, but in how to interact with students. Ranger Kate Petrie has created a program that is in alignment with *Maine Learning Results*.

Park rangers presented four programs, including: a mock archeological dig; a shoreline geology walk; a mapping project using GPS units and computers to create digital

maps; and a marine investigation, which included population study by tidal depth. The well-planned and -scheduled trip also included a night hike, as well as an artist-in-residence experience. Kate Petrie's program not only reached all students, but inspired them to learn more about the nature that is abundant here in Maine.

The response to this program was so positive that we, as a staff, have made a commitment to provide every sixth grade class with this experience.

On behalf of all the students and faculty of the sixth grade class of Reeds Brook Middle School, I would like to thank you for offering such outstanding programs to the youth of Maine.

Sincerely,

Georgiana Piete  
Sixth Grade Science Teacher  
Reeds Brook Middle School

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Spring 2009  
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A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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

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

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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To Terry, all at Friends of Acadia.  
Thank you so much for creating the Quest program which allowed us to win the beautiful canoe. Rutie has drawn her appreciation and excitement on the front - we can't wait to get out in it next spring. I know it'll really enhance her whole experience with Acadia as we get to know new areas of the park - and gain new skills!  
Thank you so much and have very happy holidays!  
the Coluccios

Friends received this card from the Coluccio family, winners of the 2008 Acadia Quest grand prize canoeing package, which was generously donated by L.L.Bean.



Shadbrush in bloom on Canada Cliffs.  
Cover photograph by Tom Blagden



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

## RITA AND MEL TIMMONS

In 2006, Rita and Mel Timmons had just bought a condo in Bass Harbor. They had visited Acadia often since their first visit in 1972. Now, they wanted to spend each summer near the park.

During the Fourth of July parade, they watched Friends of Acadia's Imprecision Drill Team, always a highlight of the event. Marching with their wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes, these volunteers of the trails and carriage roads delighted the crowd.

"Those people are having too much fun." Rita told Mel, as the couple watched the drill team going through their paces. "This is a group that we want to join."

The couple had enjoyed Acadia's trails for years. Now, they were looking for a way to give back. They also wanted to be part of a group of where fun and fellowship went hand-in-hand with work on worthy projects. The Friends of Acadia trail volunteers were the perfect fit; Rita and Mel have volunteered with the crew for the past three summers.

The multi-talented pair has also found other creative ways to help, and they are quick in responding to any request. When it comes to preserving and protecting Acadia, no project is too large or too small.

"We're counting the days until we get back," Rita said in a recent telephone conversation. "The FOA community is one of the nicest, most gracious I have ever met, and I love to be in the park."

Mel added, "I've traveled the world on business, and I've never seen anything more beautiful than Acadia." Both Rita and Mel wear their Friends of Acadia caps proudly in Maryland, as well as on Mount Desert Island.

Mel, who retired in 2001 after 30 years as an engineer designing power tools for Black & Decker/DeWalt, enjoys working with wood. Last summer, when a foot injury curtailed his work on the trails, he asked Acadia Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug if he could use help in the shop. The answer was a resounding "Yes!" Mel spent much of the summer finishing and repairing signs, shaping the large



Rita and Mel Timmons.

logs on which signs are posted, re-pointing trail stakes, and building the anchors that hold signs on carriage roads.

Mel also has contributed his woodworking skills and creativity. In Maryland, he uses wood burning to create special walking sticks for donors to the local Boy Scout District, with which he has volunteered for many years. In 2006, Mel visited Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development, to show her one of his walking sticks and ask whether Friends could use them as gifts for special donors. The answer, again, was a resounding "Yes!" Mel uses wood burning to decorate each stick with text written especially for the honoree, and sometimes adds color drawings. The result is a one-of-a-kind commemorative item. He also donated a walking stick to the silent auction at the 2007 and 2008 Benefit Galas.

"Woodworking is my hobby, and I enjoy doing it," Mel said. "And I like the idea of doing something for people who do things for FOA."

Ever willing to help, Rita and Mel both

responded to a different kind of call for volunteers last summer. Friends was expanding its membership table program, started in 2007, and needed more help at the Jordan Pond House location. Membership table volunteers engage visitors in conversation about Acadia—what it means to them, and how membership gifts can help Friends preserve and protect the natural beauty of the park.

After hearing about the project from another trail worker, Rita and Mel quickly offered to help. Their contagious enthusiasm for Acadia drew in many new members. "We enjoy talking with people about what we do for Friends," Says Rita. "We tell them about our trail work, and explain that the park is well taken care of because of FOA."

Rita, who worked with special education children in the Baltimore County schools before retiring, said Acadia "keeps us young."

"We're not wealthy, so we want to support the park in other ways," Mel adds. "Because of Friends of Acadia, there are many ways for us to help." ❧

—Sharon Broom

## IN MEMORIAM

*We gratefully acknowledge gifts  
received in memory of:*

John E. Ainsworth  
Samuel David Amitin  
The Bakalians  
Matthew Baxter  
Daniel Bazinet  
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October 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009

## Poem

### FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### “Encounter”

Looking straight past whiskers into eyes  
round and dark as his, the baby  
smiles, pats the grizzled jaw, utters  
syllables that mean: new nameable delight . . .

But when

did this happen for the first time?

And where?

In what cave or on what plain  
did wolf or coyote stretch, yawn, gaze  
from shallow yellow slits into human  
countenance and trust, patiently allow  
a tiny hand to brush its muzzle?  
Picture it now; stone age mother  
lost in pleistocene imaginings while  
the grey brute she would never  
dream to touch stands rooted, routed  
by an utter absence of plan  
in a small strange face . . .

What

slow art widened the wild eyes, deepened  
them into mirrors of the child's belief?

—Brooke Pacy

BROOKE PACY taught English and raised four children in Maryland, has published feature magazine articles and poetry, and has a novel out looking for publication. She and her husband spent eight summers sailing between Annapolis and the Canadian border and live now full time in Midcoast Maine.

POETIC MEMORY

Philip Dane Levin

1931 – 2009



Philip Dane Levin, poetry editor of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, died on February 3, 2009. Phil practiced law and lived in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Among his many other accomplishments—and inspirations—he was a literary editor, mountain climber, paddler, and poet.

Phil served as editor and poetry editor of *Appalachia*, and was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the environmental magazine *E*.

His poetry and articles on mountaineering and wilderness theory were featured in publications including *Appalachia*, *Earth Ethics*, *Flyway* (formerly *Poet and Critic*), *Friends of Acadia Journal*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Literature and Belief*, *Poet Lore*, *Snowy Egret*, and *The Southern Poetry Review*.

Phil had a close relationship with the wild places of the world, developed on excursions, like a late fall canoeing trip on the Allagash. He climbed mountains in East Africa, Greece, Norway, the Alps, Mexico, and the Rockies. Phil saw the world as a poet, “San Miguel is a courtly mountain, a feminine mountain, something out of a medieval tapestry or perhaps a conquistador’s homesick reveries” (excerpted from his essay, “Mountaineering in Mexico.”)

Phil and his wife, Eleanor, began their relationship with Mount Desert Island more than 25 years ago. This serendipitous acquaintance brought us two imaginative, gentle, and inspiring friends who shared their unique visions of Acadia.

Phil was the creator of Friends’ Nature Poetry Competition, which has fostered the relationship between words and nature in these pages.

In memory of Phil, we gratefully share, once again, his poem “Climbing Beechcliff.”



Rich Johnson

Climbing Beechcliff

all skin and bones  
this mountain  
like the hollow that separates  
the hunched-up shoulder blades  
of the very old

picking my way across  
the ancient beaver dam  
I have lost count of the times  
we have done this before  
along the lake  
up the eroded switchbacks  
sutured with ladders  
a forest without sun  
that struggles briefly  
and gives out

through all our ceremonials  
age is a falling away of things  
we climb deliberately now  
the columns of our acquaintances  
no longer stretched in front  
or to the rear

the silence fills  
with our own breathing  
emptied of expectations

the view drops off  
down to the lake  
miniaturizing and expanding  
a clear view of water  
widening as we ascend

and in the unexpected way  
that mountains have  
as if we had received a sign  
suddenly the air  
ignites with birds  
a migration  
of black-throated green warblers  
settles excitedly above us

with a pilgrim’s mute persistence  
we climb up into their benediction

(reprinted from the *Friends of Acadia Journal*,  
Summer 1996)

*The George B. Dorr Society of Friends of Acadia was established in 2005 to recognize those members and friends who have made future provisions for Friends in their estate plans, regardless of value. Such provisions may be made in the form of bequests, trusts, annuities, life insurance, or other means.*

*The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, a gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park.*

*For additional information, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340.*

## REMEMBERING VIRGINIA LLOYD Lisa Horsch Clark

On December 26, 2006, Friends of Acadia lost a dear friend and benefactor: Virginia “Vidy” Lloyd of Berryville, Virginia. After a brief illness, Mrs. Lloyd died peacefully in her home at Long Pond Farm.

As a child, Mrs. Lloyd would travel with her mother from her family home in Clark County, Virginia, to visit her grandmother, Mrs. Alexander Mackay-Smith, in Seal Harbor. When she married Stacy B. Lloyd in 1981, they combined their love for Acadia National Park, Mount Desert Island, and carriage driving, and made a home together at his family’s summer cottage in Northeast Harbor. Even while in Virginia, they thought of Acadia often—so much that they named their farm Long Pond Farm after one of their favorite driving spots on the island.

Horses were always an integral part of Virginia’s life. In the early years, she was a fox hunter. Later in life, she and her husband were avid carriage drivers, both in Virginia and on Acadia’s carriage roads. The Lloyds were also sailors, and spent many years exploring the coasts of both Maine and the Virgin Islands.

Members of Friends of Acadia almost since its inception, the Lloyds supported a variety of programs at Friends, including the Carriage Roads Campaign, Acadia Trails Forever, membership, and the annual benefit.

After Mr. Lloyd died in 1994, Mrs. Lloyd continued her support of Friends. But it wasn’t until much later that the full extent of that support would be realized.

In early 2007, I received a letter from William B. Watkins III, Mrs. Lloyd’s cousin

in Virginia, notifying us that we were to be the beneficiaries of a portion of Mrs. Lloyd’s estate. Mrs. Lloyd had begun her estate planning many years ago. As she found new philanthropic interests, she continued to add new charities and nonprofits. The charities she supported were as broad as her pursuits in Acadia. She drove for FISH, delivering elderly patients to medical appointments. She supported the Clarke County Visiting Nurses Association, Help With Housing, and the Clarke County Humane Foundation. She was instrumental in the creation of a new county animal shelter in Virginia. In Maine, she supported Friends of Acadia conservation partner Maine Coast Heritage Trust, along with many other local nonprofits. One of her last charitable acts was placing her beloved Long Pond Farm under conservation easement protection.

Not knowing Mrs. Lloyd personally, I turned to those who knew her well to hear their stories of her kindness and generosity. One former Friends of Acadia staff member, Bonnie Gilfillan, has fond memories of a time when the Lloyds shared their passion for carriage driving with her and her children.

When I spoke with Mrs. Lloyd’s cousin, Diana Watkins White, she told me of Virginia’s final trip to Maine, in the summer of 2006. “She was thrilled to be there,” said Mrs. White, who later reminded me of Mrs. Lloyd’s diligence in preparing her final estate plans. With professional guidance, she structured her estate in such a way as to provide the utmost support for her charities, while also avoiding taxes. “It is a loss for the world,” remembered White. “She was probably the

most generous person I have ever known.”

From Virginia, friends and family shared many stories, all with the common thread of what a good woman she was. They said of her, “Vidy made us all want to be better people.” “..Truly an angel sent among us.” “Her ability to identify unmet needs of every description was uncanny and she would quietly provide the appropriate remedy.”

As a quiet member of the George B. Dorr Society, Mrs. Lloyd made a monumental bequest to Friends of Acadia. We think she would be pleased to know that her gift will help us maintain her beloved carriage roads, inspire volunteers to donate their time and energy to working in the park, and protect the land she loved to explore from her carriage. On behalf of current and future generations, we appreciate her foresight and generosity.

LISA HORSCH CLARK is the director of development and donor relations for Friends of Acadia.



## GEORGE B. DORR SOCIETY: A DONOR'S DIARY Susan Wider

### Sometime in the 1980s:

Mom was born in Maine, and in her heart she never left. So why did it take her thirty years to introduce me to her favorite places there? She and Dad had moved to New Mexico in the 1950s, and for some reason Maine never showed up in our vacation plans. Perhaps there was just too much of Colorado and California nearby.

But by the 1980s, our Ellsworth, Guilford, and Surry relatives were aging, and I was determined to have Mom show me around this mythical place called Maine. On the drive up from Boston, I remember being angry with Mother for not taking me there as a child. I was smacked with the beauty. Imagine growing up with such amazing trees, ocean and lakes, shorebirds, and animals I'd never encountered. All that Green. Mom, why did you wait so long to take me there?

And then, the first visit to Acadia National Park. I was already in love with Maine—already hooked on the shore, the art, and the people—did I mention the food? Then, this new adventure on the Park Loop Road landed in my lap. Each stop was peppered with Mom's stories of prior trips and memories, and each vista drew me in. How could she ever have left this place for the desert?

### Again and again throughout the 1990s:

Mom and I began making annual fall trips to Maine. Her health was declining, and these trips really helped raise her spirits. We stayed at our favorite inn in Blue Hill, and sometimes I drove to the Park twice in a single day. I might do an early hike on the Gorham Mountain Trail, leaving time to return to Blue Hill, gather up Mom, and take her to Schoodic, her favorite part of the park. Another day might bring a morning hike on North or South Bubble, and then the Loop Road with Mom in the afternoon. She even managed the Great Head Trail with me once or twice. She fell a few times, but she didn't care; this was her land, and these were her rocks.

### January 2003:

Dad's death jolted me into action on several fronts. I had to settle his affairs for Mom, who by this time was not well enough to do so. I also had to make certain she was provided for. And the whole estate settlement, caregiving, put-my-life-on-hold experience showed me that I had to get my own legal and financial affairs in better shape.



Stacy and Vidy Lloyd with horses, King and Star, and dogs, Buster and Sunny.



George B. Dorr Society member Susan Wider and her mother, Mary Cunningham Wider, in 1997, enjoying one of many meals they shared together at the Jordan Pond House.

I had also noticed Mother and Dad's provisions for charities in their trust, and made a note to ask my attorney how to do that in my own estate planning.

### Mid 2003:

I had several meetings with the attorney, and it turned out that charitable giving was simple. In the case of my retirement savings plans from prior employers, I filled out a simple form that listed the charity as my beneficiary, or remainder beneficiary. I specified some outright bequests to charities in my will, and those same organizations were also included in a Charitable Remainder Trust that will benefit them outright after my husband and I die.

### Early 2004:

It was nice to be able to tell Mom that Friends of Acadia will get some help from me when I'm gone. She and I had a good ten-year's worth of adventures there: Waves crossing the road near Schoodic Point. Popovers. Being the only people at Bubble Pond when a fox came up to say hello. Popovers. Trying to find those darn metal bird markers on the Schoodic Head Trail after dark. Popovers.

### January 2009:

Mom's gone now too. I don't get to Maine very often, but I devour every issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*. I worry about the eco-resort. I jot down tips from the rangers about things to do on my next visit. I love reading the poetry. I sit vicariously with Georgia Munsell at the membership table.

I think it would please Mother to know that a part of what I inherited from her and Dad will now flow through my trust, and eventually help to support some of our favorite places—or even foxes—in the Park.

It's not direct financial help now; it's help for later. But maybe someone else will read this little account and also decide to do what I did. And that's help for now.

## FRIENDS AND PARTNERS RESTORE THE HISTORIC SCHOONER HEAD PATH

Terry Begley

This summer, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park will inaugurate the Schooner Head Path. Once abandoned, the path will now be completed by the addition of a new village connector trail. The restoration of this 100-year old portion of the island's historic trail system was made possible by the generosity of private landowners, Acadia Trails Forever donors, Acadia National Park, community partners, and a \$50,000 grant from the Fore River Foundation, made in honor of Kate Davis Quesada.

Completion of the path will fulfill one of the important objectives of the Acadia Trails Forever program, launched in 2000, which called for the creation of five village connector trails and reconstruction of up to 10 miles of abandoned trails. Among the village connector trails already completed are the Acadia Ridge Trail, Giant Slide Trail, Great Meadow Loop, and Western Mountain Connector trail. Reconstructed abandoned trails include the Homans Path, Sargent East Cliffs Trail (formerly known as the Jordan Cliffs Trail), and the Penobscot Mountain Trail.

The Village Connector Trails system plays an important part in the cultural and historic landscape of Mount Desert Island. At one time, trails connected the island's villages to lands that are now part of Acadia. Many of these trails have been lost over time to either development or disrepair. Friends' Village Connector Trails program works to re-establish these historic connections by creating enjoyable walking paths, allowing individuals to access the park on foot from nearby towns and neighborhoods.

Reconstructing abandoned trails and creating connector trails is part of the park's management plan as well, says Gary Stellpflug, trails foreman at Acadia.

"There is nothing like working on the restoration of a historic trail," he says. "I truly love all the work—like uncovering old sections of wall, finding old culverts, and sur-



*An old post card depicting the Schooner Head Path.*

mising why there was a 'zig' instead of a 'zag.' I enjoy working with the past to create for the future, and the restoration of the Schooner Head Path is a perfect example of this."



*Path map from 1903. The location of the Schooner Head Path is indicated by the green line.*

Until last year, the Schooner Head Path was a faintly-visible trail running parallel to the Schooner Head Road, south of Bar Harbor. Built sometime around 1901, the path connected the Compass Harbor home of George Dorr, known as the Father of Acadia, to the Bear Brook area, and later to Schooner Head, but had since become abandoned.

When the trail is fully restored, hikers will be able to walk from the village of Bar Harbor, via sidewalks, to Compass Harbor. There, the path will continue to the Schooner Head Overlook, where hikers may travel on to either Great Head or Sand Beach. Currently, the path also connects to the Precipice parking area via Murphy's Lane, with further plans to connect to the Orange & Black Path (formerly known as the East Face Trail) at the steps at Highs Seas, and potentially further still to the Bear Brook Trail on the north ridge of Champlain Mountain.

The new Schooner Head Path would not have been possible without several community partnerships. Because the path traverses private property, Acadia National Park lands, and also land owned by the Jackson Laboratory, it was important that everyone involved with and affected by the project be in agreement. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park worked with both the Town of Bar Harbor and the Department of Environmental Protection to get the necessary permits. The actual construction of the path was performed in large part by a cadre of volunteers. In this case, it literally took a village to build this village connector trail.

Forming a successful partnership with The Jackson Laboratory was crucial to the success of the Schooner Head Path. Close to one-half mile of the trail is on Jackson Lab property, including the remains of a well-defined historic trail bed. John Fitzpatrick, senior director of facilities at the lab, worked with both Friends and the park from the initial planning stages.



Volunteers from Jackson Lab work on the Schooner Head Path shortly after Tropical Storm Hanna.



Volunteers secure portions of a bridge during construction.

“From both a personal and professional standpoint, it was exciting to be a part of the establishment of the connector trail project linking the village of Bar Harbor to Sand Beach,” Said Fitzpatrick. “Rarely do projects that bring together often competing priorities between municipalities, private landowners, volunteers, and non-profit advocates end with such great results.”

Fitzpatrick notes that the lab welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on the successful restoration of the Schooner Head Path.

“Thanks to the completion of the project, our employees are now provided with safe passage between our campus and downtown, while also being granted immediate access to miles of scenic hiking trails within the park.”

Property owners Paul and Elizabeth Paradis are among several landowners abutting the Schooner Head Path who recognize both the historic importance of the path and its benefits to their neighborhood. Overall, they have been pleased with the outcome.

“Most of the problems we have had are minor, and I think in time they will work themselves out.” Paul states. “It’s more about educating the public about leashing and cleaning up after their dogs, or staying on the trail rather than meandering through people’s back yards.”

Friends addressed these concerns by planting trees along the trail to create a natural privacy screen, and posting educational signage on the trails to help the public understand how

they can use the trail and leave no trace. The success of the project is largely due to the willingness of landowners like Paul and Beth Paradis to help develop solutions that work. They have found the experience a positive one, and appreciate the efforts of both organizations to address any issues that have arisen.

Capping off this collaboration are the hundreds of volunteers who physically made the trail happen.

“We had the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Maine Conservation Corps, Appalachian Mountain Club volunteers, Landmark Volunteers, Jackson Lab volunteers, and of course Friends of Acadia volunteer crews all working side by side with Acadia’s trails and road crews.” Stellpflug remarks. “There were so many volunteers on the project, coordinating the equipment at the various locations became a real physical challenge.”

Howard Solomon, a Friends of Acadia volunteer crew leader, adds, “It’s very exciting to help rehabilitate a path that offers another way to hike into the park from downtown Bar Harbor. The junction of the Schooner Head Path and Murphy’s Lane opens up a new opportunity to walk through beautiful woods to the Loop Road near the Precipice. What more could anyone ask for?”

When asked about the project, I usually start with a brief history of how the community came together to work with Friends. But then, I find myself quoting Gary:

“The Schooner Head Path, with the partnerships and efforts it took to restore it, is pretty amazing. Just look at the map and let them hikin’ boots go free . . .”



An in-progress look at Jeff’s Bridge, at site 3 on the Schooner Head Path.

TERRY BEGLEY is the projects and events coordinator for Friends of Acadia.

## WHEN THE SKIES LET LOOSE

Ginny Reams

The rain fell hard—not for a long time, but long enough. By the time it had passed on September 7, 2008, Tropical Storm Hanna had dropped nearly eight inches of rain on Bar Harbor and parts of Acadia National Park. In its wake, the storm left failed culverts, washed-out roads and trails, and standing—or running—water. Months later, the park is still recovering from its effects. Natural events like Tropical Storm Hanna challenge park staff to maintain roads and trails in a safe, usable condition for park visitors.

Typically Mount Desert Island sees multiple storms and other natural events each year that require a concerted repair effort. Some are not unexpected—fierce wind storms that drop shallow-rooted trees; freeze/thaw cycles that loosen rocks along cliffs and cause rockslides on the Park Loop Road. Others are surprises (an earthquake? in Bar Harbor?). Over the past few years, Tropical Storm Hanna and the October 2006 earthquake were notable for their substantial impacts on park roads and trails. Hanna's heavy rains forced

the closure of every unpaved road in the park due to failed culverts and crossings, washouts, and severe rutting. Seal Cove Road alone lost 400 cubic yards of road surface—up to three feet deep in some places. The rain washed away 50 yards of the popular Ocean Path and dislodged four stepping stones, weighing 1,500 pounds each, at the

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**Each year, volunteers contribute thousands of hours, keeping culverts and ditches free of debris and clearing brush and downed trees.**

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north end of the Tarn. In 2006, the 4.2-magnitude earthquake dropped boulders on the Park Loop Road, obliterated portions of the East Face Trail (now called the Orange & Black Path), twisted iron railings and ruined bridges on the Precipice Trail, and damaged many other trails.

Events like these are beyond the normal wear and tear expected on the 45 miles of carriage roads and 125 miles of historic trails that crisscross the park. The roads and trails are carefully crafted to withstand high traffic and adverse weather conditions, but they require regular maintenance to remain in good condition. When a storm brings high winds and heavy rains, park staff hold their breath. When the clouds lift, staff head out to assess the damage. Where is it? How bad is it? Does it present a safety hazard? And then: What will it take to fix the damage? How long will it take? When should we start? They take all this information into account and create a plan.

Safety is the first priority. Areas deemed too dangerous to enter are closed to the public until they can be made safe. After the earthquake, park staff closed the Park Loop Road from Sieur de Monts Spring to the entrance station until protection rangers could climb the cliffs and knock down any loose rock. The more visitor use an area sees, the more likely it is that even relatively minor damage will create a serious safety hazard. Blown-down trees near the Jordan Pond House, for example, require a quick response to ensure visitor safety—and protect surrounding vegetation from quick-forming social trails. Sometimes, the damage is so severe that conditions are too dangerous for park staff to begin repairs. After the earthquake, the park brought in geologists to analyze the stability of the Orange & Black Path rockslide. Trail workers began repairs, but more rocks came down, bringing work to a halt. The geologists returned to take another look, and only when they deemed the area safe did work resume.

Once safety is assured, park staff next consider public use.

“We usually focus first on areas where closures cause the most disruption for visitors.” says Acadia Roads Foreman Alan Farnsworth. In the case of Tropical Storm Hanna, this was the Park Loop Road, followed by the carriage



Trail damage caused by the 2006 earthquake.



*The Seal Cove Road, shown here, suffered severe washouts in 2008 due to Hurricane Hanna.*

roads near Wildwood Stables/Jordan Pond and Eagle Lake. Once staff completed these repairs, they moved on to quick fixes and then the more serious challenges like Seal Cove Road.

“When we went to assess the damage [on the Seal Cove Road], the initial shock was surprising.” says Farnsworth. “We thought there were a couple of washouts, but we got in to find major damage.” Once crews began work on Seal Cove Road, the repairs took two solid weeks using all available employees.

Sometimes, the damage is so severe that despite disruptions to visitor use, repairs simply cannot be made quickly. More than two years later, the trail crew is still at work repairing the Orange & Black Path. The rockslide caused by the earthquake scoured clean more than 200 feet of Champlain Mountain’s east face. This required rebuilding some areas, cutting a temporary bench (a flattened tread cut across a slope) through the main slide, and setting log steps. Some of these repairs are temporary, as the area continues to settle.

“In another ten years or so, the crew will have to go back to add more permanent fea-

tures, such as stone steps that maintain the historic character of the old trail.” says Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug. “In the meantime, however, we hope to complete repairs and reopen the trail sometime in 2009.”

Repair projects like the Orange & Black Path and Seal Cove Road are a big commitment. The park must redirect staff and funding from regularly scheduled work in order to complete the unplanned repairs. Maintenance staff work closely with other park divisions to finish these repairs: The roads crew hauls materials and operates heavy machinery. Protection rangers perform back-country patrols to assess damage, initiate temporary closures, and help cut fallen trees. Resource management staff work to revegetate damaged areas. Interpretation staff get the message out to visitors.

Friends of Acadia and other volunteers also play a big role in preventing and repairing damage. Each year, volunteers contribute thousands of hours, keeping culverts and ditches free of debris and clearing brush and downed trees. These efforts allow storm waters to flow where intended when the rains



*The Great Meadow Loop, part of the Village Connector Trail system, experienced erosion to a lesser extent*

fall, rather than damaging the trails and carriage roads.

Repair efforts are expensive. Often, materials left over from previous projects provide the means to complete repairs.

“Without [surplus] materials, we could never have repaired the six-figure damage from Tropical Storm Hanna.” Farnsworth says.

When damage is particularly severe, the park applies for storm funding from the National Park Service. Such funds are not a guarantee, but when received, help to replenish supplies and fund larger reconstruction projects.

This spring, with the major repair work from storms and other natural events behind them, maintenance staff and trail crews aim to complete the yearly tree clean-up. Then, it’s on to all the regular maintenance that keeps the trails and carriage roads in good condition for visitors.

That is, until the next big event comes our way! 🌩️

GINNY REAMS is writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

## BOB PATTERSON'S FIRST WORK ON MDI

Jack Russell

Patrons of the Jordan Pond House will know the photograph: A gentleman in his sixties surveys the dining room, hands at rest on lapels in the manner of 18th-century portraits. Those who knew him can imagine this composed man offering advice in a calm voice on the right moss for a garden recess, how to feather a paddle stroke in wilderness waters, a fresh way for morning light to flood a room-to-be, or a path to compose the needs of town and park. The man is Robert Whiteley Patterson, known to many as a leading architect of 20th-century coastal Maine. Less known is his earlier contribution—to composing nature and design in our park.

Patterson was enabled by the Acadian visionaries. Born in 1905, he was just four years younger than the conserving collaboration of Eliot and Dorr, and the Harvard from which he graduated in 1927 was still the University of President Eliot less than twenty years after his retirement. Patterson came to Mount Desert Island in 1934 in time to participate in Superintendent Dorr's last full decade of park development when he joined New Deal resources and private philanthropy. John D. Rockefeller Jr., the principal source of that philanthropy, was then at work on his grand bequest of lands, roads, and bridges when Patterson arrived. Patterson would design and build for Rockefeller's children, and for many islanders for whom park roads were and are a way to work.

From the same good New England soil as Eliot and Dorr, Patterson was raised in modest comfort in the well-wooded village of Wayland, Massachusetts, only a short ride from Boston. His father died when he was two, but a strong mother and aunt filled some of the loss, and older brothers guided him through the woods and waters near his town, nurturing the future conservationist. Soon enough, the tall, young Noble and Greenough man straight-arrowed through academic and athletic achievement to Harvard in 1923.

There Patterson found his professional pas-



*Photo of Robert Patterson that hangs in Jordan Pond House.*

### **From the beginning, he was a man of vision, committed to conservation and mindful of the frailty of the trails his CCC crews created.**

sion in architecture, returning to the Graduate School of Design in 1932 to specialize in landscape architecture. He had already found personal happiness with Barbara Brown, also of Wayland. They wed in 1931 when he was 26 and she 19, and it was she who first brought him to Mount Desert and Acadia. The couple enjoyed a summer stay in 1932 with her relatives who were second-generation rusticators in Southwest Harbor.

The island drew him back. In January of 1934, in the depths of the Great Depression—and into a howling blizzard—the Pattersons and their baby daughter drove north to Maine, where they made their home for the next 54 years, save two away during World War II. Soon employed on the staff of the new Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Ellsworth, Patterson was enlisted for island

projects, many within the expanding park where the young designer's skills were a welcome resource for Benjamin Breeze, the park's landscape architect.

One of Patterson's first assignments was to conceive an expansion and integration of the Beech Cliff and Beech Mountain trail system, building on the achievements of the Southwest Harbor Village Improvement Association. A parking lot and short trail up to the cliffs were roughed in by island men employed by the New Deal CWA program late in 1933, but heavy snows had halted them. In the spring of 1934, Bob Patterson's CCC lads finished this work and built the trail loop around the cliffs, working to his design that "one of the most important requirements in stone work here is that it looks harmonious and unobtrusive in its surroundings of beautifully lichened ledges." The 29-year old designer wanted the Beech Cliff loop trail to be "safe and passable, but nothing more, leaving the route as unchanged as possible." It remains so after 75 years.

Young Patterson's design aesthetic also shone in the challenging Perpendicular Trail up the rugged east side of Mansell, also begun in 1934. "The requirements of the trail are first scenic beauty, either in distant views or nearby forest stand; second, an ultimate objective point climaxing the hike; and third, there must be embodied in the trail itself a natural change of pace—for example, from steep rock climbs to level moss or needle surfaced walks." The ultimate objective of his design was achieved in full only in 2007, when the Acadia trails crew finished the upper section with an aesthetic worthy of Patterson.

The Perpendicular Trail clearly engaged all the skills of the young artist, who saw the need for strength, delicacy, and design against spoilers. In one section, "the problem [was] one of securing substantial steps as security against heaving by the ice and frost action, or a rugged coping of a size defying movement or dislodgement by any one or two individuals' efforts." In other sections, his attempt

would be to “soften and naturalize [the] rocky sections by clothing ragged and bare surfaces with moss and mats of rock fern, such as grow for the most part throughout the talus slope.” As the authors of *Pathmakers* would observe more than 70 years later, in a telling break from their usually austere style, “The trail is one of the most highly constructed on the island . . . [the] views are grand to the southeast, but the stonework steals the show.”

By 1935, Bob Patterson had become the full-time assistant to Ben Breeze at Acadia National Park. From the beginning, he was a man of vision, committed to conservation and mindful of the frailty of the trails his CCC crews created. As he would soon advise his supervisors, there is a “fundamental principle [that] areas used by the public (unless most carefully planned for several decades of time), tend to destroy themselves for the particular park purpose for which they are used.”

Did George B. Dorr hear the distinctive voice of his designer? Documentation does not confirm this, but since the Pattersons rented a home on Livingston Road very near

the old Park Headquarters at Park and Lower Main, it seems likely that the vigorous octogenarian enjoyed good talks with this young park employee, a Harvard man and proper Bostonian who shared Dorr’s passion for plants and lived just a few steps away.

Robert W. Patterson’s future, however, was only a few steps more in another direction, toward the shore at Reef Point Gardens, and into history. His long professional association with Beatrix Farrand and commitment to her vision led to many commissions, and to his essential roles in honoring the decisions of Farrand’s final years, and saving the plants of Reef Point for their lasting life at the Asticou Azalea and Thuya Gardens, created by his good friend Charles K. Savage.

The young Bob Patterson who came to the portal of that future had already found an island aesthetic while high on Acadian slopes, directing young CCC men from across Maine. Lessons learned working on the Beech Cliff and Mansell trails as he began his decades here helped guide the hand that gave us more than 40 MDI houses, grand and modest, for

frugal townsmen, as well as Astors and Rockefellers. The public service he began in the park would lead to many of our amenities, from wading pools and wharfs to landscaping for schools and churches. The thoughtful young park designer would become a wise counsel for both park and towns on the long path to recovery after the 1947 fire. The lover of things wild, drawn to Acadia in his twenties, would found the Maine Natural Resources Council, and further conservation of our northern wilderness.

Friends of the Acadia that Bob Patterson cherished might pause at his portrait on their next visit to the Jordan Pond House, to reflect on the unsigned works that the young artist contributed at the beginning of his career on our island. ❧

JACK RUSSELL and his wife, Sandy Wilcox, live at the north end of Echo Lake. He thanks his neighbor Robert Whiteley Patterson Jr. (Lee) for generous guidance on this essay. They are now, as once their fathers were, good friends.



1934 photograph of Bob Patterson (front row, far right) with the staff at Camp Braun, the CCC camp in Ellsworth.

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—Charles W. Eliot, *Sieur de Monts Celebration*, 1916

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## ACADIA BY THE NUMBERS RIDING THE ISLAND EXPLORER

**10**

Seasons of Island Explorer operation

**2,929,941**

Total ridership since program began in 1999

**25**

Number of buses running on MDI

**1**

Number of buses running at Schoodic

**1,083,382**

Number of automobile trips to MDI eliminated from 1999 to 2008

**113**

Days of operation in 2008

**10,258**

Tons of greenhouse gases reduced since 1999

**61**

Percentage of riders surveyed who reported purchasing a park entry permit

**17**

Percentage of bus riders who have used the Island Explorer for five or more years



Peter Travers

## 2,268 MILE TRAFFIC JAM



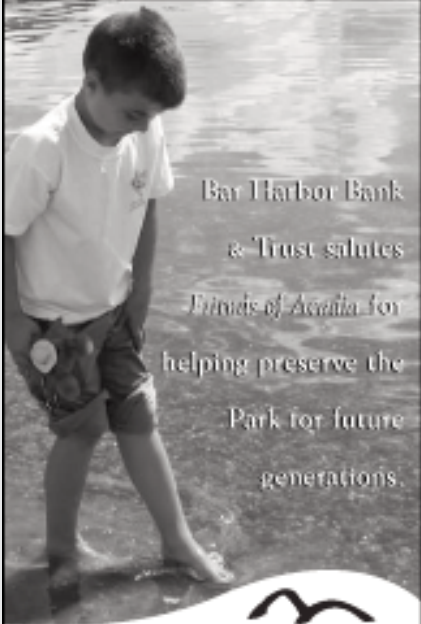
The Island Explorer carried 405,142 passengers in 2008. Every year, Friends of Acadia estimates a pseudo-traffic jam that would be created if one placed all the cars and RVs back to back that Island Explorer passengers chose not to drive. Each year, this figure is added to the cumulative total to see how far the traffic jam stretches. This year, we estimated that another 295 miles would have been added, taking the traffic jam 2,268 miles from Bar Harbor, to the Florida Keys, and back up the west coast of Florida, past St. Petersburg to Yankeetown, Florida. The Island Explorer will receive its 3 millionth passenger in 2009.




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## Updates

### Help Keep Friends Green

As an organization, Friends of Acadia is committed to being a responsible steward of our natural resources.

With that in mind, we would like to offer all of our members the chance to choose how they would like to receive communications from us. Starting this spring, we begin corresponding not only with physical mail, but also electronically.

If you are interested in hearing from us electronically, please register with us online at [www.friendsofacadia.org/green](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/green).

### Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

With the advent of the new President and administration comes a new Secretary of the Department of the Interior. In January, Ken Salazar was unanimously confirmed as the 50th Secretary of the Interior. A fifth generation Coloradan, Salazar has been a farmer and rancher; worked for eleven years as a water and environmental lawyer; created the Youth in Natural Resources program in Colorado; authored a state constitutional amendment to create Great Outdoors Colorado, to conserve and protect Colorado lands; and most recently served as Colorado's 35th U.S. Senator. In 2008, then Senator Salazar co-sponsored, with Maine's Senator Collins, a Centennial Initiative bill for our national parks.

As Secretary of the Interior, we will look to Salazar to set a standard for enlightened leadership of the National Park Service (NPS),

among other agencies, beginning with the selection of an able and dedicated NPS Director. Secretary Salazar has stated a commitment to early priorities that include: reviewing, for possible revision, "midnight actions" enacted in the last days of the Bush administration; increasing allocation of oil and gas royalties from federal lands to boost the Land and Water Conservation Fund; restoring integrity to the Interior Department, expanding youth programs, and protecting conservation systems. These are priorities which we welcome and support for the long-term protection of our national parks.

### Bill Green Interviews AWTA Volunteer

Bill Green of WCSH6 met with members of the Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer crew on January 20th. Green interviewed David Kief (pictured), one of sixteen volunteers who regularly groom the carriage roads for cross-country skiers. Thanks to the pristine snow conditions and many hours of grooming provided by the volunteers, the skiing conditions were great this winter in Acadia



Bill Green of WCSH6 interviewing Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer David Kief.

### 2009 Acadia Winter Use Survey

If you were out cross country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, or ice fishing in Acadia this winter, you may have been asked to fill out a winter recreational use survey. Josh Carroll, assistant professor of recreation management and policy at the University of New Hampshire, worked with Acadia National Park staff and volunteers to implement the survey. The study is the park's first statistical glance into winter use since the mid-1980s, when year-round visitation research was done for the park's General Management Plan. Professor Carroll received partial fund-

ing for the project as a 2007 L.L.Bean Research in Acadia fellow.

Beginning in January, volunteers were posted at a variety of locations around the park, including the Fabbri Picnic area, Eagle Lake,



Curling on Long Pond in Acadia National Park.

Jordan Pond, the Brown Mountain Gatehouse, Wonderland, and other winter park destinations. In addition to gathering demographic statistics, the survey asked visitors what they did during their winter visit, what problems (if any) they perceived, how they felt about park resources (such as restrooms), and how often they visit Acadia throughout the year. Both weekend and weekday samples were taken.

The 2009 winter was diverse, and a variety of responses are expected. At the beginning of the season, snow had not yet fallen, but the cold weather created good ice conditions. Once the snows arrived in mid-January, the skiers became active, thanks largely to the grooming of the carriage roads by the Acadia Winter Trails Association. As the winter progressed, the park received a mix of snow and rain, creating icy conditions on the roads, trails, and carriage roads.

Results from the winter use survey are expected within the year.

## Comprehensive Assessment of Acadia's Natural Resources

Have you ever sat at the edge of one of Acadia's ponds and wondered what sort of fish are in it, whether it has good water quality, or how often the National Park Service is able to monitor it? How many of us have hiked Acadia's trails, seen an interesting insect, wondered about invasive species, or considered the effects of air pollution on Acadia's plants, trees, and environment? Natural resources are the foundation of many of our experiences at Acadia. Now, for the first time, the NPS and collaborating researchers have produced a comprehensive assessment of the conditions of uplands, freshwater resources, and marine/coastal areas in the park.

Published in November of 2008, the "Assessment of Natural Resource Conditions in and Adjacent to Acadia National Park" focuses on characterizing Acadia's resources, assessing threats to them, analyzing their condition, drawing conclusions, and determining where more information is needed. The report draws data from studies that have occurred in the park, and discusses current ecological threats. These threats may be characterized as existing problems (such as ground-level ozone), potential problems (such as bacterial contamination of beaches), historic problems, or unlikely problems (such as overgrazing by herbivores). Added to these assessments are descriptions of the knowledge base (good, fair, poor, or inferential) so that readers can better understand the threat levels listed.

The report continues with summaries of resource conditions, ranking each as "good", "caution", or "significant concern." For example, wet deposition of sulfates is listed as an improving trend in the air quality section, but is still marked as a "significant concern." Similarly, forest patch size in the section on terrestrial resources is listed as "good" because the forests are large and contiguous enough to support invertebrates, mammals, and many bird species. Concise listings of the research involved in preparing the report are also provided.

While the assessment is quite dense, and may prove difficult for casual readers, it is an invaluable scientific resource for the park. The report is a snapshot of what is known about Acadia's resources. It includes a bibliography of the studies that were consulted,

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-Frank Lloyd Wright



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and identifies gaps in knowledge that researchers might be able to fill. This document will also become the “go-to” guide, providing quick answers to questions about the status of any of the park’s resources.

To download a copy of the report, and to see resource condition assessments across the National Park Service, go to [www.nature.nps.gov/water/watershed\\_reports/WSCondRpts.cfm](http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/watershed_reports/WSCondRpts.cfm). The Acadia report is listed under the Northeast Temperate Network.

## 2008 Take Pride in Acadia Day

On Saturday, November 1, 2008, a record number of volunteers turned out for the 19th annual Take Pride in Acadia Day, hosted by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. Over 326 volunteers, divided into 19 work groups, raked leaves out of ditches and cleaned the culverts of over 12 miles of carriage roads.

One of the most important volunteer events of the year, this effort contributes valuable assistance to the park, reducing carriage road erosion from the rain, ice, and thawing that occur throughout winter and spring. The chilly autumn morning work session was followed by a hot meal of chili, cornbread, and cider. Later, the crowd, energized by the experience and the crisp autumn air, enjoyed a desert of homemade cakes, donated by

Janet Anker.

The event also marked the drawing for the winners of the Acadia Quest program. 2008 was the inaugural year of the Quest, a program designed to encourage teams to experience Acadia National Park together. Team Coluccio of Hulls Cove were the winners of the grand prize canoeing package, generously donated by sponsor L.L. Bean.

Events like this would be impossible without the support of the community. Without



Volunteers gather in preparation for the day's work at Take Pride in Acadia Day.

the help of sponsors Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, The Knowles Company, and The First, and in-kind donations from Acadia Bike and Coastal Kayaking, Acadia National Park Tours, Darlings Auto Mall, and National Park Sea Kayaking Tours, neither Take Pride in Acadia Day nor Acadia Quest would have been the success they were.



Rich Johnson

## GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY THIS YEAR!

Every year, Friends of Acadia volunteers contribute hundreds of hours to improving both the park and surrounding communities. Time and time again, people identify volunteer work as some of the most meaningful and significant work they have ever done. Whether you're lending a hand at an event, spending a morning a week with the trail crew, or picking up trash from the roadside, your help makes a difference.

This spring and summer, see how you can make volunteering with Friends a memorable part of your routine!

### EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. You can make a difference this Earth Day. Start the volunteer season off with a bang! Every year, hundreds take to the roads, gathering trash and helping to keep our island pristine.

### ACADIA QUEST

Acadia Quest is a series of youth- and team-oriented experiences in Acadia National Park that encourage youth and their teams to explore, learn, and protect Acadia. Not only is the program fun, but your team qualify for a chance to win a grand prize package! Teams must include one child under the age of 18 and one adult aged 18 years or older.

### VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Starting in mid-May, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Join our crew of regular volunteers who work on trails and carriage roads three times a week. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or even a whole crew. Not only is it fun, but it's simple: arrive at Acadia National Park Headquarters on Rt. 233 (Eagle Lake. Tools and Training provided. Don't forget your water!)



University of Maine students at Take Pride in Acadia Day 2008 2008 Earth Day Roadside Cleanup.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 6, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Spend time with the Acadia National Park trail crew, learning about trail history and what it takes to build a trail. Afterwards, help kick off the 2009 volunteer season with a special National Trails Day volunteer project in the park.

### FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, July 12, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. A celebration of summer in Acadia, this fun-filled day is geared towards instilling a sense of stewardship in children of all ages. Hundreds of children attend this event, which would not be possible without the support of the adult volunteers who help make it happen.

From more information on volunteering, or to register to participate, please email Terry Begley at [terry@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:terry@friendsofacadia.org), or call 288-3340.

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- Summers on Mount Desert Island
- Edward and Bobbye Winterberg



Rich Johnson

## WEAPONS AND FUNDS IN NATIONAL PARKS

**F**riends of Acadia staff, as well as the Acadia Advocacy Network, have been hard at work protecting park resources through outreach to, among others, the Maine Congressional delegation. Advocacy Network members recently contacted Congress regarding two important issues: guns in national parks, and the economic stimulus package. Friends staff also traveled to Washington in mid-February to advocate for the best possible FY 2010 budget for Acadia.

In December 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released the final rule allowing possession of loaded, concealed firearms in national parks located in states that issue concealed weapons permits. Acadia Advocacy Network members and more than 140,000 citizens across the country sent letters and e-mails to the DOI regarding this change in regulations. The final rule went even further, tying national park firearms laws to state regulations, rather than to regulations in analogous state parks.

The final rule allowing loaded concealed weapons in national parks went into effect on January 9, 2009. Also in January, the National Parks Conservation Association joined with the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees to file suit against the DOI, seeking an injunction against the rule change. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence also filed suit. The three organizations argued, among other concerns, that the Department of the Interior did not comply with the National Environmental Protection Act when it instituted the new regulation without first assessing the environmental impacts of its decision. In February, Friends of Acadia filed an amicus curiae, or "friend of the court" brief, supporting these two suits. In March, the U.S. District Court ruled in favor of the suits filed, finding the Interior's process in establishing the new regulation to be "astoundingly flawed." The DOI has until April 20 to respond. Until then, the original firearm regulation—allowing the carrying of

firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they are disassembled and stowed—is in effect.

As activity on firearms regulations was slowing down, the economic stimulus bills were winding their way through Congress. The House version of the bill set aside \$2.05 billion for national park projects, while the Senate version set aside \$847 million. The national parks are estimated to have a \$9 billion backlog of maintenance projects, and Acadia has projected that it could undertake approximately \$17 million in paving and construction projects alone within the next two years. Friends of Acadia sent out an advocacy alert, asking members to encourage their senators to support an appropriation for national parks that was closer to the House figure. In the end, national parks received \$735 million for maintenance and operations projects, \$15 million for historic preservation at historically African American colleges and universities, and \$170 million from the Federal Highway Administration for national park roads. Maine's senators figured prominently in negotiating the final economic stimulus package. Acadia awaits word from the National Park Service as to whether the park's projects will be funded, and at what levels.

To increase awareness of Acadia's maintenance, operations, and land acquisition needs, Friends of Acadia President Marla O'Byrne and Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele met with each member of the Maine Congressional delegation in mid-February. O'Byrne and Steele discussed two base operations increases for interpretation, education, and the Schoodic Education and Research Center, which Acadia hoped to receive in FY 2009 and 2010. They also shared the need for a robust Land and Water Conservation Fund, and described several parcels of land inside Acadia's boundaries that are presently available from willing sellers.

—Stephanie Clement

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## Book Review

### Time and Tide in Acadia: Seasons on Mount Desert Island

by Christopher Camuto  
W.W. Norton & Company, 2008  
197 pp., Softcover

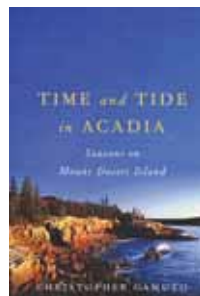
Many beautiful words have been written about the coast of Maine. Mount Desert Island in particular, unique as it is on the east coast—in the world, even—has been inspiration for countless writers.

Taken in that sense, Christopher Camuto's *Time and Tide in Acadia* is but the latest entry in a proud and longstanding tradition. But there is more at work here than simple reiteration.

"Sunrise from Cadillac Mountain reveals a coastline carved with a crooked knife," begins Camuto's first chapter, aptly titled "First Light." This line sets the tone for the rest of the book. From the top of Cadillac at daybreak, we journey through mountain trails and forests, lowland marshes, and the homes of creatures often hidden. Emerging at the shore, Camuto leads us along the water's edge, pausing to reflect on distant islands. We peer in at the homes of seabirds; paddle through gentle seas, perhaps catching sight of life in the glinting water. And then, the journey is at end, sunset on Mount Desert Rock the final chapter.

Camuto writes with painterly attention to detail—not only capturing, but smoothing, polishing, and presenting. The images he paints are not rough, nor are they cluttered. There is focused intensity in his words. Sandpipers are "stoutly delicate . . . large, dark eyes [taking] in everything around them." A blast of cold air from a nearby spring emerges from "a cave where the gods store wind and water." Smooth stones shifting in the tide pivot "like boiling eggs until they become perfectly sculpted cobbles." These experiences—his experiences—are alive with the infinitesimal points of light that indicate veracity.

Ultimately, Camuto's vision is best summed up by one of the last lines in the book: "Every edge of Mount Desert Island . . . is beautiful and strange in perfectly equal measure." It is his willingness—indeed, his eagerness—to capture both that makes this work so compelling.



### Acadia Always: The Story of Acadia National Park

With Jack Perkins  
Jeff Dobbs Productions, 2008  
60 min., DVD and Blu-Ray Disc

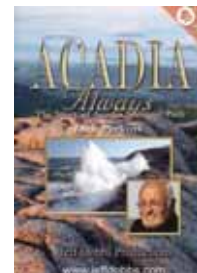
There's always something new to say about Acadia. If the park's ability to inspire were exhaustible, we might long ago have ceased to notice it. But of course, this could not be further from the truth. *Acadia Always*, the latest creation of filmmaker Jeff Dobbs, illustrates this. Narrated by Jack Perkins, former NBC News correspondent and host of A&E's Biography series, it presents a familiar story from a fresh perspective. The result is a tribute to Acadia's lasting power.

Like other Dobbs productions, *Acadia Always* is never short on presentation. From the stunning aerial footage of the island, to the atmospheric score by John Cooper, to Perkins' heartfelt narration, there is always something to hold your attention.

The story begins with the shaping of Mount Desert Island by glaciers, and soon, the arrival of the first humans. Native American residents give way to European settlers, and soon the first tourists. There, the narrative explores the founding of Acadia National Park and the efforts involved in protecting it. Airtime is given to the variety of educational opportunities available through the park. The film ends with an introduction to Friends of Acadia and the volunteer work that helps preserve Acadia for future generations.

For newcomers, *Acadia Always* is an introduction to both the park and the history behind it. For the seasoned veteran, it is a familiar tale that nonetheless manages to serve up bits of information you may not have heard before. But its message to both is simple: the land will exist in perpetuity without, or in spite of, human intervention. But if Acadia as we know it is to endure, we must protect it.

To purchase *Acadia Always*, visit [www.jeffdobbs.com](http://www.jeffdobbs.com).



—Ian Marquis

—Ian Marquis

## POLAR OPPOSITES AT SCHOODIC

In the summer of 2007, Rosemary and I spent our Wednesday afternoons volunteering at one of Downeast Maine's premier art events: the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium. We were awed as seven artists from around the world transformed massive blocks of Maine granite into exquisite works of art. We were delighted by the interest, enthusiasm, and excitement stimulated by the event. The Symposium inspired our community and generated a vibrant energy throughout the region and the state.

On July 25, another iteration of the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium kicks off, and we can't wait. 110 applications were received from sculptors in 37 countries. In the end, six artists were chosen to participate in the 2009 session, the second of five biennial Symposiums. As in 2007, the sculptors will converge on Downeast Maine and, after selecting their stone from local quarries, gather at a work site behind the Rockefeller Building on the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) campus, in the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park. Each day, in their open-air studio, they will design, drill, cut, carve, chip, grind, shape, smooth, and polish. By September 12, they will have created stirring works that will then be moved to permanent sites in local communities, where they will live as public art for all to enjoy.

The Symposium reflects well the characteristics, identity, and values of the Schoodic community. The event promotes art by exposing the creative process, from conception to completion, allowing visitors to interact with the sculptors as they work. It honors nature as a creative influence, with artists finding their muse in local granite, and inspiration in the coastal environment of Schoodic. It celebrates learning, informing children and adults, teaching the history and tradition of Maine's granite industry, as well as the history of sculpture. At its heart, the event promotes the sharing of ideas, visions, and cultures.

The Symposium's grass roots and local inclusion unite the community. It inspires civic pride and involvement, stirring neigh-

bors to volunteer, to help organize and promote the event, man the reception tent, provide lunches for the sculptors, and host dinners, parties, and related events. It also spurs tourism and commerce, attracting visitors from across the region, state, and country—people who patronize local restaurants, visit Schoodic shops and galleries, and stay at area bed and breakfasts.

Contrast the strong, positive community impact of the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium with the potentially devastating impact of the eco-resort proposed for the 3,300 acres adjacent to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park.



Left: Narihiro Uemura's "I Want to Ride a Cloud," which is installed in downtown Ellsworth.  
Right: Don Merserve with his sculpture, "Clead," which is installed in Winter Harbor.

Another bad sign is the recent news that Ames A&E, a Bangor architecture and engineering firm, and Maine Street Solutions, the Maine consulting firm represented by Michael Saxl, are no longer working on the project due to difficulties getting paid and differences with the developer. That these companies have severed their ties to the development adds to our fear that the next proposal we see from the Modenas et al will be even more devastating in both scope and style.

The Schoodic Sculpture Symposium and the proposed eco-resort speak volumes about efforts in the Schoodic area. One cheers creation and unity; the other screams destruc-



Rosemary and I believe that the eco-resort project offers nothing beneficial to the community. Despite efforts to dress the proposal as both "green" and a fiscal boon for the region in the form of jobs and taxes, in truth it is a threat to Schoodic.

This feeling has been underscored by recent reports focusing on the secrecy concerning exactly who is behind Winter Harbor Holdings. We worry that the consortium's lack of candor is a red flag. The absence of forthrightness, honesty, and transparency is indicative of deceitfulness, and implies untrustworthiness.

One represents forward thinking; the other illustrates backwards thinking. One involves the local community and honors its heritage; the other is by people from away, and for people from away. One offers a clear blueprint of the type of opportunity that we should be exploring and promoting; the other takes us in the wrong direction for the future of the Schoodic Peninsula. ❧

GARRY LEVIN is a volunteer and member of the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia.

## VISION, OPPORTUNITY, ACTION, AND LEGACY

*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."*

—Wallace Stegner

*"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you... while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."*

—John Muir



Carol van Schaik

A horse-drawn carriage at the top of Day Mountain

As I begin this letter, four words come to mind: vision, opportunity, action, and legacy. In many ways, these words define the earliest days of Acadia National Park. Despite the challenges we faced as a nation at that time, there were visionaries who saw through to the future and seized the opportunity to preserve a large parcel of land for generations to come. Acadia was their vision, and it is their legacy.

In a way, the construction of the carriage roads, driven by the vision of John D. Rockefeller Jr., was in its own way an early example of an economic stimulus that changed the lives of not only a single generation, but also those that followed. Keeping this legacy healthy and vital is an important part of what Friends of Acadia accomplishes each year. Through the thousands of hours given by volunteers, the financial gifts that fund our programs, and the shared leader-

ship and responsibility of our board and staff, we all play a vital role in keeping the legacy of Acadia alive and filled with hope.

Recently, during a conversation with my good friends, Rolf and Carol van Schaik, I was reminded again of Mr. Rockefeller's early gift to Acadia and our nation as a whole. The Schaiks, long-time supporters of Friends, have long been grateful users of the carriage roads for their horse-drawn adventures in the park.

*"We have enjoyed driving on the carriage roads at Acadia National Park since 1993. We bring our pair of horses and carriage from Cavendish, Vermont for a week every summer. The vistas and natural splendor, as well as the superb condition of the roads, provide an unforgettable experience. The park and its roads are a national treasure for all to enjoy."*

—Rolf and Carol van Schaik



Lili Pew cross-country skiing on Eagle Lake.

Over the years, countless people have been transported through time by experiences like these. What began nearly a century ago as a vision now provides easy access to a wild and beautiful place, nature's classroom for families to explore, and views at night of millions of stars reaching out across the place where the mountains meet the sea. Experiences in nature transcend the concerns of the moment; they never lose their relevance.

Now, we are in another time of great uncertainty. If we are to arrive at a healthy outcome for our economy, our environment, and for all people, our public and private leaders must be bold. Recently, Maine's Senators and Representatives, in partnership with President Obama, have demonstrated great leadership in seeking solutions to the challenges we face as a nation. Actions such as these require vision beyond the immediate, and the ability to act when an opportunity presents itself. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are fortunate to have "shovel-ready" programs available that will help stimulate jobs and provide immediate results. In this way, we will preserve the park as a model of excellence for all to enjoy.

Lili Pew

—Lili Pew

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## Family Fun Day July 12, 2009



Friends of Acadia's annual Family Fun Day has been rescheduled to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, rather than the July 19<sup>th</sup> date that was noted in last issue's event calendar.

Join us at this celebration of summer in Acadia National Park!

For more information, or to register, please contact Theresa Begley at 207-288-3340, or email [terry@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:terry@friendsofacadia.org)

## Friends of Acadia's ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 2009

3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Business Meeting

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cocktails

The Bar Harbor Club  
55 West Street, Bar Harbor

*Celebrate another year of hard work and dedication  
to a mission that matters!*

*Learn more about how your contributions  
help preserve and protect Acadia.*

*Casual dress.*

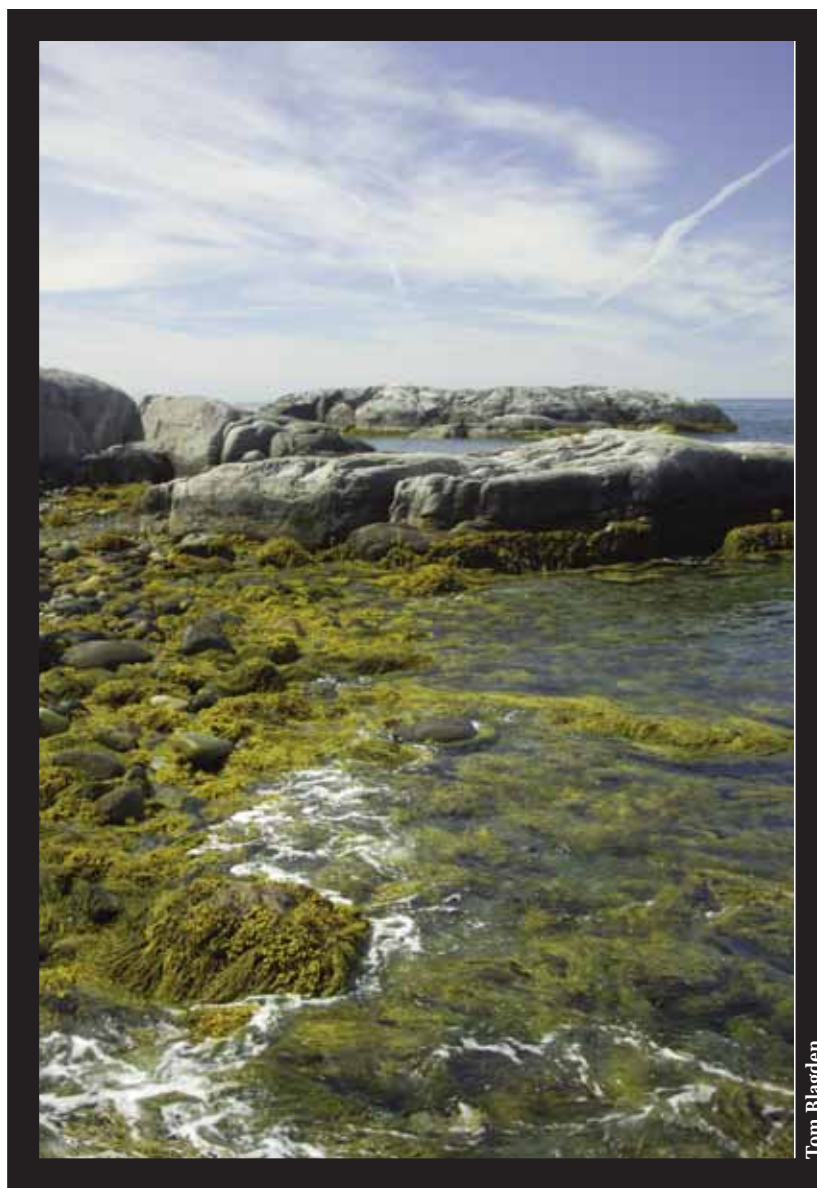
*RSVP by June 30 to Terry at 207-288-3340, 800-625-0321, or [terry@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:terry@friendsofacadia.org)*

*Parking is limited. If possible, we encourage use of the Island Explorer.*

*Bus schedules: [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com)*

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# Friends of Acadia



Tom Blagden

## Mission

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