A scenic photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there are tall, thin grasses and seaweed in shades of green and brown. The middle ground features large, dark, wet rocks with tide pools reflecting the sky. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear blue sky.

Friends of ACADIA Journal

Fall 2005
Volume 10 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities



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:

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS

(on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER *(off Rte. 3 in Hulls Cove)*

SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION *(on the Park Loop Road)*

ISLAND EXPLORER/ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

INFORMATION CENTER *(next to the Bar Harbor Village Green and Island Explorer transfer location)*

SEAWALL CAMPGROUND *(off Rte. 102A in Southwest Harbor)*

BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND *(off Rte. 3 in Otter Creek)*

Park pass fees make 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



TAKING LEAVE

On June 9, 2005 I informed Friends of Acadia Chairman Dianna Emory, the board of directors, the staff, and park officials of my decision to retire. My retirement letter, edited slightly, is shared below with all of our supporters. Thank you for your friendship and generosity over a decade. You have made my job enormously satisfying. Best of all, you have helped safeguard a great national asset for all generations. As Thoreau said, "All nature is your congratulation and you have cause momentarily to bless yourself."

Dear Dianna:

After much deliberation, I have decided to retire as president and CEO of Friends of Acadia, effective in [February] 2006. At this point I have no professional plans, but...the transition will be less a true retirement than a new phase of my working life.

My reasons for leaving are completely positive. Earlier in my career, someone gave me advice I have never forgotten: "A good executive consciously works himself out of a job." I have tried to conduct my professional life that way. Of my thirty years in nonprofit conservation, I have spent twenty as chief executive of three organizations [including The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut and American Rivers]. Friends of Acadia is the anomaly in terms of job time logged — ten years this October, longer than any previous tenure of mine. Thanks to many hands, Friends is more mature and financially robust than it was when I was hired.

Since 1995, membership has doubled and investments have tripled, to \$15.7 million. Friends' annual grant-making has risen six-fold to a projected \$933,000 this year, and we have increased to 115 the number of FOA-funded jobs serving the park and communities. FOA is more effective in its work, and the organization enjoys respect in Maine

and nationally. L.L. Bean, a corporate icon, is a multi-million-dollar supporter of FOA and the Island Explorer, an award-winning propane bus fleet. Because everyone pulled hard, Acadia is the first national park with an endowed trail system, and rehabilitation of the footpaths is progressing as envisioned. In short, it feels right for me to leave with FOA healthy, professionally well staffed, and well directed at the governance level.

As important, I sincerely believe that nonprofits deserve fresh new executive leadership from time to time, and that it is my responsibility to act on that principle. I do so joyously and with high optimism about FOA's trajectory, but knowing also that I will miss the work and the people.

I have great respect for the board, staff, volunteers, mission, our park partners, and the members and donors who have trusted and invested in Friends of Acadia. It has been a privilege to serve as executive leader, and I have learned a tremendous amount....

Finally, I thank you [Dianna], Lee [Judd], and Linda [Lewis] as three very effective board chairmen during my service. You have all been wonderfully supportive and I deeply appreciate the professional and personal relationships that have grown from our joint leadership of Friends of Acadia and our shared love for this magnificent place, which so many have worked so hard to protect.

Thank you, everyone, for one of the best career experiences of my life. 🍂



— W. Kent Olson, President



Peter Travers

"It feels right for me to leave with FOA healthy, professionally well staffed, and well directed at the governance level."

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PRIVATE EFFORTS BECOME PUBLIC BENEFIT

At the turn of the last century Charles Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University and Northeast Harbor resident, was concerned that Mount Desert Island could be deforested by the arrival of the newly invented mobile saw mill. With George B. Dorr, another summer resident, they established the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations “to acquire, by gift or purchase, and to hold, maintain, or improve for public use, lands... which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest... may become available for such purpose.” And so the private effort to protect land on the Island began. The first major donation, of the Bowl and Beehive, was received in 1908. Dorr then purchased the summit of Green Mountain (now Cadillac) and Sieur de Monts Spring just before it was sold to developers. It was not until 1916 that Dorr succeeded in having President Wilson establish by Executive Order the Sieur de Monts National Monument in return for donating the 6,000 acres that had been acquired to the American people. Dorr became the first superintendent but was essentially the first park volunteer since he was paid just one dollar a month.

Like Dorr, John D. Rockefeller Jr. recognized that preserving land was the key to any great park and he too worked tirelessly to protect and enhance land resulting in the unique park that Acadia is today. He was responsible for designing and building the carriage road system and developing the Park Loop Road which required convincing the Navy to move its radio station from Otter Cliffs to the Schoodic Peninsula. Before his work was done, Rockefeller had acquired and donated another 10,000 acres of land to Acadia National Park and the American people. These spectacular lands included Otter Cliffs and Thunder Hole.

Today, Acadia is made up of over 35,000 acres of land owned by the United States in fee — more than 80% of that land was donated by forward thinking and generous people who believed that the special values of Acadia National Park were worthy of permanent protection. In addition, land owners have donated conservation easements on 180 properties in and around the park pre-

serving another 12,000 acres of spectacular scenery in the Acadian archipelago. These donated easements are another testament to the commitment of many individuals who believe that saving the special qualities of Acadia is an important legacy to future generations.

In addition to George Dorr, early volunteers included the Village Improvement Associations and Societies which built and maintained many of the early trails on MDI, contributing labor and materials for the good of all. This volunteer tradition continues — last year, nearly 12,000 volunteers donated over 39,000 hours of labor to provide a margin of excellence to Acadia and its visitors.

People who value Acadia and appreciate its special qualities contribute in many ways. They fund land acquisitions to complete the park, grant easements, donate land, underwrite special projects, and volunteer their time to park maintenance, education, and visitor services.

Friends of Acadia is one of the most effective friends groups in the country and it is the only one to have established permanent endowments for trail and carriage road maintenance. The park would have far fewer seasonal employees without FOA's funding assistance and far fewer volunteers without FOA's organizational and supervisory help.

Private philanthropy and the dedication of individuals are the reasons that Acadia became the first national park east of the Mississippi — and the first to be carved from private lands. Private philanthropy and volunteers are key reasons that Acadia remains special and continues to improve for all Americans to enjoy now and in the future.

The phrase taken from Dorr's memorial “steadfast in his zeal to make the beauties of this island available to all” applies to many others who have dedicated their time and resources to maintaining Acadia National Park as the very special place it is. We all appreciate these selfless efforts that indeed benefit many. ♦



— Sheridan Steele, Superintendent



Peter Travers

“Private philanthropy and volunteers are key reasons that Acadia remains special and continues to improve for all Americans to enjoy now and in the future.”

Dorothy Kerper Mommely



Rock Pool and Reflections

Top Ten Reasons Why ...

We just returned from a wonderful week at Acadia. Although we have visited the area many times, this was our first opportunity to try the Island Explorer bus service. In a word, it is fantastic. There is now little reason to drive your car around town or into Acadia. More importantly, there are lots of reasons to ride the Island Explorer! We offer our "Top Ten" for your consideration. (Hopefully, David Letterman is listening!)

1. It's free! (You do need to buy a park pass if you plan to travel into Acadia.)
2. It's convenient! The friendly drivers will pick you up and drop you off where you want — even if it is between regular stops. This service is great for hikers, because there is no need to return to the starting point. You can hike almost anywhere and get on a bus to return to Bar Harbor.
3. It's good for the environment! Because the buses are powered by liquid natural gas, there is less pollution from exhaust.
4. Reduced traffic! As more people ride the buses, there will be fewer cars in town and in the park. In fact, we parked our car at our hotel and we did not drive it again until our vacation was over! Imagine: seven days without driving anywhere! Even if you are not staying near the Bar Harbor terminal, there is a route that covers many of the outlying hotels.
5. It's healthy! You do need to walk to the Village Green in the middle of

Bar Harbor to catch the bus. This is a great way to get the blood flowing before you tackle Cadillac Mountain!

6. Bicycles can go too! Each bus has a bike rack, and there is a special van with a bike trailer. If you want to cruise along Acadia's famous carriage roads, the Island Explorer is for you!
7. It's on time! Departures from the Village Green are right on schedule.
8. It's hassle-free! After a long day of hiking, biking, shopping, etc., you can relax in a bus and leave the driving to the great operators.
9. Ridership counts! Your support will help keep the bus service running.
10. Success breeds success! If you have been to other national parks, you know that heavy traffic is not limited to Bar Harbor. With the support of more visitors each year, the Island Explorer could be a model for other locations around the country.

Acadia is truly a jewel. You can help keep it that way by riding the Island Explorer the next time you visit.

—Steve Dungan and Pam Weathers
Massachusetts

Paying It Forward

My name is Tasha and I'm 12 years old. I just wanted you to know that Acadia was the most wonderful experience I have ever had. This \$3 is all I can give but I will send more.

—Tasha Radzinski
Massachusetts

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

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

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Memorial

MARIANNE EDWARDS 1922-2005

Marianne Edwards and some friends had a small idea that turned out to be a big idea. Nineteen years ago they formed a citizens group to help protect Acadia National Park and provide volunteers and some money for special projects.

Marianne's inclinations toward service were natural, and she held degrees in the helping professions—a bachelor's in nursing and a master's in nursing education. She was married to a military surgeon. She told her family, which included five children, that she chose the flight nurse specialty "because it was the top, the hardest one."

The little nonprofit Marianne founded in 1986 with \$50 from her pocket has since donated \$5.6 million to Acadia National Park and community entities, packed away \$16 million in endowments and other investments, this year made possible the employment of 115 people serving the park, and won a number of public service recognitions.

President Reagan marked her accomplishments by honoring Marianne and Friends of Acadia with a volunteer award in the White House. Her youngest son, John, said Marianne displayed the award "not on a wall, not in a drawer," but in a place where it had "hidden prominence." That would be a closet — she hung her award in a coat closet. Whenever the door was opened, people could see it. In this way Marianne balanced pride and modesty.

Marianne Edwards lived in Hulls Cove, Maine and later in Rockport, Massachusetts. In 2001 she returned to Mount Desert Island at Friends of Acadia's invitation to let us thank her at our annual meeting.

At the meeting, Marianne took the standing ovation and accolades in stride, made a few remarks in a frail voice, and presented



Marianne Edwards, with former chairman Lee Judd, at FOA's 2001 Annual Meeting.

her namesake award to our own Jeannine Ross, one of many selfless people Friends of Acadia has publicly honored over the years.

We like to think that Marianne took away from the 2001 celebration a renewed satisfaction at the organization she germinated and a measure of hope for where it was headed. She went home to Rockport, where she had helped nurture another group, Friends of Halibut Point State Park.

Marianne died on June 21, at age 83. Her obituary said, "Anyone who knew her would know that she would encourage people to honor her by doing community service and volunteering in the parks." A humble suggestion—and a time tested idea.

The Maine poet Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869-1935) had some words about the effects of any one person's trusteeship of a civic asset:

*Whether you will or not
You are a king... for you are
One of the time-tested few
That leave the world,
When they are gone, not the
Same place that it was.
Mark what you leave.*

Marianne was that kind of "king," if you will. ♣

—W. Kent Olson

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in the memory of:

Annette Axtmann
Anne Bucknell
Wilmer Bradbury
Dow L. Case
Marianne Edwards
Richard Frost
Delores Gottlieb
Carol Ann Katz
Genelle Kent
Alfred Hand
Brenton S. Halsey
George A. Huskins
Penny Longmaid
Grace Edwards Llyod
Sally Speare Lutyens
Bobby Mickschutz
Minnie Moberg
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Lucille Pfister
Gordon Ramsdell
Algeron and Elizabeth Roberts
Sam Shanaberger
Janet G. Short
Edith Vignos
Patricia Wagner

IN NOMINE

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in the name of:

Rachel Barensky
George and Anna Buck
Jake Egelberg
Dianna Emory
Becky and Brett Gordon
Charles Nowack
Ariana and Camilla Rockefeller
Hanna Caroline Rubin
Mr. and Mrs. Pernia
Nathan Simon
Mary Ann Smrz
Sheridan Steele

JUNE 1 – OCTOBER 20



ACADIA

by the numbers



Sargent Mountain Summit

Riding the Island Explorer

332,569

Total ridership in 2005

140,931

Total ridership in the first season (6/23/99 – 9/4/99)

7%

Ridership total increase over 2004

1%

Ridership total decrease from 2003

22%

Increase in ridership at Schoodic over 2004

4%

Park visitation decrease from 2004

4,074

Summer daily average ridership

1,184

Fall daily average ridership

1,839,159

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

August 1, 2006

Date projected to carry the 2 millionth rider

16

Number of buses running on MDI

1

Number of buses running at Schoodic

FORESIGHT & GENEROSITY



George DeWolfe

Schoodic Point

ESTATE PLANNING

Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear — our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mount Desert Island's natural wonders — is a wise investment. You can help protect Acadia forever.

It's simple. Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

1. I hereby give _____ % of my residuary estate to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.
2. I hereby bequeath \$_____ to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.
3. I hereby devise the following property to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes: [legal description of property].

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 1-800-625-0321, email her at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

SMALL WORLDS OF GLORY

Cynthia Thayer

Since I live in Gouldsboro, I go to the Schoodic section of the park, the quiet place, the Acadia that's close to me.

When we moved here in 1976, we visited Schoodic every Sunday for a picnic or to look at the ducks. Bill and I drove the loop, stopped at several pull-offs, and hauled out binoculars to speculate as to the number of eiders there might be in the raft just off Blueberry Hill or between the mainland and Little Moose Island.

As our lives became more complicated with grandchildren, expanded farm, new musical interests, our Sunday drives became sporadic. Instead of "Time to go to Schoodic," we said, "We haven't been to Schoodic for ages. Want to go?" Now that we are hovering on the edge of elderliness, we have found time to go back more often.

I ask myself why I'm drawn to the place. A quick drive with Bill shows us the big scene. Yes, of course, it's one of the most beautiful spots on the Maine coast. And yes, the waves crash on outcropping rocks that point toward Spain and picture-postcard scenes pop up at every curve.

When we stop at our old picnic site, memories of my parents, now long dead, become clear. My mother spreading out my best tablecloth and sending one of the children to pick wild flowers to place into the Wedgwood vase that she insisted we bring in the picnic basket. My father showing my son how to skip stones into the still water on the lee side. I pick up a very flat stone, hold it in my throwing hand, stoop low, and heft it as hard as I can. It skips five times toward the lighthouse.

But today I drive down alone and stop along the way. A gray granite boulder plays host to barnacles and I stoop close enough to see the creatures inside. Rockweed hangs from it, grasping clumps of mussels. On the high side of the boulder, where the sea's held at bay, beach peas bloom in pinks and purples, hoping to attract a wasp or perhaps a monarch.

And in an epiphany, I know why I am drawn to this place. The small things. When I was a child, like all children, I was much shorter than I am now. I noticed small things

like shrimpettes (that's what I called them) and pollywogs and those itty white daisies barely poking through their own leaves.

Now, in my sixties I stoop a bit, look down as I walk, afraid to trip, not as confident as I once was. And, today, like I did in childhood, I see the small things.

"In an epiphany, I know why I am drawn to this place. It's the small things."

I walk crab-like on hands and feet to a small pool in the rocks at the point, ancient gold and yellow lichens cushioning my palms. I lie down and peer into its blackness. Periwinkles speckle its stone banks and mosquito larvae hang on its surface. And something else wiggles under the surface. "Oh. Shrimpettes." I say it out loud in a child's voice and quickly look around to make sure I'm the only one to hear.

Just at the back of the pool, one blue flag iris struggles twixt rectangular dikes of black basalt wedged between pink granite. A rose bush grows seemingly out of rock and at the top, a deep pink flower. I sniff its center.

At Blueberry Hill, within my reach are wild strawberries, green with a tinge of pink, and

blueberry bushes thick with white blossoms. I view the small offshore islands through Queen Ann's lace. I crawl past them toward a cluster of pineapple plants, usually spurned because they're a sign of poor soil. When I rub the yellow nubbin between my fingers the scent of pineapple infuses the air.

The Schoodic section of Acadia gives us both the grand and the infinitesimal. Scenes of Cadillac in the distance, bonsaied pines growing out of ledge, ocean smashing onto granite at the point, are all truly splendid. But if you are a small child or an aging adult or you get right down on your belly, you will experience the microcosmic world of glory that we often miss in the rush to live in our modern world. ❧

CYNTHIA THAYER is the author of three novels, *A Certain Slant of Light*, *Strong for Potatoes*, and most recently, *A Brief Lunacy*, from Algonquin Books. She also writes for *Northern New England Journey*, AAA and teaches fiction writing with Turnstone Writers Workshop and Schoodic Arts for All. She and her husband, Bill, live on an organic farm in Gouldsboro, on the Schoodic peninsula.



Rocks at Schoodic

HUGH HILDESLEY

“A special friend helps Friends of Acadia gross over \$510,000 at the Benefit Gala.”

Perhaps you read this news in Mount Desert Island's local newspapers last August. Now in its 16th year, the Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala has been able to build upon the success of each preceding year. Over the past seven years, auction proceeds have increased 408% — from \$100,000 in 1998 to an astonishing \$510,000 in 2005. This amount of growth requires passion and commitment and, perhaps most importantly, professional fostering. The kind provided by an auctioneer who is both charismatic and pithy, Hugh Hildesley of Sotheby's.

The secret of the Gala's success can be attributed to several factors — a very dynamic gala committee; the generosity of hundreds of businesses, artists, and individuals that donate an eclectic mix of auction items; a festively decorated tent; food & drink galore; and, finally, a faithful following of attendees that returns year after year, bringing more friends with them. All of these factors are brought together by Hugh. “He took our live auction to a new level. With a twinkle in his eye and a witty remark, he encouraged bidders to support Friends of Acadia as never before, says Malinda Crain, a former Benefit Gala Chairwoman. “I was always impressed with how quickly Hugh could size up the auction items and his audience and bring out the best in both. Hugh was a pleasure to work with — responsive, professional and very, very funny.”

In 2000, Sotheby's became the Gala's Underwriting Sponsor. In addition to their sterling reputation and expertise, Sotheby's sponsorship included the experienced guidance of Hugh Hildesley. Hugh is Executive Vice President of Sotheby's North and South America. He was educated at the Sherborne School and Brasenose College, Oxford, and studied Dutch and Flemish Old Master paintings at the Rijksbureau Voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie in The Hague. In 1961, he began his career at Sotheby's in the Old Master Paintings department in London. He is the author of *The Complete Guide to Buying*



Hugh Hildesley in full cry.

and *Selling at Auction*, published by W.W. Norton. And, if all this were not enough to distinguish Hugh, he is perhaps the only ordained Episcopal priest in the auction world.

In the 44 years Hugh has been with Sotheby's, his expertise has spanned all areas including client development, auctioneering, regional operations, and professional training. He conducts more than 50 charitable auctions each year for Sotheby's, raising millions of dollars for a variety of philanthropies.

Hugh made his first visit to Pretty Marsh in 1965. “I've been coming to Mount Desert Island every summer for over 40 years,” he remarks, “and one of the gems of this community is Acadia National Park. I cannot think of a cause that I would rather support than this extraordinary endeavor.” Friends is grateful to Hugh for sharing his exceptional talents, making it ever so easy and fun to “give back” to Acadia National Park. ♣

— Terry Begley

WALDRON'S WARRIORS BATTLE ON

Maintaining the system of cairns that mark the hiking trails in Acadia National Park has often been described as a losing battle. Uninformed visitors tinker with these valuable piles of stones, either adding more until they become unstable and topple on their own or, in some instances, knocking them over deliberately.

And then there are those who cannot seem to resist constructing their own cairns, often confusing hikers or directing them off the beaten trail into more environmentally-sensitive areas.

Trail crews and volunteers are constantly repairing damaged cairns and removing illegal ones.

Along with the friendly painted blue blazes, and the occasional tin marker on trees, cairns are the main method used by hikers for route finding, particularly on open ledges and summits where other landmarks are few and far between. There is no set pattern to cairn placement. When asked by a volunteer how far apart to set them, one trail foreman replied, "Imagine you're from the big city, it's your first hike, it's foggy and getting dark. How far apart do you want them?"

"Along with the friendly painted blue blazes, and the occasional tin marker on trees, cairns are the main method used by hikers for route finding, particularly on open ledges and summits where other landmarks are few and far between."

Long before Acadia adopted the familiar conical shape for cairns, trail pathfinder Waldron Bates, who laid out many of the paths on the island's eastern side, specified a unique marking system. It consisted of a pair of large base stones spaced a foot or two apart and spanned horizontally by a narrow, flat stone, not unlike a small table. In the center of the flat stone an oblong "indica-



A Bates cairn on the Champlain Mountain Bear Brook Trail.

tor" rock was placed with the idea that the point of the rock indicated the direction of the trail.

Over the past few years, ANP recreation specialist Charlie Jacobi has instituted a program to replace conical cairns with Bates markers on trails where they were originally used — on the eastern side of Mount Desert Island. Some of the trails include Dorr Mountain (south ridge), the Bear Brook Trail up the north ridge of Champlain, Gorham Mountain, Cadillac South Ridge, Upper Beachcroft Trail (Huguenot Head), and Penobscot Mountain.

This summer crews worked on Cadillac North Ridge, the Gorge Path (the upper section at Cadillac Summit) and the reopened Sargent East Cliffs Trail.

With plenty of work to do related to the Acadia Trails Forever effort initiated by Friends of Acadia, the park's paid trail crew has no shortage of projects. Still, they have managed to install Bates cairns on several trails. One area where they can use some assistance, however, is monitoring those trails to see if unwitting visitors have damaged or replaced the cairns.

That's where Jacobi got the idea for Waldron's Warriors.

For three years now he has called on a dedicated group of hikers to volunteer to hike the trails to look for damage and make minor repairs. Each Warrior is asked to hike a particular trail every couple of weeks in

the spring and fall before seasonal crews are in place. The volunteers make note of any problems, replace a missing or fallen indicator stone, and remove unauthorized additions. Traditionally Warriors swap off for the second half of the season to prevent them from getting bored hiking the same trail over and over.

By having the volunteers regularly check on the cairns, Jacobi can see if any patterns emerge and plan appropriate measures. And, by ensuring that the majority of hikers see only correctly placed and constructed cairns, temptation to tinker with them is reduced.

Charlie Jacobi's crews include this summer's Friends of Acadia Ridge Runners — Jesse Kucenic, Pete Berquist, Pat Mahoney, Jessi Graff, and Catie Carter — as well as local volunteers including Julia Schloss, Jen Drew, Doug Monteith, Mike Hays, Bill Ames, and Laura Scholtz. Vesta Kowalski recently retired from the Waldron's Warriors cadre.

Over time, Jacobi hopes people will come to understand and appreciate the effort to integrate both the cultural and natural landscape at Acadia. "Bates cairns are easier to build and maintain," he explains. "They have reestablished an important part of the historic character of the island hiking trail system." ❧

EARL BRECHLIN is the editor of the *Mount Desert Islander* and a member of Waldron's Warriors.

SUMMER WORK

Every summer, with the assistance of Friends of Acadia, 16 teenagers work with Acadia National Park crew on trail, carriage road, and natural resource projects in the park. Friends makes an annual grant to the park to pay student and leader salaries, purchases work boots and T-shirts for the Corps, and provides a scholarship at the end of the program for each AYCC member. The park provides the leadership, training, tools, and materials.

AYCC corps members work hard during the eight week season and park crews take them seriously. They train the AYCC in everything from shifting hundred-pound rocks with rock bars, to moving boulders with high lines (a cable and pulley system strung between trees), to planting vegetation that will close an unauthorized, or “social,” trail.

AYCC projects this year included:

- Reconstruction of an abandoned section of the Maple Springs Trail
- Reconstruction of the Pond Trail
- Opening and rebuilding stone culverts and drainages along the carriage road west of Jordan Pond
- Constructing a more sustainable bicycle connection between the Park Loop Road and carriage road in the Day Mountain area
- Clearing drains, installing signs, and cutting vegetation on trails in the Sargent Mountain area

One of the Corps members summed up the spirit of what we heard from others, “Being at Acadia has shown me a lot about how much work is really put into the park’s trails and carriage roads. I never realized how much work it takes to preserve trails. But my time here has been fun, learning how to maintain eroded trails and re-building rock walls. Now that I’m done I feel like I’ve accomplished so much and that makes me feel great! My advice is to keep AYCC. It’s a great experience.”

Before we close the book on this season, Friends would like to say thank you to the



Moving rock with a high line on the Pond Trail.



Hauling bog walk planks on the Giant Slide Trail.



Removing vegetation from drainage along the Deer Brook Trail.



Acadia Youth Conservation Corps 2005.

long-time benefactors who make this program possible. And we take our hats off to the teens who were the 2005 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps—your work will endure beyond your expectations. ♣

— Marla S. O’Byrne

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Joshua Howie
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Crushing rock for trail base layer on the Maple Spring Trail.



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FOA president plans to step down

By Earl Brechlin

BAR HARBOR — Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson announced this week that he will leave the organization in early 2006. Mr. Olson, who has been with FOA for more than a decade, plans to step down to pursue other interests. "It's time for me to move on," he said in an interview last Friday.

"We [Friends of Acadia] have an excellent staff and an outstanding board of directors," Mr. Olson said. Still, after a 30-year career with conservation groups, he feels the time is right to leave.

He will begin a "working retirement" and has a list of things he wants to accomplish, including teaching, some work out west, consulting and personal writing.

"Ken is one of the finest professionals with whom I have ever worked," said FOA board chairman Dianna Emory. "Beyond his dedication and endless hours of hard work for Friends of Acadia, I have watched him work on behalf of our regional, national and international communities.

The national conservation community, the Friends Alliance, the National Park Foundation, the national park system and, certainly, Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island — these and many other communities have felt Ken's impact," she continued. "He is a creative visionary who successfully makes his ideas realities and who is always willing to go the extra mile for his mission."

During Mr. Olson's tenure FOA grew exponentially. Some of the accomplishments he is most proud of include completion of the carriage road restoration work, raising \$13 million for the Acadia Trails Forever project to rehabilitate and endow the park's

130-mile trail system, and obtaining a grant of \$1 million from L.L. Bean to help fund the Island Explorer shuttle bus system.

FOA has also optioned a parcel of land in Trenton at Crippen's Creek for a possible intermodal transportation center and has vigorously defended park interests in the Schoodic section of the park. This included rebuffing a state attempt to gain control of the former Navy base there and

ments. "Ken's a good friend and an endless crusader for the preservation of Acadia National Park," he said. "I will personally miss our close working relationship. He did a lot of great things for Acadia."

Mr. Olson said he has been contemplating this move for some time. He indicated to the board some time ago that they should be thinking about succession. "I finally made up my mind last week," he said. By



EARL BRECHLIN PHOTO

Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson announced this week that he plans to leave the organization early next year.

opposing a heavy timber cut on 1,600 acres just outside the park boundary.

Other projects have included village connector trails and more than \$4 million in grants to Acadia and to projects in surrounding communities.

"I've been in the park service for a long time and I've seen lots of Friends groups," said Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele. "FOA is one of the most successful and effective in large measure due to Ken's leadership and strengths— he is an excellent advocate and a good manager of operations."

Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock echoed those senti-

announcing his departure now, there will be plenty to conduct a search for a new president. "I have recommended to the board that they conduct a nationwide search," Mr. Olson said.

Mr. Olson said he is most proud to have worked with people who know how to operate as a team. "Friends of Acadia is a 'we' proposition," he said. "So many people pull together to create this great organization." He cited staff, the board, donors, members and park employees. "It doesn't fall on any one individual."

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L.L. BEAN COMMITMENT TO FRIENDS OF ACADIA SURPASSES \$2.25 MILLION

Governor John E. Baldacci announced on September 14 that outdoor retailer L.L. Bean has pledged another \$1.25 million to Friends of Acadia for the Island Explorer bus service and two other programs in Acadia National Park. The announcement was made at the opening reception for the first U.S. Ecotourism Conference being held in Bar Harbor. The grant brings Bean's total contributions to Friends of Acadia to more than \$2.25 million since 2002.

The Island Explorer is a network of 17 propane-powered buses serving Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Over the past seven years, the bus system has carried over 1.79 million passengers, reduced private vehicle trips by more than 662,000, eliminated approximately 9.8 tons of smog causing pollutants, and reduced greater than 6,200 tons of greenhouse gases.

"L.L. Bean has a long, rich history in Maine, and with that has always come the desire to help steward the state's natural resources," said Shawn Gorman, L.L. Bean Senior Manager of Partnership Marketing. "We are excited to continue to help protect this fabulous national park through our partnership with Friends of Acadia and the Island Explorer."

Bean has sponsored the Island Explorer since 2002, when the company's historic \$1 million donation to Friends of Acadia enabled the Explorer to extend operations through Columbus Day and this year enabled the Explorer to purchase and operate two vans and bicycle trailers that carry bicyclists directly between the Bar Harbor Village Green and Jordan Pond. This season, the first summer of operations for the bicycle trailers, 5,408 bicyclists were transported. The nonprofit Downeast Transportation, Inc. operates the buses and vans.

"L.L. Bean is a significant conservation steward of Maine," said Ken Olson, President of Friends of Acadia. "We are proud to count Bean as a major partner in the Island Explorer bus service and now other programs in the park." The donation to Friends of Acadia will be spread over five years.

The grant also establishes the L.L. Bean Kids in Acadia Program, supplying student schol-

arships for the Schoodic Education Adventure, and it creates L.L. Bean Research Fellowships for scientific study in Acadia National Park.

The two programs will be administered by the Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, a non-profit organization founded to assist the National Park Service with managing the Schoodic Education and Research Center, the former Navy base on the Schoodic Peninsula that reverted to the Park Service.

The L.L. Bean Kids in Acadia Program will fund scholarships annually for up to 100 Maine middle school children to attend the Schoodic Education Adventure, a residential field education program run by the National Park Service at the Schoodic Education and Research Center. Participating schools will also be able to apply for limited transportation funding to the program, and teachers involved will be able to attend a one week teacher institute associated with the program. L.L. Bean's gift will also enable the Park Service to hire additional college and graduate student interns to assist with the education program, allowing the park to expand the number of weeks that the Schoodic Education Adventure runs.

The L.L. Bean Research Fellowship Program will be open to undergraduate and graduate students, agency scientists, college and university faculty, and private sector research professionals interested in performing field research at Acadia in the physical, biological, ecological, social, and cultural sciences. The program will award a minimum of five research fellowships each year (\$5,000 maximum grant size), beginning in 2006. The goal of the L.L. Bean Research Fellowship Program is to foster research at Acadia that will further scientific knowledge, answer resource management questions, and create long-term field research partnerships at the Schoodic Education and Research Center.

"L.L. Bean has been a tremendous partner for Acadia National Park," said Sheridan Steele, Superintendent of Acadia National Park. "Not only did they enable the Island Explorer bus system to expand operations, but they have invested in programs at the Schoodic Education and Research Center, a facility that will help the Park foster long-term relationships with scientists and educators." ❧

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Submissions are invited to the 2006 *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.

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Entries will not be returned.

Poem

2004 FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD
3rd Prize

IN LATE SEPTEMBER

As dusk falls, a harvest moon rises into sheets of rain.
Time carves slivers of flesh from its face.
When winter comes, only a splinter of bone will remain.

Alders fold saffron leaves against the night. Limbs frame
a vee of canadian geese — a thousand miles retraced.
Dusk falls. A harvest moon rises into sheets of rain.

Windfalls gather wasps. A barn owl calls out its name.
Field mice take refuge in the darkest place,
but when winter comes, only splinters of bone will remain.

Leaves smell sweet; unmown pastures lie heavy with grain.
Dusk falls. On the pond, a pair of ducks displaces
the image of moon rising in sheets of rain.

Orion's sword rotates toward lunar terrain.
Night pivots, the passage of time can never be retraced —
when winter comes, only splinters of moon will remain.

This is the season we are returned to, again and again —
so many losses cannot be erased.
Dusk falls. A harvest moon rises into sheets of rain.
When winter comes, only splinters of bone will remain.

— Sharon M. Carter

SHARON CARTER obtained her medical degree from Cambridge University. She is a co-editor of *Literary Salt*, www.literarysalt.com, received a Hedgebrook residency in 2001, and was a Jack Straw Writer in 2003.

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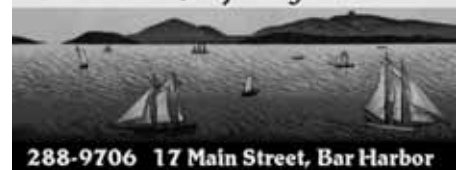
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TEAM FOA

Many Friends of Acadia Journal readers already know that after ten years of forwarding FOA and Park initiatives President Ken Olson announced his retirement effective in 2006 (see page 1). However, many friends may not have heard about other changes at Friends of Acadia this year.

After many years of dedicated service, Development Director Kelly Dickson left Friends of Acadia to return to her previous career in journalism at the *Mount Desert Islander*. We thank Kelly for her many years

Sheree Castonguay joined the staff in April and serves as the Secretary to the President. Sheree is a former Realtor and accountant from Dover, New Hampshire but has deep roots in the area. Her father grew up in Bar Harbor and her grandfather, the late Dr. John B. Ells, was a Main Street dentist for whom the Bar Harbor town pier is dedicated.

Stephanie Clement celebrates her 8th year as Conservation Director at Friends of Acadia. Stephanie serves as the primary contact with park staff for many FOA park policy initiatives. Some of Stephanie's current projects include public transit, air and water quality initiatives, and advocating at the local, state, and federal level on behalf of the park.



Standing (from left): Mike, Diana, Merry, Marla, Lisa, and Ken. Seated (from left): Stephanie, Terry, and Sheree.

of service to FOA. We are grateful she didn't move far away.

Merry Kahn, the development officer handling all membership and annual fund efforts, is Friends of Acadia's newest employee. Merry hails from Iowa and joins the staff after a career in library science in education. Also in the development office is Lisa Horsch, the new Director of Development and Donor Relations. Lisa has spent her fundraising career in higher education, working for the College of William and Mary's \$500 million campaign just prior to moving to Friends of Acadia. Lisa serves as the liaison to the Development Committee. Celebrating her 9th year at Friends of Acadia, Development Associate Terry Begley continues to manage events at Friends of Acadia, including the hugely successful Benefit Gala. When not planning events, Terry processes gifts and acknowledgements for the development office.

Director of Operations Diana McDowell, celebrating her 8th year, handles all financial matters — annual budget and accounting, general ledger, spreadsheet analysis, leading indicators, and the yearly audit. Diana is the principal liaison to the Investment & Finance and Audit Committees.

Marla O'Byrne, who started at FOA in 1996 as Marla Major, is the Stewardship Director and Editor of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*. Marla manages many of FOA's in-park and community programs, such as ACADIA TRAILS FOREVER implementation, village connector trails development, wheelchair accessibility, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and volunteer stewardship.

Administrative Assistant Mike Staggs, celebrating his 5th year, handles the general office needs, computer systems, and network support. He is responsible for our recycling program, Earth Day event, and ensuring that the office runs smoothly. 🐾

KEN OLSON HONORED

Summer 2005 brought honors for Friends of Acadia president Ken Olson's accomplishments and commitment to the protection of special lands.

At its 33rd Commencement, in June, College of the Atlantic conferred on Olson the honorary degree of Master of Philosophy in Human Ecology. The award recognized his "lifelong commitment to the well-being of our natural and social environment, and [his] leadership in the betterment of MDI and the region beyond." College of the Atlantic president Steve Katona said, "This degree recognizes the extraordinary leadership that Ken Olson has provided for land preservation on Mount Desert Island, in Maine, and elsewhere in the United States. It is a symbol of Ken's superb achievements and our boundless respect for him."

At its annual meeting in September, the Natural Resources Council of Maine presented its 2005 Environmental Award for Lifetime Achievement to Olson for "his pivotal role in securing lasting protection for Maine's special places." In addition to his achievements on behalf of Acadia, NRCM cited Olson's work with the Council and concerned citizens to ensure greater protections for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Among other



Beth Dimond, NRCM

Natural Resources Council of Maine executive director Brownie Carson (left) and Board of Directors president Lisa Pohlmann (right) present Life Time Achievement award to Olson, September 29.

efforts, he produced *River of Broken Promises*, a legal history of the waterway "that has come to serve as the Bible for activists trying to ensure that this beautiful



Robin Farrin, courtesy of College of the Atlantic

Sam Hamill, chairman of College of the Atlantic's Board of Trustees (right), confers an honorary Master of Philosophy degree on Olson, June 4.

wilderness is managed the way it was intended to be."

At the Friends of Acadia annual meeting, in July, the Friends board of directors and staff presented Olson with the chairman's one-and-only Sweet Victory Award for "his outstanding leadership in national park protection and preservation; his skills as a persuasive and passionate spokesman on behalf of Acadia National Park before Congress, donors, volunteers, park neighbors, and often unsuspecting supporters; his tremendous success at raising a small nonprofit to national stature and accomplishment."

At the same meeting, Acadia National Park superintendent Sheridan Steele conferred Honorary Park Ranger status on Olson, citing "his outstanding leadership and great success in support of Acadia National Park and the Mission of the National Park Service."

At the season-end lunch honoring Friends' volunteer crew leaders, Olson was feted by the leaders, who presented him with Honorary Membership in the Imprecision Drill Team. The Imprecision Drill Team is one of the features of the Bar Harbor July 4th Parade, with volunteers executing some mighty fancy footwork with wheelbarrows, loppers, shovels, and other trail tools. The leaders honored Olson "for his tireless efforts in keeping cars and trucks off the roads of Mt. Desert

Island so we could march on July 4 in Bar Harbor without fear of losing life or limb; his uncanny ability to persuade the FOA Board of Directors to purchase state-of-the-art loppers, saws, clippers, and more than



Peter Travers

Superintendent Sheridan Steele (right) confers Honorary Park Ranger status on Olson, July 22, with FOA chair Dianna Emory looking on.

enough T-shirts; his ever successful negotiations with Acadia National Park which allowed us to walk behind Smokey the Bear rather than the U.S. Army Mounted Cavalry; and, finally, his clean air initiatives, which meant we could breath freely and actually see the spectators who were yelling 'Thank you, Volunteers.'"

"Everyone has treated me wonderfully over a decade of profoundly rewarding work at Friends of Acadia," Olson said. "Thank you, all, for letting me be your willing colleague." As for the formal honors, "The lesson in all this is I should retire more often," he quipped. ♣

In Gratitude

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Updates

Friends President Testifies Before Congressional Subcommittee

On August 24, 2005, Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson testified before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources. The hearing at Faneuil Hall in Boston was called to highlight key issues facing the National Park System, specifically how parks are dealing with funding shortfalls, security issues, and other management needs. Mr. Olson was invited to testify by Rep. Mark

eral budget contains an increase for national park operations overall, the extra funding is not seen at the local park level because of Congressionally mandated salary increases, agency assessments, emergency expenditures, and security during terrorism alerts.

Mr. Olson described how Acadia National Park has dealt with some of these government funding shortages — by reducing the number of seasonal employees, by leaving eleven permanent positions unfilled, and by cutting back on maintenance (e.g., closing nine of twelve restrooms over the winter season). He stressed that Friends' contributions to Acadia are intended to add to a "margin of excellence" in national park management — to add value to park programs rather than



Alan Spears, National Parks Conservation Association

Friends of Acadia staff Stephanie Clement and Ken Olson join audience members and the honorable Roger Kennedy, Chairman of the National Council of National Parks Conservation Association and former Director of the National Park Service, at the August 24th oversight hearing on key issues facing the National Park Service. The hearing was called by Congressman Mark Souder, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources.

Souder (R-IN), the Chair of the Subcommittee, who asked him to speak about the effects of national park budgets on private philanthropy.

Mr. Olson's testimony highlighted the strength of the relationship between Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. Friends holds \$16 million in endowments for the trails, carriage roads, and other programs and has granted \$5.1 million to Acadia since 1995. Mr. Olson warned, however, "Charities must never subsidize government operating losses." He pointed out that even though the FY 2006 fed-

replace normal park functions that should be funded by Congress.

Mr. Olson was joined on the witness stand by Roger Kennedy, former Director of the Park Service and National Council Chairman of the National Parks Conservation Association, an organization that has led the Americans for National Park coalition which has drawn attention to park funding issues. Marilyn Fenollosa of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Lt. John McCauley, Museum Curator for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, also pro-

vided testimony. The National Park Service was represented by Bob McIntosh, Associate Regional Director for Planning and Partnerships for the Northeast Region, and Michael Creasey, Lowell National Historical Park Superintendent.

The hearing in Boston is one of a series that Rep. Souder planned, focusing on issues facing national parks across the country. Earlier in the summer, hearings were held in Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, PA. Upon completion of all the hearings, a report compiling the testimony will be published. Meanwhile, Friends of Acadia will continue to work with the Acadia Advocacy Network and the Maine Congressional delegation, which has been very supportive of the park, to secure additional funding for Acadia's operations.

Crippens Creek Environmental Assessment Commences

Earlier this summer, field biologists from the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) initiated a preliminary environmental assessment of the land proposed for the Crippens Creek Intermodal Transportation Center. Friends of Acadia holds a three-year option on a 369-acre parcel in Trenton that has been identified by MDOT as the preferred location for the intermodal center. The center will help reduce private automobile traffic by providing parking for commuters and day visitors to the park. The Island Explorer will also operate from the center, park entrance passes will be sold, and regional tourism and park information will be available.

MDOT biologists, Richard Bostwick, Jerry Therrien, and John Perry traversed the Crippens Creek site with FOA conservation director Stephanie Clement, looking for wet areas, taking soil samples, and documenting plant, bird, mammal, and amphibian species. Due to heavy rains at that time, several wet areas were observed that were not on the wetland inventory maps. Two beaver dams were also found. The environmental assessment revealed no plant or animal species of concern, although evidence of large and small mammals was seen, and one pink lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) was found. More in-depth analysis and field mapping will be needed to carefully demarcate wet areas where development should be avoided.

The Federal Transit Administration, with

MDOT acting as their agent, will be the lead agency in meeting federal planning requirements and hiring consultants to prepare the site development plan and implement the public involvement process. The National Park Service, Federal Highways Administration, Maine Office of Tourism, Friends of Acadia, Town of Trenton, and Downeast Transportation will be cooperating agencies and/or partners in the planning process.

For more information about the Crippens Creek Intermodal Transportation Center project, contact Stephanie Clement at (207) 288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

Premiere Performance

Friends of Acadia hosted the world premiere of *First Light: An Oratorio* at St. Saviour's Church in Bar Harbor on August 27 and 28. *First Light*, a multi-media performance, was composed by the late Sally Speare Lutyens and inspired by the images of Tom Blagden Jr. and the words of Charles R. Tyson Jr. in the book, *First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine's Mount Desert Island*.

Sally Lutyens, an accomplished musician and former Manset resident, adapted her original score from the book's text. The string ensemble and chorale, featuring soprano Sarah St. Denis, was accompanied by a slide show of Tom Blagden images filling the width of the church sanctuary.

Planning and production of *First Light* began last winter when three talented musicians — Composer Sally Lutyens, Producer Lee Patterson, and Music Director Tom Wallace — met with Friends of Acadia



Sally Speare Lutyens

President Ken Olson to discuss the concept of the multi-media performance. Olson was confident that "*First Light* would be a superb interpretation of the sounds and sights of Acadia the Beautiful — a real celebration of Acadia and all those who work hard to protect it." More than 250 members and music lovers joined Friends for the weekend performances.

First Light: An Oratorio was made possible by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust and island music and art sponsors.

Celebrating Acadia's Founders

On Saturday, August 13th, the public gathered at the Bar Harbor Village Green to celebrate the founders of Acadia National Park. Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson emceed the event to honor George B. Dorr, Charles W. Eliot, John D. Rockefeller, and others who worked tirelessly to purchase or



George B. Dorr on the Beachcroft Path.

secure donations of land that became Acadia National Park. August 13th marked the anniversary of the first gathering of the people who formed the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, the organization primarily responsible for the founding of Acadia National Park.

Other speakers at the celebratory event included State Senator Dennis Damon, State Representative Ted Koffman, George Dorr biographer Dr. Ron Epp, Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele, Beatrix Farrand Society President Patrick Chassé, Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations President Stephen Shea, Woodlawn Museum Executive Director Joshua Torrance, and Carriages-in-the-Park proprietor Ed Winterberg. Proclamations from Governor John E. Baldacci and the Maine legislature were followed by a cake and

lemonade reception. Little would have seemed out of character to the founders had they joined the festivities on the green.

The Bicycle Express

For the first time this summer, bicyclists had another option for returning to Bar Harbor after feasting on popovers at the Jordan Pond House. In addition to regular Island Explorer service, Downeast Transportation initiated a bike shuttle featuring non-stop trips between Bar Harbor and Jordan Pond through the end of August.



The Island Explorer Bicycle Express.

The vans and bike trailers that comprised the shuttle were purchased with National Park Service funds and operated under L.L. Bean's generous \$1 million grant to Friends of Acadia for the Island Explorer.

The new bike trailers were planned to alleviate pressure on the Island Explorer buses to accommodate all cyclists. The buses carry four bicycles at a time, but the bike trailers carry up to 16 bicycles. The vans and trailers left the Jordan Pond House on hourly intervals in between bus departures. Paul Murphy, General Manager of Downeast Transportation was more than pleased with the results. "The trailers were a bigger success than we had expected," he said at the end of the season. "We carried more than 5,000 bicycles on the trailers. The buses still carried a lot of bikes, but the expanded system worked just the way we wanted thanks to L.L. Bean, Friends of Acadia, and Acadia National Park."

For more information and to view schedules, visit www.exploreacadia.com.

Advocacy Corner

The Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2005 (S. 1154 in the Senate and H.R. 2692 in the House) was introduced by Senator Susan Collins and Representative Michael Michaud on Thursday, May 26, 2005. Senator Olympia Snowe and Congressman Tom Allen co-sponsored. The bill accomplishes three important legislative needs for the park:

1. It extends the life of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, a citizen body appointed by local towns, the Governor, and the Secretary of the Interior, that consults with the National Park Service on important management issues;
2. It authorizes Congress to appropriate additional funding for land acquisition at Acadia; and,
3. It authorizes the National Park Service to assist with design, construction, and operation of the Crippens Creek intermodal transportation center planned for Trenton.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported to the full Senate with few amendments to the bill. The House Subcommittee on National Parks has not yet considered the bill. Friends of Acadia supports this bill because it is necessary for Acadia's long-term traffic management efforts, land protection initiatives, and the continuation of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, which has been a valuable link between gateway communities and park managers.

If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in Acadia National Park policy issues, Friends encourages you to join the Acadia Advocacy Network and to express support for the Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2005. To read the full text of this essential legislation, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and type "S. 1154" or "H.R. 2692" into the "Search Bill Text" box. Please e-mail, call, or fax the Maine Congressional delegation to thank them for sponsoring this important bill. Also, consider writing a letter to the editor or an opinion

editorial essay in support of the legislation. Be sure to send Friends of Acadia a copy of your letters.

To join the Acadia Advocacy Network, send an e-mail to stephanie@friendsofacadia.org with the words, "Subscribe Advocacy Network" in the subject line of the message. You will receive periodic announcements of events or meetings to highlight important issues, opportunities to weigh in with the Maine Congressional delegation, or occasions to comment on park publications.

Two Trails Come Back

Acadia National Park has two "new" additions to the more than 130 miles of hiking trails crisscrossing the park. The Penobscot Mountain Trail and Sargent East Cliffs Trail have undergone significant reconstruction and are back on trail maps, thanks to a model public-private project begun in 2000.

The projects were made possible by the Acadia Trails Forever partnership between Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia. This \$13-million dollar initiative is designed to restore and maintain Acadia's historic trail system, including reconstructing and bringing back into the trail system nearly 10 miles of abandoned trails. Acadia Trails Forever is funded through private donations and park entry fees. And it's working.

Friends members and staff joined the park to celebrate the re-opening of the two trails with a dedication and hike of the Penobscot Mountain Trail on Tuesday, August 2.

The southern section of the Penobscot Mountain Trail first appeared on 1896 trail maps, but has been off the maps for more than 50 years. The trail begins at the crest of Penobscot's southern cliffs, intersecting the Spring Trail (renamed last year), and connects the Penobscot ridge with the Asticou Trail to the south. The route offers spectacular views of Jordan Pond, Little Long Pond, and the island-dotted ocean from its open ledges. The "new" Penobscot Mountain Trail stretches 2.2 miles from the granite summit of Penobscot Mountain to the Asticou Trail.

The other trail, most lately known as part of the Jordan Cliffs Trail, to be welcomed back into the system ascends the summit of Sargent Mountain from the Deer Brook Trail. It was reopened last fall after being closed to hikers since 1996 because of extreme erosion and unsafe conditions. Upon reopening, the trail



Acadia National Park staff and Friends of Acadia members and staff on the way up to the restored Penobscot Mtn. Trail.

was signed with its historic name: Sargent East Cliffs.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of park staff and volunteers, and the generosity of Friends of Acadia donors, visitors have more opportunities to explore the mountains surrounding Jordan Pond and to once again experience the scenic wonders of Acadia National Park along routes enjoyed by rusticators a half-century ago.

An Afternoon in the Park with Merle

When the small group of guests arrived at Wildwood Stables on the foggy morning of October 4, they didn't have any idea of the treat Friends of Acadia had in store for them. Not long after we loaded our carriage and began our tour of Acadia's carriage roads, the fog burned off and we had our first glimpse of the park's fall colors. The true reward from the day wasn't the beautiful fall foliage but our knowledgeable guide, Merle Cousins, Carriage Road Foreman.

Merle, a thirty-plus year veteran of Acadia National Park, shared the history, engineering, and future of the carriage roads as we traveled the shores of Bubble Pond, Eagle Lake, and Jordan Pond. After the ride, Merle



Merle Cousins leads guests past the tumbledown on Penobscot Mountain.

and Don Beal, another longtime ANP employee and park expert, joined the guests at the Jordan Pond House for a delicious family style meal in the private dining room.

The event was the inaugural celebration of the George B. Dorr Society of Friends of Acadia. The afternoon was a small way for Friends of Acadia to show its appreciation to the Dorr Society members and other special friends.

The George B. Dorr Society was established this year to recognize those members and friends who have made future provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, a gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The 2006 Dorr Society luncheon is planned for September 2006. To learn more about including Friends of Acadia in your estate plans, please contact Lisa Horsch at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.



Rhythm and Words

The Singers I Prefer: Poems
by Christian Barter,
CavanKerry Press Ltd,
Fort Lee, NJ, 2005.
87 pp, \$14, paperback.

Chris Barter is a student of music and a trail crew supervisor in Bar Harbor. Fortunately for us he is also a gifted poet.

This beautiful volume confronts a number of serious questions with a great simplicity of language and penetrating honesty, couched in his quietly discursive and contemplative rhythms. Two of his poems have appeared in the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, one of them as Second Prize winner of the FOA 1998 Poetry Contest judged by Kate Barnes, Maine's then Poet Laureate.

This is poetry largely devoid of images and aphoristic statements. Instead it gives us the poet's dialogues with himself, seldom arriving at definitive conclusions.

Some of his deepest insights spring from his musical background:

*What I love about Beethoven is what
I so often hate about myself:
he never finishes anything. The strain
that labors cadence after cadence toward
resolution, wresting its course away
from the pestering piano, arrives
only after everything is so changed
that where it meant to go is no longer
possible, is there only as a memory
of where we might have rested....*

“On a Beethoven Cello Sonata”

The gift of speaking in paradox so as to expose opposite facets simultaneously:

*...still bright as any city
seen from a hill*

where cities seem to be

*the things we planned to
build*

“There Are No Stars Tonight but
Those of Memory”

And finally on the transience of love:

*...I love... the real,
truant world opening before it grows dense
with light and the need for endings,
setting free
that inkling some lasting love might come
to me*

“Can You”

Ultimately, the only way to fully appreciate the beautiful, contemplative quality of Chris Barter's work is to read it.

— Phil Levin, Poetry Editor



Enduring Style

*Maine Cottages:
Fred L. Savage and the
Architecture of
Mount Desert*
by John M. Bryan,
photographs by
Richard Cheek,

Princeton Architectural Press, New York,
2005. 301 pp, \$45, hardcover.

John Bryan, a noted architectural historian and professor of art history at the University of South Carolina has compiled a stunning visual history of the many eclectic buildings of the architect Fred L. Savage. Savage's work influenced both residential and commercial architecture for decades on Mount Desert Island, and remains an influence today. With stunning photographs and historic text, the reader is taken on a journey of classic styles that range from “simple” structures, like the Reading Room and the Smoking Cabin, to magnificent cottages, like Treetops and Rosserne. Also included are Savage's later commercial works, including the Bar Harbor High School (now the Bar Harbor Town Office), the Bar Harbor Fire Department (in continuous use since 1911), and the C. L. Morang Store. *Maine Cottages* is not only a study of architecture but a study of the sociology and history of Mount Desert Island communities over the past 100 years.

— Rose Doherty



Not Just Another Pretty Video

*Schoodic:
Where Sea Meets Land*,
produced by
Academy, Concord, NH,
www.aboutschoodic.com.
1 hour, \$17.95, DVD or VHS.

Many visitors and even some local residents do not realize that Acadia National Park's borders extend beyond the shores of Mount Desert Island. In addition to MDI and Isle au Haut, Acadia National Park is located on the beautiful Schoodic Peninsula.

Bordering the park on the peninsula lay the towns of Gouldsboro, Prospect Harbor, Corea, and Winter Harbor. *Schoodic: Where Sea Meets Land* is an excellent introduction to these unique communities full of hard-working residents and interesting characters. The video takes you on a tour of the area including visits with local fishermen, boat builders, farmers, business owners, and great storytellers.

This, however, is not just another pretty video about the coast of Maine. *Schoodic: Where Sea Meets Land* touches on pressing issues for the area — the lack of affordable labor affecting blueberry farmers, the resilience of the Mainers and their ability to find work and then work hard to support their families and community, and the capacity to co-exist within a community representing the spectrum of wealth, both ends of the spectrum appreciating that one cannot live well without the other.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the video is learning about the real people of Schoodic and hearing some of their stories. One favorite is a story told by local character Larry Smith — so interesting it inspired the song used to close the video. Listening carefully to “The Door is Open” to hear the whole story.

A bonus to the cultural introduction to the area is the spectacular imagery. From the intriguing casting at U.S. Bells to the crashing waves on the shores of Schoodic, you will certainly enjoy the visual vacation. Whether a native or from away, *Schoodic: Where Sea Meets Land* is a must-see introduction to this Downeast community.

— Sugar Balfour

FRIENDS IN THE GATEHOUSE

Two years ago, Rosemary and I joined Friends of Schoodic (FOS) and volunteered to work in “the Gatehouse.”

The small white building from which Navy security personnel checked IDs and controlled access, the Gatehouse was the first line of security at the former navy base on the Schoodic Peninsula. When the Navy departed, the National Park Service assumed responsibility for the base and the Gatehouse.



Garry Levin

The Schoodic Gatehouse.

Working with park rangers Tom Mayer, Friends of Schoodic’s first chairperson, and his wife, Jeanie Wilson, developed a plan to operate the Gatehouse as an information center for The Schoodic District of Acadia National Park. Demonstrating exceptional initiative, energy, and enthusiasm, Tom and Jeanie enlisted volunteers, coordinated schedules, and guided the project to fruition. Now in its third year, the Gatehouse is anchored by a cadre of experienced volunteers, augmented by new FOS members who eagerly sign up to participate.

Sometimes, such as on a cool, foggy Tuesday in mid-September, a shift in the Gatehouse can be very relaxed. But other times, such as warm, sunny Saturdays in July and August, shifts in the Gatehouse can be a bit crazy, with a continuous stream of visitors coming and going.

While there are common, frequently asked questions — Where is the bathroom? When is high tide? Will the sun come out? What is happening with the base? Where can I see a moose? — many visitors seek in-depth information about the flora, fauna, geology, or history of Schoodic. Past base employees visit the Gatehouse wanting to find out what has changed now that the base is the campus of the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). Guests taking advantage of the Island Explorer use the Gatehouse as a transfer point, getting off to walk to Schoodic Point to watch the waves before walking back to reboard the Explorer. Bicyclists like to stop at the Gatehouse because it is about halfway between the park entrance and exit.

Many of the people stopping at the Gatehouse come from small villages in Maine, while others visit from across the United States, Canada, and the Americas. At the Gatehouse, we have hosted guests from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

Regardless of why they stop or where they are from, the visitors are the reason Gatehouse duty is rewarding. Rosemary and I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to interact with them. We get a thrill out of sharing our knowledge of the Schoodic Peninsula, providing interpretation, history, answers, and perspective. We brag about Schoodic’s natural beauty; its dramatic shoreline, magnificent forests, and amazing views. We passionately share information about the eagles nesting on Rolling Island, the University of Maine professor studying reproduction of furoid algae, the graduate student releasing oranges into the ocean to study tidal flow, the students and teachers getting hands-on field experience through the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program, the scientists presenting Resource Acadia Seminars, and the Artists-in-Residence sharing their creative vision. We



Garry Levin

FOS Volunteer John Gregory of Old Town works the desk at the Gatehouse.

are eager to promote the SERC, which is rapidly becoming a state-of-the-art facility to advance science and learning through innovative partnerships that promote the understanding, protection, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Most importantly, we love exchanging stories and anecdotes with Gatehouse guests. We laugh. We listen. We share. We connect.

Working at the Gatehouse is just one of many activities for Friends of Schoodic volunteers, all of whom have an extraordinary level of energy and commitment. FOS welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas, and suggestions. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month on the SERC campus. To find out more about Friends, visit us on the web at www.friendsofschoodic.org, or contact us at P.O. Box 194, Prospect Harbor, Maine 04609. We invite you to join us — our only requirement is love for Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic. ♣

— Garry Levin

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

TRANSITIONS

The last of summer kissed the sea with shafts of sunshine as we scrambled along Acadia's craggy and rugged Isle au Haut trails. Downy thistle heads blew into the breeze, the last of the beach peas crunched under foot and dozens of dragonflies danced their final waltz. It was a time of transitions, not only at Isle au Haut but also at Friends of Acadia. With many significant projects behind us, some exciting ones underway, and more on the horizon, we are preparing to say farewell to our President and CEO, Ken Olson. As he moves into the next chapter of his life, Ken leaves much of himself with us through all that he has accomplished at FOA. We wish him happy times and many future life successes.



Friends of Acadia president Ken Olson and chairman Dianna Emory talk with members and volunteers at FOA's annual meeting in July.

“With many significant projects behind us, some exciting ones underway, and more on the horizon, we are preparing to say farewell to our President and CEO, Ken Olson.”

Thanks in part to Ken we have much to offer a new President. An excellent staff, a first-rate organization that is a national leader

in the Friends movement, a committed group of volunteers, critical projects, a solid donor base, and one of the most spectacular spots to live in the world will greet our next leader.

This transition focuses my thoughts on each of our temporary roles as stewards of Acadia National Park. At FOA we are currently intent on bringing in the next generation of leaders to whom this stewardship role will fall. Through additions to our board, Gala Committee, and volunteer corps, we are reaching out to the “next generations.” We have also created the Future Leaders Committee to help to recruit a new group of

members, donors, and volunteers. We hope that you will assist with this task by purchasing memberships for your family members and younger friends. In doing so, you are giving them the chance to learn more about this incredible place and how to give back to Acadia National Park through Friends of Acadia.

With thanks for your ever-present enthusiasm and for your assistance with transitions,

— Dianna K. Emory

Give a great holiday gift and introduce someone you care about to Acadia with a gift membership to Friends of Acadia.

*Gift package includes:

- *The Rusticator's Journal*, a lovely book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park
- A one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*
- A Friends of Acadia window decal
- A Friends of Acadia bookmark
- The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park



Please send a special \$40 gift package to:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State & Zip Code _____

Message you would like on the card:

All money contributed to Friends of Acadia will be 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.

Friends of Acadia P.O. Box 45 Bar Harbor, ME 04609 www.friendsofacadia.org 207-288-3340 800-625-0321

FRIENDS OF ACADIA

OPERATING PHILOSOPHY

To accomplish our mission,

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



Dorothy Kerper Monnelly

Ship Harbor

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



Tom Blagden

Champlain, Dorr, and Cadillac Mountains

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.

Friends of Acadia 43 Cottage Street PO Box 45 Bar Harbor, Maine 04609 207 288-3340 1 800 625-0321