



# Acadia Paw Press

## Teacher-Ranger-Teachers in Acadia

The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) program is in full swing this year. Our 2008 teacher-rangers represented Maine, Missouri, and New York.

Middle school social studies teacher **Jim Randall** from Calais, Maine, was stationed at Saint Croix International Historic Site, 8 miles south of Calais. Jim was Saint Croix's first teacher-ranger. He is interested in creating a mock archaeological dig using replicas of the actual artifacts found on the island and bringing his students on field trips to the park site.

Our other Maine representative was **Nancy Philbrick**, who teaches sixth grade at Oxford Hills Elementary in the western part of the state. Her position was funded by Acadia Partners for Science and Learning. Nancy's experience included two weeks at Schoodic, assisting with park-sponsored teacher workshops and Acadia's annual Bio Blitz.

**Dwight Warnke**, a high school biology teacher from Rolla, Missouri, was particularly interested in research at Acadia and the diversity of career



Acadia Teacher-Rangers Dwight, Renay, and Nancy visit Teacher-Ranger Jim at Saint Croix Island International Historic Site.

opportunities in the National Park Service. Both Dwight and Nancy attended a two-day Leave No Trace workshop while here, which he will apply to his high school and college curricula.

**Renay Moran-Kurklen** will be teaching fourth grade this year at a charter school in New York City. While at Acadia, among other projects, she developed wildlife programs for the public and local camps and assisted at the weekly Carroll Homestead open house.

Acadia's teacher-rangers documented their experiences in

a blog on the park website. Learn more about their adventures in the park at [www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers/trtblog.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers/trtblog.htm). The blog will be updated through the school year as the teachers use their experiences in the park to enhance their classroom activities.

For more information and photos about Acadia's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, go to [www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers/teacher-ranger-teacher.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers/teacher-ranger-teacher.htm). Applications for the 2009 TRT program will be posted online by the end of December. It's a great way to spend your summer!

## National Park Service Websites

### [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad)

The official website of Acadia National Park. Includes information on park resources, trip planning, and more.

### [www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers](http://www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers)

The home of Acadia National Park's education program. Offers links to teacher, parent, and student resources; the Junior Ranger program; online activities for kids; and more.

### [www.nps.gov/learn](http://www.nps.gov/learn)

National Park Service curriculum-based learning tools, teaching resources, and online activities.

### [www.efieldtrips.org](http://www.efieldtrips.org)

Includes interactive virtual national park visits, trip journal worksheets, "ask an expert," and live web chats.

### [www.nps.gov/webrangers](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers)

The online Junior Ranger program for kids of all ages



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Acadia National Park protects more than 47,000 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline, creating striking scenery and diverse habitats. This diverse environment combines with a rich cultural history to create unparalleled scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities in a spectacular setting.

#### Education Office

Acadia National Park  
P.O. Box 177  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

#### Phone

Cynthia Ocel	207-288-8822
Kate Petrie	207-288-8808/207-288-1312
Michael Marion	207-288-8823
Donna Healy	207-288-8824

#### Fax

207-288-8831

#### E-mail

[acad\\_education\\_office@nps.gov](mailto:acad_education_office@nps.gov)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# Staff News

KATE PETRIE has been going full speed this summer, teaching an educator institute in earth science for College of the Atlantic, giving public interpretive programs, training park staff and partners, and organizing four successful teacher workshops at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). Read more about these and other exciting happenings at SERC in this newsletter.

MICHAEL MARION presented a new children's geology program this summer called "Acadia Rocks!" He also led boat cruises and gave a popular weekly beaver talk. Michael is gearing up for his first fall season in the education district and looking forward to sharing park resources with local classes.

DONNA HEALY could be found at the Carroll Homestead every Tuesday this summer talking with visitors at the public open house. She also offered a new children's program about turtles plus a number of family activities back by popular demand. Donna returns for her eighth fall season.

GRETCHEN GEBHARDT is our new education seasonal ranger on MDI this fall. Originally from New York, Gretchen has recently been living in Oregon where she earned her master's degree in geology. This past spring she taught earth science at a community college.

JANET HOPPE will be part of the Schoodic Education Adventure

(SEA) staff this fall. Her previous National Park Service experiences include Fort Bowie and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Sites. Janet is a recently retired special education teacher from the Midwest. Janet's position is being funded through the NPS Centennial Initiative.

TODD MILLER was a summer field interpreter at Acadia before moving over to Schoodic to assist with the SEA program. Todd and his family relocated to Bangor, Maine a year ago. Prior to then, Todd studied forest ecology in Madison, WI. This is his first year wearing the NPS uniform.

Intern ERNIE FRANCESTINE is a senior majoring in history at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. The last two summers he has worked with Family Pathways, a mentoring program for adoptive, foster, and underprivileged children. Ernie's interests include music and fly fishing.

Intern KRISTIN JALM studied English literature and art history at the University of Miami. Her experiences include teaching at a Montessori academy and being a lighthouse volunteer at a Florida state park.

This year's SEA teaching assistants include MICHAEL GUIDILLI, LOGAN PARSONS, RON PISKORSKI, NANCY STEINKE, and MARVA SULLIVAN.

# VIP Visit

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings visited Acadia in August. She spent part of a day at the Schoodic Education and Research Center, where she was introduced to the park's residential Schoodic Education Adventure program by Kate Petrie and met Teacher-Ranger Nancy Philbrick from Gorham, Maine. She also spoke with teachers on campus attending an AP Environmental Studies workshop and learned about the exciting education projects Acadia Partners is working on across the state. Secretary Spellings appeared very impressed by what she saw and heard of Acadia's education initiatives.



Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings with Teacher-Ranger Nancy Philbrick.



Park Ranger Ardrianna McLane facilitates the middle-school session.

## Youth Listening Sessions

In August the park held a “Youth Town Hall Meeting” at Camp Beech Cliff as part of the “Get Outdoors, It’s Yours!” initiative. This was the first in a series of meetings requested by the U.S. Department of the Interior (the National Park Service is one agency within the department) at locations around the country over the course of several weeks.

Participants were organized into four small groups: elementary school students, parents of elementary students, middle school/junior high, and high school students. Park staff acted as group

facilitators and scribes. Facilitators asked questions about spending time outdoors versus indoors, visiting public lands, and park activities.

Responses from the sessions will be compiled and summarized in a collective national report later this fall. We will share the findings from these discussions with you as national parks and other public land agencies collaborate to connect more closely with our youngest generation. Thank you to Debra Deal at Camp Beech Cliff, her staff, campers, and parents for their assistance and input.

## GPS Units Available

The park has purchased ten GPS units with Centennial Challenge funds to loan to educators wishing to use Acadia's outdoor EarthCache program with their classes. Learn about local geology while working as a team and becoming familiar with GPS technology. The park's

EarthCache program is accessible by road from April 15 to December 1 (weather permitting). Sections of it can also be approached by hiking park trails. To sign out the GPS units or to get more information about our EarthCache program, contact the education office.

# October Opportunities

Mark your calendar!

**Thursday, October 2**

## *Take It Outside*

Governor's Conference on Youth and the Natural World. Held at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, Maine. For more information, call 207-287-5266 or send an e-mail to [gale.ross@maine.gov](mailto:gale.ross@maine.gov).

**Tuesday, October 7 –**

**Thursday, October 9**

## *Atlantic Coastal Educators Conference*

Meet with educators from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Sea Grant, and others to see and learn about best practices in ocean education in the Northeast. Schoodic Education and Research Center. Contact Cynthia Ocel at 207-288-8822 or [cynthia\\_ocel@nps.gov](mailto:cynthia_ocel@nps.gov).

**Tuesday, October 14 –**

**Wednesday, October 15**

## *Teacher Workshop: Integrating Field Research Activities into Your Classroom Curriculum*

Investigate opportunities to collect field data, apply it to classroom lessons across the curricula, and connect it to real-world applications in America's national parks. For teachers of grades 4–8. Scholarships and stipends are available! Schoodic Education and Research Center. Contact Kate Petrie at 207-288-1312.

# Partners in Education

Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, based at Acadia's Schoodic District, offered a summer speaker series and five different Advanced Placement institutes on the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus this past summer. In addition, they sponsored scientific research in the park and one teacher-ranger. Acadia Partners will continue to work with Maine

schools during the new school year to bring together teachers, working scientists, and college education faculty to enhance the use of problem-centered learning in math and science. Their goal is to help teachers incorporate the skills and traits of scientific inquiry and technological design into the instructional program. Visit the Acadia Partners website at [www.acadiapartners.org](http://www.acadiapartners.org).

# Teachers Learn at Acadia

Teachers from across the country participated in a slate of 2–3 day workshops at Acadia this summer. Topics included field research, park natural and cultural resources, social studies, and conservation careers. Participants received scholarships and stipends through the L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia grant and the National Park Service Centennial Challenge. Scholarships and stipends are available for upcoming workshops, too! Contact the education office at 207-288-8822.



# Acadia National Park - 2008 Fall Programs



## THIRD GRADE

### Carriage Road Explorers

Who built Acadia's historic carriage road system? Why were these stone roads and bridges built and how? Why and how does the National Park Service preserve them? Travel by horse-drawn carriage or on foot as you hear about the people who played a part in developing this unique park resource.

The park will provide classroom copies of *Exploring the Carriage Roads*.

**Walk:** Free. Available September 15 - October 31.

**Ride:** \$10 per student, cash or check made payable to Wildwood Stables. Limited to one adult per ten students. Available September 15 - October 10. \*First 100 students to sign up for the carriage ride are FREE, courtesy of the NPS Centennial Challenge!



## FOURTH GRADE

### Animals of Acadia

"Food, water, shelter, space. Habitat is a wonderful place." Explore two very different habitats at Acadia National Park. Discover how the state-endangered peregrine falcon and the widespread beaver have adapted to survive in the wild. Available September 15 - October 31.



## FIFTH GRADE

### Island Life

Embark on a sea voyage to the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island. On the island, students will learn about the lives of residents during the early part of our country's history. Cost: \$14 per person (cash or check made payable to Downeast Windjammer Cruises).

Limited to 1 adult per 10 students. Available September 15 - October 10. \*First 200 students to sign up are FREE, courtesy of the NPS Centennial Challenge!



## SIXTH - EIGHTH GRADE

### Fire and Ice

While hiking around Great Head, we will read the landscape and share the story of Acadia's geologic past. See evidence of the local rock cycle, glacial features, and plate tectonics. This program works best as a review of basic geologic terms and processes studied in the classroom.

**Warning:** The hiking trail has fairly strenuous sections! Available September 15 - October 31.

*The reservation deadline is September 5!*



# Acadia National Park - Program Reservation Form

**Please return by Friday, September 5, 2008**  
 Return in one of three ways:

- E-mail as an attachment to acad\_education\_office@nps.gov
- Fax to 288-8831
- Mail to Education Office - Acadia National Park  
 P.O. Box 177  
 Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Teacher Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ # of Students \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please make a separate copy of this form for each program you request!\*\***

Please check one

	<b>Third Grade - Carriage Road Explorers (WALK)</b> Park provides <i>Exploring the Carriage Roads</i> booklets. <i>Available dates: September 15 - October 31</i>	<b>Time: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>Third Grade -Carriage Road Explorers (BY CARRIAGE)</b> Park provides <i>Exploring the Carriage Roads</i> booklets. Charge: \$10 per student, paid for by NPS Centennial Challenge (first 100 students) <i>Available dates: September 15 - October 10</i>	<b>Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>
	<b>Fourth Grade - Animals of Acadia</b> <i>Available dates: September 15 - October 31</i>	<b>Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b>
	<b>Fifth Grade - Island Life</b> Charge: \$14 per passenger, paid for by NPS Centennial Challenge (first 200 students) <i>Available dates: September 15 - October 10</i>	<b>Time: 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b>
	<b>Sixth - Eighth Grades - Fire and Ice</b> Please circle the grade level participating: 6 7 8 <i>Available dates: September 15 - October 31</i> *Contact our office if you need a copy of the <i>Geology of MDI: A Visitor's Guide</i> .	<b>Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b>

First Choice Date	
Second Choice Date	
Third Choice Date	

**Note: Let us know in advance if you have any conflicts with the scheduled program times.**

What pre-visit activities will you be doing with your students?

Note below any special requests or needs, including accessibility or medical issues.

A confirmation letter will be mailed within one week of processing your program request. If your program is scheduled for the week of September 15 or if there is a conflict with dates, you will be contacted by phone or e-mail.

Office Use Only:	Confirmation sent:	Program date:
------------------	--------------------	---------------