



**SCHOODIC  
INSTITUTE**

AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



# OUR MISSION:

to understand the consequences of environmental change  
and to engage people in the science and solutions.

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# THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY:

from our Board Chair and President

**On these pages we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, document success in pursuing our mission, and affirm our purpose.**

The extraordinary challenges of the current global health crisis underscore the indispensable need for systematic science, clear communication, and critical thinking - the very focus of our work at Schoodic Institute.

**Our researchers and educators are immersed in the science of environmental change and the ongoing and projected future changes that impact parks, people, and the planet.** We work with people who manage and protect land and water, as well as people who rely on the land and water for their livelihoods, to understand the breadth of potential future conditions and responses to these changes. To imagine how much conditions are changing and how different the future may look, we use tools such as computer model simulations, scenario planning, and citizen science to help grasp the

enormity of the coming changes, the challenges that will be faced, and the opportunities to create a better future.

**Scientific analysis, data literacy, and communication are essential skills that apply far beyond the responses to environmental changes and are needed for society's response to every major challenge on a planet of 8 billion people and millions of species.**

Our work at Schoodic fosters skills that apply far beyond the boundary of Acadia National Park, the intertidal zone along the Gulf of Maine, or the forests of eastern North America.

**Schoodic Institute is located in one of the most beautiful and inspiring settings on the planet.** We tap into this power of place to inspire and foster a better future. Dive in and enjoy our favorite highlights across every month of 2019 with the many people, initiatives, and ways we advance our mission.

**Thank you for supporting our work, and for being with us every step of the way.**



DAVID ELLWOOD  
Board Chair

Nicholas Fisichelli, PhD  
President & CEO







A YEAR IN REVIEW

# WINTER

MARINE ECOLOGY	EDUCATION
BIRD ECOLOGY	SECOND CENTURY STEWARDSHIP
FOREST ECOLOGY	SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Bird Count took place on a stormy New Year's Day, as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the volunteer citizen science effort to document birds at Schoodic Point.



JANUARY



Can We Help Our Forests Prepare for Climate Change?  
And if we can, what's the right way to do it?

Sierra Magazine featured our forest ecology research that is helping parks adapt to climate change.

The fifth annual Acadia Winter Festival brought music, art, science, nature, and people together on the Schoodic Institute campus.



FEBRUARY

We began the process for hiring our summer seasonal technicians who assisted with studies of forest, bird, and marine ecology and Earthwatch citizen science teams.

Marine Ecology Director Hannah Webber installed an automatic water monitoring instrument (SeapHOx) off Schoodic Point for a third year of understanding the changing chemistry and temperature of the Gulf of Maine.



"Sea-Beach at Ebb Tide," an article by Catherine Schmitt on tide-pooling scientists in Acadia in honor of Women's History Month, featured Augusta Foote Arnold, Catherine Matassa, and Hannah Webber.



MARCH



Bill Zoellick, Schoodic Institute's Education Research Director, supported Sumner Memorial High School students as they presented their research and analysis on the clam flats to the Gouldsboro shellfish committee, after months of data collection and field work.

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**PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**  
TOTAL LIFETIME GIVING  
OVER \$100,000

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Friends of Acadia  
Alan and Vicki Goldstein  
Sam Heffner\*

Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Ellin and Bruce Miller  
National Park Foundation  
Roxanne Quimby  
David and Robin Reis





A YEAR IN REVIEW

# SPRING

Second Century Stewardship awarded **three new fellowships** for research in Acadia National Park, bringing the total fellows named since 2016 to nine.

Seth Benz, Bird Ecology Director, and volunteers documented the arrival of migratory warblers and other colorful songbirds at Frazer Point.

Our Future Forests of Coastal Maine project kicked off with volunteers and partners (Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust), planting tree seedlings at sites from Belfast to the Schoodic Peninsula.

On Cadillac Mountain we led the National Park Service and the Native Plant Trust to continue a study of how best to restore summit vegetation.

The first Earthwatch citizen science team arrived to monitor coastal biodiversity and phenology of migratory bird habitat.

Maik Werning and Tarek Neubert, graduate students from Georg August Universität, Göttingen, Germany, arrived to measure forest structure and complexity.

## SECOND CENTURY STEWARDSHIP

Science for America's National Parks

APRIL



Our Marine Ecology Program received foundation funding for citizen science rockweed monitoring and building a field station network around the Gulf of Maine.



The National Park Service and local partners came for a workshop on understanding and managing healthy intertidal zones led by Hannah Webber.



MAY



School groups arrived for their Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), a program in partnership with Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia.



JUNE

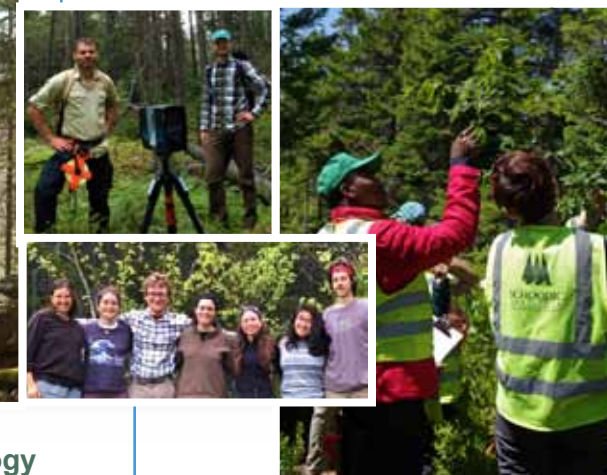


The first installment of "The Understory", a six-part series on the future forest of Acadia, is published on our website.



Forest Ecology Director Nick Fisichelli and technicians began monitoring trees in national parks from Maine to Virginia.

Field technicians, interns, and visiting researchers started their seasonal research at Schoodic.



## 2019 CONTRIBUTORS:

### \$100K+

Edith R. Dixon

### \$20K-\$99,999

John and Dolly Fisher  
Friends of Acadia  
Alan and Vicki Goldstein  
Ellin and Bruce Miller  
Onion Foundation  
Roxanne Quimby

### \$5K-\$19,999

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Steven and Lalage Rales  
Sibley-Saltonstall Charitable Foundation

"Schoodic Institute's partnership in the Frenchman Bay Alliance would be reason enough to support it. Its role in the community, from the early days of the Sculpture Festival to its ecosystem-based programming now, gives me real enthusiasm."

-Peter Hunt, Sorrento





A YEAR IN REVIEW

# SUMMER

→ **Schoodic by Sea:** Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company hosted Schoodic staff, friends, family, and supporters on an afternoon nature cruise around the peninsula, including science commentary on marine observations, forest updates, and bird sightings.



JULY

→ **Led by Seth Benz, Puffin Tours of Petit Manan Island** provided visitors with a chance to see puffins up-close while contributing to our bird ecology research.



→ **National Parks Traveler** highlighted our marine ecology research program and studies of rockweed.



→ **Visiting researcher and Earthwatch partner John Cigliano** led a team of volunteers out to the intertidal zone for Shell Day, a one-day water sampling blitz to monitor ocean conditions with the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network.



→ **We celebrated our many citizen science volunteers** who collect and record essential observations of our changing environment with an evening of words, imagery, and music by the Halcyon String Quartet.



→ **As part of the Northeast Coastal Stations Alliance coastwide monitoring,** Hannah Webber led a team out into the “ribbon of mystery,” the intertidal zone, to assess status and trends of the Gulf of Maine.



SEPTEMBER

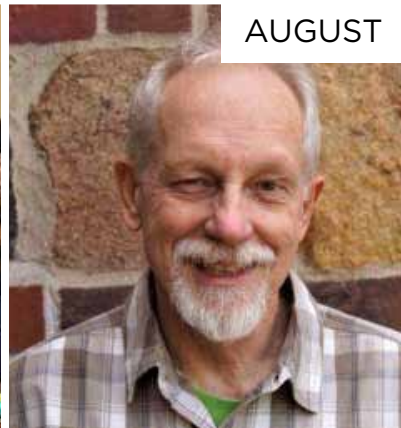
→ **Catherine Schmitt, our Science Communication Specialist,** led a communication training for Second Century Stewardship Fellows, Acadia National Park staff and teacher fellows, and Schoodic Institute staff and technicians.



→ **Second Century Stewardship fellow Jennifer Smetzer** hosted a workshop on climate change refugia for national and state park and wildlife managers, conservation organizations, and partners.



→ **Education Director Emeritus Bill Zoellick** received the Acadia Partnership Award for his work building a nationally renowned education research program serving local communities.



→ **In Celebration of Open Space, a Schoodic Institute film by Tate Yoder,** premiered at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival.



→ **Our Bird Ecology Program led Sea Watch at Schoodic Point and Hawk Watch at Cadillac Mountain** with staff and volunteers.

SeaWatch Schoodic Point		
DAILY SEABIRD MIGRATION COUNT		
	9-19-19	SEASON'S TOTAL
IMMUTATIVE SEASON TOTAL		
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	237	2357
GREAT CORMORANT	11	107
COMMON EIDER	55	675
COMMON LOON	31	254
RED-THROATED LOON	1	9
NORTHERN GANNET	25	1204
BLACK SCOTER	8	62
SURF SCOTER	39	202
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER	2	52
SCOTER sp.	34	123
RED-BELLIED MEGALOPTER	20	1
RED-BELLIED MEGALOPTER	8	3
OTHER SPECIES THIS SEASON:		
COOT	1	
WINTER WINGED	1	
WINTER WINGED	1	
WINTER WINGED	1	



→ **Education Specialist Sarah Hooper expanded our community-and-schools work** to middle school students and science teachers, training “crab ambassadors” from four schools to survey invasive green crabs and analyze data.





A YEAR IN REVIEW

# FALL

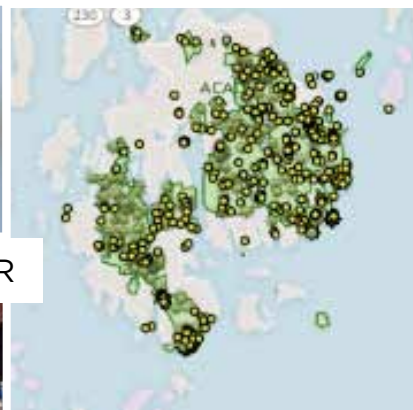
→ **Middle school students in the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program** discovered the invasive Asian shore crab on the Schoodic Peninsula.



OCTOBER



→ **Hannah Webber, one of three non-Federal advisors in the effort to standardize citizen science professional development across multiple federal agencies**, joined national leaders in a workshop in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.



→ **The annual Acadia Science Symposium welcomed 120 researchers**, students, educators, and partners to our campus. Some 80 scientists held permits for research in Acadia in 2019. As part of our Science Information & Communication Program, we uploaded 117 reports and 31 peer-reviewed articles on research in Acadia to the park's online archive ([irma.nps.gov](http://irma.nps.gov)).



NOVEMBER

→ **We delivered a Second Century Stewardship science communication workshop in Monterey, California** with five western parks in partnership with the National Park Service Pacific Region.

→ **The 25th year of Cadillac Mountain Hawk Watch** concluded after 51 days, with a total of 2,838 hawks (and 2,550 human visitors) documented during 274 hours of observation (10.3 hawks per hour). Data from Acadia and 400 other sites in North America show changes in the migration of raptors over time.

→ **For 3 months, Sea Watch monitor Hallie Daly conducted 59 daily bird counts totaling over 300 hours of observing 75,958 individual migrant waterbirds of 47 different species**, for an average of 249 birds per hour.



→ **President and CEO Nick Fisichelli** traveled to South Korea with NPS International Affairs, sharing our partnership approach to park science, education, and conservation solutions.



→ **Hannah Webber and crew installed the last of 23 rockweed field research sites from Cobscook to Casco Bay**, nearly the entire length of Maine's coast.

→ **Earthwatch participants** reflected on their experiences going Downeast for climate research in the blog post "Salt, Water, and Science... a 10 Day adventure in Acadia."



DECEMBER



→ **Middle school crab ambassadors and Summer Memorial High School Pathways mentors** gathered to collect and record data on the green crabs they caught in October.



→ **The season ended for our field ecology technicians**, who moved on to pursue careers in science, education, and conservation.

## 2019 BUSINESS SUPPORTERS:

Acadia Realty Group  
Analemma Press, LLC  
Bar Harbor Bank and Trust

Brown Appliance & Mattress, Inc.  
Brown, Holmes & Milliken Agency  
Design Group  
Collaborative

Downeast Windjammer Cruises  
E.L. Shea - Builders & Engineers  
Engineered System Solutions  
Machias Savings Bank  
Main Stay Cottages  
Merrill Furniture

Schoodic Insurance Services  
The Lynam Insurance Agency  
The West Street Cafe, Inc.  
The Winter Harbor Agency  
U.S. Bells  
Viking, Inc.

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Crooked Porch Coffee Roasters  
Dennis Paper  
L.L. Bean  
Maine Coast Sea Vegetables

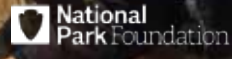
Performance Foodservice - Northcenter  
Prospect Harbor Soap Company  
Pugnuts Ice Cream Shop  
Rooster Brother  
Stanley Subaru





# SECOND CENTURY STEWARDSHIP SCIENCE AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FOR AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

A partnership of Schoodic Institute, National Park Foundation, and the National Park Service with support from the David Evans Shaw Family Foundation



The Second Century Stewardship network includes 34 participating NPS units and programs (yellow), and 21 partners (red).



President and CEO Nick Fisichelli, SCS Founder David Shaw and Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Science communication training in California, with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the Pacific Region.
- Workshops at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Convening 2018 and 2019 Fellows at Acadia National Park in July.
- New project communicating the impact of coastal storms on Northeast parks.

*“Second Century Stewardship advances our service-wide priority of science access and engagement. It serves the critical needs of individual parks and provides a template that can be replicated across the National Park System.”*

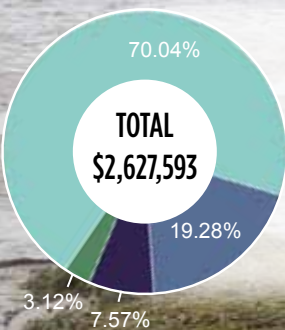
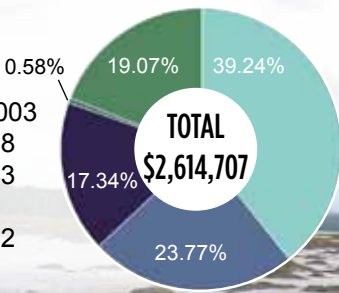
- Raymond Sauvajot, Associate Director,  
National Resource Stewardship and Science, NPS

Read more about the impact of Second Century Stewardship at:  
[www.scsparkecience.com](http://www.scsparkecience.com) Twitter @SCSParkScience

# FINANCIAL IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## SUPPORT + REVENUES

Contributions.....	\$1,026,003
Program Service Revenue...	\$621,638
Federal and State Grants.....	\$453,483
Other Income.....	\$15,041
Investment Income (Net).....	\$498,542

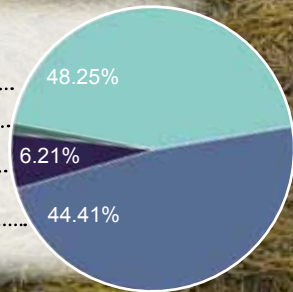


## TOTAL EXPENSES

Ecosystem Science and Education/Campus Facility...	\$1,840,313
Management and General....	\$506,596
Marine Center.....	\$198,797
Networks and other Fundraising.....	\$81,887

## SOURCES OF FUNDS

28 Partners .....	48.25%
10 Corporations .....	1.14%
17 Foundations .....	6.21%
259 Individuals .....	44.41%



To review the complete 2019 audited financial report, please visit [www.schoodicinstitute.org/about-us/](http://www.schoodicinstitute.org/about-us/)

Education Specialist Sarah Hooper selects locations and finds GPS coordinates of rockweed patches in preparation for RSU-24 Middle School science students and Summer Pathways mentors to survey the clam flats for invasive green crabs.



*“Schoodic Institute deepens our research capacity at Acadia National Park and leads in communicating science to broader audiences. Thanks to our close partnership with Schoodic, we better understand the rapid environmental change confronting Acadia, informing our management responses to better prepare for the future.”*

- Kevin Schneider,  
Superintendent of Acadia National Park

## THE 2019 FELLOWSHIPS FOR RESEARCH IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK:



STEPHANIE SPERRA

Shifts in the fall foliage season and related visitation to Acadia.



CAITLIN MCDONOUGH  
MACKENZIE

Ecological history of sub-alpine plant communities in Acadia.



KATE RUSKIN

An evaluation of human values of Acadia's freshwater resources.

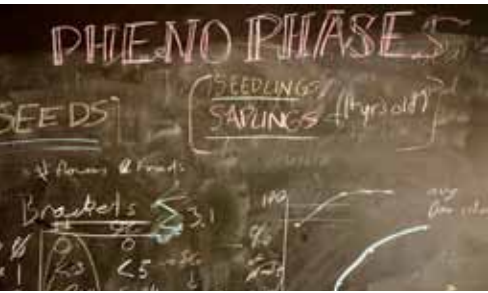




# FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS AND CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS



# YOUR GENEROSITY HAS IMPACT ON FUTURE SCIENCE



Above, left to right: Paola Vazquez-Gomez, Henry Hurt, Andrew Zachman, Cas Carroll, Madeleine Bunnenberg-Ross, Jackie Florman

## TECHS & INTERNS

By working on projects in Acadia with our scientists, our 2019 field ecology technicians and interns gained valuable experience in their nascent science and education careers. Chosen from nearly 100 applications, they arrived from places as diverse as Oregon, Los Angeles, Virginia, Connecticut, North Carolina and Florida. With their help (5,000+ hours!) and 94 Earthwatch volunteers (ages 14 to 81), we conducted cross system (“sea to trees”) research and documented biodiversity at 1.4 million points.

Schoodic Institute was founded in 2004 to strengthen research and education within Acadia National Park. This former high security Navy base is today dedicated to engaging people in the science and solutions of environmental change.

As we approach our 20th anniversary, please consider making a gift to Schoodic Institute in your legacy planning now. Planned gifts ensure that we foster critical thinking and

data literacy for generations to come. Join us. Become a part of the Schoodic Point Society.

With your support we will address how environmental challenges impact Maine lives and livelihoods, far into the future.



To explore planning options contact Kim Kettler, **Director of Development** [kkettler@schoodicinstitute.org](mailto:kkettler@schoodicinstitute.org) 207.288.1360

### \$1K-\$4,999

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- Cleveland Dodge Foundation
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- Skip & Virginia Berrien
- John & Jane Berry

**“We are applying the Second Century Stewardship approach in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and are excited to work with the SCS team to expand the approach throughout western parks.”**

- Christy Brigham, Chief of Resources Management, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

- Mark & Julia Berry
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- Robert & Hope Buckner
- Madeleine Bunnenberg-Ross
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- Alice MacDonald Long
- Joe Mackay
- Herbert Mahan & Julia Pearson
- David Manski & Shira Singer
- Joseph & Gwynedd Maranzano
- John Marion
- Mac & Margaret Marshall
- Bob & Pat Matey

**“It is a privilege to work with Schoodic researchers... I value the collaborative work ethic in the field and Schoodic's ability to effectively engage a diversity of stakeholders in our work.”**  
-Jessica Muhlin, Associate Professor of Marine Biology; Chair, Corning School of Ocean Studies, Maine Maritime Academy

- Paul & Lyn Mayewski
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- Tricia Wilson
- Dennis Wint & Debra Bjornard
- Stephanie Wissinger
- Erin Witham
- Steven Wolfson
- Connie Wragge
- Andrew Zachman
- Bill Zoellick & Pauline Angione

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## **SCHOODIC EDUCATION ADVENTURE (SEA) Program**

*Middle school students become citizen scientists in this multi-day residential program.*



Led by National Park Service Educators, visiting students learn, and sometimes contribute to, scientific research taking place in Acadia. They stay on the Schoodic Institute campus, visiting the shoreline, wetland, and forest ecosystems. They get excited about their environment.

In 2019, 19 school groups brought 528 eager students, some seeing the ocean for the first time.



**The SEA Program is a partnership of Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and Schoodic Institute.**

*"If we are to protect life on the planet for the rising generations, it is imperative to support the work done at Schoodic Institute. Scientific research and evidence-informed decisions urgently need our endorsement."* - Kristin Onuf, Portland

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**On the cover: From sea to trees, low tide reveals abundant rockweeds in the cove between Little Moose Island and Schoodic Point.**

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