

IMPACT

REPORT



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U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland was joined by Governor Janet Mills and all members of Maine's Delegation including Jared Golden, Angus King, Susan Collins, and Chellie Pingree during a visit to Schoodic Institute in June of 2021 as they learned about Park Science, planned investments in Acadia. and tribal relations with the park. "We must engage people in science, to raise public understanding, awareness, and support to address pressing challenges. Our institute is one small place doing this really big work."

Dear Friends,

We are filled with gratitude as we look back at the past year at Schoodic Institute and the work to understand our changing world, and also to engage people in critical science for parks, people, and the planet. There is much opportunity through this work and the great interest in Acadia, local communities, and parks across the nation to bring people together and foster conversations and understanding in a world that is far too divided. We feel optimistic about the future and the young leaders in conservation and science, who will be addressing the great challenges.

Schoodic Institute science is the foundation for the experiences we are creating for the next generation. Our focus is understanding the consequences of rapid environmental change - there is no better place to do this work than our national parks, the places holding our natural and cultural heritage. We must engage people in science, to raise public understanding, awareness, and support to address pressing challenges. Our institute is one small place doing this really big work.

Adapting to change is really hard - the pandemic has brought this to the forefront of mind. Similarly, the pandemic has helped emphasize the importance of science in navigating change. It is only through strong partnerships and the generous support of individuals and foundations that we are able to lead and inspire science, learning, and community for a changing world. Thank you for being part of the solution and fostering a better future.

Sincerely,

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David Ellwood, PhD Board Chair

Nicholas Fisichelli, PhD President & CEO







About Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park

At Schoodic Institute, our mission is inspiring science, learning, and community for a changing world. Our focus is understanding environmental change taking place in Acadia and beyond, and helping managers respond and adapt to change. Through rigorous research and strong partnerships, we develop innovative models for engaging people of all ages in science and supporting researchers and educators. We are also creating career pathways for early-career scientists, educators, and science communicators working in conservation.

A Research Community: Bringing Science and People Together

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we serve as Acadia National Park's primary partner in science and education. Together, we manage the largest of 17 National Park Service Research Learning Centers. Open year round, our 100-acre campus hosts groups of up to 125 people, and offers classrooms, labs, overnight accommodations, dining, meeting space, and a 124-seat auditorium where we bring people together for immersive educational and professional development opportunities. We invite you to visit our campus, explore the trails, and host your next event in Acadia.



We Support Science For A Changing World

- We support 80+ scientists annually who are conducting research in Acadia.
- National park managers now have climate change guidance developed in partnership with Schoodic Institute for deciding how and when to resist, accept, or direct the impacts of rapid change through the RAD Framework.
- Through strong partnerships, we have collected more than 100,000 citizen science observations over the past five years.
- Each year, we work in partnership with Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia to provide immersive programs to hundreds of K-12 students through Schoodic Education Adventure.

Fostering Careers in Conservation

Our Ladder of Opportunities

Each year, we offer several highly competitive programs to advance the careers of college students, new graduates, and scientists. Through these initiatives, we have built a successful ladder of opportunities for researchers, educators, and science communication professionals, providing on-the-ground experience working with scientists and resource managers, and creating a springboard for their careers.

Second Century Stewardship Fellowship

• Post-doctoral and early-career faculty

- 1-2 year fellowships
- 4-month assistantships
- Original research relevant to park management
- Science communication training

Cathy Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellowship

- Recent college graduates
- 10-month fellowships
- Span the college-to-career gap in STEM professions and conservation

- **Environmental Education Teaching Assistants** • Recent college graduates
- Lead three-day immersive environmental
- education for middle school students

Ecology Technicians and Interns

- College students and recent graduates
- 8-20 week positions
 - Lead field research data collection, analysis, and science communication



Thank You to Our 2021 Fellows, Technicians, and Interns

Schoodic Education Adventure Technicians Samantha Fuss | Owings Mills, MD Riley Garrett | Blue Springs, MO Crystal Lewis | Pickerington, OH Brooke MacDonald | Levant, ME Grace McCulloch | Pembroke, NH Rachel Reed | Cedar Rapids, IA Irene Sheppard | Tuscon, AZ Sarah Spaulding | Wallingford, PA Madison Stringer | Bar Harbor, ME

Field Ecology and Science Technicians Jamie Attanasio | Rangeley, ME Molly Donlan | Bar Harbor, ME Diana Gurvich | Lexington, MA Marcos Rodriguez | El Paso, TX Marietta Shattelroe | Weaverville, NC Morgan Ingalls | Dummerston, VT Calla Sopko | Troy, NY Jake Van Gorder | Bernard, ME Lara Wibur | Alton. ME Hanae Garrison | Maplewood, NJ Tessa Houston | Yarmouth, ME Emily Jackson | Casco, ME Shannon O'Brien | Palmetto, FL

Second Century Stewardship Fellows Melina Gialoumis | New York, NY Caitlin Littlefield | Richmond, VT Christina Murphy | Orono, ME

Science Interns Benjamin Capuano | Mercer Island, WA Sophie Chivers | Niwot, CO Elizabeth Halasz | Columbia, SC Anna Lee | Buffalo, NY Jess Moskowitz | Waban, MA

Emily's Story

Growing up, I loved catching frogs in the summers with my cousins, exploring Acadia National Park and the White Mountains National Forest with my parents. It wasn't until I was in middle school that I considered science as a career that I could pursue. Science was fascinating, it provided (some) answers to my endless questions, and it had the potential to allow me to work outside.

In college I majored in Biology, and eventually took on a minor in Earth Science. I enjoyed both programs; the biology program was challenging and comprehensive, and the earth science program was fun and intellectually stimulating. However, there was one thing that neither of these programs provided: experience.

The pandemic started during my junior year, right as I was supposed to be hearing back from all sorts of summer internships. Instead of getting acceptance letters I got notifications that programs were being put on hold "due to these unprecedented circumstances." Around this time I began to dread graduation and the almost certain unemployment that would come with it.

As the world adjusted to Covid, I began to look for job opportunities once more. The opportunities were slim, uninteresting, and often did not provide a wage high enough to pay for housing, much less other necessities. Then I got an email from my biology department with a job ad for an Ecology Field Technician at Schoodic Institute. This opportunity seemed perfect, the Institute had areas of focus in forest, intertidal, and bird ecology, all areas I could see myself working in.

My time as a field tech has been incredible. I have learned so much about how science works out in the field. It's messy, it involves MacGyver-like problem solving, it's fun.

Through all this I have learned the importance of citizen science programs and clear science communication. People are curious about what we do, and sharing can help strengthen both our community and our research. I have also learned that I am capable and resilient. Field work can be hard, but at the end of the day I always have a sense of satisfaction at a job well done. I feel extremely lucky to have been given the opportunity to live, work, and learn here. This has definitely been an experience that will shape my future, perhaps in ways I haven't even imagined yet.

Emily Jackson 2021 Schoodic Institute Ecology Field Technician

"People are curious" about what we do, and sharing can help strengthen both our community and our research."



2021 By the Numbers

5,366 HOURS

spent by 8 seasonal technicians on 21 projects led by Schoodic Institute scientists, including:

- Intertidal biodiversity
- Climate change refugia
- Biodiversity monitoring at Wild Acadia restoration sites
- Remote sensing of rockweed

The team of eight hard-working early-career professionals also provided assistance to external researchers and projects, including Chris Nadeau from Northeastern University and the Sustainable Summits project, collection of Dragonfly Mercury Project samples for Acadia National Park, water samples collection for a Harmful Algal Bloom project led by U.S. Geological Survey, and an ocean acidification project led by NOAA and the National Park Service.

36,825 MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

observed by 2 volunteers over 81 days and 225 hours during Sea Watch at Schoodic Point. Additionally, during our Cadillac Mountain Hawk Watch, volunteers garnered 2,349 observations over 47 days and 225 hours. Although overall observations were lower in 2021, new single high counts were set for Bald Eagles (204) and Turkey Vulture (274), eclipsing past years.



1 CLIMATE STATION

built to help us better understand the microclimate of coastal spruce-fir forests. Working in partnership with the University of Maine, K-12 teachers and University faculty from as far away as New Hampshire and Vermont attended a professional development workshop at Schoodic Institute setting up the station to monitor rainfall, temperature, and humidity. The new solar-powered station is part of a network of stations across the Northern Forest. View Schoodic's weather at wunderground.com by searching for station KMEWINTE8.

25 ARTICLES

published on Acadia science and history, including stories in the inaugural issue of the new *Park Science* magazine, *Acadia Magazine, Island Journal*, and Schoodic Institute and Acadia National Park websites.



held by 16 year round staff, 12 seasonal staff and 35 interns, technicians, and fellows.



participated in our public Science Symposium to learn about science taking place in Acadia National Park through 7 virtual sessions.

17,998 VISITORS



came through our Welcome Center between May and October at

Rockefeller Hall. Open seven days a week from 10-5, the Welcome Center offers exhibits, public bathrooms, and a gift kiosk. We also hosted 75 private groups, such as schools and businesses, bringing over 1,000 people to campus to enjoy our many amenities, including a new outdoor classroom built in 2021.

3 CITIZEN SCIENCE TRAININGS



held in Seal Cove, Freeport, and Georgetown as we launched

Project ASCO (Assessing Seaweed via Community Observations), a new initiative along the coast of Maine that relies on volunteer citizen scientists to help answer the question, "How much rockweed is there?"

Even with a long history of commercial use, the State of Maine does not have an official inventory of this species. As our coast continues to change, establishing a baseline is needed to measure continued change over time. Visit our website to learn about how you can get involved in 2022.

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Your Support Matters

Donating to Schoodic Institute

Global environmental change is having local impacts today that affect our livelihoods, our health, and our heritage. Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park is helping national parks, communities, and society adapt to change by conducting critical research, promoting environmental stewardship, building the next generation of leaders in science, and enhancing people's sense of place.

Your Gift Supports Parks, People, and the Planet

Visit our website at schoodicinstitute.org/donate or scan the QR Code with your phone or tablet camera to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. If you would like to discuss other ways to support our work, please reach out to our Development Coordinator: Susi Acord | 207-288-1360 | sacord@schoodicinstitute.org



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Other Ways to Give

Recurring Gifts

Setting up a recurring gift is a wonderful way to support Schoodic Institute throughout the year on your terms! Visit our website at schoodicinstitute.org/donate and choose "recurring gift". You will be able to set up a monthly or annual recurring gift at the level of your choosing.

Assets and Bequests

In addition to gifts of cash or securities, bequests are another way to support Schoodic Institute. You may direct a set dollar amount, specific stocks or securities, or a percentage of your estate to be donated in support of critical science for parks, people, and the planet. In the event that you include a bequest to Schoodic Institute in your will, please notify us so that we may recognize and honor your generosity. Sample language to use in your bequest can be found at schoodicinstitute.org/donate

While You Shop Online

Supporting Schoodic Institute is easy while you shop online through Amazon or PayPal. While shopping on Amazon, visit smile.amazon.com and select Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park as your charity. Each time you make a purchase on Amazon, we will receive a small portion of your total purchase amount.

If you have a PayPal account, you can select Schoodic Institute as your charity on your dashboard when you log in to PayPal. While donations don't happen automatically, you will be able to donate through your dashboard or when you checkout with PayPal. Thank you!



Thank You to Our 2021 Supporters

Many thanks go to our caring, thoughtful, and dedicated supporters. Listed here are the individuals, businesses, and organizations who make our work possible. Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park is helping national parks, communities, and society adapt to change by promoting environmental stewardship and engaging people in science. If you are not currently a supporter, please consider joining our community with a gift.

\$100,000+

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"Schoodic is a commune with nature. It is peace and tranquility. A place to listen to the wind, to the sea, and to the trees and how they are changing. The Institute's effort to sustain this environment is noble."

> Robert Dickie of Bethesda, MD Schoodic Institute Donor since 2017 | U.S. Navy, Stationed in Winter Harbor 1970-1972

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In Memoriam Dianna Kilby Emory

In Early 2021, we lost a dear supporter, former Board Member, and community leader Dianna Kilby Emory.

Dianna's life on Earth was rich with experiences that enabled her to better understand the plights of others and led her toward the helping professions.

In infancy, Dianna survived a dire diagnosis of adrenal cancer, and the ensuing years of related medical crises were catalysts that shaped her life.

An avid outdoor athlete and gardener and passionate about the Earth and its creatures, Dianna sought to give back to the natural environment she cherished. She served on boards and committees for many organizations in our region.

Our thoughts have been with her family and we are grateful for all of her work in our community.





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Finances at a Glance

.. \$1,509,873

.....\$410,293

.....\$25,543

Support and Revenue

Expenses

• Ecosystem Science and

Management and General......

Networks and Other.....

Fundraising...... \$75,364

To review our complete 2021 audited financial report,

please visit schoodicinstitute.org/about-us

Education

24 Corporations

17 Foundations

341 Individuals

5 Partner Organizations

Contributions	\$1,278,147
Program Fees	.\$410,773
Federal and State Grants	\$810,645
Other Income	\$6,291
Investment Income	\$403,858

