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Schoodic Institute Ecology Technician Elizabeth Halasz and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Isaac St. John shared their reflections on “Science for the Present” with National Park Service Director Chuck Sams during the 2022 Goldstein Lecture.

2022
**IMPACT
REPORT**

“Our vision at Schoodic Institute is to build thriving communities of science, learning, and communication to advance and inspire solutions for a rapidly changing world.”

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2022 Annual Impact Report. This is a chance to share our work of the past year, celebrate achievements, mourn losses, recognize our partners and supporters, and look towards the future and doing more in support of parks, people, and the planet. We are pleased to share with you that 2022 was our biggest year ever for science, science engagement, and bringing groups to our Research Learning Center in Acadia.

Together with partners, we started the largest restoration project in the park's history in the Great Meadow, we had our largest seasonal cohort of 29 early-career scientists, educators, and science communicators, we welcomed the most groups to our campus, and we had our first full season of middle school students participate in the Schoodic Education Adventure program since the start of the pandemic.

And, we continued to build understanding of the staggering pace of change in Acadia. Many historical records indicate a present already much different from the past. For example, over the past 50 years the winter bird population in and around Acadia has declined by 43% and the mudflats of the intertidal zone have far few species today than just 30 years ago. Projections for the future show continued and accelerating change. We understand these changes thanks to the efforts of staff scientists, partners, citizen scientists, and college interns.

We witnessed great changes in Acadia in 2022, made strides in our response efforts, engaged many young people, and also lost great champions for the future.

What more can we do?

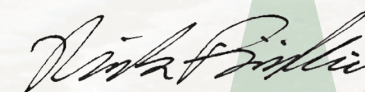
As the above studies show, the rapid pace of climate change and other disturbances is outpacing the ability of many plants and animals to respond, and greater stewardship is needed. Our vision at Schoodic Institute is to build thriving communities of science, learning, and communication to advance and inspire solutions for a rapidly changing world.

We must sustain and grow this work and we must do it together in partnership and with support from individuals, businesses, and foundations. Thank you for being part of the solution and fostering a better future.

Sincerely,



David Ellwood, PhD
Board Chair



Nicholas Fisichelli, PhD
President & CEO



About Schoodic Institute

At Schoodic Institute, our mission is inspiring science, learning, and community for a changing world. 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. Schoodic Institute's 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 successful models for engaging people of all ages in science and supporting researchers and educators. We are also creating professional pathways for early-career scientists, educators, and science communicators working in conservation.

Our 100-acre campus is open year-round and hosts groups of up to 150 people. We offer 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.

Our Vision

Schoodic Institute leads thriving communities of science, learning, and communication to advance and inspire solutions for a rapidly changing world. We are a primary nonprofit partner of the National Park Service in science and learning and a leader in the science and stories of environmental change in Acadia and beyond. By integrating scientific research, learning, engagement, and communication, we exemplify the ideal National Park Service "Research - Learning - Center." Schoodic Institute's approaches and outcomes are used as a national and international model to illuminate, prepare for, and adapt to rapidly changing climatic and environmental conditions. Our inclusive, participatory experiences inspire environmental stewards of all ages, excite curiosity about the natural world, and foster deeper reflections on people and nature. The success of our work will always rely upon relationships with partners, supporters, and local communities.

Core Values

- **Collaboration:** We work together to solve problems and value all contributions from staff, board members, program participants, researchers, partners, and communities.
- **Innovation:** We are curious, creative, responsive, and forward-thinking.
- **Inclusion:** We welcome everyone to contribute to science and be inspired by the natural world.
- **Service:** We are passionate about understanding, caring for, and contributing to the community and our changing world.
- **Hospitality:** We take pride in providing our guests with genuine kindness and support.
- **Knowledge:** We believe wisdom comes from science, as well as from tradition, experience, and relationships.

- 2023 Research Locations
- 2022 Research Locations
- 2021 Research Locations

Every year, scientists conduct around 85 research projects in Acadia National Park.

At Schoodic Institute, we help manage the research permit process and work with park staff and other partners to communicate about the science that happens in the park. This communication includes writing articles for the park website, incorporating research into park programs, and helping educators incorporate data into their classroom.





Fostering Careers in Conservation

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
- Original research relevant to park management
- Science communication training

Environmental Education Teaching Assistants

- Recent college graduates
- 4-month assistantships
- Lead three-day immersive environmental education for middle school students

Cathy and Jim Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellowship

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

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 2022 Fellows, Technicians, and Interns

Schoodic Education Adventure Environmental Educators

Aubrey Bartman
Abigail Charlebois
Katlyn Jackson
Brooke MacDonald
Courtney Martinez
Elcena Nourmiev
Emily Renkey
Madison Stringer
Julia Tamlyn

Field Ecology and Science Technicians

Jamie Attanasio
Julien Chouinard
Elizabeth Halasz
Mara Halloran
Morgan Ingalls
Patrick Kark
Geneva Langley
Emma Lanning
Jessica Moskowitz
Erica Roche
Marcos Rodriguez
Marietta Shattelroe
Ethan Skuches
Madison Stevens
Derek Walsh

Second Century Stewardship Fellows

Matthew Duveneck
Nicole Kollars
Richard Vachula

Cathy and Jim Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellows

Mikayla Gullace
Olivia Miloway
Madelaine Pelletier

Science Interns

Maya Chari
Jes Hosch
Josh Miner
Isobel Smith

New Fellowship Launched

In 2022, we launched the Cathy and Jim Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellowship. This highly competitive 10-month program was established for recent college graduates to develop professional skills in conservation fields, engage learners of all ages in science, and advance science to inform park stewardship. In its inaugural year, Maya, Mikayla, and Olivia (pictured right) joined our team at Schoodic Institute working alongside scientists, educators, communicators, and resource managers in Acadia National Park and surrounding areas.

Reflecting on her time with us, science communications fellow, Olivia Milloway, said *“Getting to know the sounds and stories of Acadia has been an immeasurable privilege that fulfilled a childhood dream. Growing up in Tennessee, many of my favorite books told stories of adventure, independence, and friendship set in Maine’s bucolic summers. The tide pools teeming with life, the highbush blueberry bushes ripe with sweetness, and the true, earnest friendships I’ve found at Schoodic have filled my years of daydreaming with startling color and the smell of salt and cedar.”*

The Cathy and Jim Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellowship was established with generous support from Catherine and James Gero and the National Park Foundation. It is a partnership between Schoodic Institute, the National Park Service, and the National Park Foundation. In creating the fellowship, the Geros are establishing a legacy of learning and professional development through the rich diversity of science and science communication opportunities at the world-class learning laboratory that is Acadia. Cathy’s loving spirit will be honored by every bright young mind whose passions and curiosities are ignited through this fellowship.



“Getting to know the sounds and stories of Acadia has been an immeasurable privilege that fulfilled a childhood dream.”



If you would like to support this fellowship with a gift, please contact Susi Acord, Development Coordinator.

By Kyle Lima, Data Analyst

Birds are messengers of rapid environmental change and through our research we have found that winter bird populations in Acadia have declined by nearly half since 1971. Our team at Schoodic Institute analyzed bird observations collected as part of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, one of the nation's longest-running citizen science projects. Records from in and around Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula show a 43% reduction in the total number of birds observed in the last fifty years. Both resident and migratory species have declined, including some of the most common birds, such as common eiders and long-tailed ducks. Of 162 species recorded during these winter counts, 42 species decreased in abundance.

While there are now fewer birds overall, we also found that 33 species are increasing in abundance. Birds are shifting their home ranges and chasing their suitable habitat as conditions change. Species that are common to our south are becoming more common here. For example, the northern cardinal has been increasing steadily since the 1970s, when they were considered uncommon.

"The birds at Acadia are extremely important both ecologically and as an amazing visitor experience," said Acadia National Park biologist Bik Wheeler. "This study shows us that regional and continental declines are happening at a local level at Acadia. We need to identify causes for these declines and pursue opportunities for stewardship, because there is good news here, too. Bird stewardship works, and we can turn population trends around. For example, the peregrine falcon was once eliminated from the park and now Acadia is home to a productive population."

Peregrine falcons, though not typically winter residents, are one of the species exhibiting an increasing trend in the Christmas Bird Count study, first appearing in 1992.

Initiated in 1900 as an alternative to the traditional "side hunt," the Christmas Bird Count engages volunteers in observing as many birds as possible during 24 hours at established count locations. The purpose is to gain an understanding of the birds that live in an area during the winter. In the Acadia National Park area, citizen scientists have been participating in the count since 1933. However, the surveys encompassing both Mount Desert Island and Schoodic Peninsula were not consistent and consecutive until 1971.

The Christmas Bird Count is an example of the importance of both long-term monitoring and public participation in science. The changes documented in this current study align with other research showing shifts in plant and animal populations in the Acadia region, such as the Landscape of Change project, which found a changing diversity of birds and insects over the last 140 years. These studies are made possible because of Acadia's long legacy of volunteers contributing knowledge of the changing world and support of science in the park.



By the Numbers

6,575 hours spent by 9 seasonal technicians on 22 projects led by Schoodic Institute scientists and partners.

3 large ecosystem restoration projects were scaled up in Acadia National Park on the summit of Cadillac Mountain, at Great Meadow (Acadia's largest freshwater wetland), and Bass Harbor Marsh (the park's largest salt marsh).

139 people attended the 2022 Acadia Science Symposium hosted at Schoodic Institute. Attendees heard from 9 speakers and interacted with 28 researchers who offered poster presentations of their research in Acadia National Park.

107 citizen scientists collected rockweed biomass data at 14 locations along Maine's coast from Biddeford to Pembroke through Project ASCO (Assessing Seaweed via Community Observations).

By Mikayla Gullace, Environmental Education Cathy and Jim Gero Acadia Early-Career Fellow

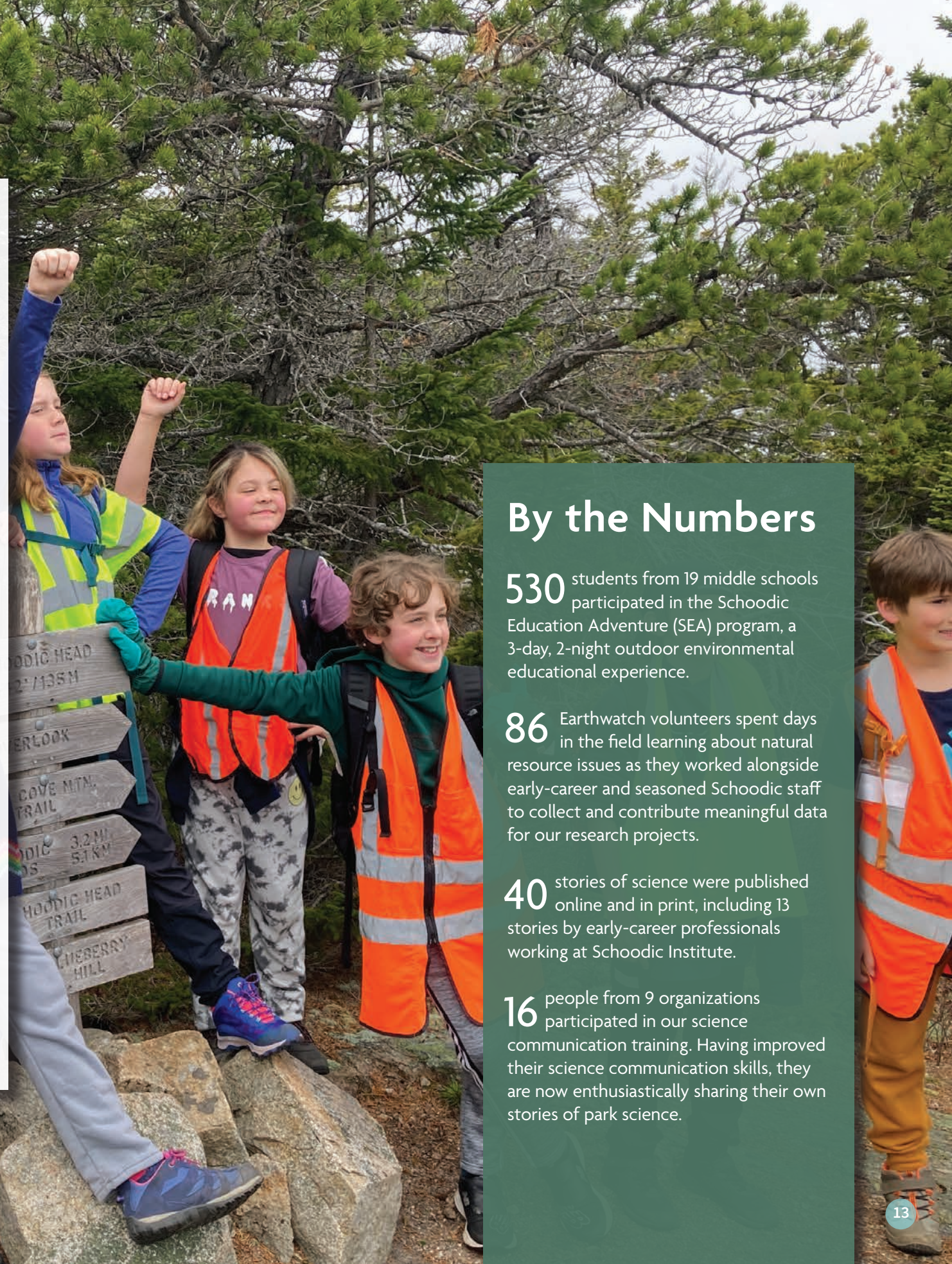
As I stroll across campus on an early February morning, I can't help but notice how quiet it is. A gentle breeze whistles in my ear, my boots crunch in the snow, a few nuthatches chirp in the trees beside me; otherwise, it's silent. There is such a stark contrast between this stillness and the rambunctious laughter that will fill the air when students participating in the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program - a multi-day, overnight outdoor education learning experience for middle schoolers - return to campus.

The typical day at SEA starts when those big yellow school buses pull up outside of Eliot Hall. Excited (and sometimes nervous!) kids pile out, suitcases in hand, and sprint toward the bunkhouse to pick out their beds. Once settled into their home for the next few days, students are guided through basic Leave No Trace principles to ensure everyone shows respect to the land, the organisms that inhabit it, and the people that rely on it.

We then split into groups, with some students getting to check out our large floor map of Maine and the surrounding waters while others participate in a scavenger hunt activity involving the use of compasses, which is often a new skill for many students. When lunchtime finally arrives, the classes make their way over to our dining hall, where Schoodic Institute's kitchen staff has prepared a delicious meal served with a side of some "bussin' juice," as one kid stated in their thank you note reflecting on the week.

Lunchtime then segways into our afternoon program, which, if the tides are right, may involve participation in a citizen science project assessing invasive crab populations. Students might use a dichotomous key (and learn that not all coniferous trees are pines!), face their fear of crab claws, gape in awe while imagining what Acadia looked like during the last ice age, compare their own senses to the unique adaptations of nocturnal animals, and, most importantly, form closer relationships with their classmates. There are usually some rambunctious shouts during free time at the basketball courts, lots of singing and riddles over evening s'mores, and more than a few tired faces the following morning as students share their amusing stories from the bunkhouse.

A day at SEA is a chance for students to take their learning into different outdoor environments, push themselves out of their comfort zones and routines, and communicate with classmates and educators they normally might not interact with. SEA is also a place where students with varying learning styles can come forth and shine, allowing their teachers and peers to view them in a new light. And lastly, it's a time for National Park Service and Schoodic educators to share their love of the outdoors while embracing the true magic of the Schoodic Peninsula. Here's to another great SEASON!



By the Numbers

530 students from 19 middle schools participated in the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program, a 3-day, 2-night outdoor environmental educational experience.

86 Earthwatch volunteers spent days in the field learning about natural resource issues as they worked alongside early-career and seasoned Schoodic staff to collect and contribute meaningful data for our research projects.

40 stories of science were published online and in print, including 13 stories by early-career professionals working at Schoodic Institute.

16 people from 9 organizations participated in our science communication training. Having improved their science communication skills, they are now enthusiastically sharing their own stories of park science.

By Megan Moshier, Director of Sales and Operations

Schoodic Institute's idyllic setting within Acadia National park provides our visitors both serenity and inspiration as they explore, learn, and grow in their personal and professional lives. 2022 saw our busiest year ever hosting 80+ groups on campus with a variety of missions including professional development training, company retreats, board meetings, painting workshops, kayaking adventures, photography and astronomy classes, and school field trips bringing together learners of all ages in Acadia National Park.

One returning group in 2022 was Expeditions in Education. Educators from around the country came to our campus for STEAM in the Park. Dacia Jones, who leads the group, explained "We are the premiere organization that allows for educators to gather in National Parks and solve UN Global Goals that National Parks face. We know that outdoor experiences help students increase their understanding of natural and human communities which leads to a sense of place. Students can develop stronger environmental attitudes and have a deeper understanding of civic issues. Expeditions in Education provides outdoor learning experiences that support educators so they can raise the next generation of responsible citizens who care about each other and the Earth."

Having brought STEAM in the Park to the Institute in both 2021 and 2022, Jones said "Schoodic Institute has played a pivotal role in our outdoor education program. Their commitment to environmental education and sustainability aligns perfectly with our goals. We have taken over 60 educators to the Institute to learn about the green crab challenge and the UN Global Goal 14 in the past two years. The impact of our educators' work has been impressive, reaching over 21,000 students to date. We couldn't think of a better location than Schoodic Institute to connect, collaborate, and create. We are grateful for their support and look forward to continued partnership."

Groups like Expeditions in Education exemplify the community we bring together and support each year. Their energy and passion for how National Parks can serve as a place to learn and teach is felt by our team and I am grateful to be a part of it. Speaking of our team, we were thrilled to welcome back many staff in 2022 who have worked at Schoodic Institute for several years and live in our immediate area. Our housekeeping and food systems teams worked with thousands of guests and received stellar reviews for the service and product they provided. We also recognize our responsibility to be a good employer. Schoodic Institute is committed to offering competitive wages, flexible hours, and a variety of other perks making it a great place to be employed.



By the Numbers

20,034 visitors were welcomed to our Welcome Center, representing the highest visitation we have seen since our doors opened.

4 public presentations on Landscape of Change given throughout Downeast Maine and on WERU community radio. Attendees learned about Mt. Desert Island's changing landscape and the value of collaboration for monitoring the climate crisis.

6 free community lectures held at Schoodic Institute as part of our Summer Lecture Series brought together over 1,000 people in-person and online to learn about important topics in Acadia and throughout the region.

105 volunteers participated in bioblitzes at Great Meadow, contributing 1,668 observations including 880 plants, 361 fungi and lichens, 210 insects, 69 spiders, 35 birds, 28 amphibians, 20 mollusks, 10 mammals, and 3 reptiles.

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



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.

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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.

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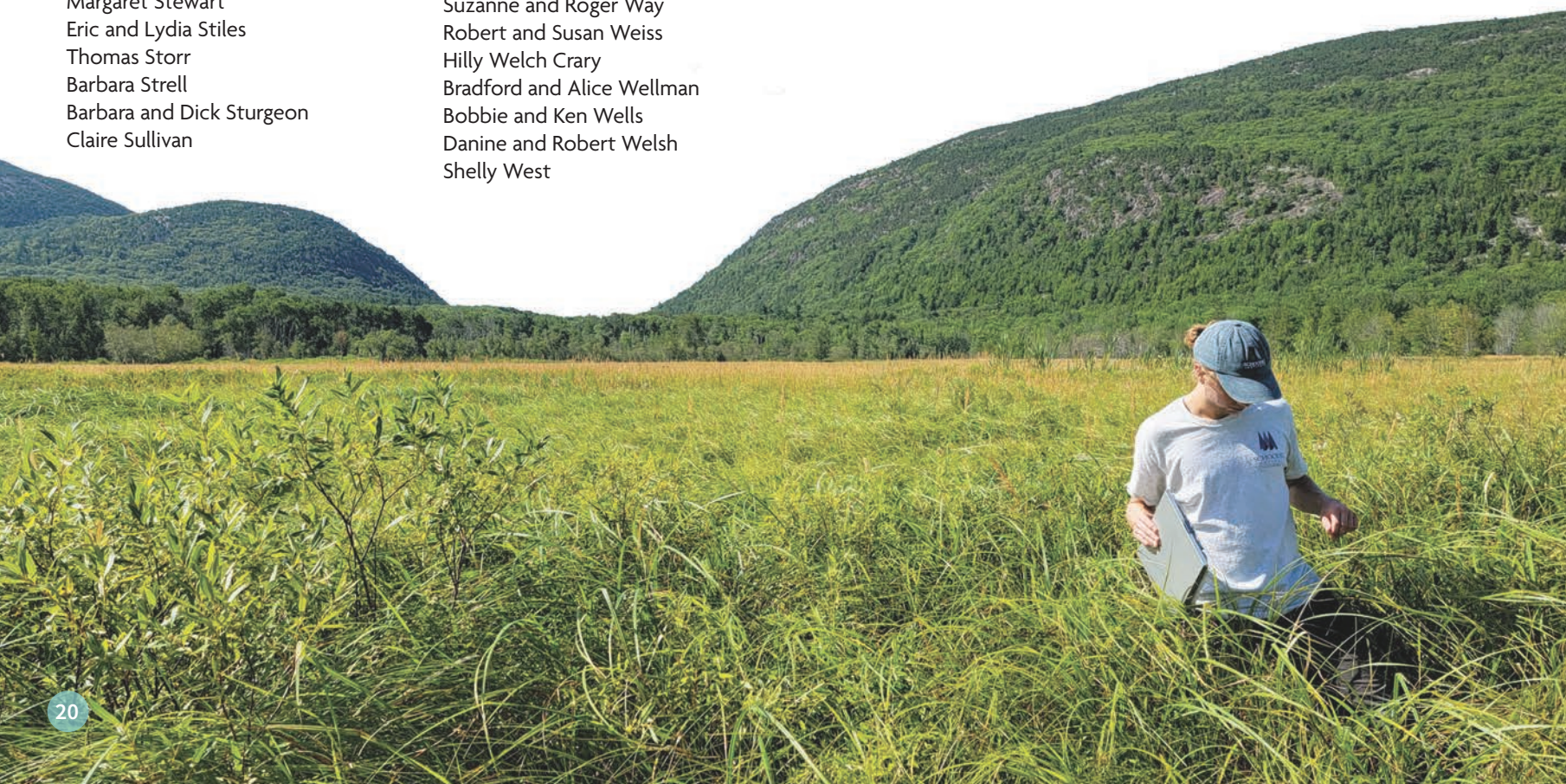
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 Bradford and Alice Wellman
 Bobbie and Ken Wells
 Danine and Robert Welsh
 Shelly West

West Bay Acadia RV Campground
 Katie Wheatley
 Allene White
 Mary Lynn White
 Delia White
 Jane Whitney and Richard Hero
 Chris and Tom Wilkens
 Dennis Wint and Debra Bjornard
 Erin Witham and Andres Abreu
 Steven Wolfson and Mary Davis
 Connie Wragge
 Ira Yellen
 Bill Zoellick and Pauline Angione



In Memoriam



Paul Haertel

Paul began his career with the National Park Service as a seasonal ranger at Isle Royale National Park. Seasonal positions led to a career that spanned 40 years and varied from trail crew to climbing ranger to superintendent. As Acadia National Park's Superintendent from 1994 to 2002, Paul oversaw the establishment of what has become Schoodic Institute. He was a very strong advocate for science informing park management, and excited with the idea of transforming the closed U.S. Navy base into a hub for research and education. Among his many other accomplishments as Acadia's top manager, he oversaw the establishment of the Island Explorer bus system and the creation of an endowment for the perpetual maintenance of Acadia's trails. After Paul's retirement, he served on the board of Schoodic Institute until 2012. With his passing, Paul leaves behind a great legacy of land stewardship, environmental conservation, and heritage preservation.



Nicole Mokeme

Nicole was the founder and Executive Creative Director at Rise and Shine Youth Retreat, a rejuvenation center for the enrichment and liberation of Black people in Wabanaki Territory (also known as Maine) and beyond. Nicole founded Rise and Shine Youth Retreat in 2014 to create a diverse community of teenage girls who courageously celebrate themselves and compassionately support one another. Through retreats and local self-care events including at Schoodic Institute, Nicole held space for teen girls to explore an integration of leadership, wellness, and creativity. Nicole believed in unity and community. Her goal was to lift and empower all.



Our Team

Board of Directors

David Ellwood, Chair	Alan Goldstein
David Manski, Vice Chair	Vicki Goldstein
Kathleen Nauss, Secretary	Mark Kryder
Steve Myers, Treasurer	Ellin Miller
Jim Andrews	Eric Stiles
Ken Cline	Katharine Wellman
Edith Dixon	Kevin Schneider, Acadia National Park Liaison
Ivan Fernandez	Nicholas Fisichelli, Ex Officio

Schoodic Institute Staff

- Susi Acord, Development Coordinator
- Emma Albee, Science Information Specialist
- Bonnie Alvarez, Housekeeping Manager
- Seth Benz, Bird Ecology Director
- Nicholas Fisichelli, President and CEO
- Roy Gott, IT Manager
- Kyle Lima, Data Analyst
- Sarah Luchini, Marketing Specialist
- Megan Moshier, Director of Sales and Operations
- Chris Nadeau, Climate Change Adaptation Scientist
- Peter Nelson, Forest Ecology Director
- Shannon O'Brien, Science Engagement Coordinator
- Tyler Piebes, Bookkeeper
- Craig Pinkham, Maintenance Manager
- Michelle Pinkham, Sales and Hospitality Assistant
- Laurie Richards, Finance and HR Manager
- Danielle Ruddy, Director of Food Services
- Margaret Rush, Housekeeping
- Catherine Schmitt, Science Communication Specialist
- Hannah Webber, Marine Ecology Director

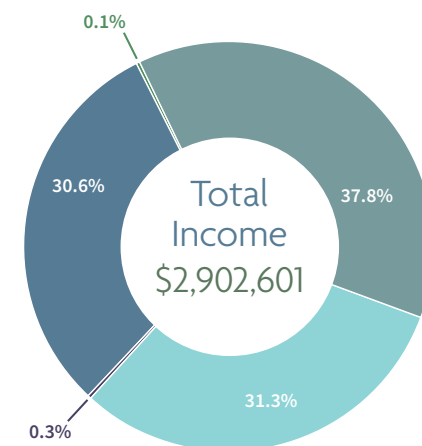
Seasonal Food Services and Housekeeping

Ainsley Alley	Marni Larrabee	Deb Smith
Beverly Beal	Wanda Leas	Caroline Tracey
Karen Church	Taylor Merchant	Christopher Urquhart
Amy Ciarcia	Gloria Moore	Hermila Vargas Frutis
Michael Cordell	Bailey Pinkham	Don West
Jordan Crosby	Ann Pratt	Eleanor West
Margaret Crosby	Jana Prosser	Kristan West
Sallie Deitz	Elaine Randall	Linda Wilson
Margaret Grammer	Timothy Robertson	
Priscilla Kennedy	Sheila Robinson	

Finances at a Glance

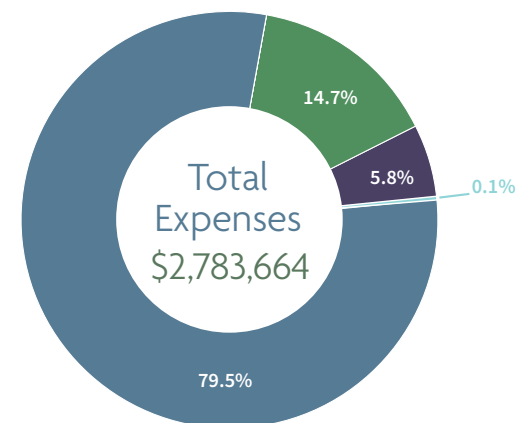
Support and Revenue

- Contributions..... \$1,096,762
- Program Fees.....\$907,192
- Federal and State Grants..... \$886,991
- Other Income..... \$9,461
- Investment Income..... \$2,195



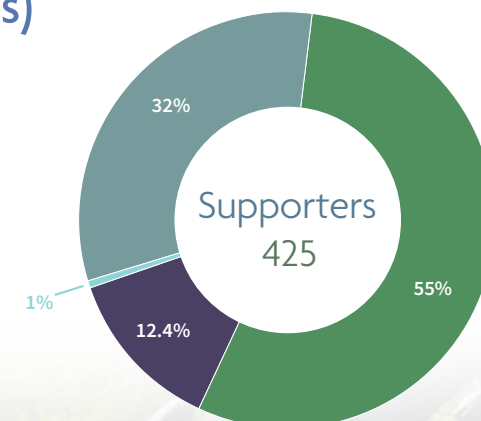
Expenses

- Ecosystem Science and Education..... \$2,211,958
- Management and General.....\$408,215
- Networks and Other.....\$1,820
- Fundraising..... \$161,671



Sources of Funds (% in Dollars)

- 21 Corporations
- 16 Foundations
- 383 Individuals
- 5 Partner Organizations



Our final 2022 audited financial statement will be available later in 2023 at schoodicinstitute.org/about-us.

