



2016 Annual Report



SCHOODIC
INSTITUTE
AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



We must learn about the world's natural systems and protect them as if our lives depend on them - because they do.

- Dr. Sylvia Earle

Message from the Chairman and President

Dear Friends,

Some of you have been a part of the Schoodic Institute effort for nearly 15 years, since the Navy departed Winter Harbor in 2002, while others of you learned about and began supporting the Institute recently.

We appreciate all of your support, and hope you're pleased with the positive impact of the Institute for Acadia National Park, our communities, our region, and our world.

You help Schoodic Institute to lead and attract science that will inform stewardship of Acadia and Downeast Maine for future generations. Our work plays a vital role in connecting park science to education, conservation, and stewardship at multiple scales.

Your support of Schoodic Institute is leveraged for greater impact through our partnerships – with the National Park Service, in the Downeast region, statewide, and nationally.

The Institute and those partnerships are stronger in 2017 than ever before. We hope you enjoy reading about the successes of 2016 that you made possible.

Sincerely,



Alan Goldstein
Chairman



Mark Berry
President & CEO



“I conducted the field work for my PhD in Biology at Acadia National Park from 2011-2016...I’m happy to report that I’ll be back in Maine as a post-doctoral researcher! I received a David H. Smith Fellowship from the Society of Conservation Biology to work with Dr. Jacquelyn Gill at the University of Maine and Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing at Acadia National Park. My tradition of planning Maine field seasons continues...”

- Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie, 2016 Schoodic Institute Research Fellow

“It is urgent that we better understand how our ecosystems are responding to rapid changes. The lessons learned here will have value far beyond the park’s boundaries. However, scientific understanding – by itself – will not solve our greatest challenges if the public does not value science.”

- Mark Berry, President, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park



Park Science Day

Research in Acadia gives park managers valuable insight into the changing biodiversity of the park. On June 25, 2016, Acadia National Park hosted Park Science Day at Sieur du Monts Nature Center. Park rangers, staff and scientists offered demonstrations and displays to inform the public about current projects. An afternoon of activities explored the importance of national parks as living laboratories and vital settings for scientists to investigate how our world works. Schoodic Institute staff presented a range of topics on biodiversity and the science of Acadia. From migrating birds and pollinating insects to forest ecology, we shared with the public how they, too, have an essential role to play as citizen scientists and stewards of the environment.

Schoodic Institute Launches New Science Collaboration

At the dawn of the second century for the U.S. National Park Service and Acadia National Park, the opportunity exists to more powerfully engage science for the benefit of parks and society. More than 400 parks in the US national park system attract more than 300 million visits annually. These parks provide a remarkable platform for public engagement in science.

In 2016 Schoodic Institute entered into a collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the National Park Service (NPS) to leverage the power of science for parks and parks for science and society.



Second Century Stewardship

The initiative was announced on June 25, 2016 at Park Science Day in Acadia National Park.

David Evans Shaw committed a gift of \$1 million as initial funding for the partnership and premiered his new film, *Second Century Stewardship: Science Beyond the Scenery* in Acadia National Park.

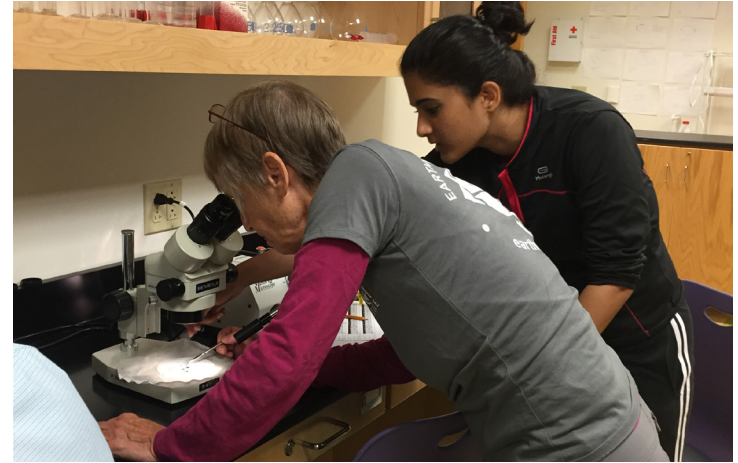


The Second Century Stewardship Initiative will pursue its goals through four main strategies, starting by piloting the program in Acadia National Park before expanding nationally. Schoodic Institute has a key role in all aspects of this collaboration.

- Advance conservation science through a high-profile research fellowship program that will inform stewardship of natural and cultural resources;
- Leverage park science to enhance education in the classroom and beyond;
- Strengthen public understanding of the value of parks for science – and science for parks and society – by helping scientists communicate effectively and share their research widely.
- Pursue solutions to critical issues for our parks and planet by convening national science and conservation thought leaders in the inspirational setting of Acadia National Park.

The Future of the SCS Research Fellowship Program

The partners of Second Century Stewardship: Science for America's National Parks initiative announced the availability of Fellowships to support research in Acadia. A core strategy for Second Century Stewardship is advancing conservation and ecosystem science and providing information to support stewardship of park resources through a high profile, competitive research fellowship program for graduate students, postdocs, or early career scientists. The SCS Fellowships include professional learning opportunities; mentorship, training in science communication, and interaction with educators and resource managers. Through their research and interactions, the fellows contribute to strengthening public understanding of the importance of parks for science and science for parks and society. Fellows will be selected and announced annually.



SCS Announces Fellowship

Dr. Elizabeth “Abbey” Paulson was awarded the first Second Century Stewardship Research Fellowship by Schoodic Institute. Dr. Paulson is a recent PhD from the University of Colorado. The announcement was made during a celebration of Second Century Stewardship featuring comments by Dr. Sylvia Earle and David Shaw. Dr. Paulson will bring new technology to bear on understanding Acadia’s biodiversity and the factors that affect the composition of communities across the Park by analyzing the traces of genetic material - DNA - present in a small sample of water or soil and determining which organisms are present, from bacteria to brook trout. One focus in freshwater systems will be learning how culverts affect the ecological communities in Acadia’s streams.

2016 Schoodic Institute Research Fellowships

Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, through a competitive process of reviewing proposals, awarded eight Schoodic Institute Research Fellowships in 2016 to support science research in or near Acadia National Park. Priority in reviewing proposals was given to research that is relevant to the Institute’s interests and the Park’s research priority of understanding and responding to rapid changes to socio-ecological systems. These small grants also help to attract new researchers with potential for longer-term partnerships. The eight fellowship recipients are undergraduate and graduate students, each from a different college or university. The funded projects have potential to increase understanding of and inform responses to environmental change, or employ innovative and effective approaches for connecting science to management and education.



Forest Ecology

In 2016 Schoodic Institute established the Forest Ecology Program under the leadership of Dr. Nick Fisichelli in an effort to address ongoing and rapid environmental changes through scientific understanding, education efforts, and stewardship guidance developed concurrently, iteratively, and collaboratively in diverse partnerships.

The program advances science through interdisciplinary field-based forest research, designed experiments, and computer modeling. Core efforts examine how environmental changes affect biodiversity and functioning of Maine's forest ecosystems. This includes studying current and future forest dynamics and changing interactions among valued tree, plant, and animal species.

2016 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ecosystem Science: Facilitating & Developing Research Activities

Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park currently sustains four research focus areas: Bird Ecology, Freshwater and Ocean Ecology, Forest Ecology, and Education. Scientific research relevant to the natural resource issues confronting Acadia National Park, surrounding communities, and the region is a key component of the Institute's mandate and provides the foundation for other initiatives and programs.

- Facilitated permits for 75 Acadia National Park research projects.
- Continued fall migration monitoring; SeaWatch at Schoodic Point, HawkWatch on Cadillac Mountain, morning bird migration monitoring at Frazer Point, and projects monitoring phenological (or seasonal timing) changes in the intertidal zone and in upland habitats. A total of four SeaWatch volunteers collected data over 12 weeks, studying raptors, seabirds, songbirds, and expanded bird banding through our bird ecology program.
- Initiated installation of permanent forest monitoring plots at 8 sites from the tip of Schoodic Peninsula to Schoodic Mountain; began seedling growth and survival study, tagging and measuring 343 seedlings of 8 species; and installed temperature sensors at 12 forest sites on the Schoodic Peninsula through our forest ecology program.
- Partnered with field stations and researchers from across the Gulf of Maine on integrated intertidal data collection, including the rising ocean temperatures off Maine's coast.
- Facilitated Acadia's 14th annual BioBlitz: 70 participants collected and cataloged 400 species of moths. 171 of these had not been previously seen in an Acadia BioBlitz; 59 species had never been previously documented on MDI, and 13 species had never been documented in Maine before.
- Hosted the Acadia National Park Science Symposium to provide opportunities for researchers, educators, and natural resource managers to learn and share the latest research underway in and near Acadia.
- Continued to engage Earthwatch volunteers in climate change research.

Learning for all ages

Schoodic Institute offers education programs for teachers, students, and science and conservation professionals in partnership with Acadia National Park, and other organizations and institutions.

Education Research

Over the past decade the Education Research Program has been a leader in Maine's movement to connect teachers and students with the scientists working to understand our region's natural systems. To understand the challenge of why science education so often leads to students' thinking that science is not for them, we are changing the way that students interact with science. We know that teachers are the key to creating and sustaining this kind of change, therefore a focus of our program includes teacher education, teacher professional development, and teacher leadership training to build, and sustain networks of teachers who seek to change the way students are interacting with science. We have:

- Completed five years of data collection on the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership aimed at improving grade 6-9 science teaching across Maine.
- Assisted individual school districts with curriculum development to help teachers make more productive use of student assessment data as Maine schools transition to assessment of student proficiency relative to state learning standards.
- Begun evaluating a program to improve science teaching in 1,000 Pre-K – grade five classrooms.

Formal Education Programs

- Participated in the Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students (ELLMS) collaborative, including hosting an educator summit. Schoodic Institute participates as one of five partners in this statewide collaborative of residential learning centers in Maine. Initially established to collectively raise resources to support ongoing residential environmental education programs (e.g., SEA), the group has expanded its focus toward integrating outdoor learning opportunities into public schools across the state.



Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) is a residential middle school program that serves students from schools across the state of Maine, with a concentration of those in Washington, Hancock, and other nearby counties. Upper elementary and middle school students attend the three-day program offered in partnership by Schoodic Institute and the National Park Service. Curriculum-based (Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core) and hands-on field activities on the rugged coast of Maine offer unparalleled experiences for young students and an exciting way to build science literacy. In 2016, 18 Maine schools participated, along with three out-of-state schools, reaching over 700 students.

Staffing includes full and part-time National Park Service personnel, interns, and trained volunteers. In 2016, 7 NPS seasonal employees also contributed.

Professional Learning

- Led teacher professional development workshops and courses, including Advanced Placement Summer Institutes open to middle and high school teachers who teach advanced placement or pre-advanced placement courses. This professional development opportunity annually provides College Board certified training for teachers. Courses are a week long and cover a range of topics, from biology and environmental science to history and studio art. In 2016, 47 participants took part in ten different AP content areas.
- Conducted citizen science training for NPS staff: with support from NPS, in 2016 Schoodic Institute developed and led an online citizen science professional development course for teams of NPS personnel from across the country.
- Conducted regular ANP teacher workshops in association with the SEA program.
- Partnered and hosted Princeton University's QUEST program for science teachers in 2016.

Community Outreach

Schoodic Institute and Acadia National Park work together to present interesting and dynamic public lectures and educational opportunities. Most lectures contain scientific information, data, and research findings, with a particular focus on research in ANP, while other events are general in scope with diverse topics covering natural science, education, history, and the arts.

- Led 5 multi-day birding ecotours, with a citizen science component, in partnership with the Maine Birding Trail.
- Partnered to offer family activities such as spring Junior Ranger Day and International Migratory Bird Day, and fall Eek of Ecology.
- Invited guests on a benefit cruise in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and sponsored by Bar Harbor Whale Watch.
- Offered public seminars, discussions, and monthly brown bag lunches by notable authors and experts.
- Schoodic Institute was selected in 2016 as a host community for BikeMaine. A week-long bicycle tour with riders from across the globe began and ended at the Institute campus. BikeMaine highlights the people, places, culture and food of Downeast Maine.
- Hosted the Acadia Winter Festival in partnership with Camp Beech Cliff in celebration of Acadia National Park's Centennial.
- Hosted Maine Public's Maine Calling radio program from the Institute campus, covering Acadia National Park's centennial with a focus on science and education.
- Led citizen science events to engage and instruct the public on the use of the iNaturalist.org app for photographing and identifying Acadia National Park's biodiversity - plants and insects.

"Staying in this facility of comfort and relaxation at Schoodic Institute with so many wonderful opportunities in science, nature and of course art, made my stay even better than imagined. The Rangers had a wealth of information and had such willingness to share and educate us."

- Nancy Woogan, Acadia Summer Retreat Artist

Program Hosting & Partnerships

In addition to Schoodic Institute's programs and formal collaborations, the Institute's management of the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus provides opportunities to host relevant research, education, and conservation oriented programs, retreats, and meetings. Schoodic Institute's team offers great customer service, and the Institute often has an active role partnering in program content.

Examples from 2016 include:

Youth Programs:

- Oceanside science exploration camps and courses
- Eastern Maine Skippers Program of the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
- Private school field trips

College and University field courses and research retreats:

Bates College	St. Joseph's College
Bowdoin College	University of Guelph
College of the Atlantic	University of Maine
Plymouth State University	Wesleyan University

Conservation and Education meetings and retreats:

- Acadia National Park Science Symposium
- Downeast Conservation Network
 - (formally Down East Research and Education Network)
- Downeast Fisheries Partnership
- Healthy Acadia
- Maine Bat Working Group
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
- Maine Education Association
- Maine Outdoor Coalition
- Maine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
- Northeast Regional Migration Monitoring Network
- Schoodic Arts for All
- TERC
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Venture Outside





“We acknowledge Schoodic Institute for their research and living facilities...Thanks for providing a great experience to our large research group.”

- Thomas Patterson, North American Dendroecological Fieldweek (NADEF) participant



Sumner Memorial High School's Pathways program is an alternate education program that provides each student with a unique learning plan.

A research and education partnership between Schoodic Institute and Pathways has students working in the field with an Institute forest ecologist, and intertidal specialist. Throughout the school year students meet weekly with a researcher and head into the field to collect data or to the classroom to analyze results.

The collaboration with Sumner's Pathways program is part of a larger program at Schoodic Institute that studies how work with scientists on real research questions can help students become more interested in science while developing useful science skills.

"I have 14 students...and 10 of them are lobster fishing. One of the great things about coming to Schoodic Institute is to find out what science is and how to relate it to what they do...our students need something they can connect to."

- Steve Belyea, Sumner High School Industrial Arts teacher

Schoodic Marine Center

2016 was the first year of operations for the new Schoodic Marine Center, a subsidiary of Schoodic Institute, operating on leased property at the site of the former Winter Harbor Marina. A primary goal is to keep the property available for access to and from the ocean for research, education, transportation, and other community uses. In the first year, modest facility improvements were made, including new floats, pier and mooring improvements, new signs, and site cleanup. One building was repaired and modified to host a marine mammal exhibit provided by College of the Atlantic, bicycle rentals, and information and ticket sales for ferry services across Frenchman Bay to Bar Harbor.

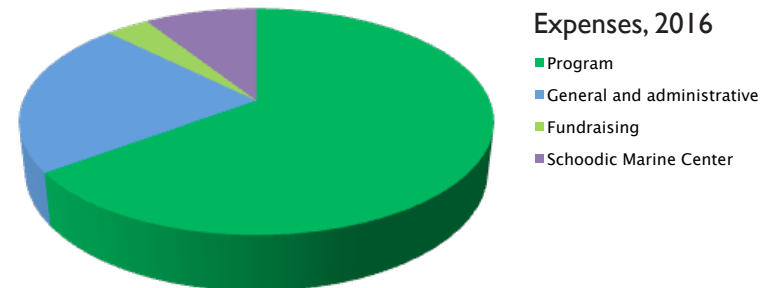
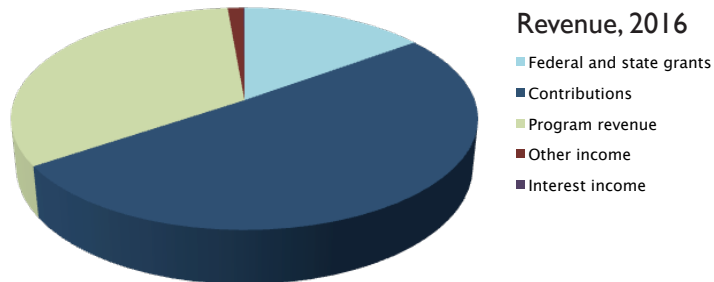
Strategic planning is underway for additional improvements, and a potential new facility on site, in a process that includes engaging community members and many potential partners.

2016 Financial Summary:

Statement of Financial Position:	December 31, 2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 818,704	\$ 704,265
Accounts receivable	\$ 74,734	\$ 121,177
Contributions receivable	\$ 334,300	\$ 181,000
Other assets	\$ -	\$ 233
Total Current Assets	<u>\$1,227,738</u>	<u>\$1,006,675</u>
Contributions receivable	\$ 12,000	\$ 133,000
Property and equipment, net	\$ 590,663	\$ 566,797
Deposit	<u>\$ 47,500</u>	<u>\$ 47,500</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,877,901</u>	<u>\$1,753,972</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,447	\$ 4,956
Deferred revenue	\$ 12,665	\$ 41,921
Accrued payroll and related expenses	<u>\$ 20,225</u>	<u>\$ 10,876</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 41,337</u>	<u>\$ 57,753</u>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$1,150,504	\$1,018,477
Temporarily restricted	<u>\$ 686,060</u>	<u>\$ 677,742</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$1,836,564</u>	<u>\$1,696,219</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,877,901</u>	<u>\$1,753,972</u>

Statement of Activities For The Year Ended December 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2016 Total	2015 Total
Revenue:				
Federal and state grants	\$ 349,704	-	\$ 349,704	\$ 406,168
Contributions	\$ 526,368	\$ 650,783	\$1,177,151	\$1,251,673
Program revenue	\$ 768,041	-	\$ 768,041	\$ 664,632
Other income	\$ 30,202	-	\$ 30,202	\$ 456
Interest income	\$ 1,705	-	\$ 1,705	\$ 1,747
Assets released from restrictions	<u>\$ 642,465</u>	<u>(\$642,465)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,318,485	\$ 8,318	\$2,326,803	\$2,324,676
Expenses:				
Program	\$1,420,787	-	\$1,420,787	\$1,244,161
General and administrative	\$ 488,231	-	\$ 488,231	\$ 437,166
Fundraising	\$ 77,051	-	\$ 77,051	\$ 161,094
Schoodic Marine Center	<u>\$ 200,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 200,389</u>	<u>\$ 23,717</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,186,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$2,186,458</u>	<u>\$1,866,138</u>
Change in net assets	\$ 132,027	\$ 8,318	\$ 140,345	\$ 458,538
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$1,018,477</u>	<u>\$ 677,742</u>	<u>\$1,696,219</u>	<u>\$1,237,681</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$1,150,504</u>	<u>\$ 686,060</u>	<u>\$1,836,564</u>	<u>\$1,696,219</u>



We thank the
following members
and partners who
made our work
possible in 2016:

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We are particularly grateful for community support and to work in close partnership with the National Park Service

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Volunteers are essential to the success of Schoodic Institute! Volunteers contribute in a multitude of areas and projects; we are grateful to all.

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