



2017 Annual Report



**SCHOODIC
INSTITUTE**
AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



Message from the Chairman and President

Dear Friends,

This has been an eventful year at Schoodic Institute. First, I would like to welcome Don Kent who joined us as our new President and CEO in January 2018. Second, I am pleased that David Ellwood has now taken over the position as Chair of the Schoodic Institute Board of Directors as of July 9, 2018. David is a Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard University, where he serves as the Director of the Malcom Wiener Center for Social Policy. I am very confident that this combination will build on the Institute's success, and move us forward into an even brighter future.

Schoodic Institute's commitment to serving Acadia National Park, the National Park Service, and communities near and far is unwavering. During 2017, our elite staff worked with partners, interns and technicians, students and other stakeholders to pursue research on environmental change and human response. Dr. Nick Fisichelli, Forest Ecology Program Director, defined the impact of non-native plants, earthworms and deer on forest biodiversity. Hannah Webber, Research and Education Projects Manager, and a team of naturalists conducted an intensive survey of the biota in the marine intertidal zone, doubling the number of known species. Seth Benz, Bird Ecology Program Director, and citizen scientists studied variation in the abundance, condition and diet of fall migrants and the effect of changes in fruit and insect availability. Bill Zoellick, Education Research Director, significantly advanced the Maine Community Shellfish Investigation, engaging students with their communities in scientific work to address problems that matter in those communities

Visitation to Schoodic Institute has continued to grow. We have enjoyed connecting with more than 13,000 guests as they stopped by our welcome center or were drawn to campus for one of our free public programs. In addition to our activities in the summer months, our campus is open year-round and the Acadia Winter Festival has continued to grow in popularity and always promises to be a fun and engaging experience for the whole family.

Schoodic Institute has an ambitious and exciting 2018 underway, reflecting a renewed commitment to finding solutions to environmental change through discovery and learning. We encourage you to visit, and look forward to sharing 2018's work with you in next year's annual report. Thank you for supporting Schoodic Institute's critical efforts.

Sincerely,



Alan Goldstein
Chairman



Don Kent, PhD
President & CEO

P.S. The Schoodic Institute staff and Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thanks to Alan for his past 12 years of leadership and his continued commitment to environmental research and education as a means for making our world a better place. You have left your mark on each of us, and those who depend on us, that will never fade.



In 2017 I was pleasantly reminded on multiple occasions, of the passion people have for nature and of their willingness to discover, experience, and marvel in the natural world. I have fond memories of citizen scientists wading through hip-deep snow and crashing through thick brush in the forest understory and enjoying every minute of the experience – being present and conscious of their part in the grand theater of nature.

Nick Fisichelli, Ph.D., Forest Ecology Program Director

Engaged **5** interns, **4** technicians, and **dozens** of college students and volunteers in field-based research projects.



Planted **5,600** tree seeds of **12** species in a common garden experiment in Acadia National Park.

1,345 seedlings emerged (25% of planted seeds). Now we're following these individuals as they attempt to establish and grow under the local conditions at four sites in the Park.



Published a paper looking at **weeds, worms, and deer** across parks in the northeast. *Excerpt from our press release:*

Biotic global change agents, such as non-native plants ('weeds'), non-native earthworms ('worms'), and over-abundant herbivores ('deer'), can be major ecosystem drivers in the forest understory. A new study by Schoodic Institute and the National Park Service, published in the journal Biological Invasions, examines the status and relationships among these stressors at eight national parks across seven northeastern states. Lead author, Schoodic Institute Forest Ecology Director Nicholas Fisichelli, sums up the study, "this research highlights the tremendous multipronged management challenge for areas already experiencing the combined effects of weeds, worms, and deer and the future vulnerability of other areas as temperatures warm and conditions become more amenable to biotic global change stressors."

Ocean and Intertidal

The rain on the morning of July 26, 2017, did not dampen the spirits of a band of naturalists who went to Frazer Point to conduct Schoodic's first **iNaturalist** intertidal bioblitz. A bioblitz is an intense survey of organisms living in one place at one time. In one morning we nearly doubled the published number of species found in the intertidal zone at Frazer Point (from 27 to 50). Bioblitzes are an excellent way to understand what's living in the world around us, and just how cool the organisms are.



266 observations

14 contributors

50 species

1 intertidal bioblitz





438 WOW!s
216 COOL!s
139 DISGUSTING!s
45 YUCK!s



Citizen Science

Working with citizen scientists opens us up to different perspectives on the work that we do at Schoodic Institute. Folks that come to help us with our research are giving us their time, their energy, their curiosity, and in return we share our own curiosity, our work, and our passions. But it's those other perspectives, the fresh eyes, the gentle query about a particular aspect of the process of science ("Why do we do it this way, and could we do it that way instead?") - *those* are the things that sometimes make citizen scientists the best collaborators to have in the field.

Schoodic Institute's Marine Science Research is playing a leadership role in the Northeast Coastal Stations Alliance or NeCSA - a network of field stations monitoring patterns of near shore changes in the Gulf of Maine.

Schoodic sits 'tree-to-sea'. Our forested and rocky intertidal habitats face pressures from a warming climate, as well as invasive species and, in the case of the intertidal zone, a changing water chemistry environment. We are using these inter-related habitats to explore the effects of a changing climate across both the Acadia National Park seascapes and landscapes.

Schoodic Institute's Marine Science Research Program is collaborating with College of the Atlantic faculty and students to understand rockweed's role in shaping intertidal food webs in Frenchman Bay.



Learning by Doing: Engaging Students in Authentic Scientific Work

Schoodic Institute's Science Education Program has been helping schools engage students in doing science related to resource conservation and management. The program facilitates student involvement in actual research not only because it results in powerful learning about science, but also because putting students to work on resource-related problems makes the issues real in ways that go far beyond just reading or hearing about them. Even more important, students come away with a sense that these are problems that they can help address, not just things to feel anxious about.

Bill Zoellick, Education Research Director



An Example; Student Participation in Clam Research

Schoodic Institute's Science Education program has learned a lot in ten years of organizing collaborations between teachers, students, and scientists. We are now putting that learning to use in a local project that brings Sumner Memorial High School together with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), shellfish committees from the towns of Gouldsboro and Steuben, and the local shellfish warden. Students are re-purposing an abandoned lobster pound for use as a clam research site in order to study clam growth and predation by green crabs. Students place crab traps inside and outside the pound along the tidal gradient to collect data about crab density, reproduction cycles, and activity at different locations.

At the completion of fieldwork, students analyze data and present their findings at a number of venues. They use their analyses and the questions that emerge as they collaborate with shellfish committees and the DMR to design new experiments for the 2018 clam growth season. Each year's work will build on the previous year's data and analyses.

What is especially important about this project is that the DMR and the shellfish committees could not do this work without student involvement. This is a real collaboration between the school, the towns, and the DMR to do work that none of them could accomplish on their own. 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. Put simply, it is authentic science that matters.





Seth Benz, Bird Ecology Program Director

It is broadly recognized that the Gulf of Maine is a dynamic and complex system already experiencing dramatic environmental changes, which are expected to have major impacts on Maine and Acadia National Park.

Schoodic Institute's Bird Ecology Program is facilitating research to better understand the effects of environment change on food resources and bird migration patterns. For example, citizen scientists and our staff are participating in a study describing in-season variation in the abundance, energetic condition, and diet composition of fall migrants and their relationship to changes in fruit and insect

availability. These results will contribute to a larger body of research that is assessing how food availability may impact migrating birds. Through this and other studies, Schoodic Institute's Bird Ecology Program is cultivating a community of scientists, resource managers, citizen scientists, and educators to work collaboratively to address important conservation issues focused on the environmental effects of global warming.



Schoodic's 8-mile auto loop may be best known for its spectacular scenery, however, to birders, several stops along the route are essential lookout posts. Six years of winter bird surveys indicate that observations from Blueberry Hill, looking out to Schoodic Island, produce the greatest diversity of species.

On one day, I was able to show the group I was leading;

3 Snowy Owl, **5** Rough-legged Hawk, **3** Bald Eagle,

all showing hunting behavior along the length of Schoodic Island. A rare Dovekie, a small relative of the Atlantic Puffin, was seen from the same spot on another day. **eBird** (an online data base) checklists over the past few years indicate that 117 species have been documented from Blueberry Hill.

Next time you're driving along the auto loop be sure to stop!

2017 Highlights:

- Hawk Watch on Cadillac Mountain, nearing its 25th year of effort, has documented 13 species of diurnal birds of prey with an average annual total of 2,950 individuals observed during each fall migration.
- Sea Watch at Schoodic Point monitors the coastal migration of autumn's southbound waterbirds, with tens of thousands of birds annually observed, including loons, grebes, cormorants, gannets, ducks, geese, gulls and terns.
- Songbird Watch at Frazer Point, records daily autumn migration comprised of thousands of songbirds, including warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Cumulatively, these efforts help to expand knowledge of how populations of migratory birds move through the Acadia region and use its habitats, how birds are responding to changes in the environment, and how threats to their survival may be minimized.
- Collaboration with the Maine Birding Trail offering revenue-generating public birding tours that monitor the location and abundance of breeding and pelagic seabirds. This effort is in partnership with other Bird Observatories around the world to support critical avian research, education, and outreach programs. These connections promote recognition of the Acadia region as a legitimate birding and research destination and the Schoodic Institute as a key player in promoting bird conservation and education.

Megan Moshier, Sales and Hospitality Manager

Welcoming Senator George Mitchell to campus was a highlight in 2017. My role in helping to roll out the red carpet was fun, exciting and rewarding. I was proud that Schoodic Institute hosted this event and proud of the job that our team did to make the event fabulous and noteworthy.

On a beautiful summer day in the meadow behind Rockefeller Hall over **300** guests enjoyed an inspirational and motivating speech from Senator Mitchell, followed by an outdoor reception.



13,038 Welcome Center Visitors **26** Free Public Programs



In 2017 the Institute welcomed 13,038 guests in our welcome center at historic Rockefeller Hall. The welcome center, open all year, is host to several Acadia National Park exhibits including the history of the navy base which previously occupied the Winter Harbor campus. A small gift kiosk with relevant books, gifts and souvenirs is available to guests. In addition, the public is invited to purchase park passes, including half price park passes each December.

Nearly 3,000 guests visited the Institute campus for programs, meetings, retreats or workshops in 2017 - including roughly 800 middle school students, college students from fifteen different college or university programs, and participants from various non profit organizations including; Maine Seacoast Mission; Maine Audubon; Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries; National Park Service; Bangor Art Society; Brooklin Garden Club; Acadia Senior College; Maine State Police; Maine Sea Grant; Mano en Mano; Downeast Non Profit Network; Maine Initiatives and others.

In 2017 **3** scientists were awarded fellowships to conduct research in Acadia National Park as part of **Second Century Stewardship**, an initiative of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The fellows join inaugural SCS Fellow Abbey Paulson, who is using environmental DNA to increase understanding of patterns of biodiversity in Acadia and documenting a new baseline for monitoring of future change. In addition to research support and housing at Schoodic Institute, the fellows receive science communication training to contribute to development of resources to bring park science to classrooms across the country.

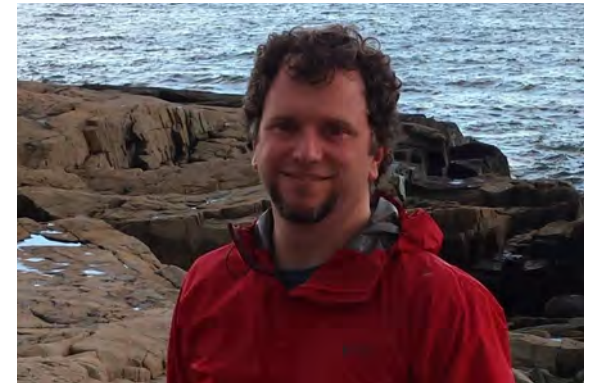
The Second Century Stewardship initiative engages the public in science through research fellowships and education programs for the benefit of parks and society, and is made possible by a generous gift from David E. Shaw and the Shaw family. For more information, visit www.scsparkscience.org.



Allyson Jackson, a Ph.D. student in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Oregon State University.



Alessio Mortelliti, Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation at the University of Maine.



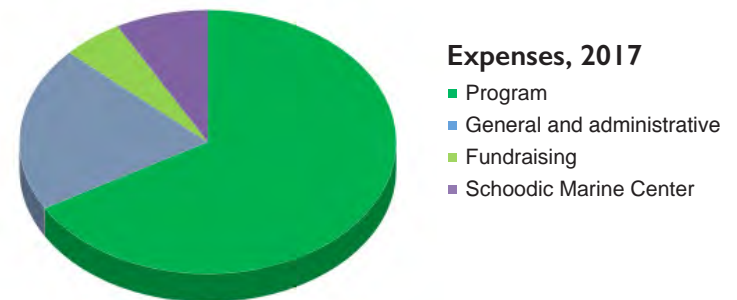
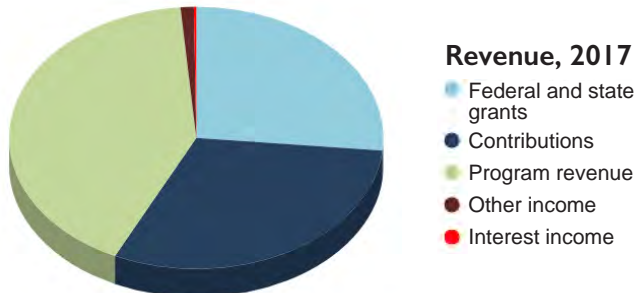
Chris Nadeau, a Ph.D. student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at the University of Connecticut.

2017 Financial Summary:

| Statement of Financial Position: | December 31, 2017 | 2016 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 948,401 | \$ 818,704 |
| Accounts receivable | \$ 76,607 | \$ 74,734 |
| Contributions receivable | \$ - | \$ 334,300 |
| Other assets | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Current Assets | \$1,025,008 | \$1,227,738 |
| Contributions receivable | \$ 12,000 | \$ 12,000 |
| Investments | \$2,934,459 | |
| Property and equipment, net | \$ 669,303 | \$ 590,663 |
| Deposit | \$ 47,500 | \$ 47,500 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$4,688,270</u> | <u>\$1,877,901</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 4,548 | \$ 8,447 |
| Deferred revenue | \$ 55,733 | \$ 12,665 |
| Accrued payroll and related expenses | \$ 22,184 | \$ 20,225 |
| Other Liabilities | \$ 750 | \$ - |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 83,215 | \$ 41,337 |
| Net Assets: | | |
| Unrestricted | \$ 823,185 | \$1,150,504 |
| Temporarily restricted | \$ 817,077 | \$ 686,060 |
| Permanently Restricted | \$2,964,793 | \$ - |
| Total Net Assets | <u>\$4,605,055</u> | <u>\$1,836,564</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | <u>\$4,688,270</u> | <u>\$1,877,901</u> |

Statement of Activities For The Year Ended December 31, 2017

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanent Restricted | 2017 Total | 2016 Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Federal and state grants | \$ 391,519 | - | - | \$ 391,519 | \$ 349,704 |
| Contributions | \$ 451,692 | \$ 883,221 | \$2,964,793 | \$4,299,706 | \$1,177,151 |
| Program revenue | \$ 621,113 | - | - | \$ 621,113 | \$ 768,041 |
| Other income | \$ 16,813 | - | - | \$ 16,813 | \$ 30,202 |
| Interest income | \$ 3,111 | - | - | \$ 3,111 | \$ 1,705 |
| Assets released from restrictions | <u>\$ 817,946</u> | <u>(\$817,946)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$2,302,194 | \$ 65,275 | \$2,964,793 | \$5,332,262 | \$2,326,803 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Program | \$1,769,110 | - | - | \$1,769,110 | \$1,420,787 |
| General and administrative | \$ 536,651 | - | - | \$ 536,651 | \$ 488,231 |
| Fundraising | \$ 137,781 | - | - | \$ 137,781 | \$ 77,051 |
| Schoodic Marine Center | <u>\$ 211,380</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>\$ 211,380</u> | <u>\$ 200,389</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$2,654,922</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>\$2,654,922</u> | <u>\$2,186,458</u> |
| Change in net assets | \$ (327,319) | \$ 131,017 | \$2,964,793 | \$2,768,491 | \$ 140,345 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | <u>\$1,150,504</u> | <u>\$ 686,060</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>\$1,836,564</u> | <u>\$1,696,219</u> |
| Net Assets, End of Year | <u><u>\$ 823,185</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 817,077</u></u> | <u><u>\$2,964,793</u></u> | <u><u>\$4,605,055</u></u> | <u><u>\$1,836,564</u></u> |



We thank the following members and partners who made our work possible in 2017:

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

TOTAL LIFETIME GIVING OVER \$100,000

American Association for the
Advancement of Science
Anonymous
Earthwatch Institute
Edith R. Dixon
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation via
ELLMS Chewonki Foundation
Dianna and Ben Emory
Victoria and Alan Goldstein
Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund
at The Boston Foundation
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Ellin and Bruce Miller
Roxanne Quimby
David Reis

2017 CONTRIBUTORS

\$100K+

American Association for the
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Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund
at The Boston Foundation
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Roxanne Quimby

\$50K-\$99,999

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