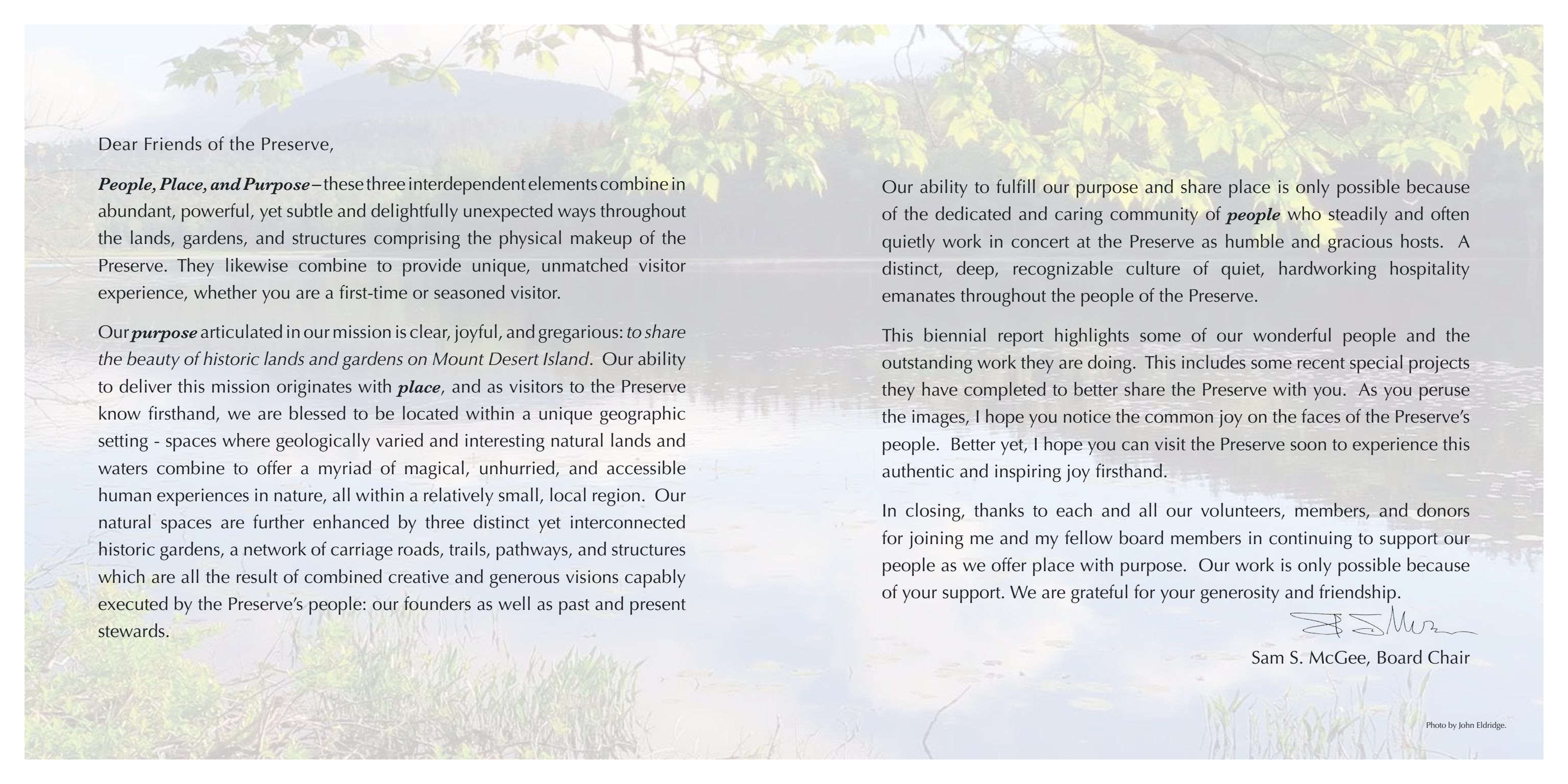




LAND & GARDEN **PRESERVE**

2020 - 2021 Biennial Report



Dear Friends of the Preserve,

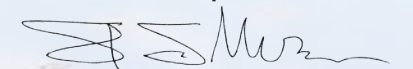
People, Place, and Purpose—these three interdependent elements combine in abundant, powerful, yet subtle and delightfully unexpected ways throughout the lands, gardens, and structures comprising the physical makeup of the Preserve. They likewise combine to provide unique, unmatched visitor experience, whether you are a first-time or seasoned visitor.

Our ***purpose*** articulated in our mission is clear, joyful, and gregarious: *to share the beauty of historic lands and gardens on Mount Desert Island*. Our ability to deliver this mission originates with ***place***, and as visitors to the Preserve know firsthand, we are blessed to be located within a unique geographic setting - spaces where geologically varied and interesting natural lands and waters combine to offer a myriad of magical, unhurried, and accessible human experiences in nature, all within a relatively small, local region. Our natural spaces are further enhanced by three distinct yet interconnected historic gardens, a network of carriage roads, trails, pathways, and structures which are all the result of combined creative and generous visions capably executed by the Preserve's people: our founders as well as past and present stewards.

Our ability to fulfill our purpose and share place is only possible because of the dedicated and caring community of ***people*** who steadily and often quietly work in concert at the Preserve as humble and gracious hosts. A distinct, deep, recognizable culture of quiet, hardworking hospitality emanates throughout the people of the Preserve.

This biennial report highlights some of our wonderful people and the outstanding work they are doing. This includes some recent special projects they have completed to better share the Preserve with you. As you peruse the images, I hope you notice the common joy on the faces of the Preserve's people. Better yet, I hope you can visit the Preserve soon to experience this authentic and inspiring joy firsthand.

In closing, thanks to each and all our volunteers, members, and donors for joining me and my fellow board members in continuing to support our people as we offer place with purpose. Our work is only possible because of your support. We are grateful for your generosity and friendship.



Sam S. McGee, Board Chair



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Preserve Friends,

Hard work is part of our fabric at the Preserve. It always has been, from the masons who built the pink wall at the Abby Garden, to the landscape crews who moved Beatrix Farrand's plants from Reef Point to Asticou and Thuya. In this report we will show you some of the projects we have taken on over the past two years and the people behind the projects – our staff who work hard to maintain and enhance our gardens and landscapes.

We reduced garden visiting hours during the 2020 and 2021 seasons due to the pandemic. This gave our garden teams more time to spend on projects that have enriched, restored, and rejuvenated these landscapes. Our natural lands team did not slow down either, leading a focused, formidable effort to improve our trails around Little Long Pond.

Another significant Preserve-wide effort completed during the past two years was creating a Framework Plan to guide infrastructure and operational planning for the coming decades – all with an eye toward promoting sustainable mission delivery. As projects unfold from the Framework, we will share our progress with you.

None of our hard work is possible without you. Thank you so much for your support, whether it is a donation or simply a kind word about how you enjoyed your visit to the Preserve. We love hearing from you.

Rodney J. Gason

Construction of the Thuya Dock in the late 1930s.

Photo by Charles Savage.



The beautiful new path was designed and built by a cross-departmental Preserve team including Marissa, seen here doing some of the initial digging, and Jason, Tate, and Bret testing the height of the new fence.



ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER GARDEN

A new footpath enhances our guests' experiences

A visit to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden is steeped in beauty and serenity. Our guests take in the flowers, landscape, and statuary, while we work to ensure their visits are enjoyable, but also safe.

In spring of 2021, we created a new path at the Abby Garden that enabled guests to experience the meditative Spirit Path and re-enter the garden on a one-way loop, keeping them well-spaced.

This new connector path takes the visitor across a patch of native plantings, through a gate in a new fence topped by iron rings that mimic the circular tiles on the pink wall, and into the splendor of the border gardens by way of the northwestern gate in the pink wall.

ASTICOU AZALEA GARDEN

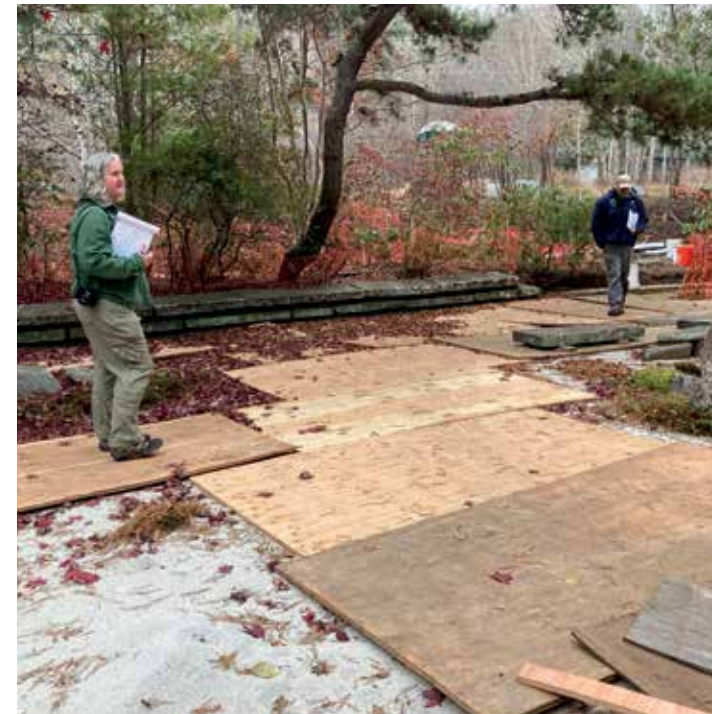
An iconic feature is restored

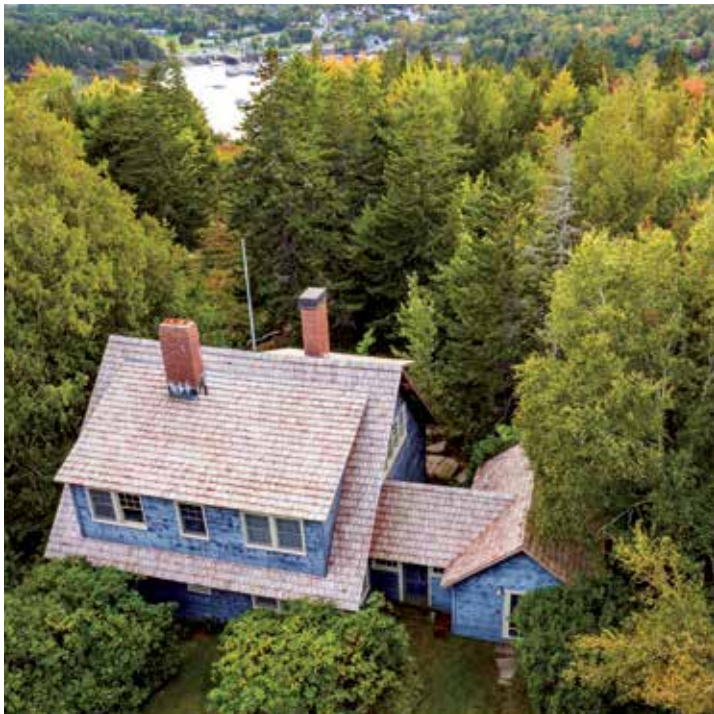
Since 1958, the Sand Garden has been a fundamental element of the Asticou Azalea Garden. Inspired by the 16th century sand garden at the Ryoanji Temple in Kyoto, Japan, the Sand Garden is a highlight of the Asticou Azalea Garden landscape.

The restoration gave new life to the decades-old Sand Garden, with a new and extended cedar fence at its northern border, resetting of the dry-stack stone and tile walls along the northern side and the edge of the walking path, and a replenishment and replacement of plants throughout.

The viewing area which sits across the path and is one of the most contemplative spots in the garden, also received a renovation. The steppingstones and stone wall were reset, the Charles Savage bench realigned, and the layout shifted to enhance the viewing experience.

The completed restoration of the Sand Garden is stunning. Mary oversaw every detail, ably assisted by her staff and the Facilities crew. Jacob's year-long odyssey to find replacement sand was a big success. Here he plants a new rhododendron near the Sand Garden.





Thanks to Will Greene for this amazing photo of the new Thuya Lodge roof.

Jason led the two-year effort to replace the failing wood border with granite.

The new pollinator plants are kept well hydrated by Margaret.



THUYA GARDEN

Multiple projects have a big impact

Thuya Garden and its surrounding landscape contain an abundance of treasures. Over two years, the team at Thuya tackled several projects to repair and refurbish some of the features that were in decline.

The 30-year-old roof on the Thuya Lodge received a necessary re-shingling, having withstood Maine's winters for decades without any major upgrades.

Thanks to a grant from the Greve Foundation, the decaying wood borders on the gardens were replaced with beautiful local pink granite.

To help boost the butterfly population, the Mount Desert Garden Club supported the installation of new host plants, grown in our greenhouses, that will enable successful reproduction of the species in the garden.

NATURAL LANDS

Heavy lifting brings new life to trails

People love the trails around Little Long Pond. They love the softness, the calm, and the rare sighting of other hikers. That experience belies the large number of visitors to these lands – over 60,000 people and 30,000 dogs annually. That human and pet traffic takes a toll on the trails. Beginning in 2020, the Preserve's land and trails crews began an extensive restoration of the David & Neva Trail, Jordan Stream Path, and Jordan South Spur Trail. The project will continue in 2022.

Some of the heavy lifting statistics so far:

Amount of trail rehabilitated: 1,500 linear feet
Bog bridging installed: 446 feet
Steppingstones installed: 32
Stone crib wall installed: 248 linear feet
Stone paver cross drains installed: 5
Stone paver segments installed: 11 linear feet
Stone stairs installed: 9 steps
Stone bridges installed: 1
Stone culverts installed: 1
Timber crib wall installed: 76 linear feet
Mineral soil hauled: 913 cubic feet
Crushed stone hauled: 439 cubic feet

Our lands crew and volunteers haul new bog bridging into place while Ed and summer interns Nicholas and Katherine set the stone pavers. The result is a safer stretch of trail that prevents erosion of the surrounding landscape.





Larry, Codie, and Jesse prepare the carriage road for resurfacing and send cleared trees and branches through the chipper. The final result is an impressive stretch of roadway.



FACILITIES

It's about the journey, not the destination

Built by John D. Rockefeller Jr. the carriage roads of the Preserve have served visitors to the natural lands around Little Long Pond for decades. Horse-drawn carriages, hikers, and strollers appreciate the smooth consistency and beauty of these well-maintained passages.

Most of the ten miles of roads are surfaced with pink-colored finish material locally known as “Rockefeller Mix.” Now, thanks to the maintenance skills of our facilities team, the mile and a half stretch on the Mitchell Hill carriage road, between signposts 22 and 32 will look and feel like the rest of the roads around the pond.

This project is part of an ongoing maintenance effort to resurface all the Preserve's carriage roads. Work began on Mitchell Hill in the spring of 2021 with ditching and replacing of culverts. Surface material was added in the fall. The work will continue in 2022 beginning at signpost 32 working north toward the Cobblestone Bridge.

MCALPIN FARM

Now there are ferns among the flowers

Over 12,000 plants are grown annually at McAlpin Farm, the horticultural hub of the Preserve. Each is destined for one of our gardens or the natural lands. Most are grown from seeds or seedlings. Some are propagated from existing plants.

During the past few years, in the spirit of innovation, we have begun growing ferns from spores. Ferns are ubiquitous in our landscapes, so undertaking this project felt natural.

With a collection of fern spores from plants on our lands, plus some purchased spores, we are growing 30 different species, some of which are native including maidenhair, cinnamon, and lady fern. The process begins in the fall with finished plants ready in July. These home-grown ferns will make their way into the landscapes around our gardens and Little Long Pond each season.

McAlpin Farm is home to a variety of plants, indoors and out.

The newly germinated ferns, grown from spores, start out looking soft and feathery.

Katie and Erin make sure the dahlia bulbs get a comfortable winter resting place in a special storage site beneath the greenhouses.



Photo by John Gibb





Jenn and Maggie hold down the fort in the McAlpin offices handling a diverse set of tasks from answering telephone queries to bill paying.

Whitney, who occasionally joins the volunteer crew on the trails, oversees our development database and reservations system.

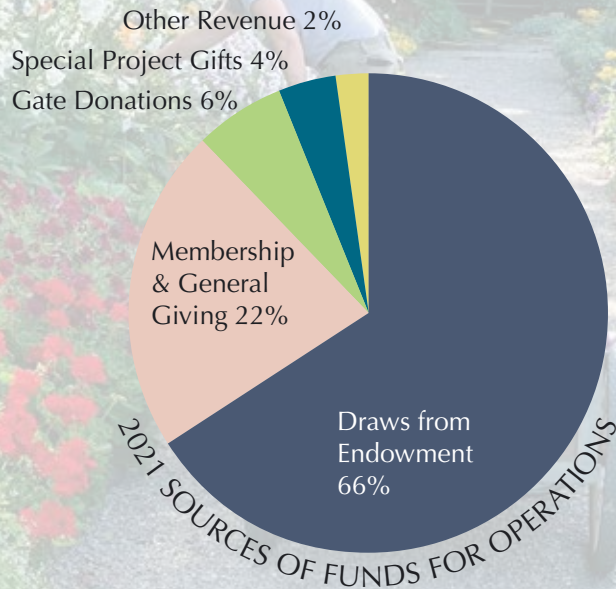
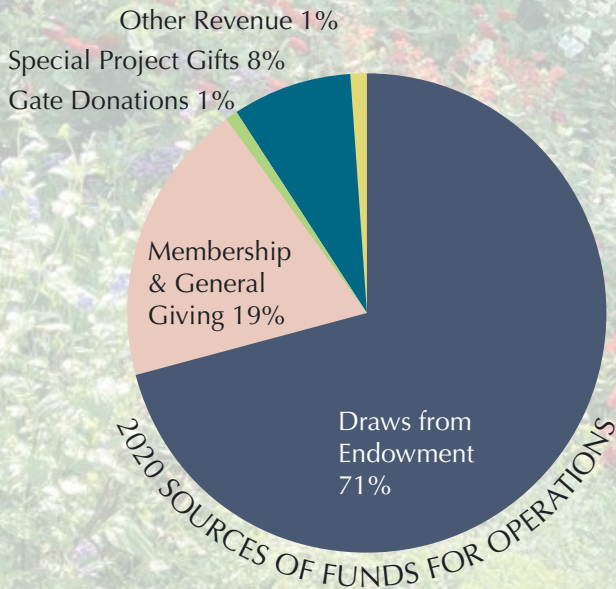
Joie, here with Whitney, keeps the people side of the Preserve running smoothly with her focus on human resources.



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

A lot is happening backstage

Beyond the lands and gardens, there is a group of people working to ensure that the Preserve raises adequate funds to support our operations and manages those funds properly. We are also dedicated to continuing to improve the experience of our supporters and visitors. We want our website to be intuitive so that it is easy to renew your membership, make a donation, reserve tickets at the Abby Garden, or simply find information. Our front line staff makes it their priority to make you feel welcome.



FRAMEWORK PLAN

In 2020, the Preserve initiated a long-range Framework Plan to unify us as one organization — operationally, spatially, culturally, and strategically. With a planning horizon of “Timeline Infinity,” the design team considered cultural influences, history, indigenous knowledge, visitation, the long-range impacts of climate change, and energy use. The resulting Framework aims to find balance in both preserving and sharing this beloved place, a tension inherent in our Mission:

To share the beauty of historic lands and gardens on Mount Desert Island.

The Framework team was led by the Preserve’s Facilities Committee, consulting with staff and board members, and working alongside local and national experts in design, architecture, engineering, coastal resilience, biology, ecology, botany, trails, and indigenous cultures.

The Framework Plan was completed in the fall of 2021. The Preserve’s Board approved undertaking Phase I projects recommended in the Framework Plan, some of which will be planned and executed during the next five years.

Objectives of the Framework Plan

UNIFY THE PRESERVE

while protecting the character of each unique landscape.

IMPROVE THE WORKPLACES

with modern infrastructure, safety, and increased capacity for a growing staff.

STEWARD & PRESERVE RESOURCES

by protecting fragile systems and reusing historic structures.

PLAN FOR LONG-RANGE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

by staying ahead of the curve on sea level rise.

MOVE TO FOSSIL-FUEL FREE OPERATIONS

with investments in non-vehicular modes of transit and green energy systems.

INCREASE INCLUSION

for those with limited mobility and actively include new communities.

DEFINE AND PROTECT THE EXPERIENCE

so the landscapes are not “loved to death.”

CREATE TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES

by designing more memorable and intuitive sequences.



PEOPLE OF THE PRESERVE

Kate, Jan, & Story at the 2021 Thuya Gathering.

Board of Directors

Sam McGee, Chair
Kate Macko, Vice Chair
Will Thorndike, Treasurer
Alan Baldwin*
Kate Baxter
Allison Bourke
Roc Caivano[†]
James Clark, Jr.
Jan Coates
Amy Falls
William Foulke**
Andrea Gilmore*
Sheldon Goldthwait
Neva Goodwin
Eileen Growald
Neil Houghton*
Martha Jackson
Ann Judd
Lauren Kogod
David MacDonald
C.W. Eliot Paine
Nancy Putnam[†]
Susan Rockefeller
Jim Sligar

Committee Members

Jessica Savage Anderson
Patricia Baldwin
Megan Bourke
Hannah Clark
Tanny Clark
Gifford Combs
Martha Dudman
Sam Eliot
William Foulke
Carol Fremont-Smith
Gerd Grace
Paul Haertel
Carolyn Hollenbeck
Phid Lawless
Julie Leisenring
Eric Lindquist
Story Litchfield
Maude March
Betsy Mills

Cliff Olson
Barbara Pierce
Polly Pierce
Vassar Pierce
Strandy Quesada
Kita Reece
Camilla Rockefeller
Eliza Rockefeller
Anne Savage
Gary Stellpflug
Caren Sturges
Larry Taylor
Rodman Ward

Staff

Codie Abbot
Equipment Operator
Maggie Andros
Finance & Administrative
Coordinator
Jason Ashur
Lead Groundskeeper - Thuya
Garden
Cassie Banning
Director of Farm & Gardens
Marissa Boynton**
Groundskeeper – Abby Garden
Jenn Bridgers
Administrative Coordinator
Grace Brown
Lead Gardener – Asticou Azalea
Garden & Plant Recorder
Tate Bushell
Director of Natural Lands
Whitney Ciacetta
Development & Communications
Coordinator
Erin Dilworth
Border Gardener – Abby Garden
Wendy Dolliver
Head Gardener – Thuya Garden
Rodney Eason
CEO
Sahra Gibson**
Land Steward
Ellen Gilmore**
Thuya Lodge Docent
Margaret Handville,
Woodland Gardener – Thuya
Garden
Jesse Hartson
Director of Facilities
Ed Hawes
Land Steward
Douglas Hopkins
Facilities Tradesperson
Katie Hughes**
Gardener – Abby Garden
Cathy Jewitt
Docent – Thuya Lodge
Ethan Klein
Maintenance Worker
Jon Knight
Manager of Abby Garden &
McAlpin Farm
Rick LeDuc
Thuya Garden Manager
Megan Libby*
Plant Nursery Assistant –
McAlpin Farm
Dave Ouellette
Land Steward
Cynthia Robbins
Gardener – Asticou Azalea Garden
Mary Roper
Asticou Azalea Garden Manager
Chris Stevenson
Director of Finance &
Administration
Kathryn Strand
Director of Development &
Communications
Joie Torsiello*
Benefits & Human Resources
Coordinator
Helen Townsend
Docent – Thuya Lodge
Larry Tozier
Equipment Operator
Jacob Wartell
Gardener – Asticou Azalea Garden
Bret Welch
Facilities Tradesperson

Greeters

Linda Thayer
Lead Greeter
Leza Colquhoun
Joan Furnari
MaryAnne Hinckley
Catherine Jewitt
Cynthia Ocel
Cora Olgyay
Kathy Olson
Jane Sanderson
Carol Shutt
Robert Thayer

Volunteers

Michael Bieber
Renate Bieber
Megan Bourke
Dana Crompton
Peter Fleisher
Dave Gilmore
Andrea Gilmore
Karen Greenberg
Ron Greenberg
Susan Harvey
Elaina Hawkins
Elsie Hawkins
Mike Hays
Doug Heden
Chris Heden
Ben Leizerman
Jim Linnane
Lili Pew
Betsy Roberts
Sid Salvatore
John Schertler
Duncan Schertler
Walker Schertler
Ruth Yamamoto
Bob Ware
Jim Webster
Wayne Wilson

*Joined in 2021 **Left in 2021 † In Memoriam

Nancy Putnam

1931 - 2020

A devoted board director and member of the Asticou Azalea Garden Committee, Nancy brought her generous, positive attitude to all her interactions. She and her husband George, who predeceased her, were dear friends of the Preserve who were quick to lend a kind word or a helping hand.

Photo courtesy of Jan Coates



Roc Caivano

1944 – 2021

Roc served joyfully and faithfully on the Preserve's board of directors and numerous committees for 17 years. He inspired and stimulated us with his dedication and creativity. Roc's spirit will live on in the Roc Caivano Artist-in-Residence program, a new initiative being developed at the Preserve.

Photo courtesy of Kate Macko



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

We are grateful to everyone who contributes to the Preserve. Donations from our members, donors, and visitors are vital to support our operations and special projects.

Gifts made to honor loved ones are especially heartwarming. Below is a list of those who gave tribute and memorial gifts in 2020 and 2021.

In honor of

Jessica Savage Anderson from Kelly Anderson
Julie Banzhaf from Katharine Banzhaf
Richard and Linda Barr from Joe Pikowski
Allison Bourke from the Greenwich Garden Club
Megan & Rick Bourke from Rebecca Mirsky
Eric & Mavis Brown from Matt and Joyce Brown
Casale Family from Ana Thompson
Our dog Casey from Diane Adlestein
Alida & Don Coates from Jan Coates
Charles Eliot from Benjamin Pierce
Gedeon & Luna from Heidi Nikiforov
Peter Godfrey from Lee & Peter Leach
Neva Goodwin from Aileen Katcher Surface
Ginelle Heller from Adam Fajardo
Cookie Horner from David & Susan Rockefeller
Caitlin Ivester from Brian Groendyke
Marlena Diane Roberts from Kimberly Kimball
Mary Roper from Rod & Susan Ward
Ruth K Sweetin from Liz Forminard
Hjordis & Ara Tourian from Maura Tourian
Jim Webster from Linda & Bob Thayer
Jim Webster, Kati Goraj, Rambo, & Rowdy
from Norbert & Christine Young
Kelly Zahn from Tracy Grieves

Project Grants

Curtis & Patricia Blake Foundation
Fore River Foundation
Garden Club of Mount Desert
Greve Foundation
Jamestown Charitable Foundation
State of Maine Recreational Trails Program

In memory of

Sylvia Abbot from Laurie & Stephen Koster
Carl Bowers from Jeri Bowers & Emily & Dan Burke
Roc Caivano from Isabel & John Anthony
Roc Caivano from Carrie & Rodney Eason
Daisy from Lowell & Hester Schnipper
Irene Fornal from Tracy Grieves
Margaret Godfrey from Peter Godfrey
Roy Kasindorf from Judith & Robert Gossart,
Heather Coates, & Lynn Glassman
David Keister from Megan Keister
David B. Keister from Ruth Anne Keister
Patricia Ann Gilley Linscott from Patricia Linscott
Connie Madeira from Marcia & DeWitt Sage
Paul Joseph Mullin from Kimberly Kimball
Catherine T. Novick from Michael Novick
Thomas F O'Connor from Niki Venugopal
Lisa Pardus from Tracy Grieves
Alan Post from Carol Post
David Rockefeller Sr. from Christopher Toomey
Richard Rockefeller from Stephen Koster
Ken Savage from Jessica & Chris Anderson
Ken Savage from Katie Hart
Dennis L. Smith from Karen Zimmerman
Rebecca "Becky" Smith from Donella Rapier
Rebecca Smith from Edward & Beverly Kirby
Daniel Suchan from Casey Kaemerer
Laura W from Allison Spadone
Mal Welles from the Garden Club of Mount Desert

All photos were taken by Preserve staff, except where indicated.

Erin snapped this photo of Rick harvesting pea brush for staking flowers in the gardens.



the preserve

PO Box 208, Seal Harbor, ME 04675

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