



# FIELDREPORT

Northeast Region • Spring-Fall 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Protecting Our Parks with Joy**

**(No) Fracking in the  
Delaware River**

**Join the Northeast  
Youth Advisory Council**

**Climate Change on Our Coast**

**Help Protect Acadia  
National Park**

**Stonewall's 5th Anniversary**

**Celebrating Wins for Parks**



# FIELD REPORT

SPRING-FALL 2021

## Northeast Regional Office

256 West 36th Street  
Floor 12

New York, NY 10018  
northeast@npca.org

### Joy Blackwood

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

### Lauren Cosgrove

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

### Sergio Moncada

PROGRAM MANAGER

### Timothy Leonard

PROGRAM MANAGER,  
OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## Headquarters

National Parks  
Conservation Association  
777 6th Street, NW • Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001-3723  
www.npca.org

## NPCA Membership Services Team

800.628.7275  
npca@npca.org

Design by  
kelleyalbertdesign.com



## Join the Northeast Youth Advisory Council

**N**PCA's northeast team is excited to announce the formation of a Northeast Youth Advisory Council to assist our program and advocacy work. Open to individuals aged 18-34, this group provides an opportunity for participants to more deeply engage with park issues on the ground and allow for greater involvement in NPCA's park protection work across the region.

Members of the Northeast Youth Advisory Council will be invited to advocacy trainings and issue briefings from NPCA staff on climate change, racial equity, climate change, accessibility, representation, and conservation, and learn how to help address these issues. Council members will contribute to the protection of these beloved parks through advocacy participation. Members of the Council will also assist NPCA staff in assessing specific programs, serve as an ambassador for NPCA to local communities, gather input and serve as liaisons with relevant partnering organizations, and more.

All individuals ages 18-34 are invited to apply who either reside or work in the northeast states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. There is no cost to apply and no fee for membership. If accepted, members will be asked to serve a two-year term with the possibility of extension. Overall participation in the Council, and its activities, is completely voluntary. This Council's establishment is made possible by a generous grant from Nature Valley.

We encourage park lovers throughout the northeast to apply for a spot on the Council; it promises to be a rewarding experience

with meaningful impacts towards protecting our beloved parks.

**Apply here:** [www.npca.org/nyac](http://www.npca.org/nyac)

For additional questions, please contact Timothy Leonard at [tleonard@npca.org](mailto:tleonard@npca.org).



**Cover:** Autumn in Acadia National Park ©Skyler Ewing | Dreamstime **Top:** Hanging out at Stonewall National Monument ©Cal Goodin **Above:** NPCA volunteers help our parks in all sorts of ways. ©Eric Miller **Below:** Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, CT is one of our region's newest NPS sites. ©Stan Tess | Alamy



## BECOME A MEMBER OF NPCA

**Help enhance and protect our national parks for future generations!**

Contact our membership department at [npca@npca.org](mailto:npca@npca.org) or join online at [npca.org/give/join](http://npca.org/give/join). To join NPCA by phone, call us at **1.800.NAT.PARK** (1.800.628.7275) between 9AM-5PM (ET), Monday-Friday



# Acadia National Park Needs Your Help!

**A**cadia National Park is a crown jewel of the National Park System, welcoming over three million visitors each year. Ranking as the 7th most visited national park in the nation, it's easy to see why so many people flock to Acadia and Bar Harbor, Maine. With expansive vistas, rich forests and pristine waters, Acadia National Park and Frenchman Bay serve as a refuge for many, a place to learn and explore our natural world and unique maritime history. But for thousands of residents, Acadia and Frenchman Bay also drive the local economy. From lobstering, clamming and fishing to small business owners, hospitality and eco-tourism groups, Acadia and Frenchman Bay are the center of a thriving and vibrant coastal community.

**Right:** Frenchman Bay's rich biodiversity has long supported the livelihoods of local lobstermen. ©Imiro | Dreamstime **Below:** View of islands in Frenchman Bay from Acadia National Park ©Pat & Chuck Blackley | Alamy



**But we need your help!** A Norwegian company, filled in the United States as American Aquafarms, Inc., a Norwegian-

based company, is proposing to build one of the world's largest industrial salmon farms in Frenchman Bay just 2,000 feet away from Acadia National Park. This massive project threatens the clean air, clean waters, dark night skies and marine and terrestrial wildlife that thrive in and around Acadia. It also presents a potential downfall to Maine's \$500 million lobster industry, not to mention the possibility of wide-spread environmental degradation to the Gulf of Maine and negative impacts to local residents' quality of life.

Since these two lease areas are a mere 2000 feet from the national park boundary, NPCA has been a vocal critic of the proposal. We ask that you join us in the fight to protect Acadia and Frenchman Bay. **Visit [www.frenchmanbayunited.org](http://www.frenchmanbayunited.org) to learn more and take action.** For more information, please contact Lauren Cosgrove at [lcogrove@npca.org](mailto:lcogrove@npca.org).





## Protecting Our Parks With Joy

**N**ational Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is thrilled to welcome **Joy Blackwood** as our new Senior Regional Director for the Northeast Regional office! Joy is a passionate leader who brings a strong background in strategic thinking, understanding of federal legislation and policy, and a dedicated commitment to serving communities in and around parks. Her recent positions include the Director of DC Strategy at People's Action Institute, Urban Refuge Program Director at the National Wildlife Refuge Association and longtime Program Director for the Green Group.



Originally hailing from West Bromwich, England, Joy is the first Black, British, immigrant female to reach Northeast Senior Regional Director, a distinction about which Joy has stated she is, “thrilled and honored.” Joy also brings a deep and unique lived experience to the northeast, having spent a great deal of time in New York City in her youth. Many of her family and friends still reside in New York—a city that Joy affectionately calls “my American hometown.”

We are excited for the incredible capacity that Joy brings to NPCA including her expertise in community and relationship

building. She has built community in a variety of sectors from AIDS service organizations to diverse environmental and conservation nonprofit organizations to public health and nursing associations. At the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA), she worked to highlight the importance of connecting people of color to the amazing urban refuges within the public lands system and the benefits, serenity and education that they bring—in addition to the recreational activities they provide, experiences that will serve Joy well at NPCA. Joy will bring a fresh approach and sharp analysis to thinking through and engaging new constituencies for NPCA’s northeast office.

Her depth of knowledge on federal legislation, existing relationships with U.S. House and Senate offices—and her avowed desire to “get her walking shoes back on and walk the halls of Congress”—will provide critical thinking and support for our legislative efforts in support of our beloved national parks. Ever since her days directing a

coalition of environmental, conservation and science based nonprofit executive leaders, Joy admired NPCA, in part due to the way NPCA threaded the goals of park protection and community engagement in a bipartisan fashion. NPCA’s northeast team is excited to have Joy join us in this work.

The breadth of Joy’s work experiences and her bright light have already endeared her to the Northeast team and we couldn’t be more thrilled to have Joy join our staff. Her addition will immensely expand our capacity, allow us to more effectively shape our northeast programs, open doors to new park advocates, and provide us with the strategic leadership that will transform our work for years to come.

Welcome, Joy!! We are so excited to have you here at NPCA!

If you would like to contact or meet with Joy, she can be reached via email at [jblackwood@npca.org](mailto:jblackwood@npca.org) or via phone at 917.699.6181.



**Left:** Joy Blackwood, Senior Northeast Regional Director of NPCA. ©NPCA **Above:** Joy with partners at Maine’s Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument ©Elaine Hendrickson

## Stonewall National Monument Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

**T**his past June, NPCA celebrated the fifth anniversary of Stonewall National Monument’s official designation, a site which remains the only national park unit solely dedicated to LGBTQ+ history and culture. We commemorated this milestone by hosting two events, a virtual trivia night and panel discussion, that highlighted LGBTQ+ history and explored the ways that LGBTQ+ folks can participate in

national park advocacy, especially when it comes to making parks more inclusive and welcoming for the LGBTQ+ community. Both events featured environmental activist and performer Pattie Gonia, and our panel consisted of speakers from several organizations including Pride Outside, The Venture Out Project, Gaze at the National Parks podcast, the National Park Service and more. With several hundred participants across both events,

we look forward to harnessing the energy and enthusiasm displayed by attendees to identify steps that NPCA and our advocates can take to make our park system more inclusive.

To learn more about NPCA’s work to increase LGBTQ+ visibility in our national parks and receive updates, please visit <https://www.npcap.org/resources/3363-preserving-lgbtq-history>

# Celebrating Wins for Parks!

*NPCA continues to celebrate three recent legislative victories since the publication of our last Field Report. We couldn't have achieved these successes without the hard work of our NPCA members, supporters, and advocates as well as the leadership from our Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill.*



## GAOA

### Great American Outdoors Act

In August 2020, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act, a historic bill that authorized billions of dollars to fund critical park maintenance needs and conserve vulnerable lands; the legislation will protect more than 30 parks from incompatible residential and commercial development, as well as fund 50 critical maintenance projects that will benefit dozens of parks across the country.

**Left:** Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, NJ  
©Timothy Leonard



## AVRO

### Accelerated Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act

This bill recognizes the immense value that America's national parks provide for healing and recreation for veterans in the outdoors. The bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force who will recommend actions that increase the use of public lands and other outdoor spaces for veterans' health and wellness.

**Left:** NPCA completed a trail maintenance project with The Nature Conservancy, veterans, Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community and NY's MTA Metro-North for National Trails Day. ©Charles Flores



## WRDA

### Water Resources Development Act

This legislation authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform significant work on projects affecting park lands. The bill removed barriers to restoring and protecting natural features in these projects, making it easier to prioritize sand dunes, wetlands, barrier islands and coastal forests over human-built projects, which will benefit park ecosystems. The bill also prioritizes ways to protect economically disadvantaged communities from flooding, hurricanes and intense storms.

**Left:** Fisherman at Race Point Beach, Cape Cod. ©Cape Cod National Seashore | ©Rolf52 | Dreamstime

## Farewell

This fall we said farewell to Northeast Regional Director of Development **Molly Galvin**. Molly departs NPCA with an incredible legacy of helping our parks and building a community of supporters who deeply care about our public lands. We'll miss you, Molly!

**Right:** Molly Galvin ©Timothy Leonard





# No Fracking in the Delaware River

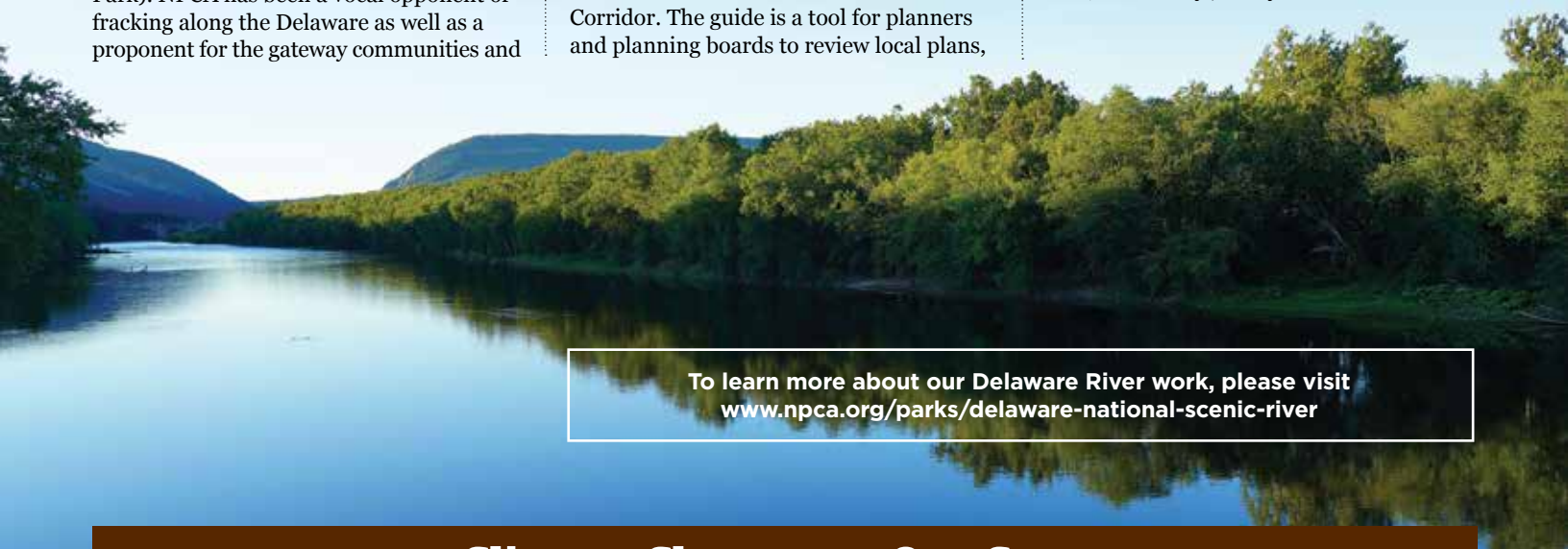
In March 2021, NPCA celebrated a significant victory when the Delaware River Basin Commission (comprised of representatives from the states of DE, NJ, NY and PA as well as the federal government) voted to permanently ban gas fracking along the entire Delaware River watershed. The Delaware, which flows from its headwaters in NY state through NJ and PA to the Atlantic Ocean at Delaware Bay, provides drinking water for 13+ million people, including the NYC and Philadelphia metro areas and provides recreational opportunities for visitors to three national parks (Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and First State National Historical Park). NPCA has been a vocal opponent of fracking along the Delaware as well as a proponent for the gateway communities and

businesses adjacent to the parks in sustaining their local economies. Northeast NPCA Program Manager Sergio Moncada stated that, “Fracking puts the watershed at risk of pollution. With this ban, we can ensure that the river will be protected for generations to come to enjoy rafting, fishing, and swimming in addition to the preservation of clean drinking water for millions.”

This victory was years in the making; NPCA has been actively engaged in preserving the Delaware River. Over the past year, NPCA has collaborated with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) to update a guide for the 15 towns/townships that make up the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor. The guide is a tool for planners and planning boards to review local plans,

laws, and proposed development projects that could potentially impact the highly valued aesthetic character of the River Corridor. First published in 1988 and revised in 2020, the guide outlines the process for this review and provides resources for its undertaking. As early 2020 rolled in, it was the intention of NPCA, NPS, and UDC to update the guide and conduct a series of in-person rollout lectures/presentations throughout the River Corridor but COVID brought about restrictions on gatherings and NPCA saw this as an opportunity to generate a series of web-based videos that can serve as a resource.

**Below:** Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, NJ ©EGRoy | Alamy



To learn more about our Delaware River work, please visit [www.npca.org/parks/delaware-national-scenic-river](http://www.npca.org/parks/delaware-national-scenic-river)

## Climate Change on Our Coast

NPCA continues to work to protect national parks and communities from the causes and detrimental effects of climate change. From the halls of Congress to the courtroom, we fight to ensure our nation’s bedrock environmental laws are strong and hold polluters and the government accountable to those safeguards. We also advocate for place-based climate policies and best practices that value the needs of vulnerable populations as we seek to ensure our national parks endure.

Here in the Northeast, our team has been working to understand the greatest climate threats to 13 coastal national parks from Maine to New Jersey. Through this research, we have come to understand underlying themes that connect these parks in both the challenges they face and opportunities they

present to tackle the climate crisis. Hot off the presses, NPCA’s Northeast office has released three climate field reports for 1) barrier national parks, 2) harbor national parks and 3) Acadia National Park. For questions

or to request a copy of the northeast climate field reports, please contact Lauren Cosgrove at [lcosgrove@npca.org](mailto:lcosgrove@npca.org). To join us in the fight against climate change, please visit [npca.org/reports/climate-impacts](http://npca.org/reports/climate-impacts).

