



Troy & Tamisha: Year One of Marriage







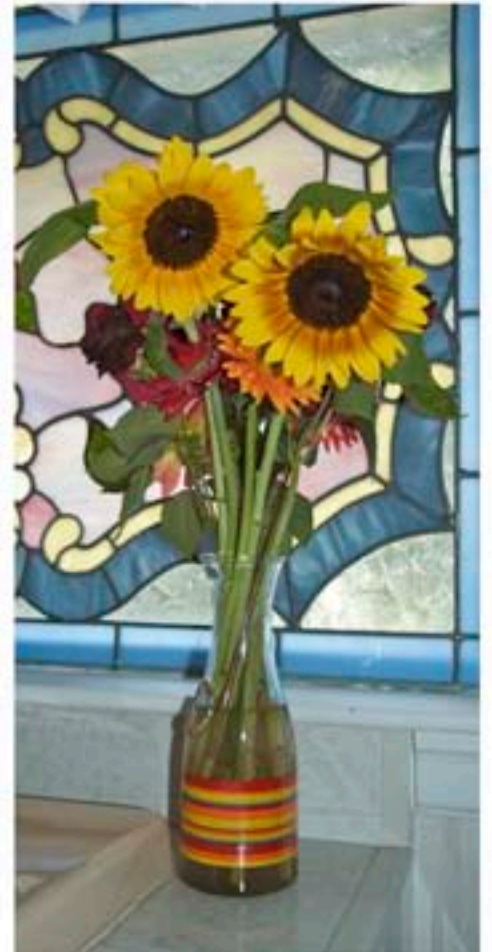
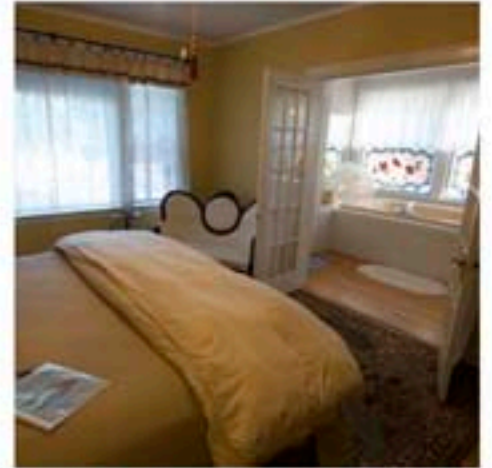
# Honeymoon

Heathwood Inn B&B - Eden Suite  
Bar Harbor, Maine - August 11-19, 2007

Because of summer school and classes, we waited until August to go on our honeymoon.

Our first trip together had been to Acadia National Park and we both had a great time, but unfortunately, we were only able to stay there for a few days. So we decided returning to Acadia would be a great place for our honeymoon. We don't take relaxing vacations and this was no exception. We would spend a week at Acadia hiking, biking, and kayaking.

When we arrived, the room was even nicer than in the photographs on the website, and the welcome flowers I had ordered to surprise Tamisha were bright, cheerful, and waiting for us next to the jacuzzi.



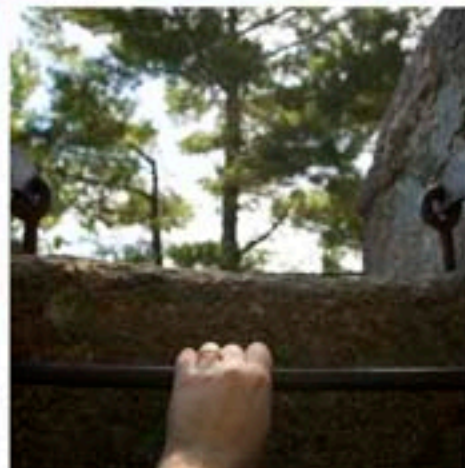
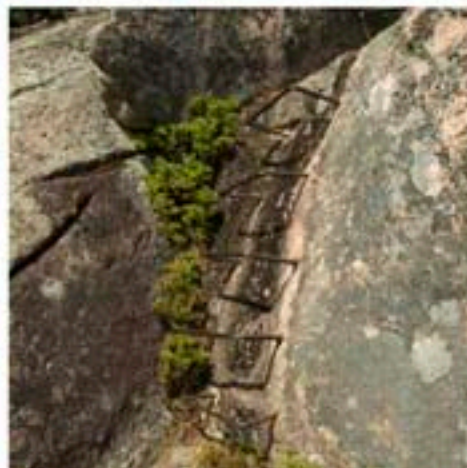
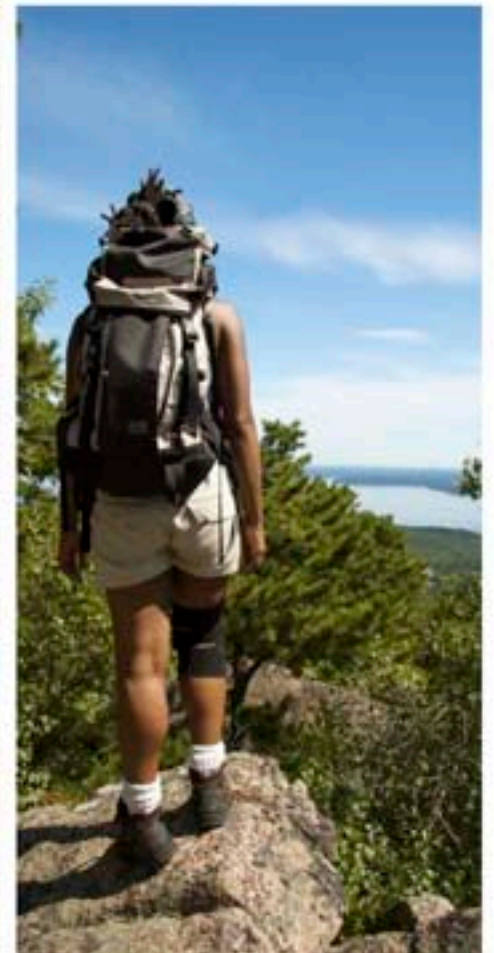
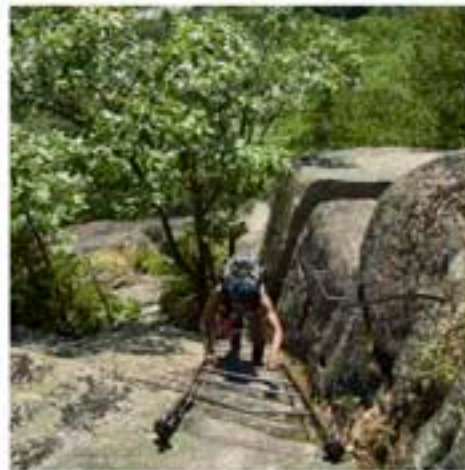
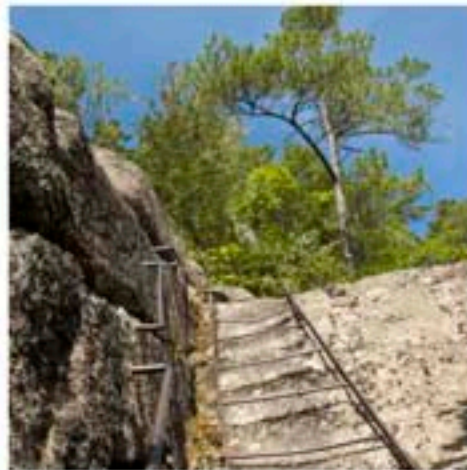
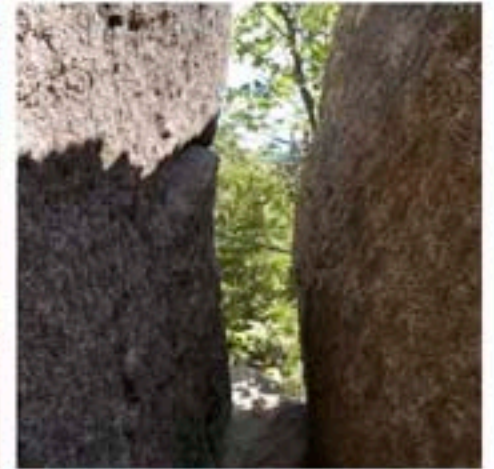
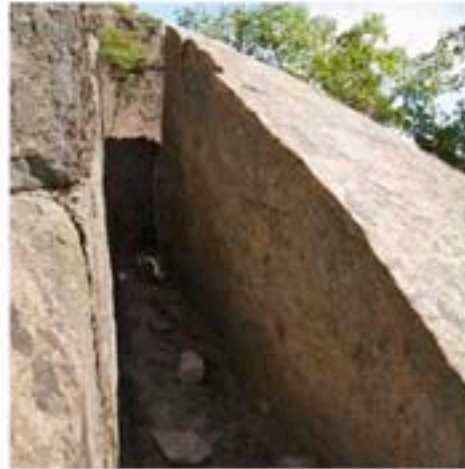
# Acadia: Day 1

Acadia National Park - August 12, 2007

We started the day with fresh baked goods, blueberry crumble something or other, fruit, juices, and sausage strata. We could tell we picked a good B&B already.

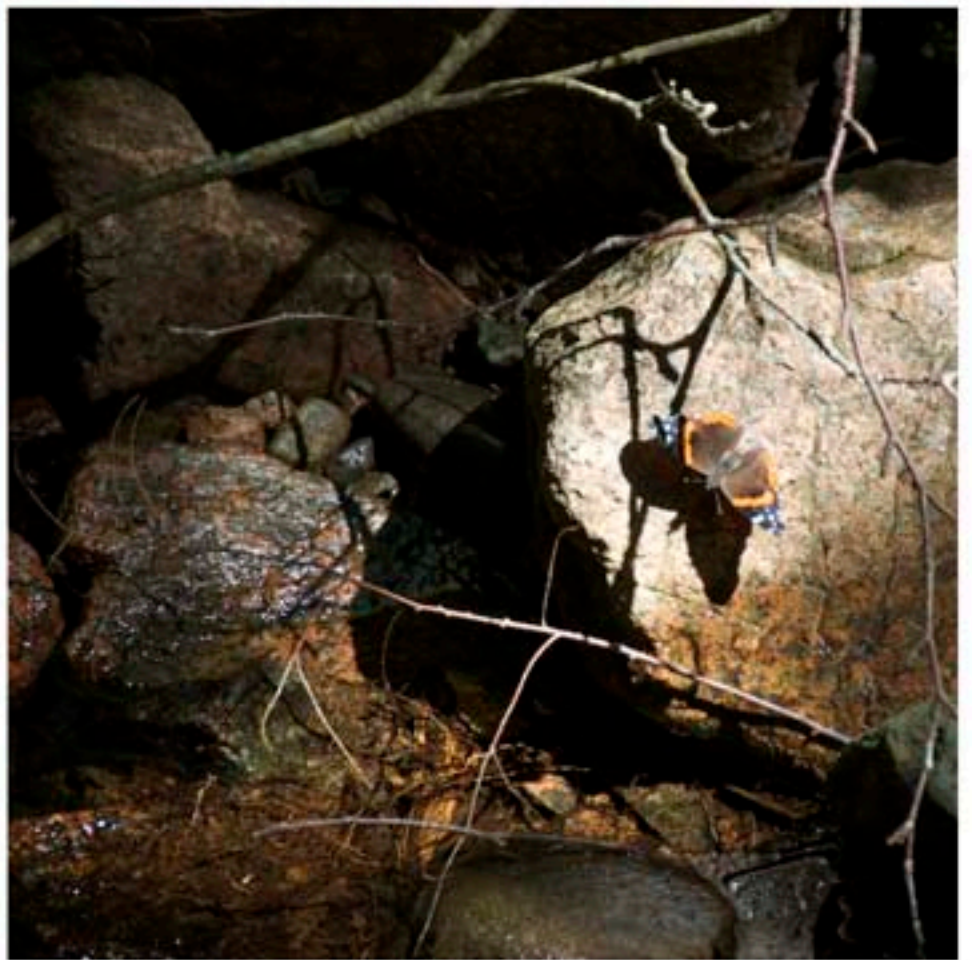
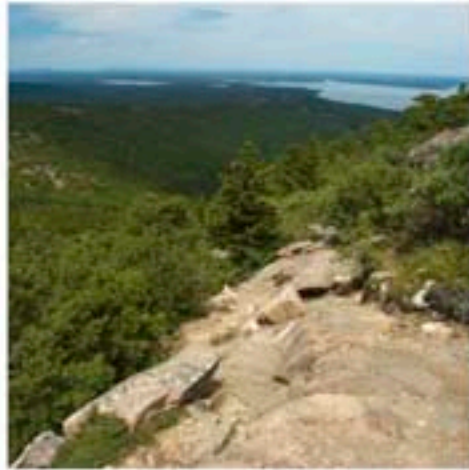
Our first hike of the trip began with the Ladder Trail up Dorr Mountain. As you can see, the path wove through tight spaces and involved old iron ladders up the face of the mountain. From there, we headed down the mountain to the Gorge trail and then back to the car via the Tarn trail.

That night, for the two year anniversary of our first date, we had dinner at the Deck House, a restaurant and cabaret theater with the theme of a tribute to the movies.

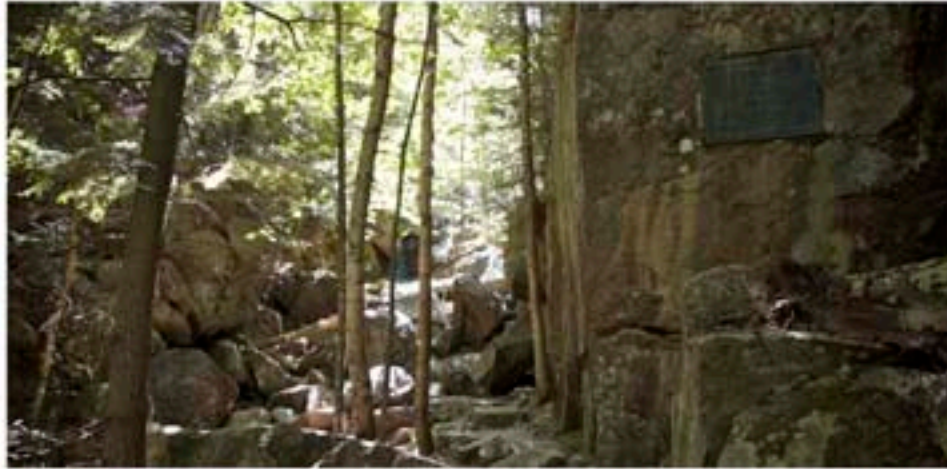


# Dorr Mountain



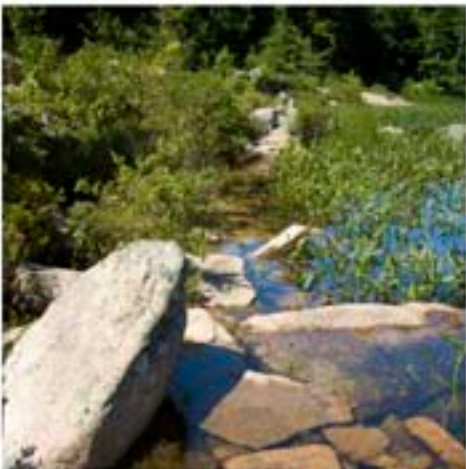






The final stretch back to our car was the Tarn trail which is right along the edge of "The Tarn", a long pond. It's basically a trail formed from all of the rocks that have fallen from Dorr Mountain.

At one point, the trail was under water. It wasn't deep, but the thought of trying to balance on moss covered wet granite next to a large body of water didn't seem like the smartest route, so we climbed over some larger rocks to go around instead.



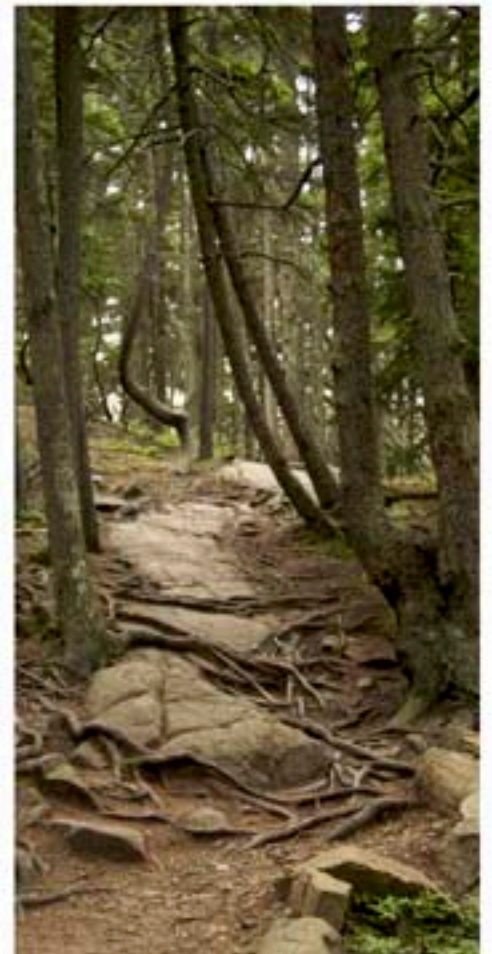
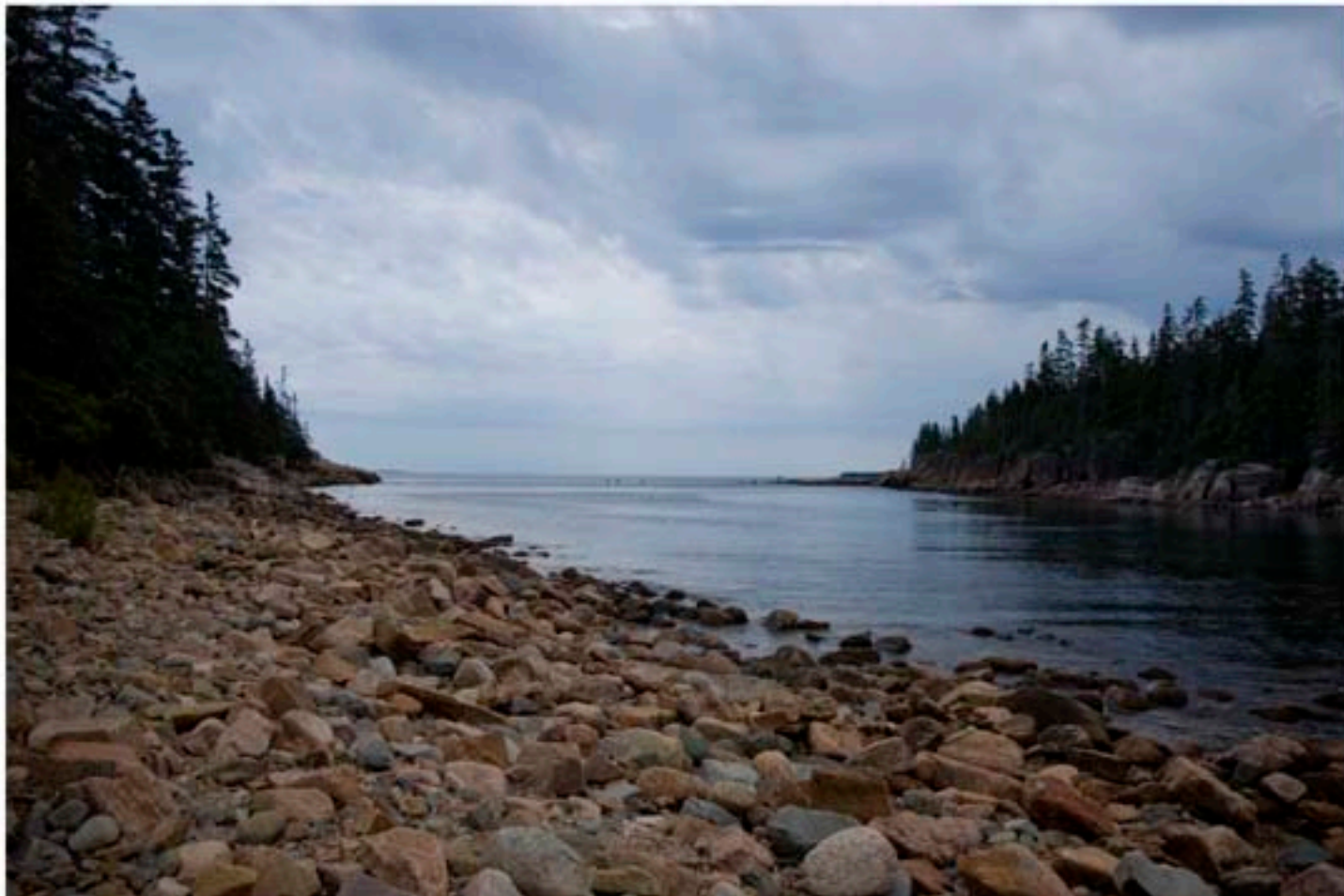
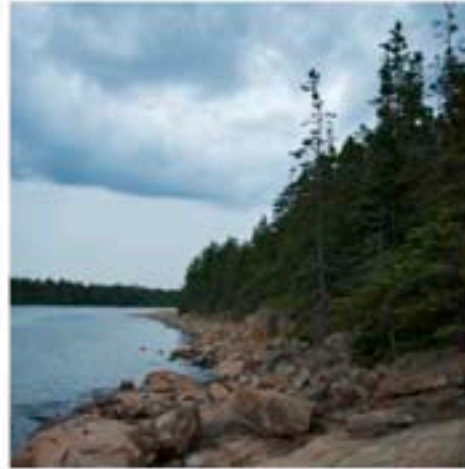
# Acadia: Day 2

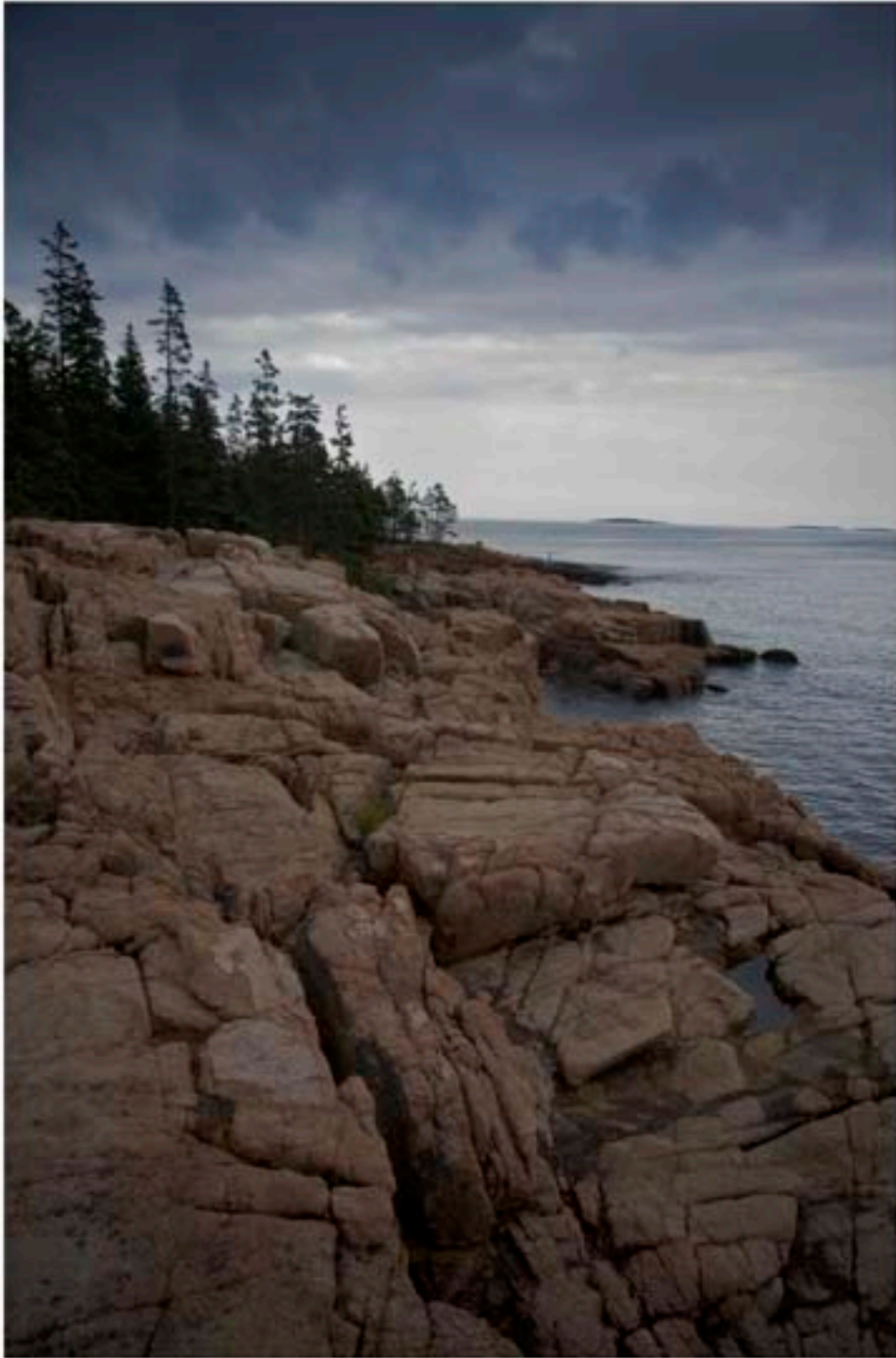
Acadia National Park - August 13, 2007

Karen, our host, made scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes with homemade blueberry syrup, and strawberry coffee cake for breakfast.

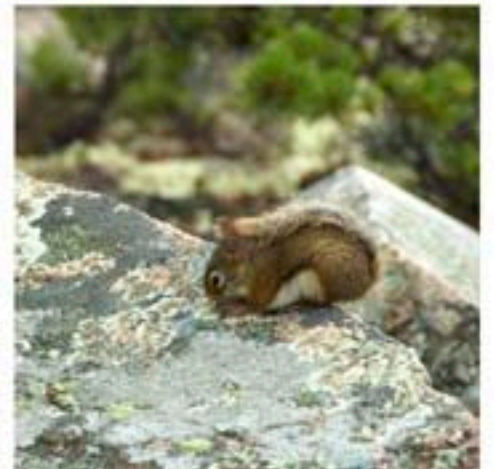
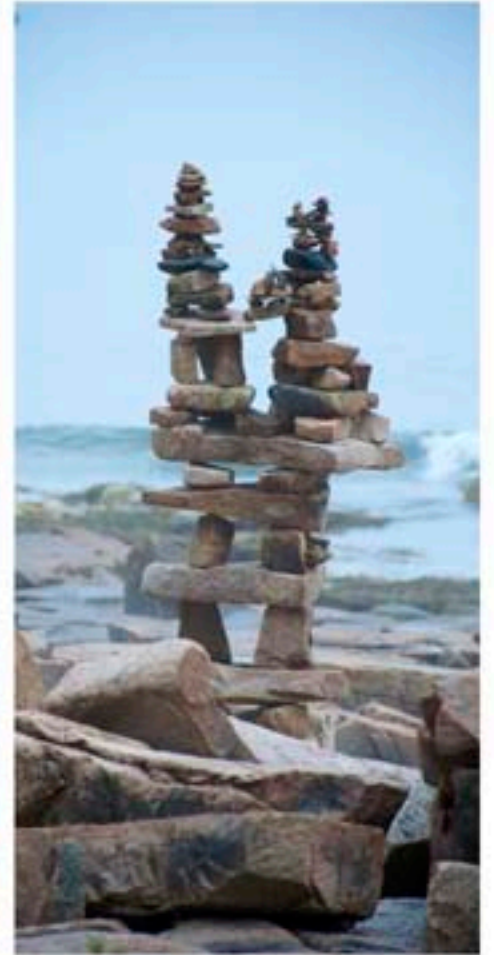
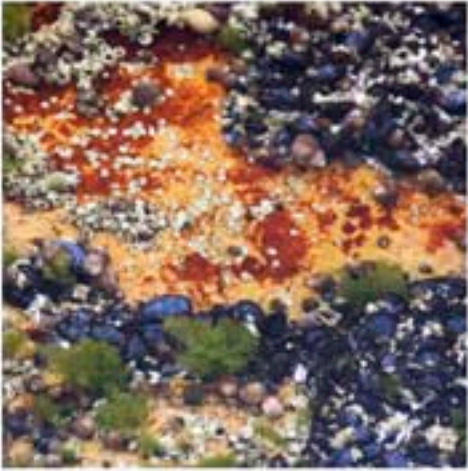
After tracking down a battery charger for my camera, we decided on the easy Ship Harbor trail. When it started to rain, we got lunch and headed to the Wonderland trail in the fog.

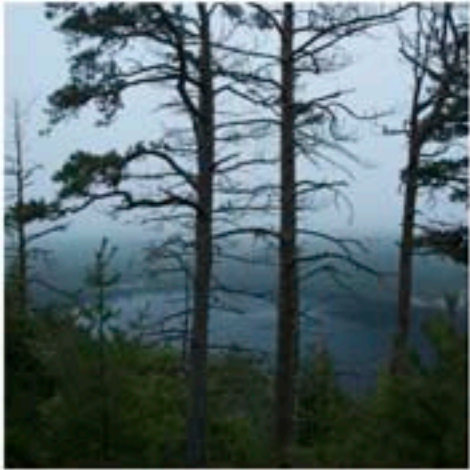
That evening, we made the poor choice of hiking up Beech Mountain. We ended the day on a much better note, though, relaxing in the jacuzzi with champagne and the blueberry pie we got on the way home at the Quiet Side Cafe & Ice Cream Shop.







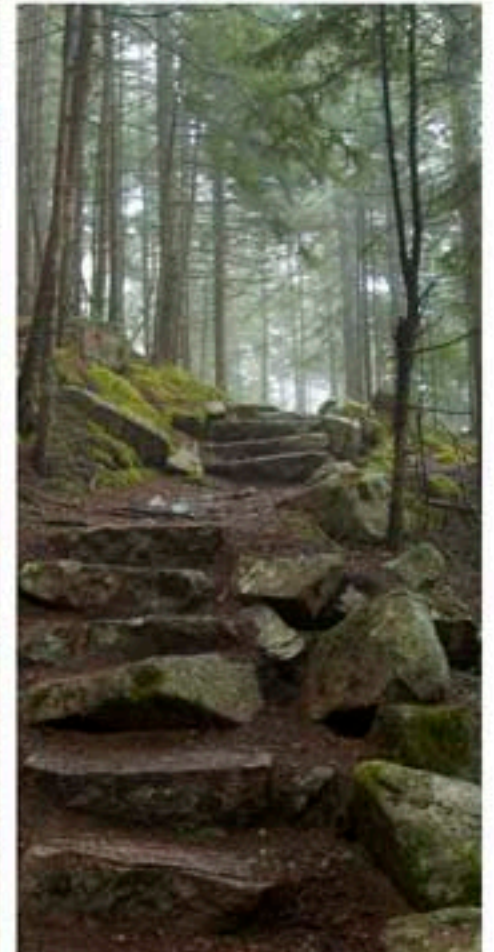




West Ridge trail started out very nice. Little bridges over streams in a moss covered forest. And then it started raining. And we were climbing up wet granite on the face of a mountain. And Tamisha thought she heard bears growling. Luckily, we made it to the top of the Beech Mountain and were very relieved.

The South Ridge trail back made the trip worth it. The ground was covered in moss, there were old rock steps, tall pine trees, and everything was cloaked in fog making the experience surreal.

We made it back to the car and were rewarded with an amazing view of Long Pond.





Long Pond

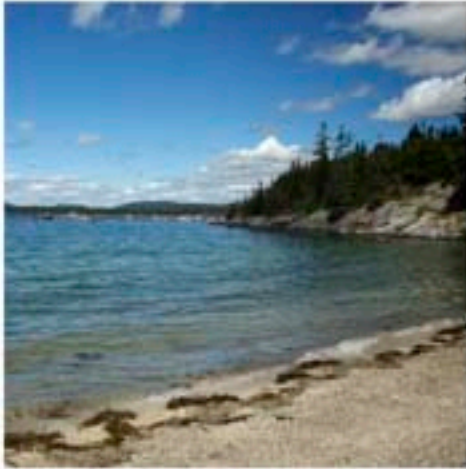
# Acadia: Day 3

Acadia National Park - August 14, 2007

We started with hot egg and cheese dish, yogurt cups with fruit and cereal, and assorted baked goods for breakfast. Then kayaking.



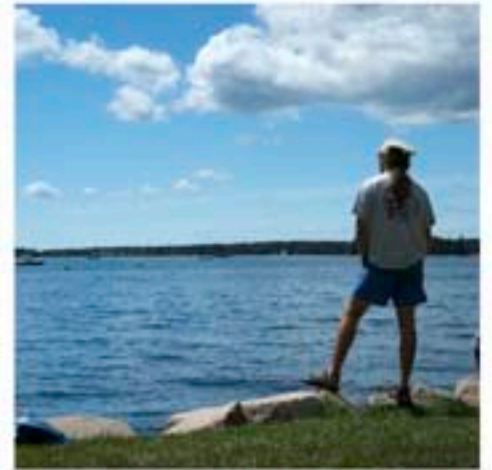




We had signed up for a full day kayaking tour at Coastal Kayaking Tours. Tamisha had been kayaking but I hadn't so it was interesting. Our guide was Rob. He had long hair and wore a bandana so I had faith he had experience kayaking.

At 10:00 we left Seal Harbor, and reached Islesford, Little Cranberry Island around noon. We got back around 4:15pm, went to dinner, and were in bed and exhausted by 7:00.

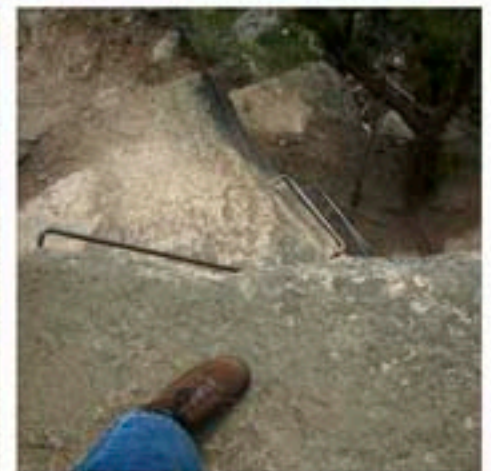
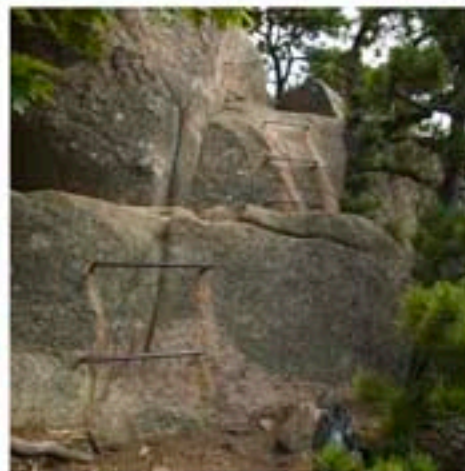
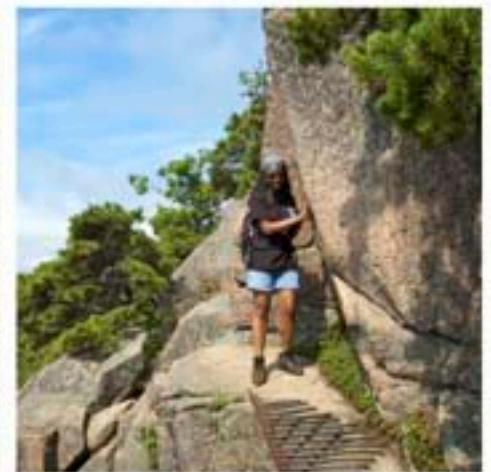
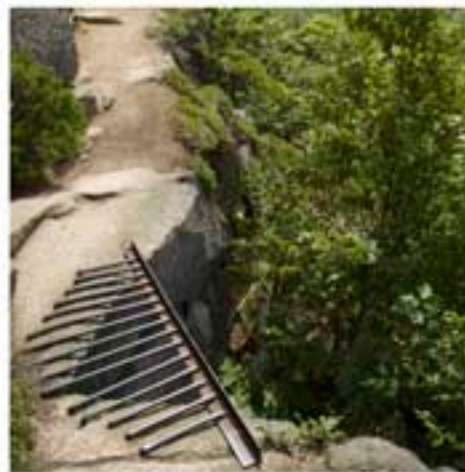
We had gone over 10 miles. Our arms would take a while to recover.

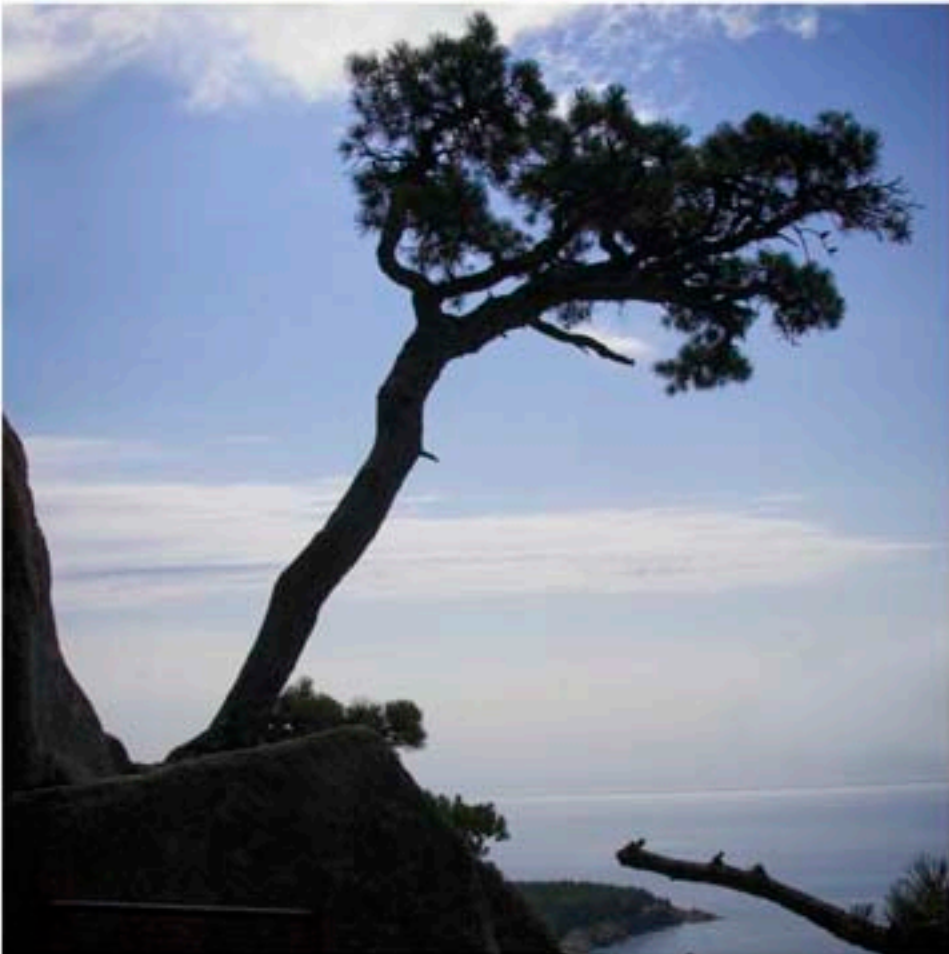
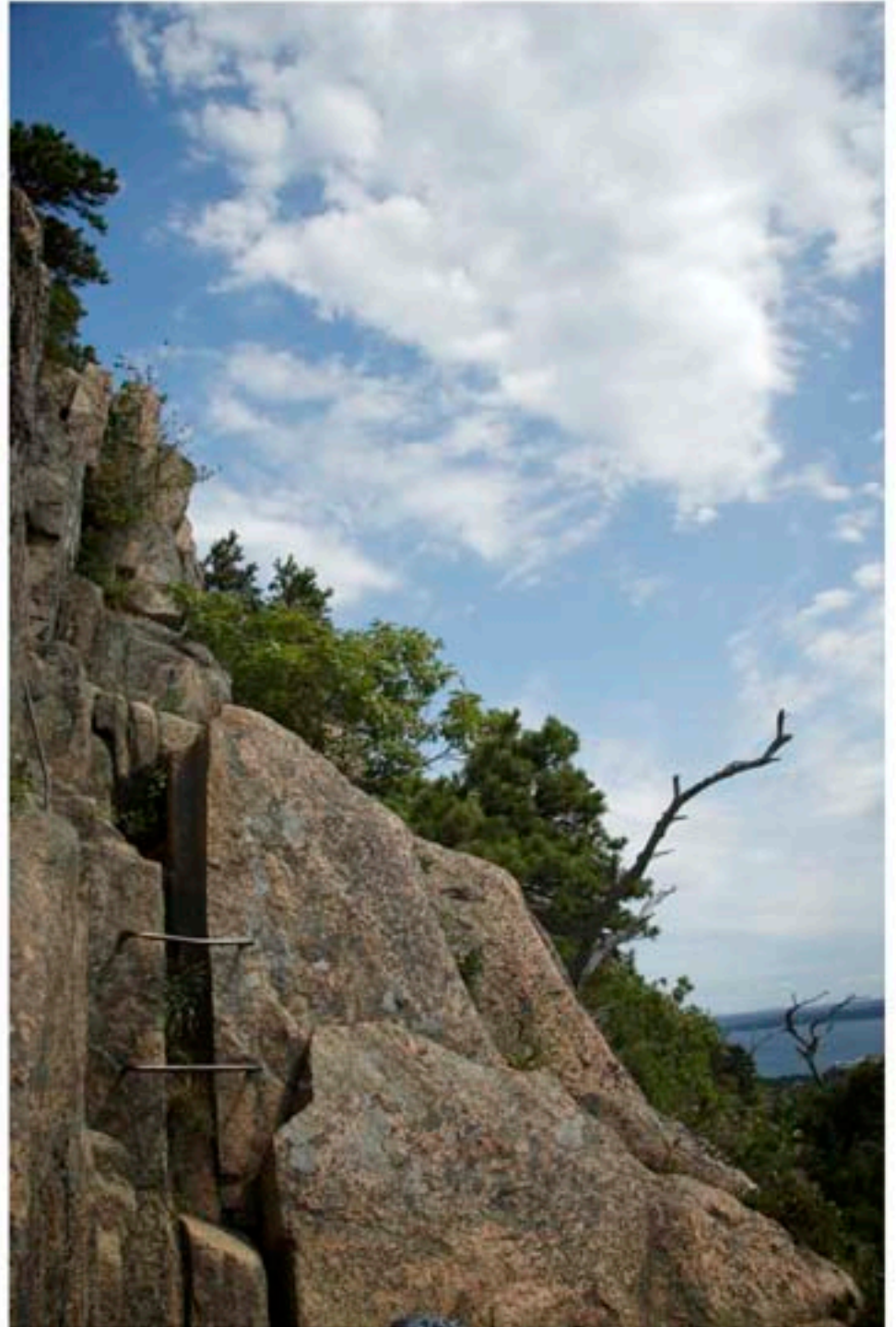


# Acadia: Day 4

Acadia National Park - August 15, 2007

After our breakfast of bran muffins, individual egg and multi cheese dishes and grapes, we headed back to Acadia and the Beehive Trail.







After making our way down from the Beehive, we hiked to the Bowl, a lake in the middle of the mountains. Next we took the Gorham Mountain trail through a valley and up Gorham Mountain which had a great view of the Beehive.





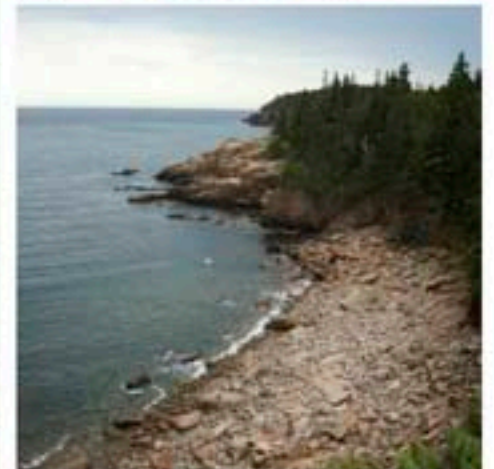
The Beehive



On our way down Gorham, it started to rain again, but luckily, it was very light and didn't last long. Eventually, we made it to the bottom of the mountain and walked back on the Ocean Path along the edge of the Park Loop Road. For lunch we went back to Geddy's for pizza.

We'd been waiting for Wednesday for a few days because that was when the pie lady opened up her shop. So on the way home, we got a strawberry rhubarb pie.

Although we weren't very hungry after our pie, we did go back into Bar Harbor that night for Thai food.



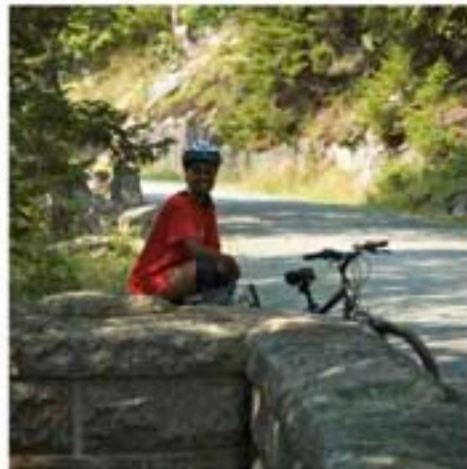
# Acadia: Day 5

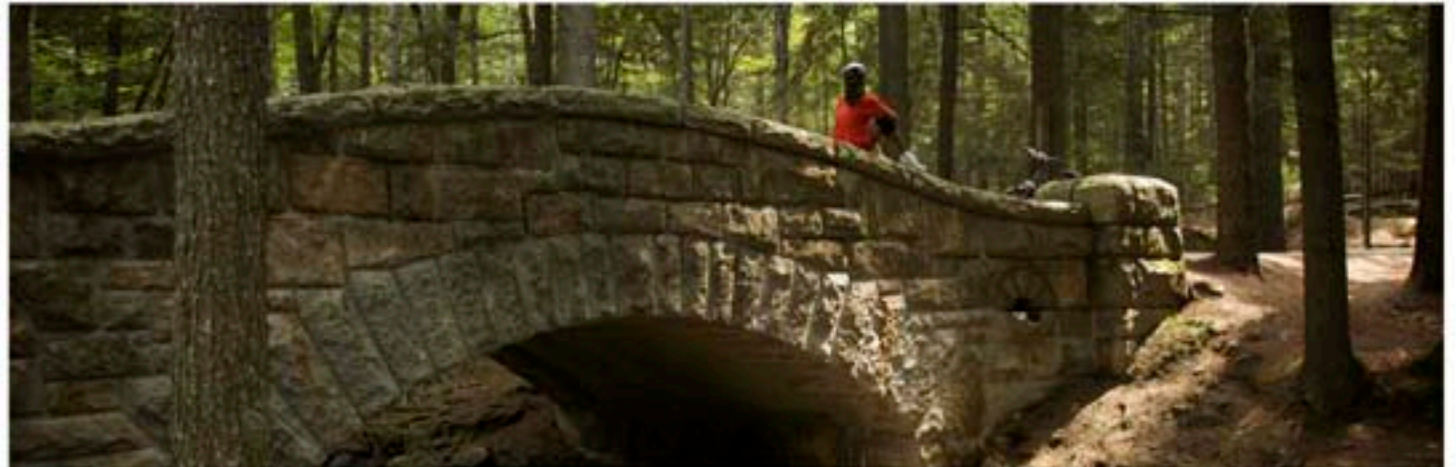
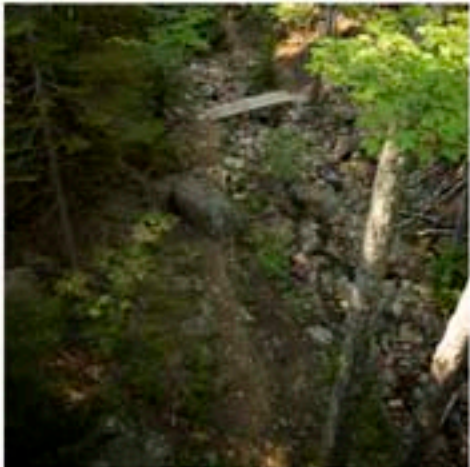
Acadia National Park - August 16, 2007

Peaches and Cream French Toast was how we started our Thursday. The peaches weren't a topping, they were baked in a pan of French Toast pieces. Excellent.

This was our first bike ride of the trip, and we set out to explore the carriage roads in the park and see some more of the stone bridges built by the Rockefeller's. We quickly learned that we needed to be in much better shape to get very far. Exhausted, we went to the Jordan Pond Restaurant and walked around the pond.

That evening, we went to the only Chinese restaurant on the island, China Joy, and had their flaming appetizer sampler. "Fire? Why yes!"



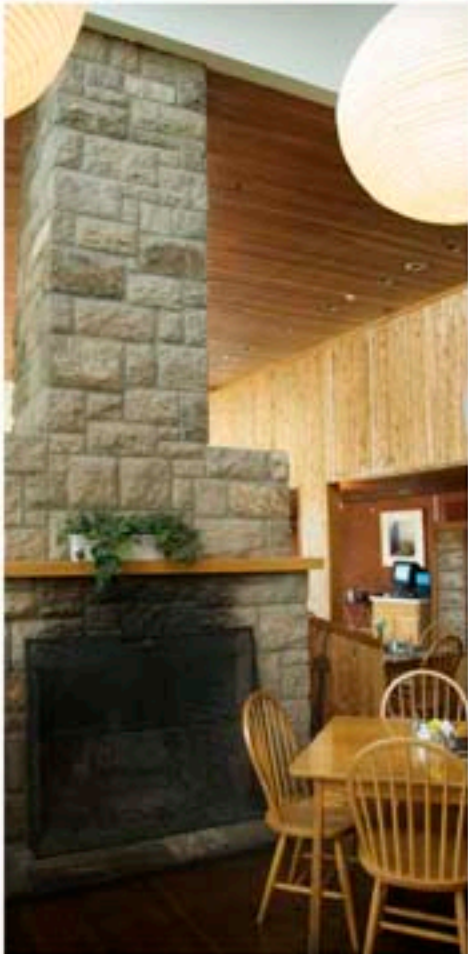


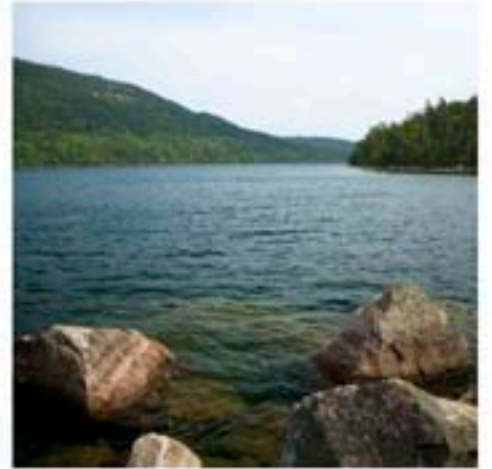


## Jordan Pond

After our bike ride, we went to the Jordan Pond House for lunch and their traditional popovers. It was great.

Afterwards, we wandered around the grounds, and then walked the three mile Jordan Pond Trail around the pond.





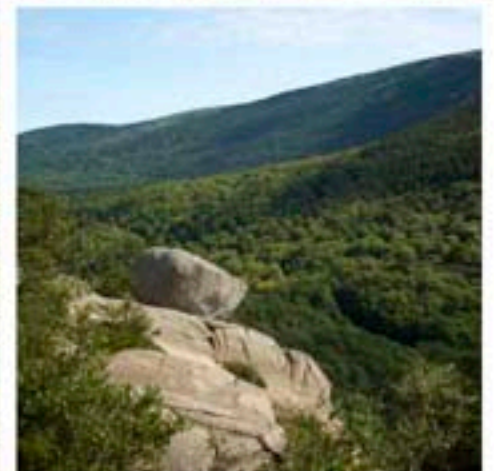
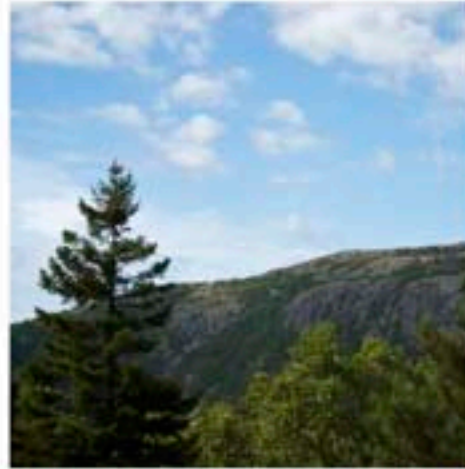


# Acadia: Day 6

Acadia National Park - August 17, 2007

It was a full day. After waffles with fresh blueberry topping, we headed out for another hike to North and South Bubble. Our hike was followed by an amazing open air biplane ride over the island, and then a bike ride.

That evening, we drove up to the top of Cadillac Mountain, the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard to watch the sunset. After all the colors had disappeared, we headed down to Bar Harbor for our reservations at Poor Boy's Gourmet. We were sitting outside on a 2nd floor porch overlooking the street but it was still comfortable out. The food was amazing, and we regretted being too full to try some of the huge desserts we saw passing us.





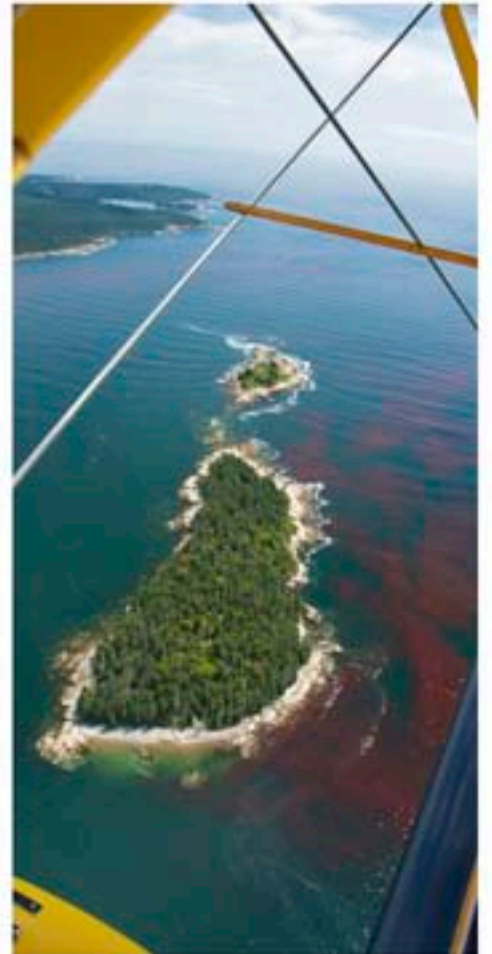
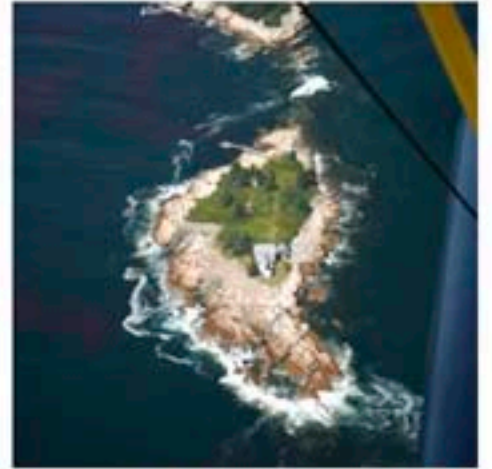
# Scenic Biplane & Glider Rides Over Bar Harbor



We arrived at Scenic Biplane & Glider Rides Over Bar Harbor early to sign the "Crash and Burn Form" and headed out with our pilot Phil. We were in a WACO N7020L which is an open air biplane that was built in 1935. Tamisha and I sat in front under the wings and Phil sat behind us. We all had headsets so we could talk to each other. Since it was designed for a pilot and copilot, things in our cockpit moved but we had to promise not to touch them...

I'm glad we had waited to do this towards the end of our week there since we could see all of the places we'd been during the week. It was an amazing trip, and the shortest 40 minutes of my life.





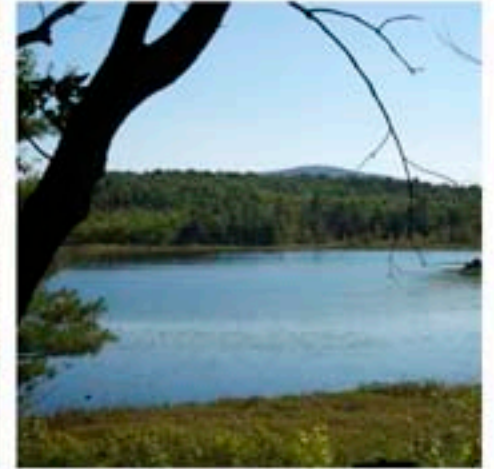
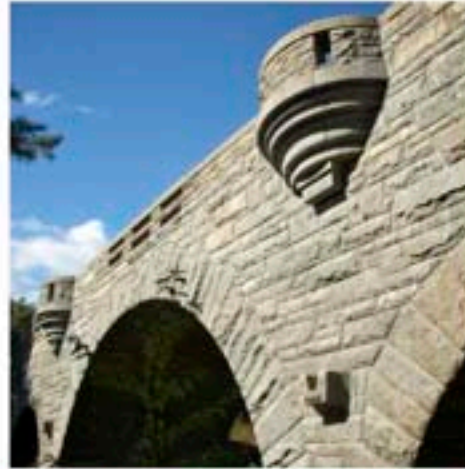








For our second bike ride, we tried the Witch Hole Pond loop. This was still part of the carriage trail system, but it was a much easier ride and we felt much better about ourselves when we completed the loop than the day before.





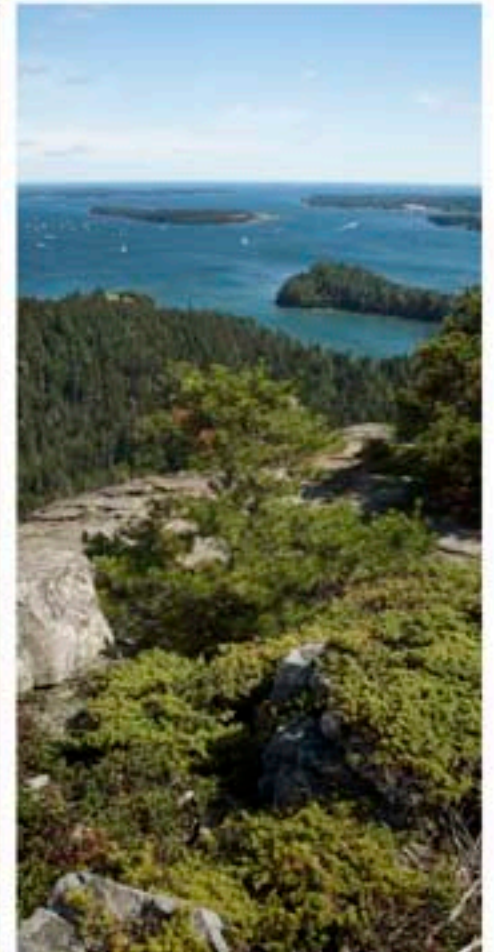
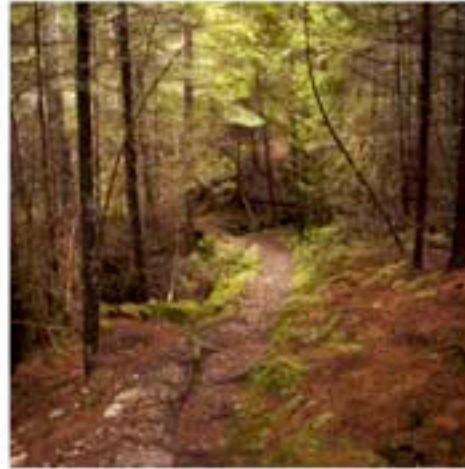
Cadillac Mountain

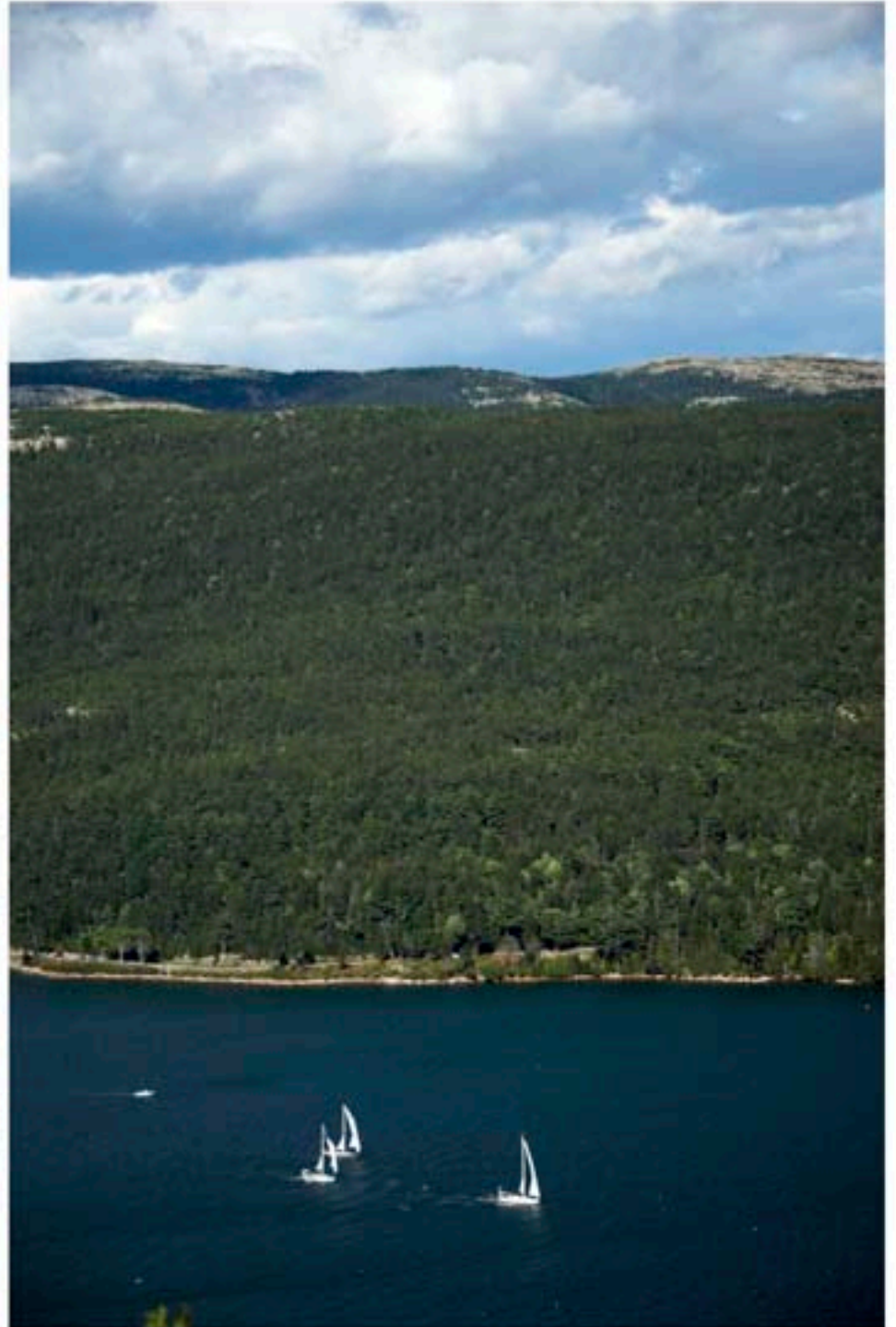
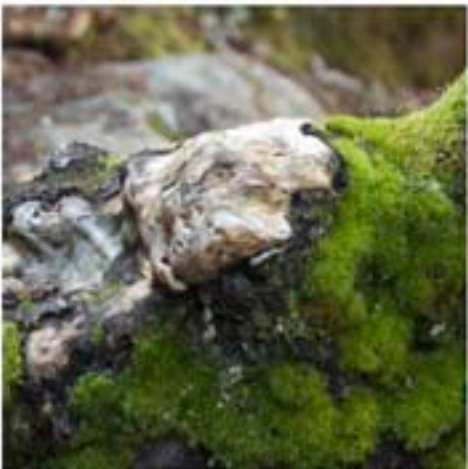
# Acadia: Day 7

Acadia National Park - August 18, 2007

Saturday, our last day in Acadia, it rained. After a relaxing morning, though, it started to clear up so we decided to go on one final hike. We decided on a moderate trail that was about four miles long and hit three peaks: Valley Peak, St. Sauveur Mountain, and Flying Mountain. That would make a total of ten peaks this week and a nice round number. It was tough, but we made it.

After a long week of hiking, kayaking, and biking we were very sore, and when we got back from the last hike of our honeymoon, we enjoyed our jacuzzi one last time.

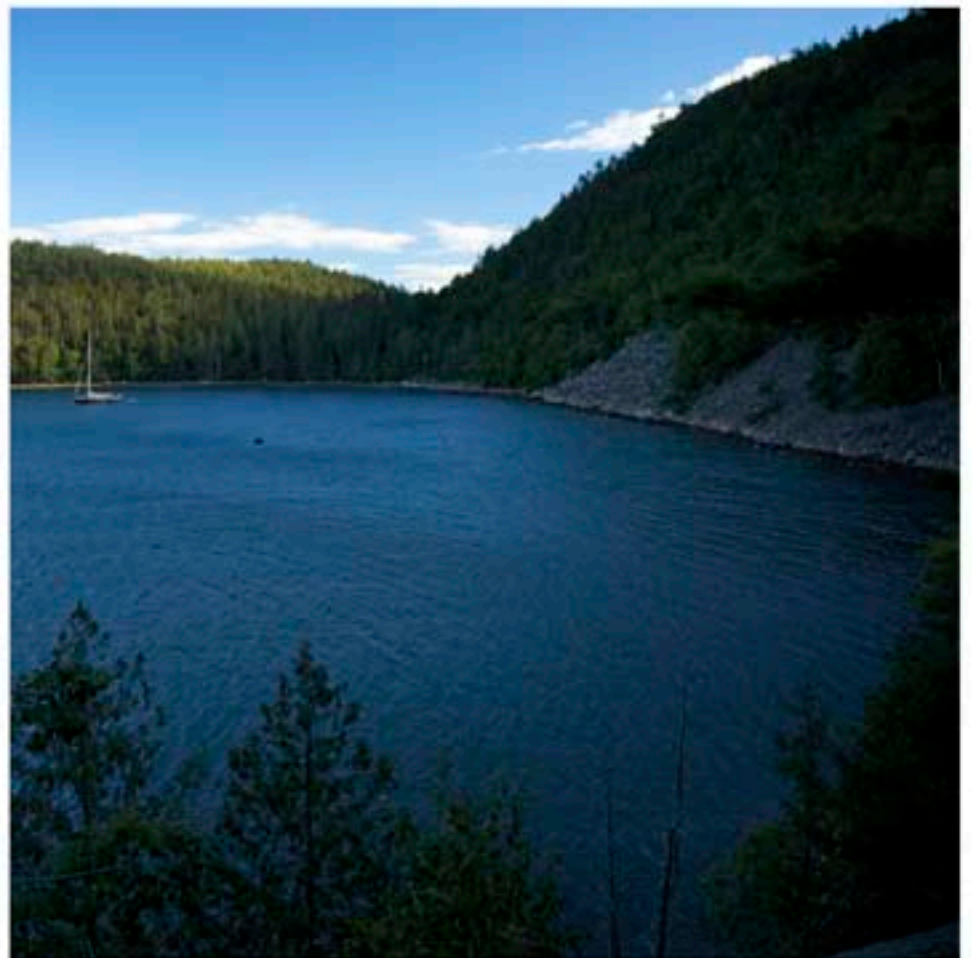
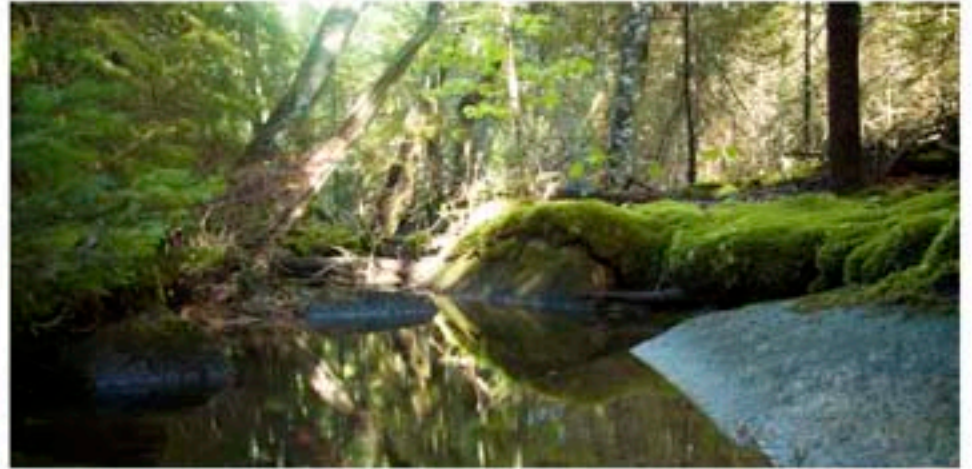




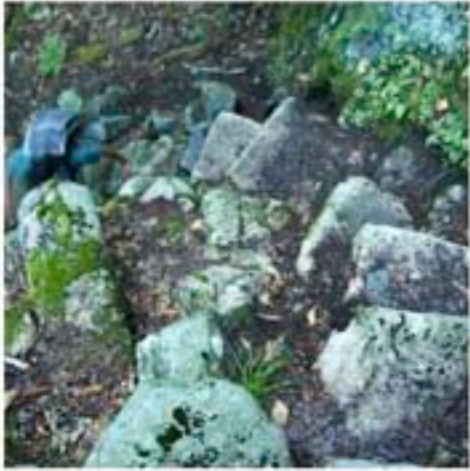


# Rocky Cliff Path



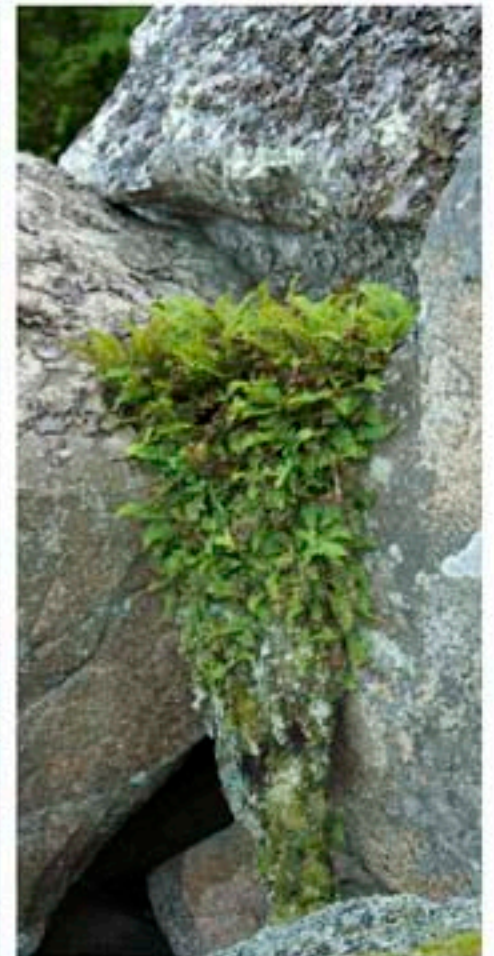
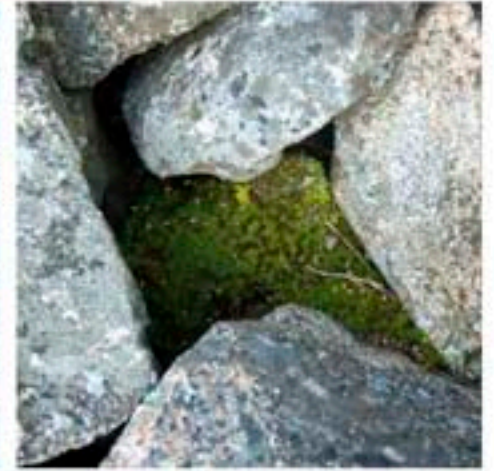






When we got to the cove, the path went from a 4" wide trail walking above the large pointy rocks to balancing and hiking through them.

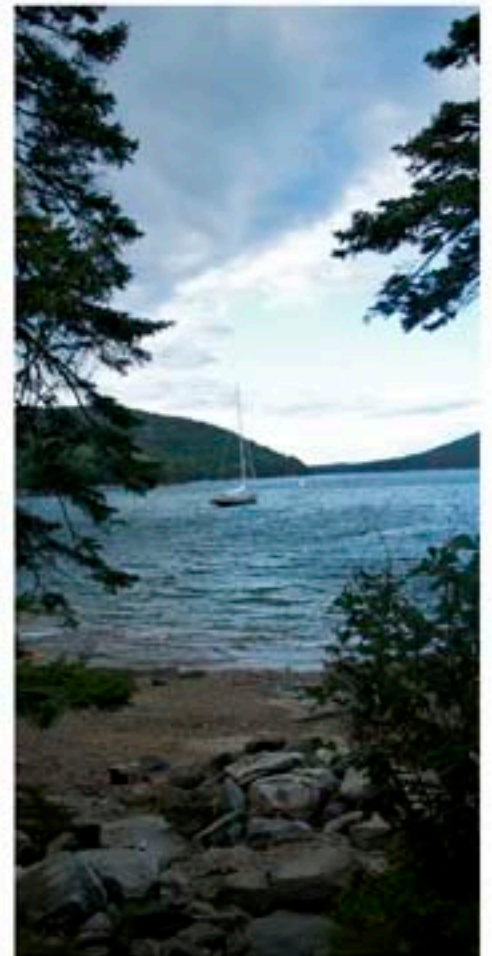
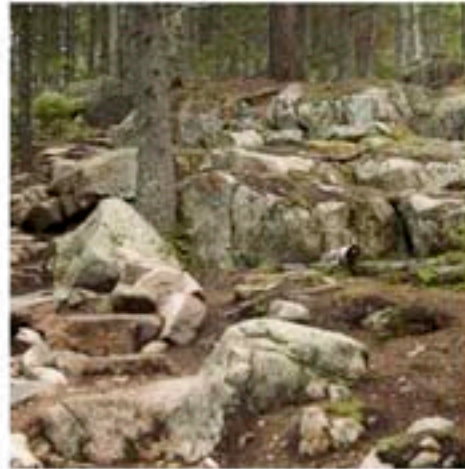
It became a game of trying to find the blue dots on the rocks marking the trail, and then figuring out how to get to said blue mark. Tamisha's theory is that this wasn't the planned trail at all, but the remains of a fallen trail and the markers were now at random.





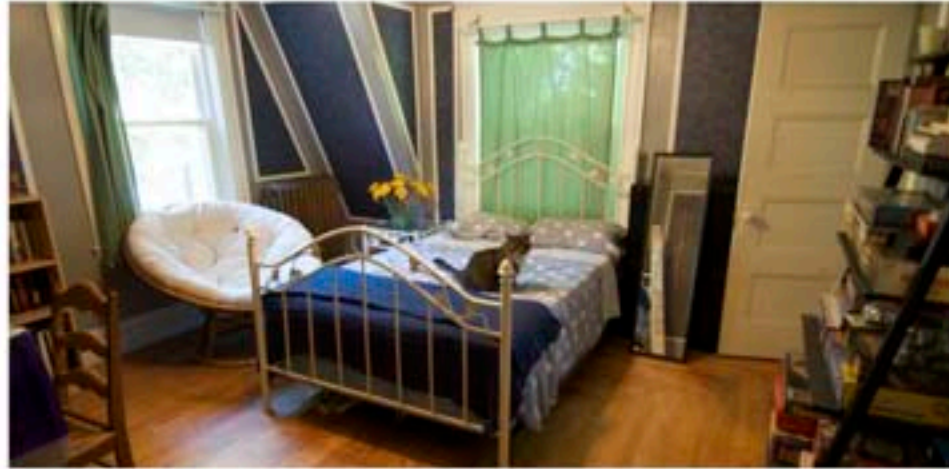
Eventually we came to a fork in the path. One choice took a nice boring flat fire road back to the car. The other climbed up Flying Mountain - a small mountain, but a mountain none the less. We were exhausted. And yet, we could bag 10 mountain peaks in a week if we completed our original route plan.

Tamisha demonstrated how she felt when we reached the final peak.

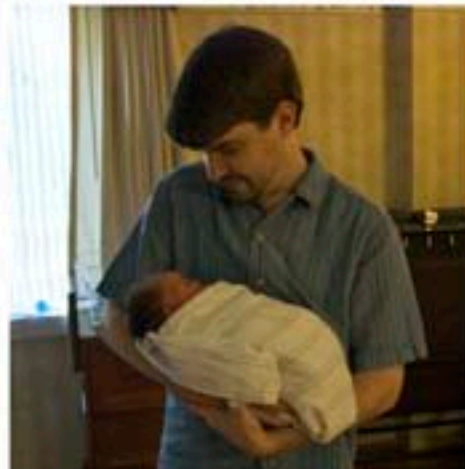


## Since the Honeymoon...

After remodeling, renovating, painting and decorating the first floor for the wedding, after the wedding we began on the second floor. We started with the room that was already painted the way we liked - Derek's old room. After getting a new mattress set and moving furniture around, we had a library and first guest room.



To complete our back yard, we found a patio set we liked that fit perfectly within our new walled in area.



Caitlin Emily Marr was born September 22, 2007 at 11:17 AM, weighing in at 7 lbs, 1.2 oz and measuring 19 3/4".

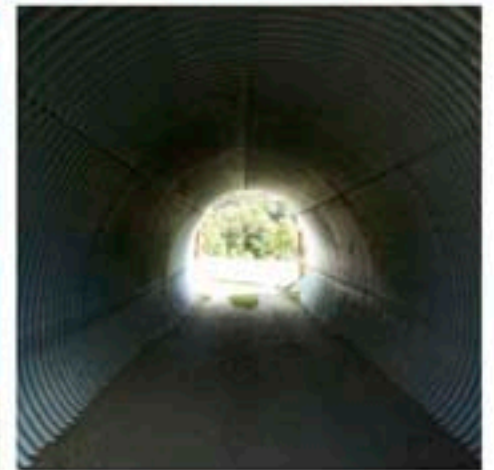
We visited the family at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA the next day.

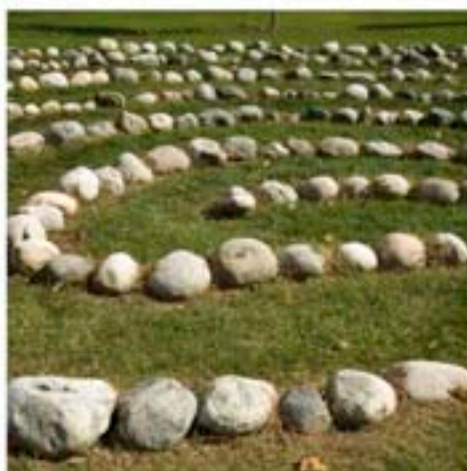
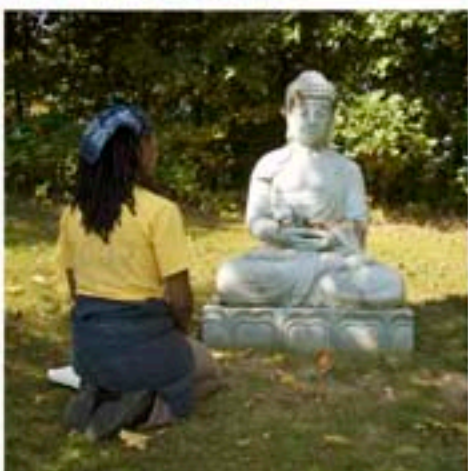
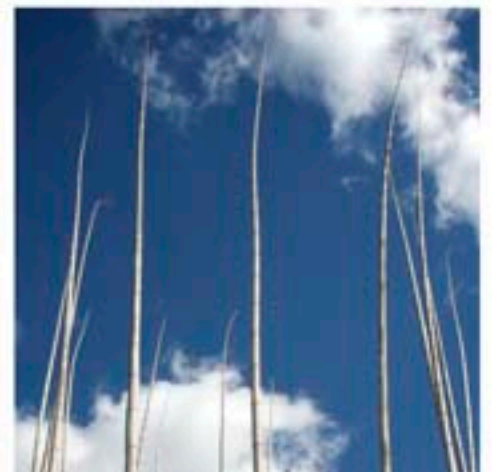
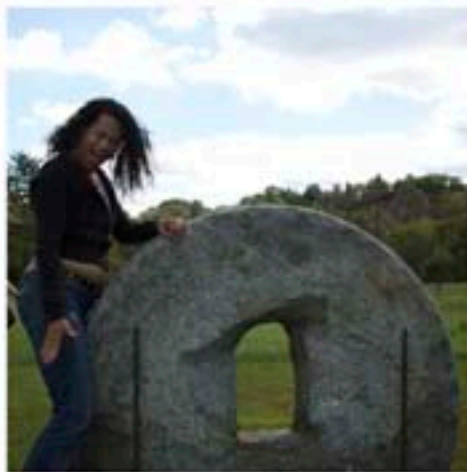
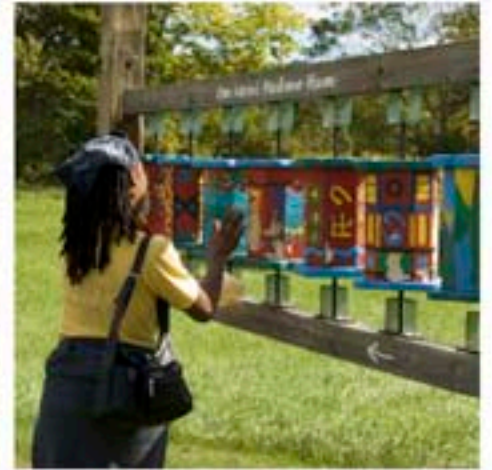
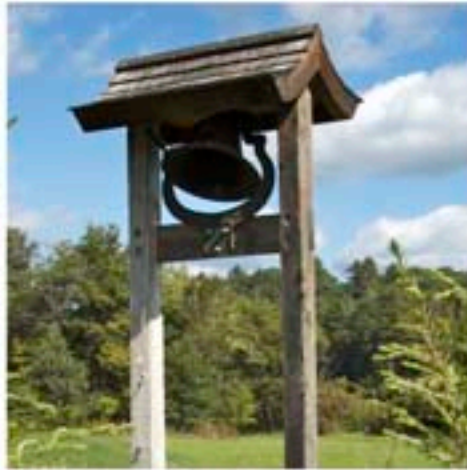
# Weekend in Vermont & The Path of Life Garden

Somewhere in Vermont - September 28-30, 2007

Tamisha's friends, Kailin and Nancy, won a cabin for the weekend in an auction and invited a whole group of people to join them. We were the first to arrive at night in the rain and weren't sure we were at the right place, but to our relief, eventually the others showed up and we had a fun weekend.

Saturday, a group of us went to the Path of Life Garden, which was a sculpture park with the theme of the stages of life. It was a combination of weird, cool, amusing, and reflective. We had fun. That evening, we grilled and stoved a huge feast, had very weird conversations, and worked on puzzles from the huge collection in the loft.



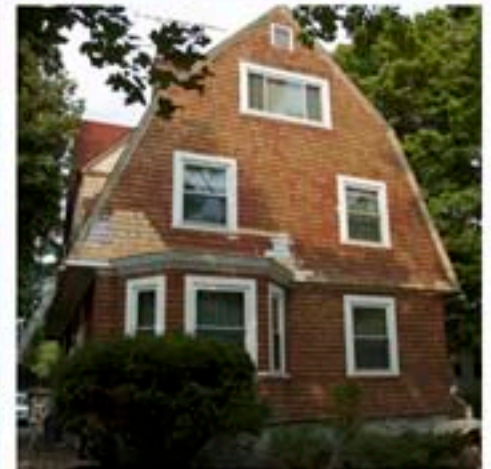


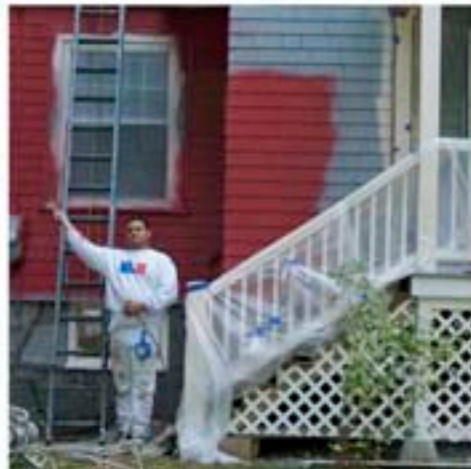
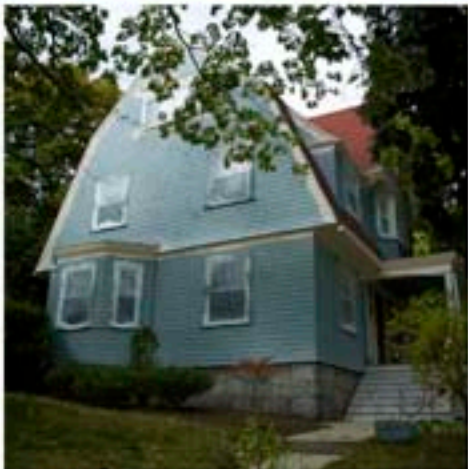
# Painting the House

October 3 - November 1, 2007

There had been patches of primer and non-matching paint on the house for years as well as many cracked and rotting shingles, so when Lifeyme Exteriors said they could repair the shingles, scrape the house down, restore the porch pillars, and paint the house for a quarter of what we expected, along with a life time warranty on the paint, we decided to go for it.

It was a long process, including them starting to paint the house fuchsia because they used the wrong base, but eventually it turned out perfect. We ended up with a custom made color, Thompson Colonial Red, with the trim in Sheer Natural (Ivory) and the porch ceilings in Carolina Blue.





# Pumpkin Paddle

Rutland, MA - October 14, 2007

Dona & Jim, and Bob & Debe came to stay with us for a week and we took Bob & Debe to a kind of race they hadn't been to before.

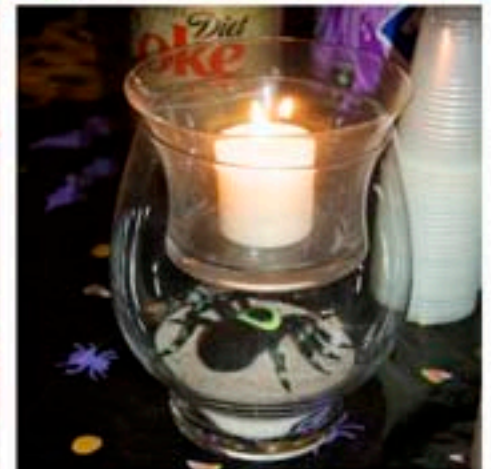
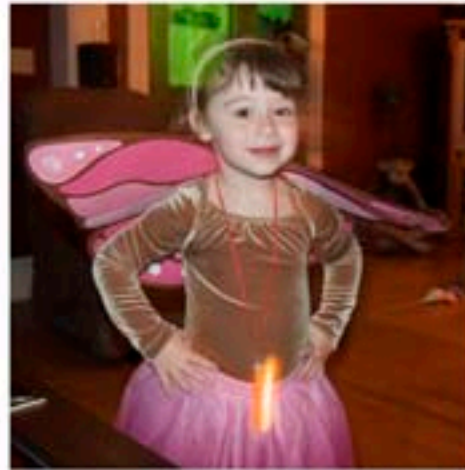
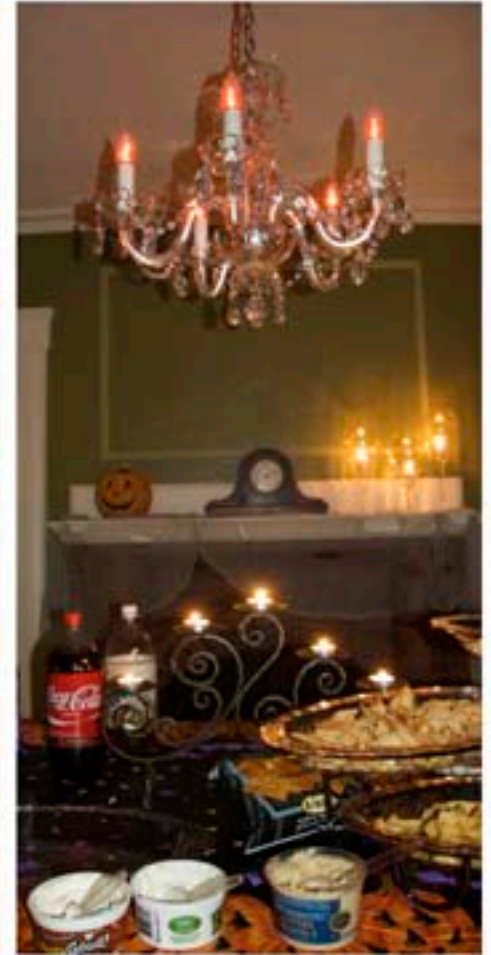




# Halloween Party

October 26, 2007

This year, we celebrated the 10th Annual Around-Halloween-Time Party at the Big Red House. Since most of the house's Halloween decorations were Jami's, the house looked quite a bit different this year. We started mostly from scratch but luckily, we inherited plenty of decorations from my cousin Lori. Having a nice kitchen and a dining room this year also helped with the entertaining.



# Halloween

On Sunday, October 28th, we hosted a pumpkin carving party for Ainsley Marr and Jessica Arisetty which was chaotic but went well. Zander didn't help carve, but he did try to eat one of the small pumpkins.

On Halloween, we were cleaning up from the painters while decorating the front porch for the trick-or-treaters. It was close, but it turned out nice, complete with a fog machine too.



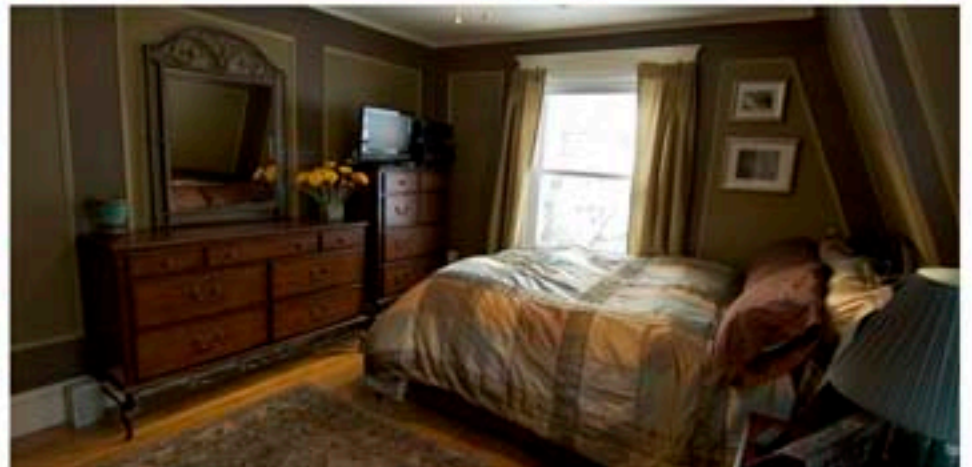
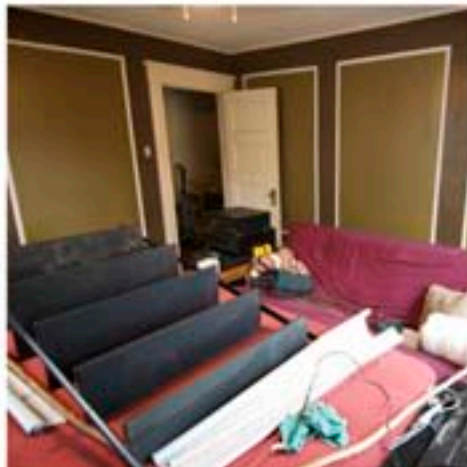
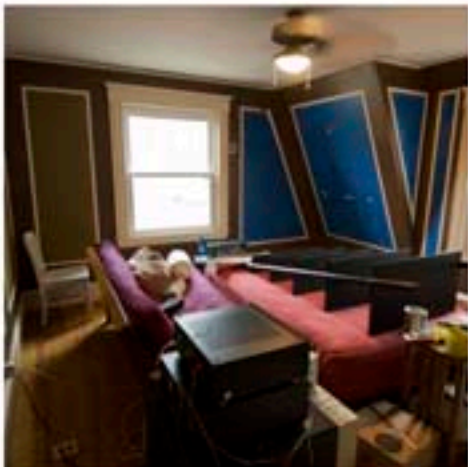
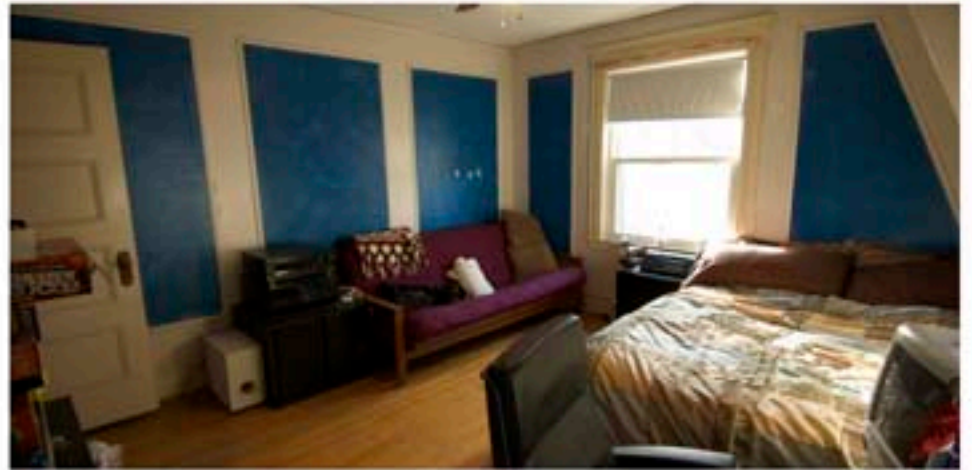


Since my aunt and uncle were in town for the wedding and were coming up for Christmas, we spent Thanksgiving with Tamisha's family this year. We drove down to New Jersey and stayed with her friends Liz and Tim. While we were there, we visited the Malones and met their new dog, Koda.

With a lot of family visiting for Christmas, our goal was to get the second guest room done as well before then. So we started the caulking, spackling, and painting job on December 1st. Since there were five colors of paint in our plan, and a lot of patching to do, it took a while to finish. On Saturday the 15th, we finished painting and put everything into place.

That Sunday, the window had iced over and water started leaking through the window frame wrecking the painting we had just done. That night, we collected three gallons of dripping water using plastic wrap funneling everything into a bucket.

Tuesday, the new furniture arrived, and after quickly setting everything up, Mom arrived on Wednesday. We cut things a little close around here.



# Christmas

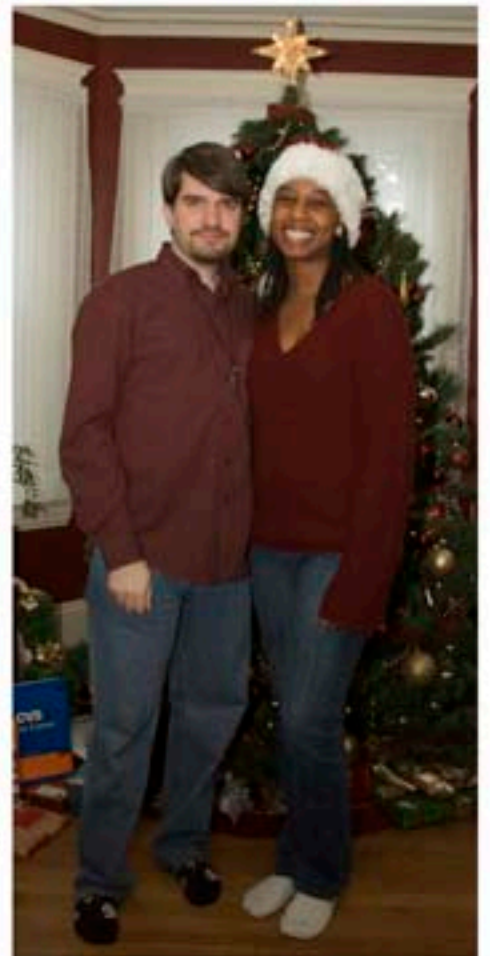
This year we had Christmas here. My family arrived first, and on Friday, we ate at Rovezzi's followed by the play adaptation of "A Christmas Story" at Foothills Theatre Company. Saturday, we went to Springfield to see Bright Nights which was amazing. Sunday, we baked cookies, and then we went to the mall for our annual photo with Santa, and saw the Christmas time movie, Sweeney Todd... On Christmas Eve, we went to Epworth United Methodist Church and for dinner had Tamisha's pesto lasagna.

On Christmas, we had our traditional Make Ahead Egg Souffle with Ham and Minibons for breakfast, and opened presents. For dinner, we made cornish game hens with a wild rice and sausage stuffing with an apricot and spiced apple glaze; a spinach salad with sweet dijon vinaigrette dressing; whole cranberries and spiced apple rings. Looking at the table, it was amazing to think we actually put it all together. It even tasted great too. For dessert, we made strawberry cheesecake.

On the 27th, I dropped Mom off at Logan, and while I was away, Tamisha's family arrived to stay with us a few days and it was Christmas again. I'm glad we finished the guest rooms in time.







# Valentine's Day

On February 14, 2008, we continued what's becoming tradition, and Tamisha woke up to roses. This time they were bright red-orange-yellow circus roses. And of course a card and a Reeses miniatures valentine heart.

Instead of going out for dinner, we decided to stay in and cook a fancy dinner together. During the day, I decorated the dining room by taking the leaves out of the table to make it more intimate, finding the red tablecloth and white runner, bringing down the roses, and setting the table with white dishes and our silver napkin rings. I came up with a menu of Filet Mignon with cilantro butter, Herb-and-Cheese Potatoes, and Individual Dark Chocolate Pudding Cakes thanks to Martha Stewart.

Since neither of us like medium-rare, we cooked the filet mignon... on the George Foreman grill and it worked great. The meal was amazing and I still can't believe we made it ourselves. Plus the atmosphere was much better than a restaurant. After dinner, we ate the dessert while curled up on the couch watching movies.



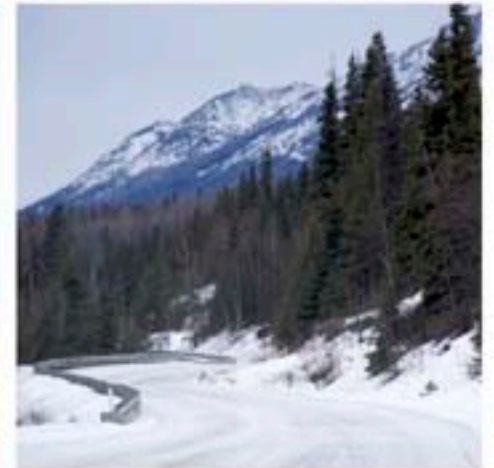
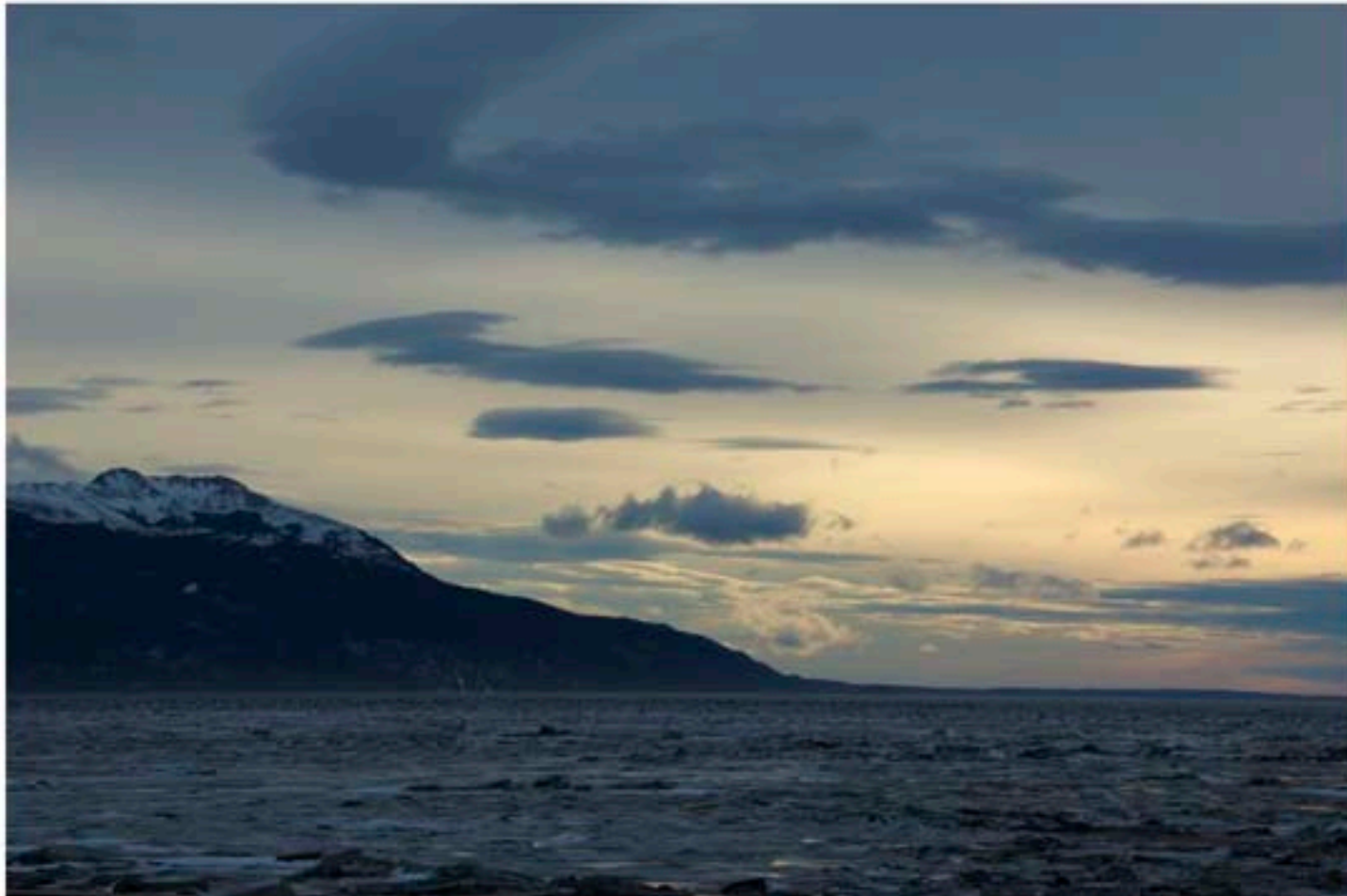
"If I weren't  
married,  
I would marry  
Individual  
Dark  
Chocolate  
Pudding  
Cakes."

# Alaska

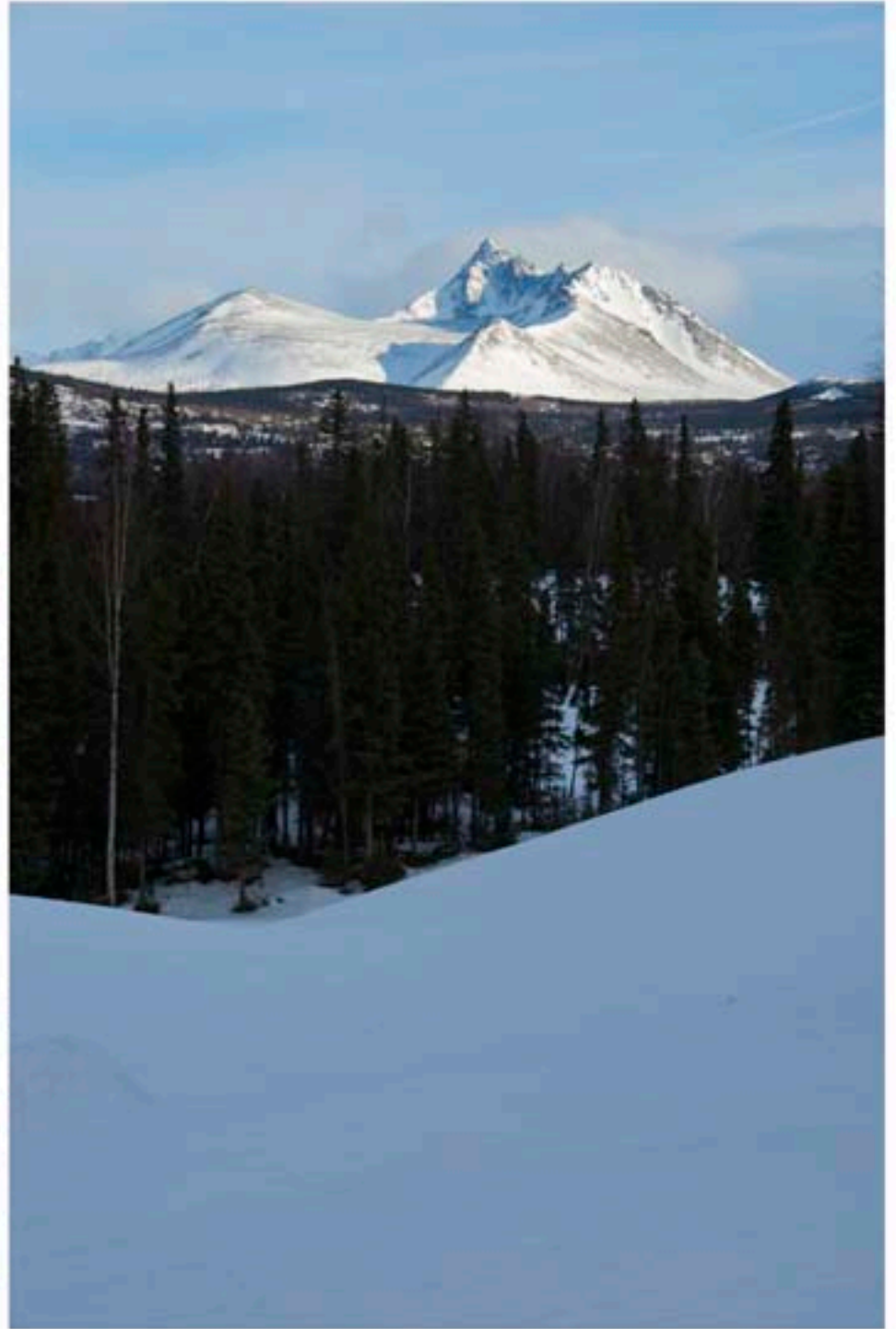
February 18 - 25, 2008

For Tamisha's February break, we combined vacation with visiting my family and a Daedal Creations business trip to Alaska to meet with the staff of Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services to redesign their website.

We stayed with Bob and Debe, and they took us sightseeing on my non-work days. Monday, we went to Chugach State Park but didn't get far because of the icy trails. Then, after working for a few days, on Friday we went to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and saw a moose a few feet off the trail.







# Fur Rondy

Friday afternoon, we attended our first Fur Rondy event: the first day of the World Championship Sled Dog Races. They actually snow up the roads and go through the city. It was fun, and the dogs looked like they were having a good time too.

That evening was the Fur Rondy Melodrama. It was a purposely cheezy and over the top acting play about prohibition, a dance hall, a bathtub of gin, and a painfully innocent girl who's intrigued by flappers. The ushers, who are mainly older women, give you bags of popcorn as you enter, and throwing it at strangers is encouraged. They also throw some at you when you're not looking. A lady who looked to be in her 90's in the front row was pelting passers by with glee.

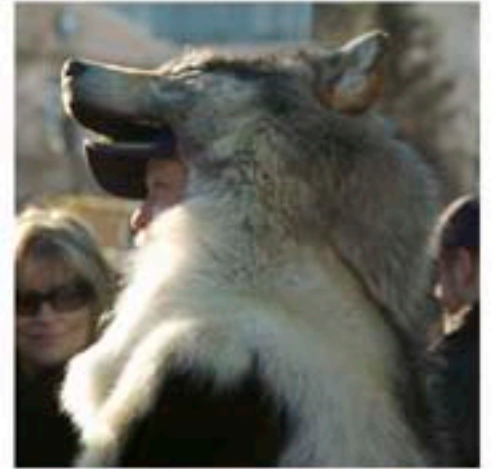




Saturday morning, we went to the Rony Grand Parade with the typical fire trucks, politicians, and local organizations. We also saw a lot of royalty and fur.

The festival also employs Keystone Kops that may put you in jail if you're not wearing a Fur Rony pin. Luckily, you can easily pay your way out of it as they're more than happy to sell you a button on the spot.

After the parade we looked through a craft fair and had lunch at the Glacier Brewhouse.



# Outhouse Races

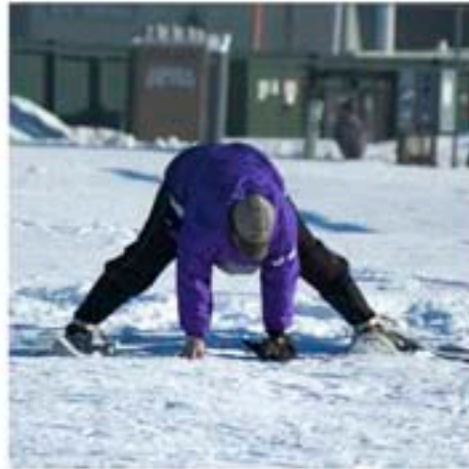
Yes, one of the most anticipated events was the annual outhouse race. It is exactly what it sounds like...

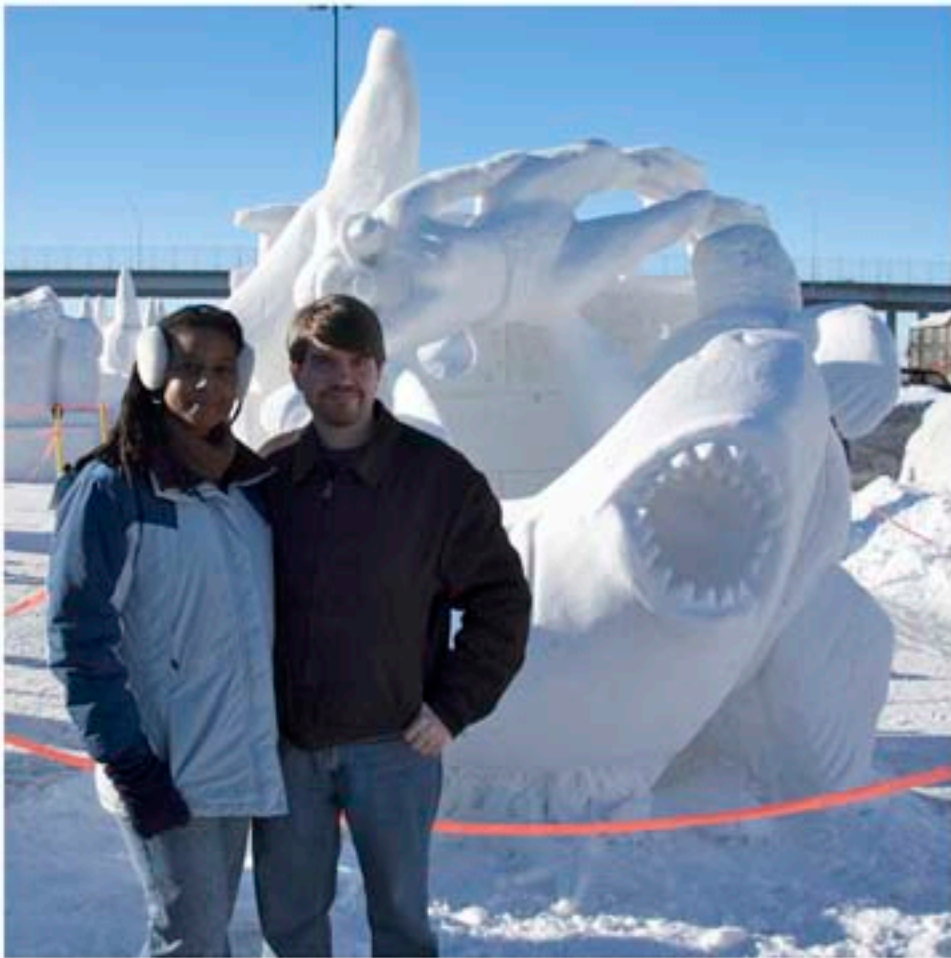
That evening, after going out to dinner, we walked downtown to see the fireworks and then went to see the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra.



# Snowshoe Softball

Sunday afternoon, we went to see Rony Snowshoe Softball, which was very entertaining. I'm sure it was more difficult to play the day before since the snow was pretty packed down along the baselines by now. We only saw one person wipe out while running and one person unintentionally doing the splits.





# Running of the Reindeer

After seeing the snow sculptures, we headed to the event I had been looking forward to all trip. It's just like the Running of the Bulls in Spain, but much, much, sillier.

It was started by a radio personality and quickly got out of hand. The idea was to get some people to run with reindeer down the streets of downtown Anchorage. They had seven reindeer and they didn't know if they could get them to run or just look for food in the runners' pockets. What started as a small event turned into having to be capped at 1000 participants. 500 men and 500 women (and men in drag). CNN was there. ESPN was there. It was a crazy scene.

It was a very rewarding end to our trip to Alaska.

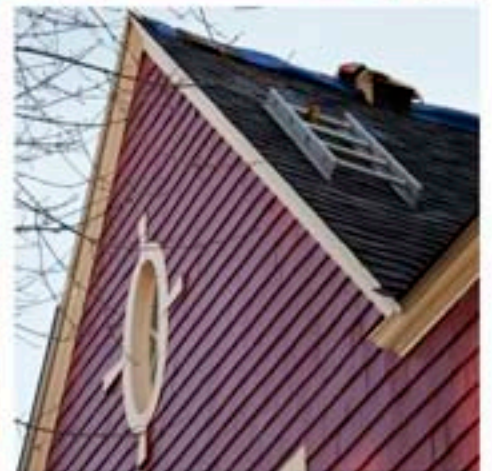
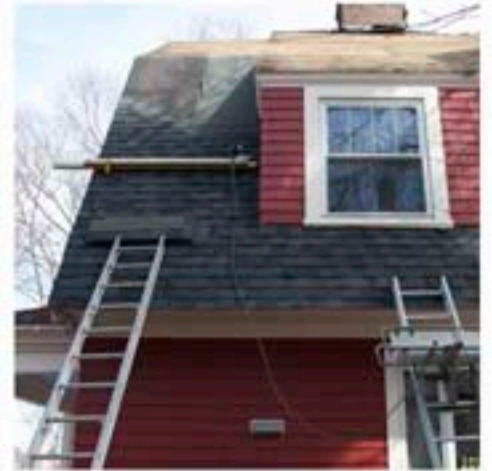
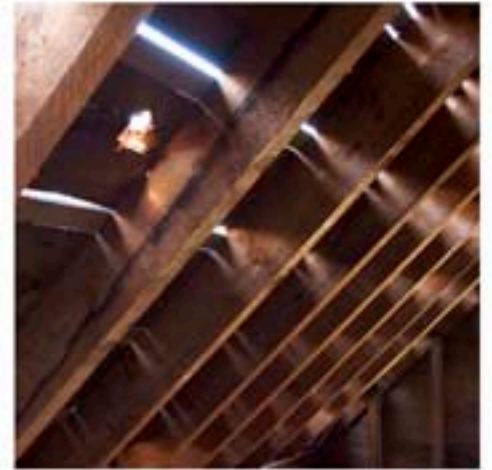


# New Roof

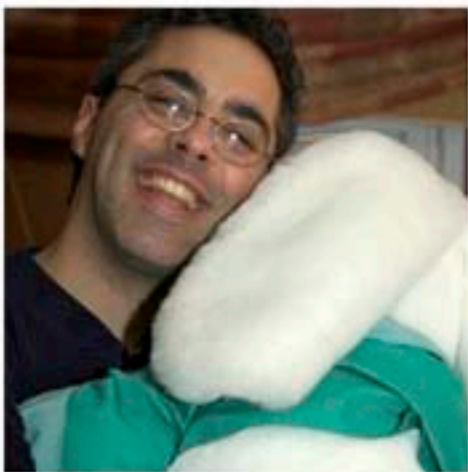
February 27, 2008 - March 11, 2008

After the leaking in the guest room, we moved up the timeline to replace the roof and finally hired AJ Exteriors to do the job. It looks so much nicer now.

In the wreckage, we saw that there were still some wood shingles up there and up to four layers of asphalt shingles...







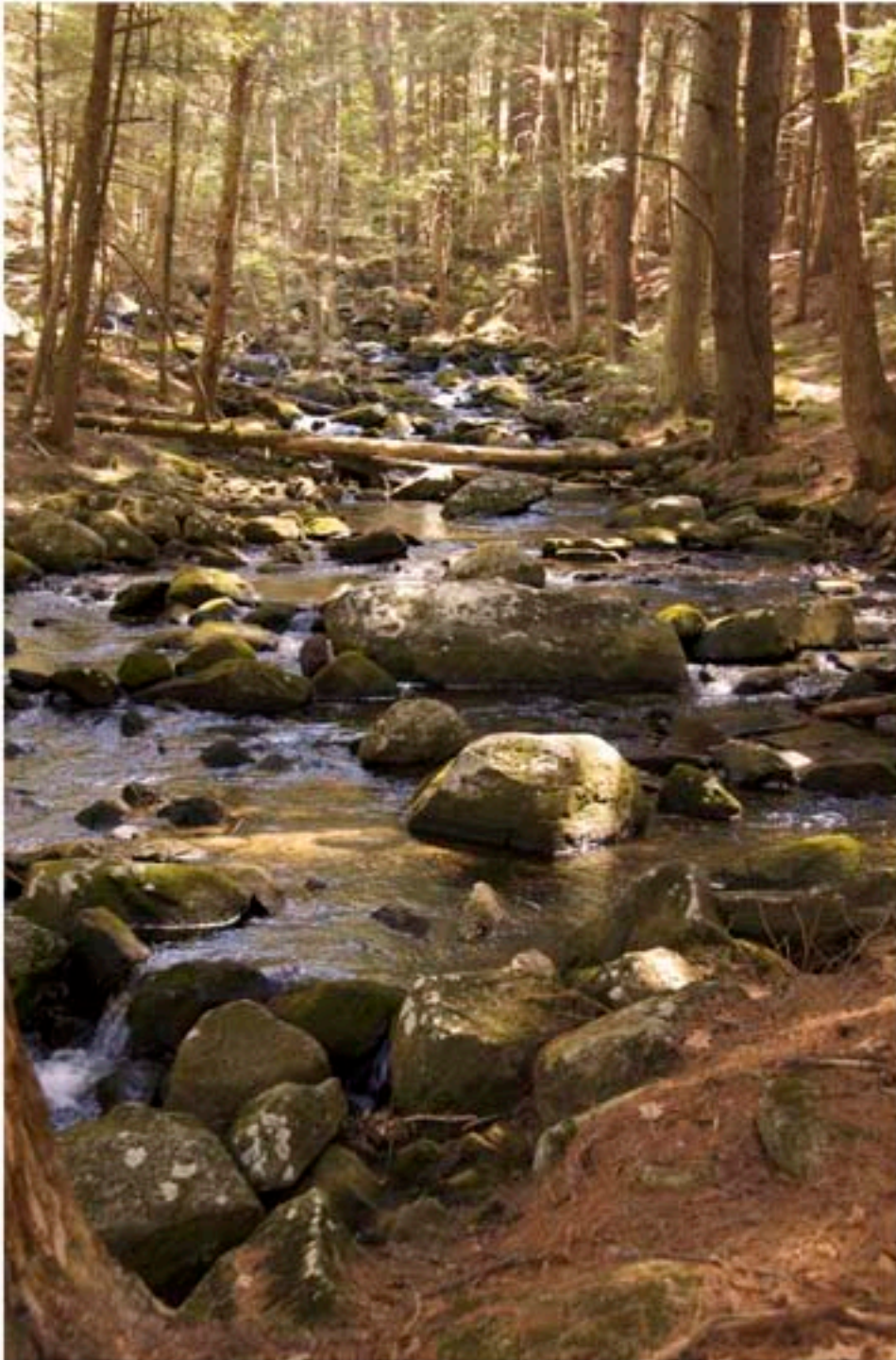
## Easter

Sunday, March 23, 2008, we went over to Nick and Carol's for Easter dinner. It was great as always and we had ham, hot potato salad, bread, traditional Easter noodle kugel, and gender specific veggies: asparagus for the girls, and peas for the guys. For dessert, we introduced the Contis to Individual Dark Chocolate Pudding Cakes. They were just as good the 2nd time.

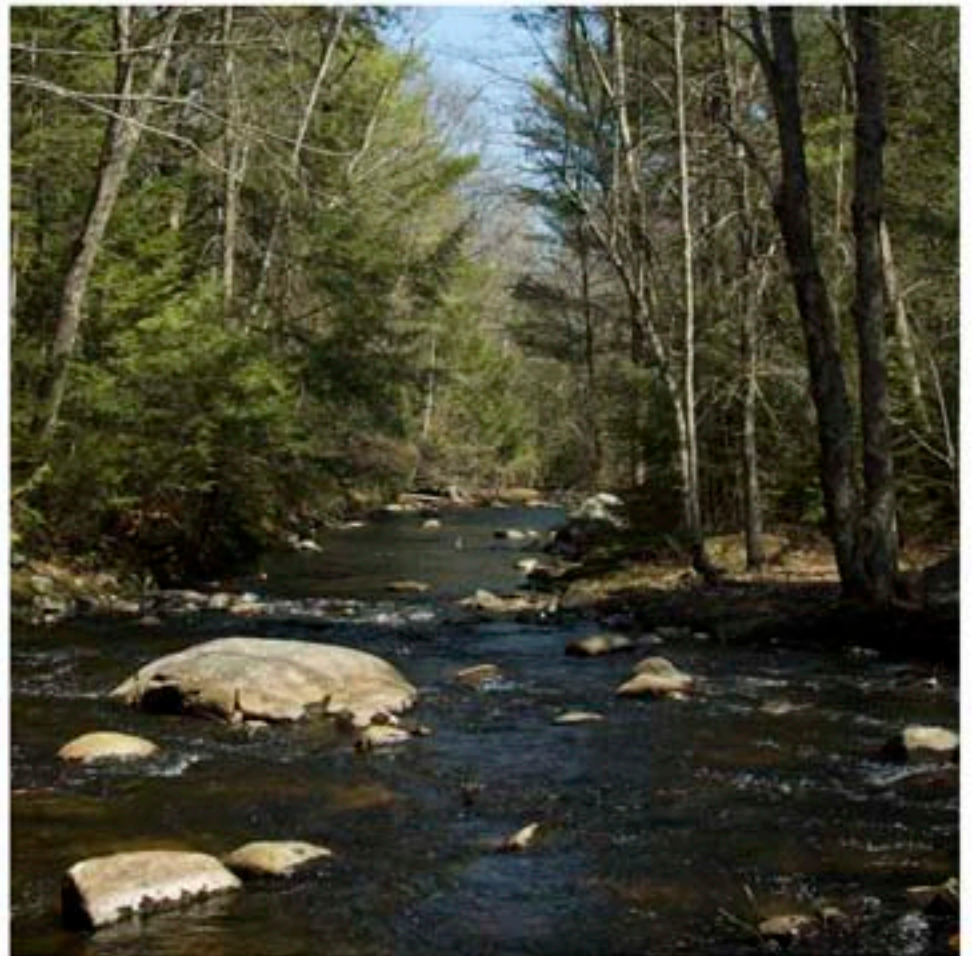
The neighbors came over for an Easter Egg Hunt in the backyard. When carrying her basket around became too cumbersome, Giana put it in a central location and filled her arms and pockets with eggs and filled the basket en masse. Such a little engineer.

On April 13, 2008 we went to the Dueling Organs Concert which was Tamisha's first concert with the Master Singers of Worcester. A huge choir, two organs, and the awe inspiring St. Paul's Cathedral in Worcester made for a great concert.





On April 19, 2008 we went on our first hike of the year at Brooks Woodland Preserve. It was a wet spring hike, and the map wasn't accurate, but we had fun and it was nice getting fresh air.



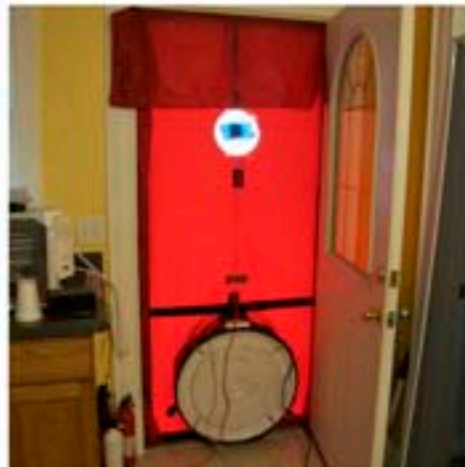
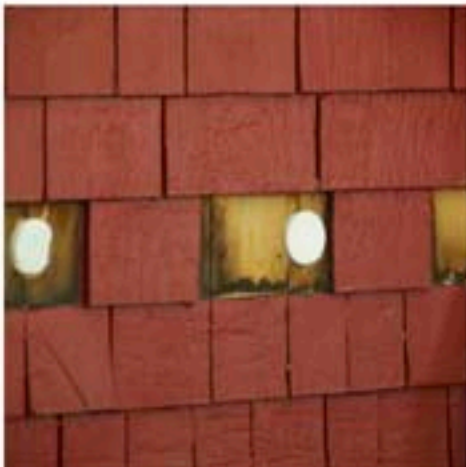
# Insulating the House

May 9, 2008 - June 4, 2008

In yet another house renovation project, we also got the house insulated since there wasn't much before. To prepare, we got Doug Miller, our electrician, back to remove the last of the knob and tube wiring in the exterior walls, and then we spackled the holes so the blown insulation wouldn't escape. I also destroyed the ceiling in the laundry room so they could spray foam along the foundation.

They started out finding drafts by testing the air tightness of the house by filling the back door with a fan and measuring the pressure. They would do this again when they were done to see how well they did. They filled all the gaps along the foundation, sealed the doors, covered all the walls in the attic with shiny insulated boards, and covered the 3rd floor ceilings with tons of insulation.

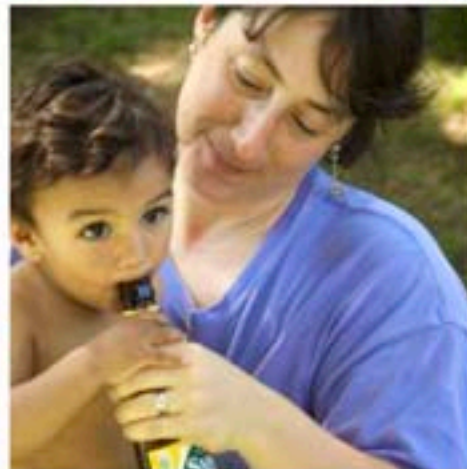
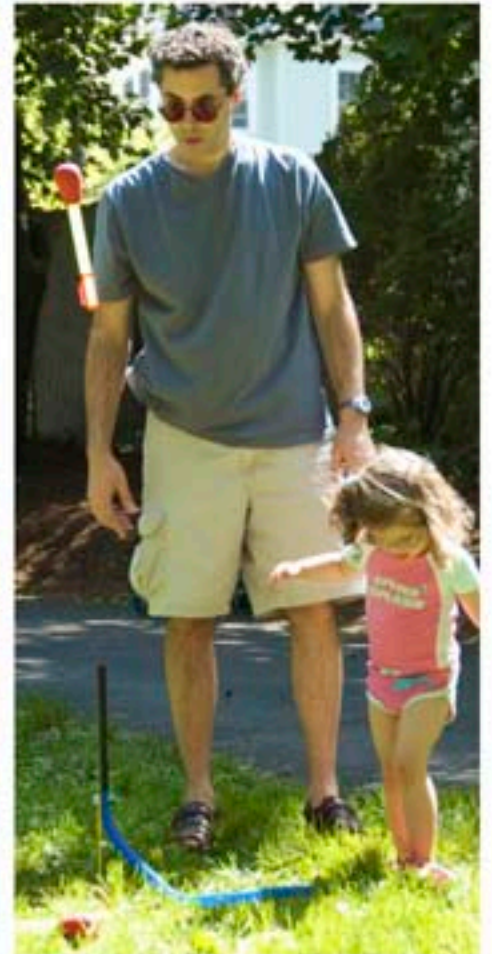
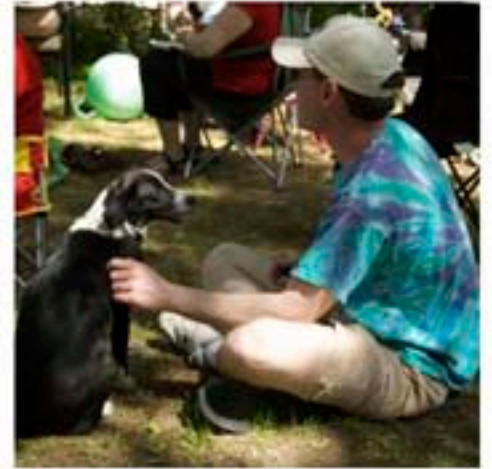
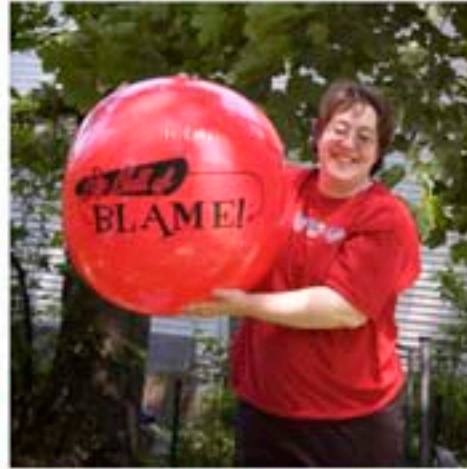
The next group that came out starting June 2nd, and created holes every 16" around the house to fill the outside walls with a blown paper insulation. They also drilled into some of our electrical wires and network cables, but Doug came out to fix that right away. It has made a considerable difference so far in the summer, and hopefully will help with the winter heating costs as well.





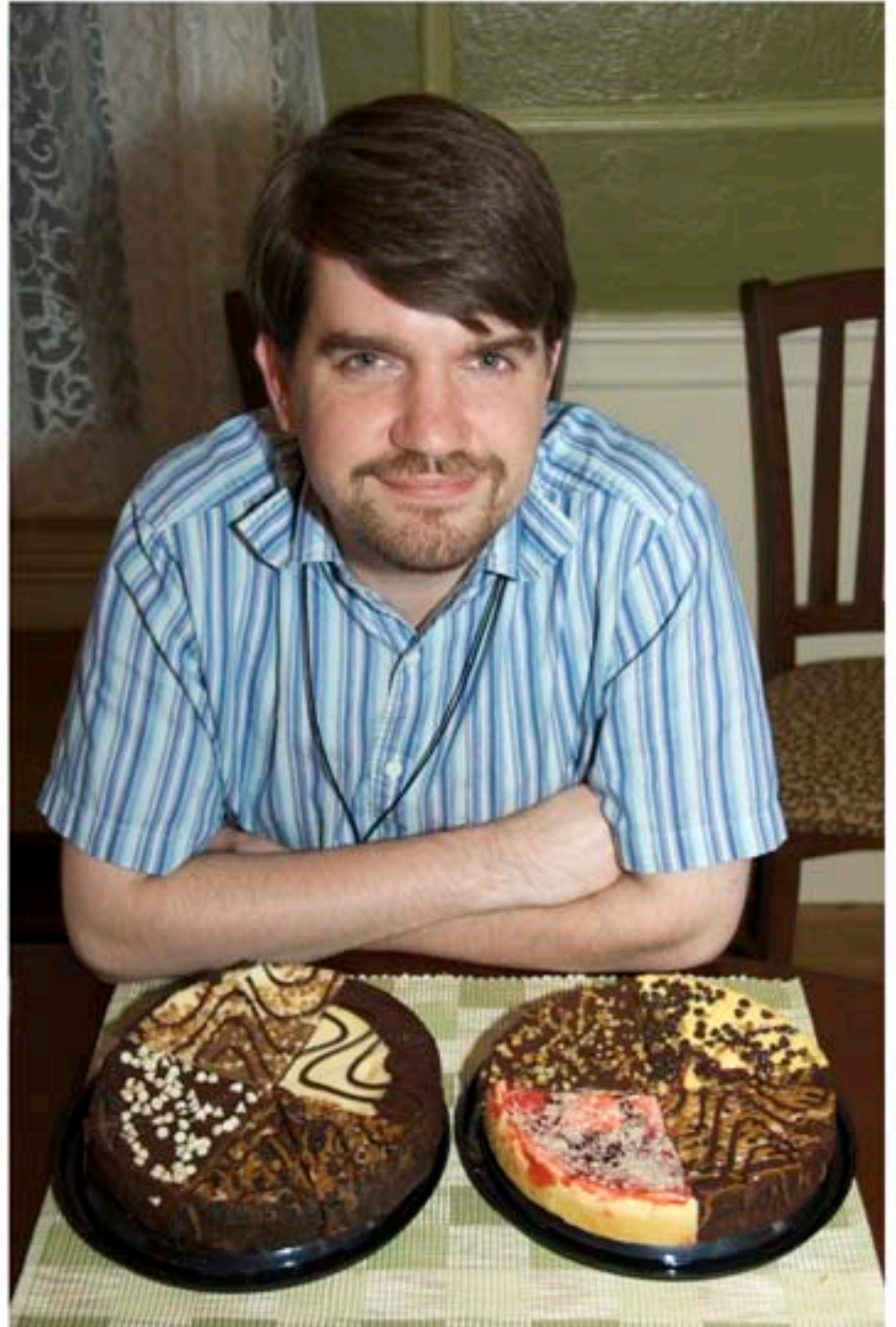
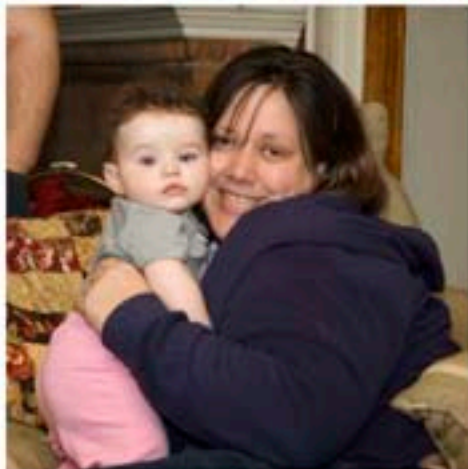
# Memorial Day Cookout

May 26, 2008



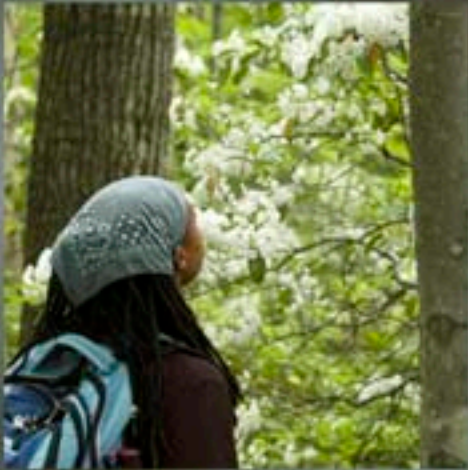
# Troy's 35th Birthday

On June 6, 2008 we celebrated my birthday with friends at the Big Red House. There were lots of burritos from Moe's, and for my birthday cake, I had not one, but two sampler cheesecakes. Mmm... cheesecake...



# Leominster State Forest

June 14, 2008





## Heart and Soleil

For the ARTSWorcester exhibit "On Pins and Needles: The Art of Touch and Sensation," the theme was tattoos and artistic exploration of being in our own skins.

So on June 29, 2008, it required 37 takes, a lot of contortions, and a mirror to get this photo right. The exhibition ran from July 11 - Sept 5, 2008.







