

ISLAND POEMS

THOMAS PETER BENNETT

ELEMENTS OF THE BAY

A buoy caressed
by uplifting currents
of blue-drab water,

changes bobs . . .
changes directions
with the wind,

changes hue . . .
changes reflections
with the light,

changes shading . . .
as clouds disperse
sunburst colors.

BETWEEN TIDES

Lofty wave-splashed rocks at
high tide,
dry uncovered pebbles at
low tide,
mark bounds of life zones.

Between marks,
plants, animals, microbes
inhabit ageless haunts
nurtured by ebb and flow
between tides.

TIME

A cedar post marks
the North Ridge Trail,
off Cadillac Mountain Road.

A memory ambles
from the marker,
trots the rock bed, along the historic
buckboard road up the mountain,
surveys the gorge, at fast pace.

Cobbles give way to a path,
through hardwoods, onto
larger step works, to north-face
knolls, then at the top,
musing views the future.

A reality glance
at the cedar post,
drive the winding road,
stopping at scenic overlooks,
glimpsing climbers, then

at the summit
greet a hiker at
trail's end, ask
about her climb, and
view the past.

Thomas Peter Bennett is a biologist by profession, by avocation an observer of the trails, wildlife, and moods of the sea and sky on Mount Desert Island and throughout Acadia National Park. He first came to the island over fifty years ago as a college student in the summer research program at the Jackson Laboratory and found that as "a native Floridian, everything in Maine was different - the plants, animals, mountains, beaches, the atmosphere and the horizons." The poems printed here appear in his collection Hike On, Poems from Mount Desert Island, Maine, published in 2007.