



## Dear Friends,

April is usually a time when we mark the arrival of Spring with the opening of Acadia's motor roads and the community-wide turnout for FOA's Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. This year, of course, the COVID-19 health crisis has impacted these traditions: the park motor roads will remain gated at least into May, and the Roadside Cleanup has been canceled for the first time in its 20-year history. Spring's arrival will not be deterred, however! Despite a few snowflakes in the air most days this week, the woods are alive with the sounds of birdsong and roaring streams. Yesterday was [Earth Day](#) and we were pleased to see photos from a few folks carrying on the EDRC tradition by cleaning up roadsides close to their houses—even COVID-19 can't stop our community from helping out Mother Earth.

## Acadia's Season Ahead

While a tremendous amount of uncertainty remains regarding what visitation and operations at Acadia will look like this coming summer, we welcomed [the announcement](#) last Friday that the park is now aiming for June 1 to open the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and June 15 to open park campgrounds. While these dates will need to continually be evaluated as conditions in our state and community evolve, they are a small piece of the many very complex decisions that will need to be made about when it will be appropriate to safely welcome visitors to Acadia and how park operations and visitor experiences may be different this year.



Friends of Acadia has been gradually moving ahead with the hiring of seasonal crews and the granting of funds to the park for planned restoration projects on trails, carriage roads, historic structures and implementation of the new transportation plan continues to move forward. We are grateful for the generous response from our supporters to the Spring Membership appeal and are committed to continuing our support to Acadia in these challenging times. With healthy doses of patience, innovation, flexibility, and perseverance, we can all help Acadia through this pandemic. Please stay tuned to FOA's website and Facebook page for continued updates as the situation evolves.

## Staying Connected to Acadia

Missing Acadia? We have created a special section on our website to help keep you connected to the park and up-to-date on the latest park information as well as ways to stay safe while outdoor recreating closer to home. From activities for kids, to beautiful videos, there is a lot to keep you busy and connected to Acadia while staying safe at home. Visit: <https://friendsofacadia.org/staying-connected-acadia-during-covid-19/>



## Acadia is for Moms

Does your mom love Acadia? Do you love visiting Acadia with your mother? We want to hear from you! FOA is collecting the stories of special memories made with mom (or maternal figure) in the park. We will choose our favorite and send the winner an Acadia National Park annual pass to use during future visits together or in remembrance. A selection of our favorite stories will be featured in a special Mother's Day E-News we will send out on May 7. To enter your story, please post it on social media using #AcadiaMom and tag [@FriendsofAcadia](#). If you do not have a public social media page, please email your story and photos to [Julia@FriendsofAcadia.org](mailto:Julia@FriendsofAcadia.org) with the subject line, "Acadia is for Moms."



Want to get a head start on the perfect Mother's Day gift? You can now make a gift to FOA in honor of your mother; she will be sent a personalized card from FOA! Preserving and protecting the place you both love is the perfect gift for mom! Click here to see all the beautiful cards: <https://friendsofacadia.org/tribute-cards/>

## Spring Journal: Coming to Mailboxes Soon

The Spring issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal is slated to begin arriving in members' mailboxes in the next few days. Along with an inspiring cover featuring a stunning Tom Blagden photo of a hummingbird feeding among rhodora blossoms in Acadia National Park, the Journal is packed with features on such topics as this year's Acadia Quest, the park's invasive plant management team, how the park "awakens" and gets ready for the summer season, as well as gorgeous photos, news, updates, columns and more!



Want to receive the Journal? It's as easy as becoming a member! Join Friends of Acadia and you'll receive our quarterly print publication featuring the latest news, features, and updates about Acadia National Park. Click here to join or renew: <https://friendsofacadia.org/join-renew/>

## Opportunity to Comment on National Park Service E-Bike Regulations

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting public comment until June 8, 2020 on proposed national regulations surrounding the definition and uses of e-bikes within national parks. These regulations would formalize the national policy guidance that was issued last fall that e-bikes should be allowed in areas where regular bicycles are allowed. Because Park Superintendents were required then to develop policies specific to their parks, Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider opted to allow only Class 1 e-bikes (requiring that the operator pedals the bike and the motor stops assisting at speeds of 20-mph) on the carriage roads and Schoodic's multi-use paths, while also continuing to allow all classes of e-bikes on park motor roads. The current NPS comment period is not specific to Acadia, but could affect Acadia's implementation of the regulations, depending on whether/how the national regulations are changed. For background information and to submit your comments, visit [regulations.gov/document?D=NPS-2020-0001-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NPS-2020-0001-0001). If questions, contact [stephanie@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:stephanie@friendsofacadia.org).



Header Photo: A friend of granite staircase on the Beachcroft Trail on Champlain Mountain. (Photo by Julia Walker Thomas/Friends of Acadia)



**Why am I receiving this E-News?** You are in our database as a past or current donor or supporter of Friends of Acadia who has not opted out of email communications. If you do not want to receive our monthly email newsletter of updates and goings-on at Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, please use the unsubscribe button below. Thank you!

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Friends of Acadia](#)

43 Cottage Street P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609