



Dear Friends,

After a cold, damp spring, the forecast for the upcoming holiday weekend looks gorgeous, and with temperatures nearing 80 today, it feels like summer is just around the corner. Acadia's mountainsides and valleys are [bursting into bloom](#) with Shad bush and Rhodora just beginning to pop. Animals are beginning to emerge, too: [barred owlets have made their fuzzy appearance near Sieur de Monts](#), and a black bear, a species rarely seen on MDI, was [spotted enjoying the warm summer-like night temperatures on a lawn in Bass Harbor](#).

Like spring's slow arrival this year, Acadia National Park is experiencing slight delays in starting typical springtime operations. Most park staff have been working from home to comply with state orders to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Mother Nature took a significant toll on park facilities over the winter with [washouts](#) and [blowdowns](#) on the carriage roads and rockfalls along park roadways that will slow their re-opening.

There is no doubt that this coming summer will be different than any in Acadia's history. Anyone traveling to Maine from out-of-state is being asked to quarantine for two weeks upon arrival to help prevent community transmission of the virus. The park and FOA are taking these guidelines very seriously, and all out-of-state seasonal staff are sheltering in place for two weeks upon arrival. In addition, many of FOA's traditional in-person events will go virtual this summer to help keep you safe. We will miss seeing you in person, but you can [stay connected to Acadia](#) no matter where you are. Read on for more.

Stay Up-to-Date with the Latest Park Information

Memorial Day weekend is usually the first busy weekend of the season here in Acadia. In a typical year, park facilities and roads would be open, and visitors would be able to access all areas of the park. This year park roads remain closed to vehicular traffic until June 1 when a phased reopening is planned. Facilities are also closed so no bathrooms or trash receptacles are available. Recreational access is open to pedestrians and bicyclists on roads as well as limited hiking on trails; however, Acadia's carriage roads remain closed until further notice. As ANP crews return to work, they will need uninterrupted time to work safely and efficiently on blowdowns, trenches and other hazards caused by winter storms. Violations of the closure may delay repairs. Please visit the park's "Current Conditions" website frequently for the most up-to-date information on what is open and what has yet to open: <https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>



National Trails Day

Join fellow outdoor enthusiasts from around the country as we celebrate and recognize all the incredible benefits federal, state, and local trails provide for recreation and exposure to nature by attending our virtual event via [Facebook](#) on Saturday, June 6. Friends of Acadia Stewardship Crew and Acadia National Park Trail Crew staff will highlight some of the important restoration work being done and recently completed in the park. Featured trails will include the newly restored Seaside Path linking Seal Harbor to Jordan Pond. We hope you'll join us!



Acadia Moon Dance Exhibit Opening at The Gallery at Somes Sound

Another exciting event to look forward to is the opening of Howie Motenko's latest photographic endeavor at the Gallery at Somes Sound. Howie was a 2019 Artist-in-Residence at Acadia National Park and "Acadia Moon Dance" is the result of two years of full moon photographic exploration in the park and features images that are a fusion of the photographer's creative sensibilities coupled with his observations of our natural world. The long exposure photographs expand time and allow the moon's illumination to reveal a mystical scene in an otherwise dark landscape. This project embodies Acadia's quiet stillness, intense power, and serene solitude.



We hope you'll join us Monday, June 1, at 6 p.m. on our [Facebook page](#) for a live walkthrough of Howie's exhibit and a Q&A session with the photographer himself and gallery owner, Tyra Hanson. This event will launch a month-long exhibit of Howie's work. Prints will also be for sale via the gallery in Somesville, with proceeds being donated to support Friends of Acadia's conservation work in the park. For more information, please visit howiemotenko.com or email Lisa@FriendsofAcadia.org.

Spring Journal: Online Now!

[The Spring issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal is now online.](#) Tom Blagden's stunning photograph of a hummingbird feeding among rhodora blossoms in Acadia National Park graces the cover, and articles inside feature this year's Acadia Quest, the park's invasive plant management team, and how the park "awakens" and gets ready for the summer season.



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 gorgeous photos, the latest news, features, columns, 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 would 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). Questions? Contact stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.



Header Photo: A hummingbird hovers above rhodora flowers in Acadia National Park. (Photo by Tom Blagden)



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