



Dear Friends,

With bluebird skies and highs in the mid 80's forecast for this weekend, it's this time of year that many lifelong memories are made. Whether it's taking advantage of the warm days to swim with friends or family in Acadia's lakes and ponds after hikes together, biking the carriage roads, or just taking in the scenery from your favorite Acadia mountaintop—whatever your most treasured park activity, we hope you can get outside and enjoy time with those you love. And if COVID-19 disrupted your plans this year, we hope you will keep the love of Acadia in your heart through memories of shared time together in the park. Acadia will still be here when it is safe for you to return, and Friends of Acadia will continue our work preserving and protecting this special place we all love so dearly.

31st Annual Benefit Goes Virtual

For 30 years, Friends of Acadia's Annual Benefit has been a wonderful way to bring our community together to celebrate the park while raising critical funds for conservation projects. Due to COVID-19, FOA will not hold the 31st Annual Benefit in person but we are excited to offer a virtual event program that will accomplish the same two goals. FOA's Benefit Committee, led by co-chairs Laura and Vassar Pierce, and FOA staff have re-designed the Benefit to take place on an online platform. The event will include a silent auction which will be open for bidding August 1 – 8, and a live broadcast event featuring a live auction and paddle raise on August 8 from 7-8pm.



To participate, there is no ticket cost, all you have to do is register via your phone or computer. Text "Acadia" to 843-606-5995 or visit <https://event.gives/acadia> and click "Login/Register" in the upper right corner to register. Everyone who registers will be automatically entered to win a [fantastic giveaway package](#) including a coffee table photo book, Acadia trail sign replica, trekking poles, an FOA hat, and an Acadia National Park Carriage Road Bridges poster. We will draw a winner each Friday until the Benefit—register today to be entered for the next 4 drawings!

For a preview of auction items, stop by 147 Main Street in Northeast Harbor beginning Wednesday, July 22 where you can see items displayed in the windows. Thanks to Mount Desert 365 for donating this display space! For questions about the event, contact Shawn Keeley shawn@friendsofacadia.org

Acadia's Iconic Lighthouse—Protected in Perpetuity

Great news! On July 8, the U.S. Coast Guard officially transferred the Bass Harbor Head Light Station to Acadia National Park. The acquisition includes five historic buildings on two acres of land. The U.S. Coast Guard will continue to operate and maintain the automated aid to navigation. The light station was constructed in 1858 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider made the announcement of the transfer at the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting last week. Did you miss the meeting? Click here to watch the full meeting in HD: <https://vimeo.com/436817762>

Friends of Acadia has been a partner in exploring this exciting acquisition for several years, and we are very pleased the transfer has occurred. It's even more special that the permanent protection of this iconic structure occurred on the anniversary of Acadia's founding! Through donations from the 2018 Annual Benefit Paddle Raise, Friends of Acadia was able to provide the NPS with a fund to help hit the ground running when the transfer occurred. The park has begun conversations with neighbors, stakeholders, partners, and community members about the future of the light house

For even more information about the lighthouse transfer, please visit our website: <https://friendsofacadia.org/news/national-park-service-accepts-ownership-of-bass-harbor-head-light-station/>

Getting Kids Outside

Outdoor Classroom grants are being awarded by Friends of Acadia to early learning centers and pre-K through 12th grade public schools throughout mid-coast and downeast Maine this summer. During the time of COVID-19, there is growing interest for these grants to help Maine schools by providing safe learning spaces as students return to campus. Learning outside is stimulating and fun, and can also be effective in reducing virus transmission and increasing student health from spending time in nature.



The following schools and education centers have been awarded Outdoor Classroom grants this year:

- Downeast Family YMCA Early Learning Center in Ellsworth, serving infant thru pre-K
- The Children's Garden in Hancock, serving pre-K
- Islesboro Central School in Islesboro, serving K-12
- Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School (DISES) in Deer Isle, serving K-7*

*DISES will be continuing their grant for a second year. Last year, the school completed a 1,000 foot Nature Trail with an outdoor classroom space that is now a beloved feature on the school campus. The kindergarteners are completing a book about the Nature Trail, students used it almost daily throughout the fall and winter, and families continued to use it during the quarantine. The next grant will connect an existing trail to the new Nature Trail and the high school campus.

Learn more about Outdoor Classroom Grants on our website: <https://friendsofacadia.org/what-we-do/tomorrows-stewards/outdoor-classroom-grants/>

We Did It!

Last week we asked you to help us raise critical funds for our work in Acadia—and thanks to all of you, we did it! More than 138 supporters donated more than \$20,051. That combined with a generous \$20,000 matching gift from FOA Board Member Julie Banzhaf-Stone and her husband Steve Stone means you helped us raise more than \$40,051 for Acadia National Park. Thank you for joining us as stewards of the park and helping to ensure it will be protected for generations to come.



Header Photo: The Bass Harbor Head Light. (Photo by Will Newton)



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