



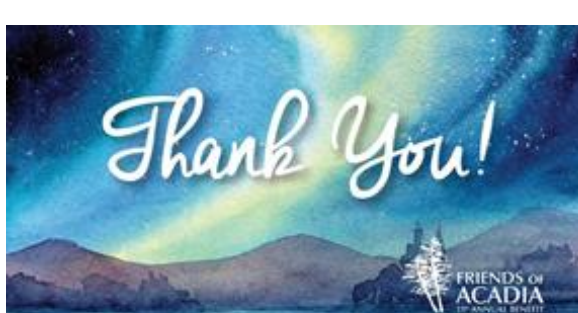
Dear Friends,

It's mid-August, and though the towns and roads of the Acadia region have become a bit busier in the past few weeks, the peace and tranquility of the park still surround us in so many settings and so many ways. Water lilies are blooming, the blueberries are ripe, the Precipice Trail has reopened, and summer nights are perfect for stargazing. We hope you caught a glimpse of the Perseid meteor shower last week!

Just as in the park, things at Friends of Acadia have gotten a bit busier over the past few weeks. Earlier this month, FOA staff were busy implementing the first-ever Virtual Annual Benefit. Read on to see what you helped us accomplish.

With Your Help, We Did It!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who participated in the 31st Annual Benefit last Saturday night. We are genuinely blown away by the generosity of all those who love and want to help preserve and protect this special place.



The silent and live auctions received 472 individual bids from 164 bidders. More than 115 individuals (a participation record for the Benefit) donated to the Paddle Raise to launch the "[Acadia Resilience Fund](#)." Altogether, in less than an hour, the virtual Benefit raised more than \$400,000 for Acadia National Park! [Click here](#) to see a special thank you message from Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider: <https://vimeo.com/448664382>

Thanks to all the volunteers, item donors, staff, our corporate sponsor: Chilton Trust, Christie's auctioneer Lydia Fenet, and all our bidders and donors for making the first virtual Benefit in FOA history a success.

If you missed the Benefit and would still like to contribute to the "Acadia Resilience Fund," please use this form to donate: <https://friendsofacadia.org/2020paddleraise/>

Parking Reservation Pilot Program

The National Park Service has developed a vehicle reservation system to reduce severe traffic and parking congestion so visitors can plan ahead and have a more enjoyable visit to Acadia National Park. As a pilot to prepare for the 2021 season, reservations will be required for vehicles to enter the Sand Beach Entrance and Cadillac Summit Road from October 1 to 18, 2020. Vehicle reservations for this time period are available now. They are only online and can be purchased here: <https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/400000>



Friends of Acadia is very encouraged to see this first step toward a timed reservation system for vehicles to enter the busiest sites in the park during peak times. We hear from visitors frequently about the frustration of being stuck in traffic or turned away when the Cadillac Summit Road or Sand Beach Entrance become gridlocked by over-crowding. Having the ability to pre-plan with a reservation, just as you would with a whale watch or a carriage ride, or dinner out, should provide more certainty and a better experience once in the park. We hope our members and friends will participate in this pilot program to help the park test the reservation system to improve it even more for future visitors.

For more information visit the park's website: https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/vehicle_reservations.htm

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the FOA website: <https://friendsofacadia.org/visiting-acadia/reservation-system-faqs/>

Acadia: The Story Behind the Scenery

Friends of Acadia has teamed up with [AARP Maine](#) to bring you a four-part series called "Acadia: The Story Behind the Scenery" about the work we do as an organization to preserve and protect Acadia National Park.



This series will explore how our core concepts and related park management decisions translate into action to positively impact one of America's busiest national parks, which hosts as many as 3.5 million visitors annually.

These four events, centered on the four pillars of Friends of Acadia's programming and philanthropy, include:

- "Trails and Carriage Roads" held on Tuesday, August 11 ([click here to watch a recording](#))
- "Tomorrow's Stewards" on Tuesday, August 18 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
- "The Acadia Experience" on Tuesday, August 25 2:00 pm-3:00 pm
- "Wild Acadia" on Tuesday September 1st 6:00 pm-7:00pm

Click here to learn more and register for the webinars: <https://states.aarp.org/maine/event-series-acadia-the-story-behind-the-scenery>

Seasonal Team Final Presentations

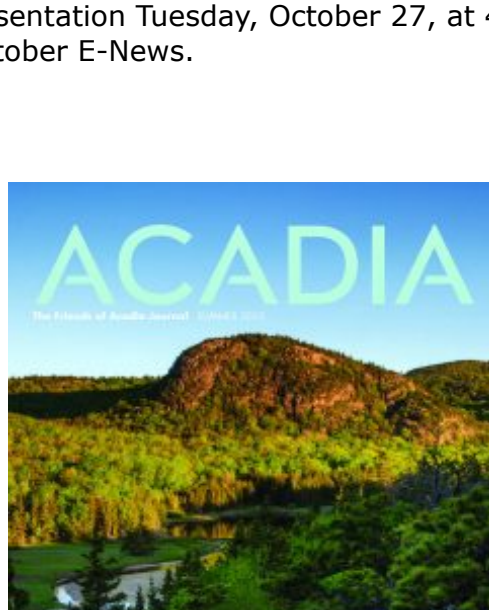
If you've visited the Friends of Acadia Facebook page at all this summer, you've probably seen one of our updates of the "[Acadia Photos of the Week](#)" photo album. This album is updated every Friday with images from the Acadia Digital Media Team. The team has been hard at work this summer, documenting all things Acadia with photos and videos. They've covered wildlife, area artists, park science, scenic vistas, maintenance work, and much more. We hope you'll join us Wednesday, August 19, at 4:00 pm on Zoom for the team's end-of-season presentation. The team will be showing photos and videos and will discuss their experiences this summer. Click here to access the presentation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89550557719> We will also livestream the presentation to our [Facebook page](#).



The Summit Stewards will also host a final presentation Tuesday, October 27, at 4 pm on Zoom. More details will follow in the October E-News.

Redesigned Journal in Mailboxes Now

The newly redesigned Journal is in mailboxes now. The current Acadia Magazine features a gorgeous cover photo of the Beehive by Emma Forthofer and articles on the carriage roads, lighthouses, a scenic flight with Martha Stewart, and much more. Didn't receive a Journal? [Become a member today](#), and you'll receive a new one four times annually! [Click here](#) to read the most recent Journal.



Header Photo: The sun sets on Echo Lake in Acadia National Park, Thursday, August 13, 2020. (Photo by Ashley L. Conti)



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