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 still in bloom, the park roads and carriage roads are still picturesquely framed by the lush green foliage, and the nights are perfect for stargazing. We hope you caught a glimpse of the Perseid meteor shower last week!

The sky is full of stars and planets, and the Milky Way can be seen stretching across the sky. This is a great time to visit Acadia National Park and have a more enjoyable visit to this special place.

Don't miss the following events:

- **Seasonal Team Final Presentations**
  
  The National Park Service has developed a vehicle reservation system to help manage overcrowding in the park during peak summer season. Parking Reservation Pilot Program began on September 5, 2020. Vehicles to enter the Sand Beach and Sand Beach Entrance will require a reservation, just as you would with a whale watch or a carriage ride, or dinner reservation, just to name a few. We hope our members and friends will participate in this pilot program to help the park and have a more enjoyable visit to this special place.

- **Acadia: The Story Behind the Scenery**
  
  The Summit Stewards will also host a final presentation Tuesday, October 27, 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 programming and philanthropy, including:

  - **Flora and Fauna**
  - **Beaches and Trails**
  - **People and History**

  Click here to watch the recording. The team has covered wildlife, area artists, park science, scenic vistas, maintenance work, and much more. We hope you’ll join us and want to help preserve and protect Acadia National Park.

- **The Acadia Experience**
  
  The 31st Annual Benefit last Saturday night was a huge success! More than 115 individuals (a participation record for the Benefit) donated to the Paddle Raise to launch the “The Acadia Experience” on Tuesday, August 25, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. The silent and live auctions received 472 individual bids from 164 bidders. More than 508 photos of the auction and its participants were uploaded to the 31st Annual Benefit Facebook event page.

The silent auction featured works of art by New York artist Christo and photographer Peter Adams, a hand-crafted piece of furniture by Old Colony Woodworking, and a golf tournament for two at the Penobscot Valley Country Club.

The live auction included a full week’s worth of black tie events at the Waterfront Hotel, a private auction with Christie’s auctioneer Lydia Fenet, a package of the焼き唐揚げ festival and food at Skunk Island, and a package of a private dinner with Executive Chef Paul Calzone.

The evening also featured a live auction of artwork by New York artist Christo and photographer Peter Adams, a hand-crafted piece of furniture by Old Colony Woodworking, and a golf tournament for two at the Penobscot Valley Country Club.

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For more information visit the park’s website:

https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/vehicle_reservations.htm

Parking Reservation Pilot Program

https://friendsofacadia.org/visiting-acadia/reservation-system-faqs/

Acadia Resilience Fund


https://friendsofacadia.org/2020paddleraise/

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the FOA website:

https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/vehicle_reservations.htm

We will also livestream the Seasonal Team Final Presentations Tuesday, October 13, 4 p.m. EST. More details to come. We are genuinely blown away by the generosity of all those who love Acadia and want to help preserve and protect Acadia National Park. As a pilot to bring you a four-part series of presentations, we are very encouraged to see this first step toward a timed parking reservation system for vehicles to enter the busiest sites in the park during peak summer season.

We hope our members and friends will participate in this pilot program to help the park and have a more enjoyable visit to this special place.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who participated in this major fundraiser.

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