

Dear Friends,

With chilly nights and sparkling days this week, October has made her entrance. Bright reds and golds highlight Acadia mountainsides, and flocks of Canada geese announce their presence with boisterous honks from the sky on their way south. This past holiday weekend was one of the busiest on record for the park, with so many people enjoying the trails and carriage roads and changing colors. One thing that is not changing is Friends of Acadia's dedication to preserving and protecting this beautiful place!

Take Pride in Acadia Day Update and Registration Details

Like all of our in-person events this year, the 30th annual Take Pride in Acadia Day will be a bit different—but not canceled. In a typical year, about 500 volunteers convene on Acadia's carriage roads to show their love for the park by clearing fallen leaves from drainages to protect roadbeds from the damaging freeze-thaw-freeze cycles of winter and spring storms. This year, the event will not be centralized at ANP Headquarters—tools will instead be staged at work locations, and teams will be formed ahead of time consisting of people within the same family or "social pod."



All participants are requested to form 6-16-person groups and register the entire team in advance. Individuals or groups of five or less cannot be accommodated this year to ensure a safe event. The number of group registrations is limited due to safety standards established and agreed upon by park and FOA staff. Registrations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To register your group, please email Dana@FriendsOfAcadia.org

Take Pride in Acadia Day is an event we look forward to every year, as it is a heartwarming way to wind down from a busy season and connect with the community while giving back to the park. We will miss celebrating at the end of the event with all of our friends and neighbors over cider, chili, cornbread, and cake. But know we will gather together and see each other again when it is safe. Big thanks to the park staff for working with FOA to plan an event that helps protect the health of volunteers, staff, and the local community.

With Your Help, We Did It!

Last week, a group of generous friends kicked off our 2020 Annual Fund drive with a challenge to raise \$20,000 by today—and thanks to you, we did it! Thanks to the support of 118 people who love Acadia National Park, we more than met the goal.

The FOA Annual Fund is used to preserve and protect Acadia, now and for future generations, and bring our programs like Outdoor Classrooms to Acadia region communities. It is the cornerstone of our work in conservation, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, accessibility, and education.



If you would like to join our other generous supporters and donate to the Annual Fund, visit <https://friendsofacadia.org/giving-membership/donate-to-the-annual-fund>

Two Long-Term Trail Restorations Completed

Since the summer of 2016, volunteers have worked two mornings per week during the summer months to completely replace the elevated bog walk on the West shore of Jordan Pond. Volunteers replaced 4,077 feet of cedar-plank bog walk and installed double-wide passing lanes at 50-foot intervals. The passing lanes, we hope, will minimize the number of times hikers need to step off the bog walk, which will go a long way to protecting the fragile surfaces on the Western shore and maintain the remarkable water quality of Jordan Pond. Altogether, more than 5,000 volunteer hours were contributed, not including the countless hours put in by volunteer groups, FOA staff, and ANP staff to boat in the new material and boat out the old material across Jordan Pond.



Special thanks to the consistent field leadership of Bob Sanderson, Randy Ewins, and Bill McArtor, whose craftsmanship and commitment to finishing the project cannot be overstated. We would also like to thank the volunteers who returned week after week and year after year to ensure quality and consistency in the finished bog walk. [Click here to see a video of the project and ribbon-cutting ceremony!](#)

Also recently completed is the Seaside Path, another 5-year trail restoration. For more than 100 years, the Seaside Path has been a vital connector trail linking two iconic places on Mount Desert Island: Jordan Pond and Seal Harbor Beach. Maintained for years by the Seal Harbor Village Improvement Society, the path traverses Acadia National Park, Land and Garden Preserve property, and privately owned land. The route winds through a mossy, coniferous forest, passing beneath the triple-arched Stanley Brook Carriage Road Bridge. Although the path was removed from Acadia's formal trail system in the 1950s, current trail management plans called for the restoration and, in some places, relocation of the Seaside Path as part of a broader effort to restore village connector trails.

Much of the work on this trail was completed thanks to funds from the generous paddle raise donors of the 2016 FOA Annual Benefit. The ANP trail crew and FOA volunteers have been hard at work restoring this trail since then. Thank you to the park staff, volunteers, private landowners, and donors who made this critical collaborative work possible. [Click here to see a video of the Seaside Path.](#)

Both of these projects are great examples of the good work Friends of Acadia is able to facilitate in the park thanks to collaboration with park staff, volunteers, and donations from members like you. Thank you!

Please Note: there is no public vehicular access to Seaside Lane at the Seaside Path's southern end. Please park at the [Seal Harbor Beach](#) lot and use the sidewalk to access Seaside Lane by foot only to pick up the trail. Thank you for respecting the privacy of the landowners who have been so generous in allowing the trail to cross their land.

Summit Stewards' End-of-Season Presentation

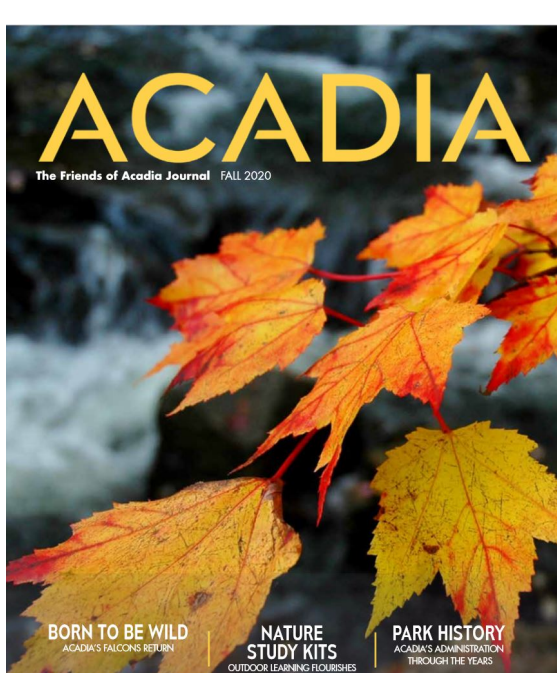
Join the FOA Summit Stewards as they recap their 2020 season and share personal highlights and observations from their work in the park. As part of their daily duties hiking Acadia's trails and roving Acadia's summits, they also answer visitor questions, conduct basic trail maintenance, repair cairns, remove visitor-built cairns and rock art, respond to emergencies, communicate with park managers, and collect data about weather, car and bus traffic, visitor use, and visitor behavior.



Save this link to participate in the [Summit Stewards'](#) final presentation Tuesday, October 27 at 4 pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88972656046> The presentation will also be streamed to [Facebook](#) live, but live Q&A will only be available through the zoom meeting.

Fall Acadia Magazine, in Mailboxes Soon!

The first-ever fall issue of Acadia magazine will be in mailboxes soon. Featuring articles on peregrine falcons, park history, outdoor learning, movies filmed in Acadia, beautiful fall foliage photos, and much more... you don't want to miss it! Want to have your very own copy? Receiving a print version of the magazine in your mailbox is as easy as keeping your FOA membership current. Visit <https://friendsofacadia.org/join-renew/>



Your membership in Friends of Acadia is an investment in Acadia's future, helping us to fund important ongoing programs and new initiatives—from carriage road and trail maintenance to land protection, youth-powered projects, and much more. With an annual donation of \$35 or more, you will receive "Acadia, The Friends of Acadia Journal" four times per year. *Thank you!*

Header Photo: Heavy fog hangs near Pemetic Mountain in Acadia National Park, Wednesday, September 2, 2020. (Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia)



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