



36th Annual Benefit Raises Money to Restore the Carroll Homestead

A huge thank you to the more than four hundred people who joined us to celebrate and support the park on Saturday, August 9, at Friends of Acadia's 36th Annual Benefit. A highlight of the evening was raising more than \$200K to help restore the Carroll Homestead. Located within the park in Southwest Harbor, the [Carroll](#)

[Homestead](#) is one of the last remaining, authentic examples of 19th-century life on Mount Desert Island and a unique educational resource for visitors and local elementary school students.

[Learn more about the Carroll Homestead](#), and help us preserve this historic treasure.



Check Out One of Acadia's Ranger-Led Programs

Discover [Acadia's geologic history](#), take a [guided walk along a carriage road](#), or learn about [animals](#) and [plants](#) from an interpretive ranger!

Some programs welcome drop-ins, but others require advance registration. [Check the program calendar on the Acadia National Park website](#) for details on topics, locations, times, and whether a reservation is required or parking is limited.



Advocacy Update

Friends of Acadia recently marked the fifth anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act, which established the Legacy Restoration Fund to address critical repair needs in national parks and public lands.

Thanks to this funding, Acadia is building a new, much-needed [maintenance facility](#) that will create a safer, more efficient space for park staff and volunteers to repair equipment and care for Acadia's beloved trails and carriage roads. A second project, completed on the Schoodic campus, [overhauled aging water and wastewater systems](#) to better support the growing number of visitors, students, and educators who visit the site.



Friends of Acadia supports the bipartisan America the Beautiful Act, which would reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund and allow needed repairs to continue in Acadia and on public lands across the country. We look forward to the forthcoming Senate discussion on the bill after the August recess and will continue working with national partners to build support for a House companion bill.

The Summer Issue of *Acadia* Magazine Is Out!

The summer issue of *Acadia* magazine arrived in mailboxes, and it's full of stories that spotlight important work happening in the park.

Read about the [magic touch of Acadia's trail crew](#) on the Bubbles Divide Trail, the melding of [history and artistry that goes into vista management](#), and the park's collaborative efforts to reduce light pollution and [keep the night sky dark for the benefit of wildlife](#) – and people, too.

Also in this issue: we proudly welcome park and Island Explorer staff into [new seasonal employee housing](#), and [highlight volunteers who monitor the park's rare plants](#) (including the oh-so-small-and-lovely boreal blueberry).

[Join us as an annual member](#) to get the next issue in your mailbox, or [gift a membership](#) to someone who loves the park!



A New Exhibit Showcases Stunning Photos of Acadia by Thomas Blagden, Jr.

Conservation photographer [Thomas Blagden, Jr.'s work is on display](#) at The Gallery at Somes Sound through August 31. Blagden, an acclaimed photographer and chronicler of the park, won the 2006 National Outdoor Book Award for his photography compilation, "First Light: Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island." A portion of proceeds from the show will benefit Friends of Acadia.



Links Pub Will Donate 10% of Proceeds Each Thursday Through August

As part of their "Thankful Thursdays" program, each Thursday through the end of the month, [Links Pub](#), located at the Kebo Valley Golf Club in Bar Harbor, will be donating 10% of sales to support Acadia National Park through Friends of Acadia and will match any cash donations, up to \$200. Grab a meal or a drink (11 am - 5 pm) and help support our park!



Pints for a Purpose

Join us for informative talks and camaraderie that'll deepen your connection to MDI and Acadia National Park.

[This free series](#) happens every Thursday through October 16 at Terramor Outdoor Resort. All are welcome to attend, and \$1 of every beer purchased benefits Friends of Acadia!

- **Aug 21:** Jesse Wheeler, Acadia National Park's Vegetation Program Manager, will talk about invasive plant management
- **Aug 28:** Brandon Bies, Deputy Superintendent of Acadia, will discuss Acadia's storm damage response
- **Sept 4:** Rich McDonald will discuss climate change and the birds of MDI



[See the full list of speaker on our website>>](#)

Volunteer With Us!

Help preserve and protect Acadia National Park with the gift of time through these opportunities:

- **Twice Weekly Save Our Summits Hikes:** Every Wednesday and Saturday through September, this program invites tenacious hikers to bring bags of soil to the summits of Penobscot and Sargent Mountains to help with restoration efforts. Hikes run from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. [Advanced registration is required](#).
- **Drop-In Stewardship Program:** Spend a morning helping to maintain and repair Acadia's trails and carriage roads! The drop-in program operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. through the end of October. For more details and a map of the meeting place, [please visit our website](#). Thank you to our lead sponsor [Chilton Trust](#) for supporting this program!



[See the full list of our volunteer opportunities here>>](#)

Mark Your Calendars for Take Pride in Acadia Day on Nov. 1

Start warming up those raking arms! Join us on Saturday, November 1, 2025 for our annual [Take Pride in Acadia Day](#). Have fun in the outdoors and help us rake leaves and clear drainage ditches to help prepare the carriage roads for cold weather.

(Registration will open up closer to the event date.)



In Case You Missed It:

["Saving a Window to the Past: The Carroll Homestead Restoration"](#) (*Mount Desert Islander*)

["Acadia National Park Sets All-time Record for Monthly Visits"](#) (*Bar Harbor Story/Bangor Daily News*)

["A Boat, a Legacy and a Gift to Acadia"](#) (*Mount Desert Islander*)

Our CEO Eric Stiles was interviewed by *The Washington Post* in [a story about cuts to the National Park Service](#) and their impact on the summer season.

["Friends of Acadia's Annual Meeting Highlights Acadia's Wins and Worries"](#) (*Bar Harbor Story*)

["From Trails to Native Plants, FOA Discusses Conservation Efforts"](#) (*Mount Desert Islander*)

Until next month,



Header Photo: Low-hanging clouds and heavy fog cover Bar Harbor and Frenchman Bay as the sun rises from Cadillac Mountain (Photo by Lily LaRegina/Friends of Acadia).



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