



## Thank You to Our Earth Day Volunteers

Our 24th Annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup was a great success! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who braved the weather to help keep our communities looking great. Despite the soggy conditions, over 200 intrepid volunteers showed up to remove 372 bags of trash from the roadsides of MDI and Trenton. [See more photos from the day on our website.](#)



A special thanks to our lead sponsor, [Chilton Trust](#), for helping make this event happen. We would also like to thank our friends at the Maine Department of Transportation for making the extra trip to pick up the bags!

There are plenty of other opportunities to volunteer with us this year, including our Drop-In Stewardship Program in Acadia National Park which begins on June 3. [Learn more >>](#)

## Briefing from Washington

Last week, Friends of Acadia President and CEO Eric Stiles joined leaders from Schoodic Institute, Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, and 150 other national park partners in Washington, D.C., for the National Park Foundation's Hill Day 2025. Together, park partners called on Congress to protect national parks from further budget and personnel cuts.



Introduction of the *America the Beautiful Act*: On May 1, U.S. Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Angus King (I-ME) [introduced bipartisan legislation](#) to extend support for critical infrastructure projects in national parks across the country. If passed, the new bill would support the restoration of iconic park structures within Acadia.

Update on staffing: Since the beginning of the year, the National Park Service has lost around 13% of its workforce nationwide through buyouts, deferred resignations, and early retirements, according to National Park Conservation Association. Further [staff cuts are expected](#), and the hiring freeze on full-time staff remains in place.

Update on frozen funding: \$1.7 million in federal funding for Acadia National Park was unfrozen in late April following a federal court order directing the administration to resume disbursing Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. The freeze, first implemented in January, delayed ecological restoration and Tribal partnership projects, but the court's decision allows critical work to now move forward. Friends of Acadia will continue monitoring for any additional delays or impacts to conservation projects across the park.

Check our [policy impacts page](#) for the latest updates and information on how to help.

---

## The Wild Gardens of Acadia Opens for the Season

[The Wild Gardens of Acadia](#) is now open daily from dawn until dusk. Created in 1961 and maintained by dedicated volunteers, the Wild Gardens of Acadia is a partnership between Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. It offers park visitors an award-winning microcosm of Acadia's uniquely varied plant communities in a serene brookside setting.



The Wild Gardens includes over 400 plant species, all indigenous, in thirteen sections designed to represent natural plant communities found within Acadia National Park. Mountain, heath, seaside, coniferous forest, and nine other habitats are represented.

Early season blossoms visible now include marsh marigold, leather leaf, wild oats, violets, and bluets. Yellow lady slippers (pictured), one of the garden's early-season showstoppers, are expected in the next few weeks.

## Pints for a Purpose Begins May 29

Join us for informative talks and camaraderie that'll deepen your connection to MDI and Acadia National Park. The 2025 season kicks off on Thursday, May 29, at 5:00 p.m. with James Francis Sr., the Penobscot Nation's Tribal Historian.

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!



- **June 5:** Eric Stiles, Friends of Acadia, and Brian Hinrichs, Katahdin Woods & Waters, on park partnerships
- **June 12:** Jim Wright on MDI's real James Bond (the ornithologist)
- **June 19:** Fletcher Cleaves on accessibility in the travel industry
- **June 26:** Aislinn Sarnacki, *Bangor Daily News*, on the "wild life" of an outdoor journalist

See the full list of this season's speakers [here](#).

---



## '24 Storm Update: Progress and Repairs Following Intense Winter Storms

Acadia National Park still bears scars from severe winter weather in early 2024. Back-to-back mid-January storms brought intense winds and extremely high tides. Several park [locations experienced significant damage](#) – severe erosion, scattered rocks and debris, downed trees, and sections of coastal paths unceremoniously disappeared.



While those storms packed an extraordinary punch, park managers were quick to respond. Crews assessed areas for safety and shored up where they could, then began the detailed process of surveying and tracking the impact and prioritizing repairs.

One of those locations was Ocean Path, where more than 1,000 feet of trail washed out, and many trees were blown down during the storms. Repair work to reopen the trail last spring included two temporary boardwalks and stonework.

FOA funds helped support this work, and equipment purchased by FOA in previous years, like a Canycom rubber track carrier, helped park crews get the work done. This equipment came in handy again this winter after waves washed away 300 feet of Ocean Path just beyond Otter Cliffs, requiring additional, speedy repairs by Acadia's talented trail crew.

[See before and after photos, and read more about the repairs >>](#)

---

## Dedication to Vegetation: Acadia's 35+ Year Invasive Plant Management Program

Invasive [plants can spread quickly](#), elbowing out native plants like hangry party crashers at a tapas table. They can reemerge, year after year, despite being cut, dug up, or treated with herbicide. Their persistence would be admirable, were they not so detrimental to the ecosystems they overtake.



As it happens, Acadia National Park's Invasive Plant Management Team – comprised of a cadre of biologists, researchers, and technicians from the park and Schoodic Institute – are decidedly tenacious, too.

[Read what's made Acadia's invasive plant management program so successful >>](#)

---

## Big Nights: Helping Amphibians Cross the Road

Each spring, when the nights become milder and the rains more abundant, frogs, toads, and salamanders emerge from their hibernation to hatch a get-warm-quick



scheme. For some, that involves splaying on a nearby road to take advantage of the ambient heat absorbed during the day.

As spring wears on, the urge to cross roads is spurred by a more reproductive instinct to reach vernal pools, lakes, or ponds where they breed and lay eggs.

This natural cycle would go on uninterrupted if not for one big problem – cars.



[Read how Acadia Science Fellow Marisa Monroe and a team of volunteers are collecting data on crossing amphibians and helping prevent their undue mortality along the way >>](#)

---

## New Books Supporting Acadia

Friends of Acadia is excited to announce the release of Shelby James' latest children's book, *Elliott the Explorer Goes to Acadia*. This story follows Elliott (the author's own son), a curious young explorer, as he embarks on an adventure through the stunning landscapes of Acadia National Park.



Shelby has generously pledged to donate half of the proceeds from her book sales to FOA! It will be available for purchase at some local shops soon, but in the meantime you can [purchase a copy and learn more about Shelby on her website](#).

Copies of [Ron Epp's book, \*Creating Acadia National Park\*](#), are now available at Sherman's in Bar Harbor, McGrath's in Northeast Harbor, Terramor in Town Hill, Acadia Corporation's stores throughout MDI, Eastern National's bookstores in the park, and at FOA's offices in Bar Harbor.

---

## Upcoming Events & Openings:

(Friends of Acadia events in **bold**.)

- Now open: [Hulls Cover Visitor Center](#)
- Now open: [Wild Gardens of Acadia](#)
- May 10: [Carroll Homestead](#) opens for the season
- May 16: [Jordan Pond House](#) opens for the season
- May 22: [Cultural Fusion Fest](#) welcoming MDI seasonal workers (at the YWCA MDI)
- **May 29: First Friends of Acadia “Pints for a Purpose” talk of the season, featuring James Francis Sr., the Penobscot Nation’s Tribal Historian (at Terramor)**
- **June 3: First day of the Acadia Volunteer Drop-In 2025 season**
- **June 14: [Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale](#)**



- June 19: Free Entrance Day at Acadia (and Juneteenth National Independence Day)
  - **June 25: [Save Our Summits hikes](#) begin at Sargent and Penobscot Mountains**
  - **July 6: [Mary Louise Pierson retrospective](#) at the Gallery at Somes Sound**
  - **July 8: Book launch of *An Exaltation of Parks: John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Crusade to Save America's Wonderlands* at the Northeast Harbor Library**
  - **July 9: [Friends of Acadia's Annual Meeting](#)**
  - **July 28: [George B. Dorr Society](#) annual gathering**
  - **Aug 9: [Friends of Acadia's 36th Annual Benefit & Auction](#)**
- 

## Support Acadia National Park

The first US national park created entirely by private donations of land, Acadia National Park today is protected and enriched by the members, donors, and volunteers of Friends of Acadia. From the cobblestone beaches to the spectacular night skies, and on every inch of the historic hiking trails and carriage roads—all of Friends of Acadia's accomplishments start with the dedication of members and donors like you.



Spring is the perfect time to join us as so much important work is kicking off in the park. [Visit our website to learn about the different ways you can give back to the place you love.](#)

---

## In Case You Missed It:

Read about the history of Acadia's [incredible carriage roads in \*National Geographic\*](#) >>

*Mount Desert Islander*: [Citations soar for hikers on closed trails in Acadia National Park](#) >>

*Ellsworth American*: [FOA volunteers provide support at the park](#) >>

Missed our [View Finders](#) in Acadia screening? Not to worry! [Watch the episode now on PBS](#) >>

The U.S. Senate unanimously [passed a bipartisan resolution](#) introduced by U.S. Senator Angus King (I-ME), the Ranking Member of the National Parks Subcommittee, marking the week of April 19 through April 27 as National Park Week 2025.

---

Until next month,



Eliza Worrick



**Eliza Worrick**

*Digital Marketing Manager*

Header Photo: Bluets (houstonia) bloom in the Wild Gardens of Acadia (Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia).



If you do not wish to receive E-News emails, please contact [amanda@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:amanda@friendsofacadia.org) to be removed from this list. **Please note:** If you click "Unsubscribe," you will no longer receive any email communication from Friends of Acadia.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Friends of Acadia](#)

43 Cottage Street P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609-0045