



Brief: FOA Meeting with Legislators

This week, leadership from Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute met with legislators in Washington, D.C., to advocate for sufficient park staffing, including a lift of the hiring freeze currently affecting full-time park staff and more than 150 seasonal positions within Acadia. Members of Maine's delegation expressed their commitment to Acadia National Park, and Representative Chellie Pingree followed up with [a letter](#) urging Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to resume all seasonal hiring immediately.



Additionally, FOA spoke with lawmakers about the continuing need for affordable park workforce housing and the importance of renewing the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan bill that's helped national parks, including Acadia, address crippling maintenance backlog issues.

Snowy Winter Keeping Volunteer Ski Trail Groomers Busy

Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteers, supported by Friends of Acadia, have been out in full force this winter! This intrepid group has spent almost 10 days preparing sections of the carriage roads for classic and skate-style cross country skiing. Thank you to these volunteers for helping make this winter ski season so memorable!



To get the latest updates on grooming reports and conditions, follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), or visit [this page on our website](#).

Couples Who Volunteer Together, Stay Together

When it comes to helping preserve and protect the natural beauty of Acadia National Park, few things speak louder than the dedication of our volunteers. Among them are couples who not only share their lives but also their passion for giving back to the community by volunteering at our Membership Table from June to October in front of the Jordan Pond House restaurant. While Friends of Acadia makes no claims or guarantees, the two dynamic duos in this story prove that couples who volunteer together, stay together.



Read our Valentine's Day volunteer love story [here](#).

If you and your partner are interested in volunteering together, or if you're interested just for yourself, or perhaps with friends or coworkers, we welcome you to join us! Follow [this link](#), and let us know you're interested. Our efforts will help ensure that Acadia remains a natural treasure for generations to come. We look forward to welcoming you to our community of dedicated volunteers.

Upcoming Trail Closures for Peregrine Nesting Season

Starting in early March, the Precipice, East Face, and Jordan Cliffs trails, along with the northern section of the Flying Mountain trail will close for peregrine falcon nesting season. Help these magnificent birds continue their comeback by giving them space as they nest and raise chicks.



Visit the park's ["Current Conditions" page](#) for the latest updates on trail closures, and read more about [the conservation efforts](#) helping peregrine populations rebound in Acadia.

Double Your Impact to Celebrate Acadia's Parkiversary During Our Spring E-Challenge

Mark your calendars for February 26th! To celebrate Acadia's transition from national monument to national park on February 26, 1919, we will be DOUBLING all gifts until we reach our \$25,000 goal! Check your inbox and our social media accounts later this month for more details.



Friends of Acadia Welcomes New Leadership Staff

Friends of Acadia is pleased to welcome two new leadership staff to its team.

Perrin Doniger, who spent 10 years at *Smithsonian* magazine, brings extensive experience in marketing, content development, and revenue initiatives to the role of Vice President of Communications and Marketing.

Megan Loomer joins from The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk and brings robust financial experience to the role of Vice President of Finance and CFO.



"Perrin's strong background in building engaged audiences will help us share our messages and address key issues facing Acadia National Park and its surrounding communities," said Eric Stiles, Friends of Acadia president and CEO. "Megan's robust experience in finance will bolster our mission-driven work as we increase our contributions to the park."

Read more about Perrin and Megan [here](#).



If you've been out on carriage roads this winter, especially around sunrise and sunset, you may have seen Paula Huntsman racking up miles on her cross country skis. "I really love skiing first thing in the morning, and then again at sunset. My husband calls it 'star time' when we're out there and all the stars start popping out."

Paula's time on the trails inspired her to donate a dollar for every mile she skis this winter to Friends of Acadia. "I just love skiing in the park, and I've seen the groomers about three times this week, so every time I'm out there and I see them going by, I think, 'Ah, thank you!' And I thought this was one way that I could actually thank them and help the park."

Want your photo featured in a future issue of our monthly e-newsletter? Reply to this email with your name, photo, and the story behind it, and you might just see it highlighted!

In Case You Missed It:

[Science Survey Travelogue Spotlights Visitation Challenges in Acadia](#)

[Explore Photos of Life Under Acadia's Ice](#)

[Listen to the latest season of "Sea to Trees," a podcast from Schoodic Institute that tells the stories of science happening in and around Acadia](#)

Until next month,

Eliza Worrick



Eliza Worrick

Digital Marketing Manager

Header Photo: A woman walks her dog along the Man O' War Brook Trail (Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia).



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