



2026 Annual Benefit Raises Money to Restore Baker Island Lighthouse

Over 430 people gathered to celebrate and support Acadia National Park at Gate House Farm in Northeast Harbor for Friends of Acadia's 2026 Annual Benefit. A highlight of the evening was raising more than \$400,000 to help restore the historic Baker Island Lighthouse, one of Acadia's most treasured maritime landmarks.



A huge thanks to everyone who came together to celebrate and support a place that means so much to so many. It would not have happened without the many businesses, artists, craftspeople, and individuals who donated incredible auction items and volunteered their time to help Acadia National Park. We are profoundly grateful to everyone who made this year's Annual Benefit such a success.

Friends of Acadia also extends its sincere thanks to Chilton Trust, the event's lead sponsor for the past 13 years, for its steadfast commitment to Acadia. Special thanks as well to Interactive Brokers, the Patron Leadership Sponsor, and to

Morgan Stanley, the Marquee Sponsor, for supporting Friends of Acadia's 40th anniversary and helping advance the work that will sustain Acadia for generations to come.

[>> Watch our video featuring the Baker Island Lighthouse](#)

Acadia Teacher Fellows Finish Out a Successful Season

[The Acadia Teacher Fellows program](#) is a unique professional development opportunity for K-12 educators to gain hands-on experience in Acadia National Park. Teacher Fellows work side-by-side with interpreters, researchers, patrol rangers, resource managers, trail crews, and other specialists.



Teacher Fellows work side-by-side with interpreters, researchers, patrol rangers, resource managers, trail crews, and other specialists to deepen their understanding of Acadia and explore ways to bring outdoor learning and community science projects back to their classrooms.

Backyard Stewards Invasive Plant Removal Workshop – Aug 20

Join Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust for this Backyard Stewards event to learn how to remove invasive plants. Participants will spend time learning about specific tools and techniques to remove these plants, before spending the remainder of the workshop practicing their new skills.



Please bring work gloves, a water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray. Please wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. [Registration for this event is required.](#)

Move, Give, and Share Your Love for Acadia - Join the 40 for Acadia Challenge!

The 40 for Acadia challenge is a simple way to celebrate FOA's 40th anniversary and support our beloved park while simply spending time in Acadia!

Here's how it works:

- **Log 40 miles** of any activity in Acadia, hiking, biking, walking, swimming, paddling, adaptive riding, touring, or by carriage. OR
- **Volunteer for 4 hours** in Acadia: [click here](#) to explore some ideas!



Once you complete your activity, [share a short note, story, or photo through our submission form](#). For every completed submission, **the Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation will donate \$40 to Friends of Acadia**, and you'll receive a limited-edition 40 for Acadia patch. The foundation will also match any donation (optional) up to \$5,000 submitted with the form!

Drop-In Stewardship Project Spotlight: Hadlock Brook Bogwalk

Have you spotted our [Drop-In Stewardship Volunteers](#) near the Hadlock Brook Trail this summer? They've been hard at work building 130 feet worth of a raised cedar walking path, also known as bog walk, to increase accessibility to this beloved trail.



This area is plagued by extensive roots, rocks, and seasonal flooding, resulting in vegetation damage and the development of social trails (unofficial, user-created paths that form over time as visitors take detours). This project will help to mitigate both of these negative effects. Thank you to our wonderful Drop-In Volunteers!

We'd also like to thank to Chilton Trust, who not only provide sponsorship support of the Drop-In Volunteer Program but stopped by the Hadlock Brook Trail project recently to do some volunteer work themselves.

August is National Make-A-Will Month

National Make-A-Will Month is an annual reminder to take one of the most meaningful steps you can for the people and causes you care about most. Despite the importance of estate planning, only about 24% of U.S. adults report having a will, and many who don't simply say they "haven't gotten around to it yet."



Creating or updating your will is not just about finances; it's about protecting loved ones, communicating your wishes, and creating a legacy that reflects your values.

For members and friends of the George B. Dorr Society, it's also an opportunity to ensure that Acadia National Park remains protected, accessible, and inspiring for future generations. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events, Park Openings, and Save the Dates:

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

- **Aug 13: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - The New Penobscot Nation Museum with Jennifer Neptune**

- Aug 20: [Backyard Stewards invasive plant removal workshop](#)
- Aug 20: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Further Adventures of Wandering Gulls with Dr. John Anderson
- Aug 27: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Acadia's Plant Life with Jesse Wheeler
- Sept 3: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Wild Acadia with Lauren Gibson
- Sept 10: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Whales of the Gulf of Maine with Dan DenDanto



Until next month,



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