



## **Celebrating Accomplishments & Honoring Members at the Annual Meeting**

More than 300 ['friends' of Acadia National Park gathered](#) for Friends of Acadia's 2025 Annual Meeting held at the Bar Harbor Club on Wednesday, July 9. The air was full of good cheer, excitement, and positive energy as we celebrated our impact for Acadia, along with three distinguished community members who were key parts of that success:



*Excellence in Volunteerism:* **Georgia and Mark Munsell**

*President's Darn Good Work Award:* **Anne Green and David Katona**

*Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award:* **Hannah Clark**

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## Our 2024 Impact Report is Here!

Thank you, Friends of Acadia members, donors, and volunteers, for helping us build a strong foundation for Acadia's future. With your support, we completed several critical seasonal staff housing projects — at Dane Farm in Seal Harbor, Jordan River Road in Trenton, and White Birches Camp in Southwest Harbor. The park also broke ground on the largest housing project yet at Harden Farm in Bar Harbor.



In addition to these milestones, we celebrated the Island Explorer's 10 millionth passenger and the park's 35 years of successful invasive plant management.

Read more about our collective impact for Acadia National Park in our [2024 Impact Report](#).

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### ***The New York Times* Features Anne Kozak's 50+ Years of Service to Wild Gardens of Acadia**

*The New York Times* featured longtime Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteer Anne Kozak in a story spotlighting six volunteers who keep America's public lands running.



Anne, who has been volunteering almost daily since 1972, spends around 600 hours per year doing a variety of amazing things for the Wild Gardens and Acadia National Park.

[Read the full story here>>](#)

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### **Have Your Donation DOUBLED This Week**

Acadia National Park has always been a place of wonder, reflection, and renewal. But now more than ever, it needs our care, our voices, and our action.



It's your chance to support vital conservation efforts and programming for Acadia during our 2025 Acadia Week E-Challenge. Give now to show your support and to DOUBLE your impact by helping to unlock a \$25,000 gift from lead donors Julie Banzhaf-Stone and Steve Stone, Winifred Hentschel and Philip Trackman, Mary Ann and Michael Siklosi, and Yardly and Scott Jenkins.

[Double My Gift!>>](#)

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## Advocacy Update

**Staffing update:** Last week, [The New York Times reported](#) on [new data from the National Parks Conservation Association](#) that the National Park Service, as a whole, has lost nearly a quarter of its permanent staff since the beginning of January.



The hiring freeze on permanent staff remains in place, and after [Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling](#), allowing government-wide reductions-in-force to move forward, we anticipate significant layoffs and department restructuring will hit the National Park Service, and other government agencies, at any time.

In addition, due to mandated hiring delays, parks across the country are far behind on hiring seasonal staff. So far, only roughly [4,500 of the 7,700](#) needed seasonal positions have been hired – a little bit less than 60%.

**Budget update:** On July 3, Congress passed the budget reconciliation bill, which [rescinded \\$267 million](#) in Inflation Reduction Act funding earmarked for National Park Service staffing. We are still working to understand the impact of those losses. Friends of Acadia strongly opposed the above-mentioned provision and continues to work closely with Maine's congressional delegation to advocate for full and sustained funding for the National Park Service.

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## Get Your Tickets to the 36th Annual Benefit & Auction

The Annual Benefit & Auction is just around the corner! Join us on August 9 at Gate House Farm in Northeast Harbor for an unforgettable evening! Enjoy a cocktail reception with a silent auction, followed by a delicious dinner, live auction, [Paddle Raise to support the preservation of the historic Carrol Homestead](#), and dancing with DJ June and The Hudson Horns. It's the perfect opportunity to come together with our amazing community and celebrate our love for Acadia.



Don't miss out – [get your tickets today!](#)

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## 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!



- **July 10:** Audrey Ryan, author of "The Downeast Goldmine: A Story of Fishing and Drug Smuggling in Coastal Maine"
- **July 17:** Richard Huck, artist and former visual art resident at Acadia National Park
- **July 24:** Joan Jordan Grant, author of "Lydia Stories" will discuss her book and the historic Carroll Homestead
- **July 31:** Diane Zito, Jack Russell, and friends will give firsthand accounts and the history surrounding the Fire of '47

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

## More Upcoming Events:

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

- Jul 15: Last day to see the [Artemis Gallery group exhibition](#) featuring Mary Barnes, Tyler O'Grady, Robert Pollien, Adele Ursone, and Goody B. Wiseman. (A portion of the proceeds will go to Friends of Acadia.)
- **Jul 28: [George B. Dorr Society annual gathering](#)**
- Jul 31: Last day to see [Mary Louise Pierson's photography](#) at The Gallery at Somes Sound. (A portion of the proceeds will go to Friends of Acadia.)
- Aug 4: Free park entrance day (anniversary of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#))
- **Aug 9: [Friends of Acadia's 36th Annual Benefit & Auction](#)**



Until next month,



Header Photo: Clouds illuminated by the setting sun roll over Eagle Lake and Cadillac Mountain (Photo by Will Newton/Friends of Acadia).



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Friends of Acadia

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