



Celebrating 40 Years & Honoring Our Members at the Annual Meeting

More than 300 'friends' of Acadia National Park gathered for FOA's 2026 Annual Meeting held at the Bar Harbor Club on Wednesday, July 8. 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: Jim Linnane

Distinguished Public Service Award: John Kelly

Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award: Rebecca Cole-Will

During the Annual Meeting, we premiered a video produced by communications seasonal Rhiannon Johnston celebrating Friends of Acadia's 40th anniversary and

the power of friends.

[>>Watch the video here!](#)

Great Meadow Culvert Replaced to Improve Flow of Water and Wildlife

Crews have finished replacing the 3-foot-wide culvert with a new 12-foot-wide culvert (image shows new culvert on the left, old culvert on the right). Built in 1930, the smaller culvert restricted the flow of water out of the wetland into Cromwell Brook, leading to flooding during heavy rain events. The culvert was also set too low, which caused too much water to leave the wetland during dry periods.



The swings between being flooded and too dry make the wetland a stressful place to live for many plants and animals. With a wide bottom that mimics a natural stream channel, the new culvert will improve passage for both water and wildlife. It will also help to mitigate the flooding of nearby infrastructure.

This project is part of a collaboration between Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and Schoodic Institute to restore and monitor Great Meadow. To learn more about the project, visit Schoodic Institute's website where you can find an [interactive StoryMap outlining the larger initiative](#).

Backyard Stewards Invasive Plant Removal Workshop – July 25

Join Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park Vegetation Manager Jesse Wheeler to learn how to remove invasive plants like Japanese knotweed, Japanese barberry, and glossy buckthorn. 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.



[Registration for this event is required.](#)

Our 2025 Impact Report is Here!

2025 was a year of long-planned achievements, meaningful progress, and resilience for Acadia National Park. From celebrating the opening of the new Acadia Gateway Center, to advancing important trail, habitat, and historic preservation projects with the help of members and volunteers, we couldn't have done any of it without you.



Have Your Donation DOUBLED This Week - \$40K for 40 Years E-Challenge

For four decades, this incredible community has protected and enhanced the magic of Acadia, and now it's time to mark this milestone in a big, bold way.

During our \$40K for 40 Years E-Challenge, every single dollar you give will be matched 1:1, doubling your impact instantly, thanks to the generosity of our lead donors, Julie Banzhaf Stone and Steve Stone.

We have just \$13,092 left to go! [Click here to donate today.](#)



Author Talk & Book Signing: Steve Kemp, Author of *An Exaltation of Parks* – July 27

Friends of Acadia is excited to partner with the Land & Garden Preserve, the Mount Desert Island Historical Society, the Beatrix Farrand Society, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Criterion Theatre to present Steve Kemp, author of *An Exaltation of Parks: John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Crusade to Save America's Wonderlands*. Kemp will share insights from his new book during this special presentation.



In the spirit of John D. Rockefeller Jr., widely recognized for his collaborative approach to advancing conservation for the public good, these Mount Desert Island-based nonprofits have come together to make this evening possible. Each organization shares a connection to Rockefeller or his descendants through their ongoing work to preserve properties for public use and enjoyment.

All are welcome to attend the event. To RSVP for the event, [please click here.](#)

Park-Related Update from Washington, D.C.

The Senate took an important bipartisan step forward June 17 by unanimously advancing the America the Beautiful Act to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF). The bill now moves to the full Senate for consideration. A companion House measure, the Great American Outdoors



Act 250, would similarly renew the fund at \$1.9 billion annually for five years, reflecting continued bipartisan support for long-term investments in America's public lands and national parks.

The original 2020 Great American Outdoors Act helped fund [Acadia National Park's new maintenance facility](#) and [major wastewater and septic infrastructure improvements at Schoodic](#).

Get Your Tickets to Our Annual Benefit & Auction on Aug 8

The Annual Benefit & Auction is just around the corner! Join us on August 8 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, and dancing to a live band. 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!](#)

Upcoming Events, Park Openings, and Save the Dates:

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

- July 9: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - **Past & Present FOA Presidents Reflect on our first 40 years and chartering a course for the future**
- July 16: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - **Trees of Acadia with Catherine Schmitt**
- July 23: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - **Exploring Cashes Ledge with Zack Klyver**
- July 25: [Backyard Stewards invasive plant removal workshop](#)
- July 27: [George B. Dorr Society luncheon](#)
- July 27: Author talk & book signing with Steve Kemp at the Criterion Theatre
- July 30: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - **"An Exaltation of Parks" with Steve Kemp**
- Aug 6: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - **Birds of Acadia with Michael Good**
- Aug 8: [FOA's Annual Benefit & Auction](#)



In Case You Missed It:

[>>Follow along with Digital Marketing Manager Eliza as she uses the Island Explorer to commute to Bar Harbor](#)

[>>We're hiring a Vice President of Advancement](#)

Until next month,

Eliza Worrick



Eliza Worrick

Digital Marketing Manager

Header photo: The sun sets over Jordan Pond, silhouetting the Bubbles, Sargent, and Pemetic mountains. (Rhiannon Johnston/Friends of Acadia)



If you do not wish to receive E-News emails, please contact 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