



Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale This Saturday, June 13

Shop for a cause! [The annual Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale](#) will be held, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 13 at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, 41 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor. The sale will feature perennials, annuals, native plants, veggie seedlings, and more. Proceeds fund the maintenance and operations of the Wild Gardens of Acadia.



You're Invited to Our Annual Meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration on July 8

Please join us July 8, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Bar Harbor Club as we mark 40 years of incredible impact for Acadia National Park. We look forward to gathering

with so many friends who love Acadia and celebrating all that we've accomplished together.

[Visit our website](#) for more information and to RSVP for this year's celebration.



Sign Up for a Free Ride With MDI Wheelers

MDI Wheelers is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization that provides safe, comfortable, and free rides on special electric-assist trikes for people who would like a ride on Acadia's carriage roads but need assistance.

Rides are scheduled Thursday and Friday at 10 and at 11:15 AM, weather permitting. If you, a friend, or a family member are interested in a ride, [get in touch to learn more and schedule a ride](#).



Island Explorer's Summer Service Begins June 23

Full summer service for the fare-free Island Explorer bus begins on MDI on June 23. Three routes have been running from the newly opened Acadia Gateway Center since May 20. Explore the park without having to worry about parking!

Route maps and schedules can be found on [Downeast Transportation's website](#).



Volunteer With Us This Summer!

Help preserve and protect Acadia National Park with the gift of time, from dropping in to do trail work, chatting up park visitors at our Membership Table, or hiking soil to a mountain summit:

- **Drop-In Stewardship**

Volunteers: Volunteering opportunities to help maintain and repair Acadia's trails and carriage roads have returned! The drop-in program operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.



to 12 p.m. through the end of October. For more details and a map of the meeting place, [please visit our website](#).

- **Save Our Summits Hikes:** Every Wednesday and Friday from June 24 through September, this program invites tenacious hikers to bring bags of soil to the summits of Penobscot and Sargent Mountains to help with restoration efforts. Hikes run from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. [Advanced registration is required](#). SOS Hikes were recently featured in [an article by USA Today!](#)
- **Membership Table Volunteers:** If you're an Acadia-loving conversationalist, you'll probably love volunteering at the Membership Table. These volunteers personally tell the story of citizen-stewards preserving and protecting Acadia National Park and help park visitors to join or renew their membership in Friends of Acadia. You can learn more about this volunteer opportunity [on our website](#), or by [attending an orientation session on June 15](#).
- **Wild Gardens of Acadia:** Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers welcome visitors to the gardens, help orient them to the different plant habitats, answer questions, point families toward activities, and highlight interesting flowers and features. [These opportunities are available](#) throughout the summer and fall, with both weekday and weekend shifts, and training is provided.
- **Service Groups:** For groups of five or more, service group volunteer projects provide opportunities for clubs, camps, student organizations, and friend gatherings to help with trail and carriage road work such as trimming back brush, repairing bog walk, and clearing drainage features. [These projects are offered](#) from May through October.

Cadillac Connector Trail Update

An exciting update on the Cadillac Connector Trail project! Funded by Friends of Acadia, the trail is open and accessible from the East Lot to a rocky ledge above the West Lot, which offers an excellent spot to watch the sunset. It does not connect to the West Lot yet but still provides a safe connection between the East Lot and the rocky ledge. Park staff are currently

evaluating options for completing the accessible trail to the West Lot, which is scheduled for this fall.

[Read more about this project](#), which is designed to improve safety, expand accessibility, and protect fragile summit vegetation.



Registration is Now Open for Acadia Quest

Gather your team (must include one child under the age of 18 to be eligible for prizes) and register for Acadia Quest! Each year, teams explore Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities by using the Acadia Quest app to collect digital badges. This year, quests will celebrate Friends of Acadia's



40th anniversary through locations our members have helped us to protect over the years.

Registration and documentation of your collected badges must be submitted by November 1 to earn prizes. [Visit our website to learn more but PLEASE NOTE that the registration form is loading a bit slowly!](#)

Park-Related Update from Washington, D.C.

Bipartisan legislation to renew and strengthen investments in our public lands was introduced in the House on June 10. Led by Chairman Bruce Westerman and Ranking Member Jared Huffman, the *Great American Outdoors Act 250* would reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) and provide up to \$9.5 billion over five years to address deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs across national parks and public lands.



The legislation would help ensure these places remain accessible, welcoming, and protected for future generations. Maine Representatives Golden and Pingree have expressed support for the draft bill as it moves into committee consideration as early as June 12. Friends of Acadia has long-supported congressional efforts to renew the LRF and looks forward to working with Maine's delegation as the legislation advances.

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!](#)

Choco-Latte Photo Display Celebrating 40 Years of Volunteers

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we also celebrate 40 years of incredibly dedicated volunteers. Stop by our collection of photos chronicling a sample of these volunteer efforts and projects over the last four decades, on display at Choco-Latte for the month of June!

Call for photos: If you volunteered with FOA in the 80s or 90s and have photos of your experiences, we'd love to see them! Just reply to this email for more information on how to submit your photos to us.



Upcoming Events, Park Openings, and Save the Dates:

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

- **June 11: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Fish tales from the Gulf of Maine with Eddie Monat**
- **June 13: [Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale](#)**
- June 14: Sieur de Monts Nature Center opens
- June 15: Islesford Museum opens
- **June 18: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Acadia's historic trails with Gary Stellpflug**
- **June 24: [Save Our Summits hikes begin](#)**
- **June 25: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Archaeology in the park with Stephanie Outhier**
- **July 2: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Protecting Acadia's cultural resources with Becky Cole-Will**
- **July 7: '40 for 40' Matching E-Challenge**
- **July 8: [FOA Annual Meeting & 40th Anniversary Celebration](#)**
- **July 9: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Past & Present FOA Presidents Reflect on our first 40 years and chartering a course for the future**
- **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](#)**
- **Aug 8: [FOA's Annual Benefit & Auction](#)**



In Case You Missed It:

[>>Built Slowly, Opened Joyfully: Acadia's New Gateway Center Arrives - Bar Harbor Story](#)

[>>Save Our Summits Hikes Featured in USA Today](#)

Until next month,

Eliza Worrick



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



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