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### **FOA Receives a \$308,000 Grant to Expand Great Meadow Restoration**

Friends of Acadia received a \$308,000 grant from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program to expand wetland restoration efforts to watershed areas above and below the Great Meadow, Acadia National Park's largest wetland. The project will expand the ongoing restoration efforts underway to improve the hydrology of the Great Meadow area, supporting a healthier wetland habitat.



[>>Learn more about the project and the grant funding.](#)

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**A Winter Visit to Acadia's Summit Vegetation Restoration Sites**

After making numerous treks to the summit of Sargent Mountain during the summer, Community Volunteer Ambassador Lauren Knierim and Wild Acadia Coordinator Lauren Gibson wanted to experience the hike and see the summit in the winter. More specifically, they wanted to check on the vegetation restoration plots that were established there during the fall of 2025.



[>>Follow along with Lauren K. and Lauren G. as they make the trek up to the top of Sargent, including photos](#)

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### **Mark Your Calendars! Join Us for Earth Day Roadside Cleanup on April 25**

Please join us on Saturday, April 25 for our 25th annual island- and Trenton-wide Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. Registration opens on April 1. Local community members and visitors from around the state will gather to pick up a “winter’s worth of trash” from the roadsides of Mount Desert Island and Trenton.



[Please click here](#) for more information or contact Stewardship Manager Brian Sale at [brian\\_sale@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:brian_sale@friendsofacadia.org).

[We’re gearing up for another season of volunteer opportunities](#), so, if you can’t make it to Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, never fear!

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### **Acadia-Themed Trivia at History Happy Hour: March 19**

The MDI Historical Society will be hosting their History Happy Hour on March 19 at Peter Trout’s Tavern in Manset. This month’s trivia will have an Acadia theme thanks to hosts and former park rangers Charlie Jacobi and Gary Stellpflug. They’ll bring decades of experience, knowledge, and plenty of humor to the game. Prizes from FOA will await the top team!



All are welcome, and the event is free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. [Visit the historical society’s website for more info and to register.](#)

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### **FOA and Schoodic Institute in Washington, D.C. This Week**

Friends of Acadia’s board chair, leadership, and staff, along with colleagues from Schoodic Institute, are in Washington, D.C. this week for meetings with members

of Maine's congressional delegation, Department of the Interior officials, and national park partners to highlight the importance of robust funding, a strong workforce, and sustained federal investment in the National Park Service. Throughout the week, the team is emphasizing the need for stable funding and adequate staffing so national parks like Acadia can continue to serve visitors, protect natural resources, and support the economies of surrounding gateway communities.



*Photo: Representatives from FOA and Schoodic Institute gather with acting Director of the National Park Service Jessica Bowron.*

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### **FOA Welcomes Brian Sale as Stewardship Manager**

We're thrilled to welcome Brian Sale as the organization's new Stewardship Manager, where he will lead volunteer programs supporting stewardship projects throughout Acadia National Park. Brian comes to the organization with a distinguished career in the United States Air Force and extensive experience leading volunteer groups in wildland fire mitigation, watershed clean-ups, and trail maintenance.

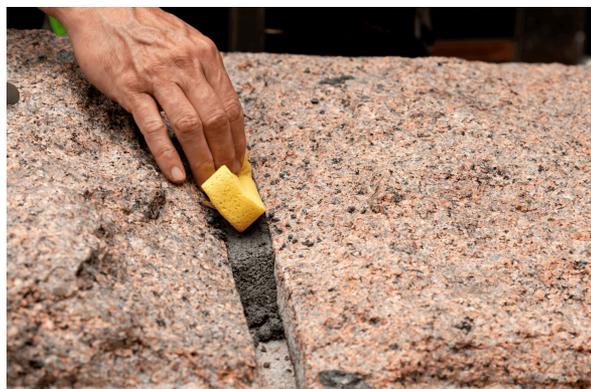


[>>Read the full announcement](#)

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### **Keeping Acadia's Carriage Road Bridges in Tip-Top Shape**

Acadia's masons keep the park's carriage road bridges looking as rustically stunning as they did when they were first built nearly a century ago. While granite is certainly sturdy in its own right, weather, visitor use, and creeping vegetation cause damage over time. Masons Mike Fitzpatrick and Ryan Meddaugh stay on top of repairs, surveying the structures and prioritizing needs each year. FOA helps fund this work through grants and our Carriage Road Endowment, which was established to ensure that Acadia's carriage road system, bridges included, is maintained.



[>>Check out an overview of bridge repairs done in 2025](#)

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### **Now Hiring: Adaptive Rides Coordinator**

Friends of Acadia is hiring an Adaptive Rides Coordinator to organize adaptive wheelchair tricycle rides in Acadia National Park for visitors with mobility

challenges in collaboration with MDI Wheelers. MDI Wheelers helps more people from the community and beyond get out on Acadia's carriage roads with adaptive tricycles, driven by well-trained volunteers. The MDI Wheelers and Friends of Acadia are partnering to increase access to Acadia by hiring this position to facilitate adaptive rides.

[>>Click here to lean more and apply.](#)



### Park Updates:

- Effective March 1, areas including **Jordan Cliffs Trail, Penobscot East Trail, Precipice Trail, and Valley Cove Trail are closed** to protect nesting peregrine falcons. The parking lot for the Precipice Trail is also closed. [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.
- When visiting Acadia in early spring, **being prepared for cold weather, early darkness, and icy conditions** will help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Visit the park's website to see the most up-to-date [information on mud season closures](#) and [tips for how to prepare](#).



### In Case You Missed It:

- [In the latest episode of Schoodic Institute's Sea to Trees podcast](#), learn about how coastal spruce fir forests in Acadia have changed over the past 66 years.
- Molly Donlan from Schoodic Institute wrote a [feature on black bears in Acadia](#)

Until next month,



**Eliza Worrick**

*Digital Marketing Manager*

Header Photo: Mallard ducks fly over a pond in Acadia National Park (Ashley Conti/Friends of Acadia).



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