



## **Bring Your Dog on a Special Save Our Summits Hike This Saturday!**

Join us for a special edition of Save Our Summits this Saturday, September 12 when you can bring your dog along with you! [Save Our Summits](#), a partnership between Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and Schoodic Institute, invites tenacious hikers to bring bags of soil to the summits of Sargent and Penobscot Mountains to help restore native vegetation. This will be the final SOS hike of the 2026 season.

[Register here](#) for this Saturday's hike (registration closes Friday morning at 8:00). Thanks to [Zuke's dog treats for supporting](#) the 3rd annual dog-friendly hike!



## **RAISE Grant to Expand Island Explorer Fleet 18 Percent**

A new federal RAISE grant will help expand the Island Explorer bus fleet by approximately 18 percent over the next several years, creating new opportunities to increase fare-free transit service in Acadia National Park and surrounding communities.

The federal funding will allow the Island Explorer to replace aging buses and grow its fleet from 34 to 40 buses. Supported in part by a \$300,000 matching pledge from Friends of Acadia, the investment will lay the groundwork for service improvements across the system, including plans for a new express route connecting the Acadia Gateway Center directly with Hulls Cove and continuing onto Park Loop Road.



[>>Read the full story on our website](#)

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## **Isle au Haut Cleanup in August**

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff recently partnered with the [Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean](#) to remove just over 2,000 pounds of trash from Isle au Haut.

This effort was made possible by Friendship, Acadia National Park's work boat which allows people and equipment to land directly on the shore. [Friendship was funded by donors](#) who gave to the 2023 Paddle Raise at our Annual Benefit & Auction.



Thanks to the donors and thanks to the crew who cleaned up Isle au Haut!

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## 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!

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### Join a Hawk Watch Program This Fall

Now through October 16, join Acadia National Park's Raptor Intern and park rangers for the [Hawk Watch program](#) on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. The program is free and runs weekdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. Drop by anytime during program hours to learn about the phenomena of fall raptor migration, other lesser known migrants, and raptor identification.



The Raptor Intern position is funded by Friends of Acadia. Their work begins in May and also includes assisting park rangers with the peregrine falcon program. [Learn more about this position on our website.](#)

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### Double Your Impact for Acadia This Fall

Mark your calendar for September 22 when our Fall E-Challenge launches! Thanks to the generosity of our lead donors, your gift during this challenge will be matched dollar for dollar, meaning your support for Acadia National Park will go twice as far.

Together, we can make an even greater difference for our beloved park. Watch your inbox on September 22 and join the Fall E-Challenge!

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## Drop-In Volunteer Videos and Project Updates

### [The Stewardship Volunteer Program](#)

has been active over the summer. Projects implemented include bogwalk construction on the Hadlock Brook trail, brushing and drainage on the Carry Trail and at the Great Notch, brushing on the Hunter's Brook Trail, and drainage and flossing in sections around the Amphitheater, Eagle Lake, Bubble Pond and Around the Mountain.



A few of the program's Volunteer Crew Leaders participated in a video series explaining what some of the crew's tasks are and how first timers can join in future projects:

- [Bogwalk with Barb](#)
- [Flossing with Mark](#)
- [Drainage clearing with Joey](#)

## Join the 8th Annual Hike with Moose in Honor of Goose

Neil "Goose" was one of Acadia's most dedicated Acadia Questers, inspiring countless adventures and friendships on Mount Desert Island. Join Moose and friends for the 8th Annual Hike with Moose in Honor of Goose on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Burr Pond in Torrington, Connecticut.



This annual walk celebrates Goose's love of Acadia while raising funds to support the important work of Friends of Acadia. Hikers of all ages and abilities are welcome. [Learn more about Goose's legacy here](#) and [register for the hike here](#). We hope you'll join us for a day of community, remembrance, and support for Acadia.

## Park News and Policy Developments

During National Park Week, August 22–30, we celebrated the National Park Service's 110th birthday and joined NPCA's Day of Action at Acadia. Visitors shared more than 100 messages thanking park staff for their dedication while highlighting the staffing and resource challenges they face. (Photo: NPCA's Todd Martin canvassing on August 25, 2026)



A newly enacted short-term funding measure keeps federal agencies, including the National Park Service, funded at current levels through December 11. While



the continuing resolution provides temporary funding relief and avoids the potential for a government shutdown, Friends of Acadia will continue advocating for adequate full-year NPS funding and protections, so park staff have the resources they need to carry out their mission.

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## Join us for Take Pride in Acadia Day on Nov. 7! Registration Opens Oct. 5

Save the date! Our annual Take Pride in Acadia Day volunteer event will be Saturday, November 7. Spend a great day in the park and help us put Acadia's carriage roads to bed for the winter. Each fall we join together to rake fallen leaves from the historic carriage roads to help keep drainage ditches clear and working properly. This helps reduce the chance of runoff damage and washouts as the roads freeze and thaw over the winter and spring.



Whether you are a seasoned raker or this is your first time, everyone is welcome to participate. Registration will be open from October 5 - 30, and [we'll provide all the details here](#).

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## Upcoming Events, Park Openings, and Save the Dates:

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

- The Precipice and Jordan Cliffs Trails have reopened to the public now that the peregrine falcon nesting season has ended
- **Sept 10: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Whales of the Gulf of Maine with Dan DenDanto**
- **Sept 17: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Acadia's Mammals with Brittany Slabach**
- **Sept 24: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Loon Update from Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary with Billy Helprin**
- **Oct 1: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - The Peregrine Falcon with Jim Wright**
- **Oct 8: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - Acadia's Carriage Road Vista Management with Emily Owens**
- **Oct 15: [Pints for a Purpose](#) - The Island Explorer and the New Acadia Gateway Center with John Kelly and Paul Murphy**
- **Nov 7: [Take Pride in Acadia Day](#)**



## In Case You Missed It:

[>>MDI Wheelers open Acadia's carriage roads to all - Mount Desert Islander](#)

[>>People Are Building Hundreds of Rock Stacks on Bar Island. Here's Why Park Stewards \(and Some Visitors and Locals\) Are Taking Them Down - Bar Harbor Story](#) (And read more at [Bangor Daily News](#) and [WABI TV 5](#))

[>>Volunteers haul soil up Acadia's summits to restore plants trampled by visitors - Bangor Daily News](#)

[>>Baker Island Lighthouse Has Weathered Almost Everything. Can It Survive Time? - Bar Harbor Story](#) (And read more at [Mount Desert Islander](#), [News Center Maine](#), and [MaineBiz](#))

[>>Advocates and Acadia visitors marked the National Park Service's birthday by thanking park employees and calling attention to vacancies, funding cuts, and workforce reductions - Bar Harbor Story](#)

[>>Acadia tackles climate change with its largest-ever restoration project - Bangor Daily News](#)

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Until next month,



*Header photo: Rays of light from the setting sun push through the fog that engulfs Acadia Mountain near its summit on a September evening (photo by Sam Mallon/FOA).*



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