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*Deceased
Dear Friends,

For most of us, 2020 will be known as the year the pandemic took hold of our lives. But it is also the year that Acadia’s importance in our lives deepened and we became even stronger in partnership as a community dedicated to protecting our park.

The past year has reinforced how central Acadia National Park is to so many. We turned to our cherished Acadia – and parks across the country – for respite, renewal, recreation, and escape. It has also deepened the partnership between Friends of Acadia and the park. We’ve had to be creative, flexible, and adaptable as things outside of our control changed at record pace. In doing so, we not only survived this challenging time but, ultimately, were able to thrive and grow.

None of this would have been possible without you! We are deeply grateful to all of you for stepping up when we needed you most.

Our donors have been incredibly loyal and generous, finding new and creative ways to give even while a lot of our traditional events were changed. Volunteers have persevered through difficult conditions and gotten a lot of work done in the park. Our respective staffs—both at Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service—have been strong and stayed committed, and that includes an amazing influx of talent from our interns and seasonal staff.

Our board of directors has generated new ideas on how to support the park in pursuing solutions to systematic issues such as the lack of housing for staff. And, our community and partners have come together and rallied for each other, the park, and residents in neighboring communities.

This annual report serves as a reminder that we are united by generosity and a shared commitment to our Acadia. And, we are powered by dedicated and determined people, including all of you.

Thank you for you being the heart and soul of Friends of Acadia and for contributing to the many accomplishments summarized on these pages.

With gratitude,

Anne Green, Board Chair

David MacDonald, President and CEO
At the beginning of the pandemic, many national parks weren’t sure they would open, let alone become a respite for millions. Despite the delayed opening of Park Loop Road by approximately 6.5 weeks, Acadia received 2.67 million visits last year, surpassing 2019 figures during the months of January-March and October-December.

Many park programs and visitor services were affected by the pandemic. Park campgrounds were closed. The Island Explorer bus service was postponed for the year. The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and the drop-in volunteer program were canceled due to the inability to safely transport people. The park was only able to operate employee housing at half capacity to provide adequate spacing. This created cascading programmatic impacts as fewer employees were able to come to Acadia without guaranteed housing.

Acadia Strong: Strengthened by Generosity, Resilience, and Creativity

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT & KEVIN SCHNEIDER
As the public begins to travel more this year, national parks are expected to be busier than ever. Visitation through April 2021 was up 74% compared to 2019 and 67% compared to 2020. Acadia’s trailheads and parking areas will likely be congested this year. Visitors are encouraged to be prepared with alternative hikes or destinations in case their first options are not possible.

Despite these setbacks, Friends of Acadia’s support of the park never wavered. Important projects like removal of large stands of invasive glossy buckthorn continued, and the reconstruction of the Jordan Pond bog walk was completed early. Friends of Acadia raised more than $315,000 at the 2020 Annual Benefit to help Acadia’s education rangers acquire equipment for mobile ranger studios, receive training, and adapt programs to connect thousands of people to the park remotely when they couldn’t visit in person.

Additionally, the park was able to pilot the vehicle reservation system at Cadillac Mountain and Sand Beach in October 2020 as planned. The pilot—along with Friends of Acadia’s continued support—allowed the National Park Service to launch vehicle reservations on Cadillac Summit Road this summer.

Through agility, flexibility, and creativity, Friends of Acadia was able to support the park in responding to the dynamic environment of the pandemic. In the end, Acadia not only survived, but thrived. And ALL of this was made possible through the support of Friends of Acadia members.

As we face what will likely be a record season in 2021 and a hopeful return to normalcy in 2022, we thank all Friends of Acadia members for their continued support that uplifts our spirits, enables great accomplishments, and helps protect our beloved Acadia.

Stephanie Clement, Friends of Acadia Conservation Director and Kevin Schneider, Acadia National Park Superintendent, chat with former Maine State Senator and Friends of Acadia Board Member Jill Goldthwait.

Expected Record Visitation Requires Patience and Plan B

As the public begins to travel more this year, national parks are expected to be busier than ever. Visitation through April 2021 was up 74% compared to 2019 and 67% compared to 2020. Acadia’s trailheads and parking areas will likely be congested this year. Visitors are encouraged to be prepared with alternative hikes or destinations in case their first options are not possible.
Climate change has shifted Acadia’s weather patterns and temperatures, creating pressures from invasive insects and plants, seasonal drought, and significant storm events. Through Wild Acadia initiatives, Friends of Acadia and partners aim to help park resources survive and adapt to changing conditions so that future generations may enjoy them as we do.

With support from donors last year, Friends of Acadia funded a variety of Wild Acadia projects—wetland and stream monitoring, invasive plant removal, the Jordan Pond water quality monitoring buoy, biodiversity monitoring, and more—to help the park measure change and adapt management activities accordingly.

We’re also partnering with the park and other organizations on three model projects—invasive plant removal and restoration at the Bass Harbor Marsh, native plant restoration on Acadia’s summits, and improvements to wetland function at the Great Meadow—to demonstrate how parks must not just restore ecosystems but manage them for changing future conditions.

Paul Mayewski, Director of the Climate Change Institute at University of Maine, and a Friends of Acadia board member, shares his perspective on using science to protect our Acadia. See page 5.

Beaver Deceivers International President Skip Lisle works on a device to stop beavers from building a dam against the bridge on the Long Pond Fire Road near Hodgdon Pond in Acadia National Park.
Using Science to Protect Acadia

BY PAUL MAYEWSKI

As a researcher, global explorer, and director of the Climate Change Institute at University of Maine, I have worked to document and understand the dramatic environmental change in our world related to human activity (greenhouse gases and other pollutants) that affects the magnitude and frequency of drought, flood, heat waves, storms, wildfire, sea level rise, ocean acidification and both human and ecosystem health.

As I apply this lens to Acadia National Park in my role as a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, it underscores the importance of constant vigilance in the form of monitoring and impact assessment, if we are to avoid future surprises. Fortunately, in the 1880s naturalists started to document changes in the flora on Mount Desert Island and in the process provided a baseline from which change in plant species right up to the present could be determined and projected into the future for the region.

This research legacy has been continued and enhanced through the combined efforts of multi- and interdisciplinary research conducted by and under the auspices of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute, Friends of Acadia, and others. The purpose: To protect and preserve the remarkable qualities of Acadia National Park that attract so many visitors every year and serve as reminder of the powerful inspiration and benefits provided by nature. This research has resulted in science-based mitigation and adaptation planning and most importantly significant action.

Through its Wild Acadia initiative, Friends of Acadia is coordinating a holistic approach among park divisions and community partners to make park watersheds healthier and more resilient to stress and change. The quiet but critical work of monitoring and inventoring is now leading to restoration and adaptation strategies, as well as a commitment to share what we are learning as we go.

Acadia National Park serves as a model of the vigilance needed throughout our planet as we continue to experience environmental change in the decades to follow.
Friends of Acadia aims to ignite a lifelong love of Acadia through a continuum of engagement in the natural world. During the pandemic, the support of Friends of Acadia enabled the National Park Service to acquire equipment and expand virtual educational programming, reaching more than 11,400 students from 118 schools in Maine, other states, and Canada.

Friends of Acadia’s outdoor classrooms grants helped six schools in Maine develop their safe outdoor spaces and associated curricula, and 2,500 nature study kids were distributed to students in towns surrounding Acadia to facilitate independent, at-home nature exploration.

Most years, Friends of Acadia funds several Acadia Teacher Fellows K–12 classroom teachers from across the country who spend six weeks in the park honing their outdoor teaching skills. Due to the pandemic, Lynn Hanna—a 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Connors Emerson School in Bar Harbor—was the only Acadia Teacher Fellow in 2020. On the facing page, Lynn shares her experience working with park educators to re-invent ways to bring Acadia and outdoor classroom learning to local students.

Pre-pandemic, Lynn Hanna helps students from Conners Elementary explore in the outdoor classroom, aka Frenchman Bay.
Supporting Teachers and Students with Outdoor Learning Opportunities

BY LYNN HANNA

It was a great pleasure to be able to work with Acadia National Park as a Teacher Fellow during the 2020 pandemic. Sure, the summer was a bit different in that there were no in-person meetings with park rangers gathering data throughout the park, or opportunities to work with teachers from all over the United States, but it was still an incredibly productive summer.

During my fellowship, I designed virtual programming and curricula for the Outdoor Classroom program that collaborates with Somes Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary. In this program, most 7th and 8th graders on Mount Desert Island (MDI) venture to Somes Pond, climb into canoes, paddle out to a dock in the deepest part of the lake, and gather data on turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature, all at different depths.

Students really enjoyed these lessons, from making watershed models with Ranger Mackette Kark to discussing geology with Ranger Michael Marion, to watching a video on dissolved oxygen from Billy Helprin.

Another piece of my summer included attending four outings of the Acadia Teacher Collaboratory, a group of six teachers in the MDI-area school district that work with park rangers on outdoor curricula. These adventures included Carroll Homestead, Ship Harbor, Sieur de Monts, and Mount Desert Elementary School—places that might motivate us to get outside with our students.

These four programs were inspirations that allowed me to enter the school year with a toolbox of enhanced curricula. With the stress of the unknown and our students attending five days a week, teachers needed as much support and opportunities for outdoor activities as possible.

I will be forever grateful for this program giving me the opportunity to put together lessons for kids to get outside—something that my students have really enjoyed this year.
Acadia’s trails and carriage roads provided recreation, relaxation, and respite for so many in a year where the outdoors became everything! For Friends of Acadia members, Cookie and Bill Horner, it also provided a chance for multiple generations to connect and make life-long memories. [See story on facing page.]

Despite COVID-19 reducing trail work by an estimated 800 person-days, significant accomplishments were achieved on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads thanks to the dedication of park staff, donations from Friends of Acadia’s endowments, and the work of the experienced Volunteer Crew Leaders.

Substantial carriage road projects included overhead cutting and hazard tree removal around Witch Hole Pond and Paradise Hill, as well as the rehabilitation of the Amphitheater Bridge.

The trails program implemented important tread stabilization, drainage improvements, cribwork repairs, step adjustments, and reconstruction of bog bridging on 15 major trails, including the Seaside Path, which was completed in 2020. And Volunteer Crew Leaders completed the 4,066-foot bog walk along the west side of Jordan Pond ahead of schedule.

Christian (age 6) and Will (age 8) hiked every peak in Acadia during 2020. They are pictured here after conquering the summit of Sargent Mountain.
In March 2020 as the COVID pandemic became a reality, Bill and I started hiking nearly every day in the park. Most days one of us would say to the other, “How can we be so lucky to live here where we can be outside enjoying nature and be safe in this beautiful place?”

I know we have never appreciated Acadia more than in this past year. Wearing our masks, it was the one way we could get out of the house, be with family and friends while staying socially distant, and get exercise.

When our youngest grandchildren arrived for their annual summer vacation, many of their usual fun activities had been cancelled, but hiking in the park was a great option. So, Will age 8, and Christian age 6, decided they would climb all the peaks in Acadia, which they did with great determination and enthusiasm. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles hiked many of the trails with them and could hardly keep up.

Will and Christian were so proud of their accomplishment that it inspired them to climb Katahdin as well, which they summited in late July. Still fresh from their success, they are now threatening to do “The 6 pack” this summer; otherwise known as climbing Bald, Parkman, Gilmore, Sargent, Penobscot, and Cedar Swamp in one big hike. Their grandparents might sit that one out!

Acadia provided inspiration and wonderful memories, joy in love of place, and sustenance for our souls during an otherwise very difficult year; and we will always be grateful for that.
Friends of Acadia’s donors support many projects that are visible to the public, but equally important are the projects that facilitate the National Park Service’s work to improve visitor safety and the overall visitor experience in the park.

In 2020, Friends of Acadia helped the National Park Service manage site improvements needed for the October pilot of the private-vehicle reservation systems at Cadillac Mountain and Ocean Drive. The Recreation Technicians also helped monitor visitor use statistics throughout the park, particularly parking capacity and turnover, and the Summit Stewards assisted with public information and education on park trails and summits.

In addition to enjoying the beautiful setting atop Cadillac Mountain for their job, Friends of Acadia’s seasonal employees working as Summit Stewards have seen plenty of worrisome views. On the facing page, Zoe Smiarowski who worked as a Summit Steward in 2018-2020, shares her perspective of the visitor experience on Cadillac Mountain before and after the new reservation system.

A visitor celebrates the sunset on top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park.
View from the Top

BY ZOE SMIAROWSKI

As a Summit Steward roving the summit of Cadillac Mountain, I often observed what has now become commonplace in many of today’s most visited National Parks—unbearable congestion. Visitors would frequently find themselves circling to find parking spots after having waited in a long line of cars snaking their way to the top of the mountain.

As the season went on, cars were parking along roadways where fragile alpine vegetation had turned into visible patches of gravel and dirt. And, as Summit Stewards, we spent much of our time speaking with visitors to close the disconnect regarding their expectations and the lack of solitude a sunrise Cadillac visit may have provided.

Things shifted dramatically for the better during the reservation system pilot in the fall of 2020. After working only a few shifts during the pilot, I felt a strong sense of hope for what kind of experience future and returning visitors could have atop Cadillac.

The view from the top was very different. Cars had spaces to park and pedestrians had room to soak in views in without it feeling over-crowded. Many visitors expressed how refreshing the experience was to be able to park and explore without the frustrations and stress associated with competing for a parking spot.

Personally, I felt relief in the reprieve of traffic that had become so difficult to manage prior to the pilot. There’s no question that in the coming years the Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System will help visitors reclaim the spirit of the mountain.
STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE JORDAN POND BOGWALK

To keep volunteers and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service made the difficult decision to suspend the public drop-in Trails and Carriage Roads Stewardship program in 2020. While this dramatically decreased overall volunteer hours, a small group of the experienced Volunteer Crew Leaders was permitted to continue work on limited projects under adapted conditions. They completed the 4,066-ft bogwalk on the west side of Jordan Pond ahead of schedule. The rebuild, which began in 2016, made the trail safer and less damaging to the fragile lakeside ecosystem.

Other highlights of the year included a reimagined Take Pride in Acadia Day where 165 volunteers from their own COVID-safe groups met at locations around the park, contributing 578 hours to clearing leaves from carriage road ditches and culverts. While COVID challenged the Trails and Carriage Roads Stewardship program, it did not squelch dedication, spirit, or productivity. Overall, stewardship volunteers contributed 1,824 hours to the park.
Outstanding Contributions

When the pandemic entered our lives, Friends of Acadia staff shifted operations quickly and efficiently to a remote work environment thanks to earlier strategic planning and preparation. While everyone in our community of “friends” played a role in stepping up for Acadia, those who typically work behind the scenes were especially vital during the pandemic.

Mike Staggs and Sarah Curts from Administration, Mary Boechat and JoAnne Wood from Development, and Julia Walker Thomas and Ashley L. Conti from Communications all made outstanding contributions during an unparalleled year.

Mike started switching office systems to laptops, setting up cloud back-ups and remote access for software and files, and implementing videoconferencing long before the Covid-19 pandemic. Sarah Curts and JoAnne Wood—whose work often required them to be in the office—went above and beyond to find creative ways to execute their work during the pandemic, enthusiastically pitching in to keep the back office running almost seamlessly.

Mary played a key role in researching, selecting, and implementing the new software that allowed us to host a successful virtual Benefit. And Julia and Ashley didn’t waste any time researching and implementing new technology to produce highly professional and engaging virtual events such as the Annual Meeting and Annual Benefit. They also worked with the Acadia Digital Media Team to create a library of digital assets—including photos and videos—to connect members to Acadia virtually when they couldn’t visit.

The leadership of the entire Friends of Acadia team, combined with the steady financial support of Friends of Acadia’s members, prepared our organization for what evolved into a year-long separation from the office during COVID-19. Member contributions also helped Friends of Acadia protect seasonal employees in the field with extra training and personal protective equipment.

Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award

Recipient Nancy Howland gives her acceptance speech during the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting which was held virtually on July 8, 2020.
In July 2020, Friends of Acadia hosted the 16th Annual George B. Dorr Society event via Zoom for members, park staff, and other special guests. Recently retired Acadia National Park employees Judy Hazen Connery and Charlie Jacobi shared untold stories, historic images, and recently rediscovered oral histories from Acadia. Hazen Connery and Jacobi have partnered to research and document the administrative history of Acadia.

While we always enjoy visiting with our George B. Dorr friends at the annual event, moving to an online platform allowed us to include members that never are here for the in-person event. In fact, one member from New Mexico praised us for being so inclusive!

The George B. Dorr Society recognizes those members who have documented bequests or other provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George B. Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The George B. Dorr Society and the planned giving program at FOA are sponsored by William Blair, a global investment and wealth management firm based in Chicago.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or would like information, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.
2020 DONOR LIST

INDIVIDUALS

Friends of Acadia is deeply grateful to each and every individual who made gifts and purchases in 2020. Whether you gave $1 or $1,000,000, you provided the foundation for our work to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park. Because of space limitations, we have listed only those who made gifts of $100 and above.

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Elevation 1,530 feet
$50,000 +
Carol and Paul Fremont-Smith
Amy Falls and Hartley Rogers
Lesley Draper and Robert Stolar
Edith Dixon
Cristen and Kevin Cottrell
Gail and Ham Clark
Antoinette and Benjamin Brewster
Brian Bizub and Anthony Sgarlata
Bob Bell
Helen and Brendan Bechtel
Anonymous (2)

$10,000 - $19,999
Elevation 1,248 feet
Sandra Urie and Frank Herron
Genie and Will Thorndike
Scilla Smith
The Honorable C. Boyden Gray
Eleuthera and Temple Grassi
Charles Butt

DACILED MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,373 feet
$20,000 - $49,999
Lynne Wheat and Thomas Peterffy
Julia and George Strawbridge Jr.
Elizabeth and Stewart Strawbridge
Diana Davis Spencer
David Rockefeller*
Karol Foss
Kate and Andrew Davis
Anonymous (3)

$50,000 +
CADILLAC MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,248 feet
$1,000 - $2,499
SARGENT MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,373 feet
$20,000 - $49,999
Elevation 941 feet
PARKMAN MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,941 feet
$5,000 - $9,999

PEMETIC MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,248 feet
$10,000 - $19,999
Anonymous (2)
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Boo and Morris Stroud
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Christopher Toomey
Melissa Butler-Tuckerman
and Oliver Tuckerman
Melissa and Renee Waud
Kim and Finn Wentworth
Diana Wister

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Elevation 839 feet
$2,500 - $4,999

BECK MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 839 feet
$2,500 - $4,999

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Ann Marie and John Weston
Louse Hartwell White
Pamela and John Wiegand
Nick Wild
Elizabeth Williams

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Elevation 681 feet
$1,000 - $2,499
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Gillian and Oscar Anderson
Joelle Anderson
Eleanor and Schifford Andrews
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WILD ACADIA ADDRESSES COMMUNITY NEEDS

Acadia National Park is closely intertwined with local communities, and effective management of park resources often requires action inside and outside the park. Acadia National Park’s Invasive Plant Management Team began removal of the invasive glossy buckthorn shrub at a 14-acre site at the Bass Harbor Marsh. Friends of Acadia helped fund this initiative, along with biodiversity monitoring by Schoodic Institute technicians before and after removal.

Wild Acadia Coordinator, Brian Henkel, was also instrumental in working with the communities of Southwest Harbor and Bar Harbor to secure funding and/or to replace undersized culverts in priority streams, using larger box culverts that accommodate greater flow and facilitate aquatic organism passage. And Friends of Acadia funded the park’s efforts to install a control device in Hodgdon Pond to allow the beaver populations to continue to dam the pond’s outflow without causing damage to the Long Pond Fire Road. Partnership projects like these help Acadia’s natural resources survive under changing conditions.
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Friends of Acadia thanks the amazing volunteers who gave their time and talents for the betterment of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities in 2020 – a year that presented many challenges for volunteer work in the park. Members of the following groups and committees provided essential leadership and support for Friends of Acadia’s programs. Thank you!

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Wild Gardens of Acadia Volunteers

A re-imagined Take Pride in Acadia Day had 165 volunteers working in their own COVID-safe pod groups to clear leaves from carriage road ditches and culverts. Thank you to the dedicated community members, staff, and volunteers who participated.

Want to become more involved at Friends of Acadia? Consider volunteering with one of these important groups. Visit http://friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/ to learn more.
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William C. Eacho Reversible Trust
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Winston-Salem Foundation
Yawkey Foundation

Your Cause

We thank Trailblazer donors who have chosen to contribute monthly via credit card or direct deposit. To become a Trailblazer, call Friends of Acadia at 207-288-3340.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES WITH DIRECT BENEFIT TO ACADIA NATIONAL PARK</th>
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<td>Acadia Teacher Fellows</td>
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<td>Acadia Trails Forever Trail Maintenance</td>
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<td>Bass Harbor Light</td>
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<td>Wild Gardens of Acadia</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT                                      | **$111,150** |

| TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ACADIA AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES | **$2,480,374** |
2020 Financial Overview

**REVENUE**
Contributions, grants, and events  
Donor-restricted funds used for intended purposes  

**TOTAL**

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

**Programs**
Education & Outreach  
Programs - General  

**TOTAL PROGRAMS**

**Supporting Services**
Development  
Management and general  

**TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES**

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS**

**COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS**
Unrestricted (available for general support)  
Restricted for Specific Purpose  
Restricted Endowments  

**TOTAL NET ASSETS**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
A complete copy of Friends of Acadia’s Audited Financial Statements for 2020 is available online at friendsofacadia.org.

Friends of Acadia is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
MISSION
Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.

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Cover: The sun sets behind Sargent and Penobscot mountains in Acadia National Park (Will Newton, ADMT) • Back Cover: Afternoon light shines on the bog walk on the Jordan Pond Path in Acadia National Park (Ashley L. Conti, ADMT) • Ashley L. Conti, ADMT: 4, 12, 28 • Will Newton, ADMT: 1, 2, 10 • Julia Walker Thomas: 3, 7, 13

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