



Dear Friends,

February is known as the month of love (and often the best cross-country skiing on the carriage roads!). Your love of Acadia helped Friends of Acadia raise more funds for the park in 2023 than any other year in our 37-year history! This generosity underscores your commitment to preserving and protecting our beloved park for future generations. You are proof that, together, friends really do make a difference. Thank you!

Friends Investing in Their Park. Look at Your Impact!

Last year, Friends of Acadia members and donors helped achieve our biggest fundraising year ever since our founding in 1986!

This couldn't come at a better time. Acadia is still assessing the damage from the [devastating January storms](#), and the challenges facing our park—such as climate change, record visitation, and lack of seasonal workforce housing—are getting more complex.

Your unwavering support will help Friends of Acadia invest more in the park this year to address those immense challenges.



"Unrestricted gifts from members allow us the flexibility to support the park and respond to unexpected needs as they arise," said Lisa Horsch Clark, vice president of development and donor relations. "Your support has a direct impact for the park that will be felt for years and years to come. We are incredibly grateful."

A More Sustainable Acadia

The park's new maintenance building will feature solar panels atop its 32,000-square-foot roof. The panels are expected to generate more than 50 percent of the energy used by the new building. Friends of Acadia has secured a \$500,000 grant from the National Park Foundation to add to the \$1



million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, and will be buying two electric vehicles for the park. Learn more [on our website](#).

Storm Impacts Update: Acadia Brings in Engineers to Help Assess Damage

Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider told the Acadia Advisory Commission on Monday, Feb. 5, that the park continues its assessment of damage from two powerful January storms.



The park received emergency funding to hire civil and structural engineers to help assess structural damage to areas such as the water tower at Schoodic, the Blue Duck, and the Boathouse at Bear Island. Engineers will also be assessing the Otter Cove causeway, Park Loop Road, and Schoodic Loop Road. A crew brought in from other national parks is helping to clear tree damage at Seawall over the next two weeks.

It will take weeks to gather all the data and begin to formalize a plan for how to rebuild. Read more about the storm impacts [on our website](#) and in the winter/spring issue of *Acadia* magazine.

Double Your Gift to Acadia during our Spring Membership E-Challenge

Mark your calendar! The launch of Friends of Acadia's Spring Membership E-Challenge is expected to arrive in your inbox **February 29**. Many of you love to give during our E-Challenges, knowing your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous group of donors, doubling your impact for Acadia. Supporting the E-Challenge is a great way to celebrate spring and your love for Acadia. For those who have never



given, we hope you will consider leaping into membership this year!

Make a Gift in Honor of Your Valentine

Are you looking for something special for an Acadia-lover this Valentine's Day? A tribute gift in their honor will show how much you care! We'll let your honoree know about your contribution with a hand-signed letter.

Give a Tribute Gift

If your loved one isn't a Friends of Acadia member, consider giving them a gift membership! They will receive a Friends of Acadia membership package that includes a personalized card announcing your gift, a one-year subscription to Acadia magazine, a packet of six notecards with Acadia imagery and wildlife, a Friends of Acadia membership window decal, and the satisfaction of knowing that membership helps preserve and protect Acadia National Park for current and future generations.



Give a Gift Membership

Don't forget to print your Acadia-themed valentine to go with your gift! [Click here](#) to see all our free e-cards.

Save These Dates for Important Friends of Acadia Events

The season for in-person events is just around the corner. Please mark your calendar for the following events.

- **April 27** - Earth Day Roadside Cleanup
- **July 8** - Acadia Founder's Day
- **July 10** - Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
- **August 10** - 35th Annual Benefit
- **November 2** - Take Pride in Acadia Day



Thank You 2023 Business Members

Thank you to the 149 businesses and organizations who supported our work to preserve and protect Acadia in 2023.

[Visit our website](#) to see the complete list of business members and learn more about how you can join this group of dedicated business owners



and organizations.

In Case You Missed It:

[Now hiring: Vice President of Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer](#)

[National Park Service and Federal Highways Administration Begin Rehabilitation of Historic Bridges](#)

[Storm Impacts Still Being Assessed](#)

[Construction Begins on Seasonal Housing](#)

Stories of Acadia:

[Life Under the Ice: Observations of the hidden life under the ice of a wintery Maine pond](#)

Until next month,



Header Photo: Acadia Mountain Summit. (photo: Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia)



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