National Park Friends Alliance Meeting  
Fall 2017: Acadia National Park  

Hosted by:  
Friends of Acadia  
Acadia National Park  
National Park Foundation  

October 17-19, 2017  

AGENDA  

DAY ONE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17  
Bar Harbor, Maine  
Bar Harbor Regency  
123 Eden Street  

EXCURSIONS: Experience Acadia, Summit to Sea, Discover Schoodic Tour  

Friends of Acadia  
National Park Service  

MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 30 per each field trip  
Pickup and drop off for each tour at Bar Harbor Regency hotel  
Registration for field trips must have been done in advance  

1. Summit to Sea Tour: Shuttle up to Cadillac Mountain Summit, meet partner organizations, and discuss current challenges facing the park and partners. Have lunch at the iconic Jordan Pond House, and hike the historic carriage roads and trails. Pick up will be at the hotel at 8:30 am, and return will be at 4:00 pm. Cost is $30 per person (includes lunch and transportation).  

2. Experience Acadia Tour: Tour the Park Loop Road on the Island Explorer shuttle bus and visit the sites that make Acadia one of the crown jewels of the National Park System, including Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Otter Cliffs, and Sieur de Monts Nature Center. Conclude with a stop at the Jordan Pond House for lunch and time for short, self-guided hikes on trails and carriage roads. Pick up will be at the hotel at 9:30 am, and return will be at 3:00 pm. Cost is $30 per person (includes lunch and transportation).  

3. Discover Schoodic Tour: Travel off the beaten-path to the quieter and recently-expanded Schoodic district of Acadia National Park. The Schoodic Peninsula is a one-hour drive east from the Bar Harbor Regency. Stop at the new Schoodic Woods Campground, part of a recent 1,500-acre addition to the park and visit the Schoodic Education and Research Center, a former Navy base that has been transformed into the largest Education and Research Center within the NPS. Pick up will be at the hotel at 8:00 am and return will be at 3:30 pm. Cost is $30 per person (includes lunch and transportation).
4. **Volunteer for a Morning on the Trails & Carriage Roads:** Friends of Acadia and NPS invite you to join their “drop in” volunteer program, which affords visitors an opportunity to give back to Acadia by volunteering on the trails and carriage roads. A van will depart from the hotel at 8:15 am and head to Acadia National Park headquarters, where you will meet crew leaders and other volunteers and break into smaller groups to be shuttled to work sites. Return to HQ for lunch at noon and be transported back to hotel by 1:30 pm. No cost – just your volunteer labor! Email Carol Potter at carol@friendsofacadia.org before October 10th if you are interested in joining the crew. Bag lunches will be provided.

4:30 pm  **Registration Check-In**  **Stone House**

Friends Alliance participants are invited to check-in and pick up their registration packets, name badges, and other meeting materials beginning at 4:30 pm.

5:00 pm  **Opening Reception**  **Stone House**

Join local hosts from the Friends of Acadia and other meeting attendees for refreshments, welcoming remarks, and conversation on the shores of Frenchman Bay.

6:30 pm  **Dinner on your own in Bar Harbor**

Please see a list of recommended restaurants in Bar Harbor in your registration packet.
DAY TWO
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
Bar Harbor Regency
123 Eden Street
Bar Harbor, ME

**BREADFAST** *(light continental breakfast provided at hotel)*

8:30 am
**Welcoming and Introductions**  
*Stone House*

*Deb Yandala, President, National Park Friends Alliance Steering Committee*

*Ed Samek, Board of Directors, Friends of Acadia*

9:00 am
**Updates from the National Park Service**  
*Stone House*

*Mike Reynolds, Acting Director, National Park Service*

*Jessica Bowron, Budget Formulation Chief, National Park Service*

The Director and Ms. Bowron will share updates regarding the Administration's funding priorities, matching grant opportunities, and other timely topics; Q & A to follow.

9:45 am
**Adapting to Today’s Challenges & Change: Acadia NP**  
*Stone House*

*David MacDonald, President, Friends of Acadia*

*Kevin Schneider, Superintendent, Acadia National Park*

Leaders of Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia will share experiences and approaches to rapidly growing visitation, climate change, and maintenance backlog. Panel conversation followed by Q & A, with an opportunity to discuss further in small groups.

10:15 am
**Small Group Discussions: Choose Your Topic**  
*Ballroom*

1. Climate Change – Education, Adaptation, Prevention, and Operations
2. Park Visitation – Approaches to Transportation and Visitor Experience
3. Maintenance Backlog – Local and National Strategies

11:00 am
**BREAK**

11:15 am
**Changing Roles in Response to NPS Budget Uncertainties**  
*Stone House*

Various friends group leaders will provide examples of ways in which their organizations are moving beyond philanthropic support to help their parks and serve visitors with new business and operational strategies. Panel discussion to be followed by group Q & A.

12:15 pm
**LUNCH**  
*Ballroom*
1:30 pm  National Park Foundation: Updates & Opportunities  Stone House
Will Shafroth, President and CEO, National Park Foundation
Mr. Shafroth will provide an overview of the initiatives currently being led by NPF.

2:15 pm  NPF, NPS and the Friends Alliance: A New Partnership  Stone House
Elizabeth Fien, Friends of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Friends Alliance
Deb Yandala, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Friends Alliance
Jeff Reinbold, Assistant Director for Partnerships & Civic Engagement, NPS
Chrystal Morris Murphy, SVP of Community Partnerships, National Park Foundation

The Friends Alliance is growing. With that growth comes an opportunity to meet the exciting challenge of better addressing the needs of friends groups and increasing the level of sophistication of the network. This panel will discuss the business plan that was developed and endorsed by the Friends Alliance Steering Committee, the National Park Foundation, and the Partnership Office of the National Park Service. Panel discussion followed by group Q & A.

3:00 pm  BREAK

3:15 pm  Ethics and Accountability: Implications for Partners  Stone House
Jeff Reinbold, Assistant Director for Partnerships & Civic Engagement, NPS
Tom Medema, Chief of Interpretation, Education & Volunteers, NPS
Reggie Chapple, Division Chief, Partnerships & Philanthropy, NPS

This will be a panel discussion regarding the ethics and accountability of friends groups, based on the new DO-21. Q & A and group discussion on implications for partners to follow.

4:30 pm  Adjourn
5:30 pm  Shuttle departs from the hotel for Jordan Pond House in Acadia National Park
6:00 pm  Reception and buffet dinner at Jordan Pond House
8:00 pm  Optional night sky viewing and interpretive talk (weather permitting)
DAY THREE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19
Bar Harbor Regency
123 Eden Street
Bar Harbor, ME

7:30-8:30 am  Informal “Office Hours” with National Park Service  Stone House

Enjoy informal “office hours” over breakfast with representatives from the NPS Partnerships Office and regional partnership coordinators. They will be on hand to meet with partners or superintendents for one-on-one conversations or small group discussions, address questions, and listen to ideas from the field.

8:30 am  Welcome Remarks  Stone House

Deb Yandala, President, National Park Friends Alliance Steering Committee

8:45 am  Perspectives on Maine’s New Addition to NPS: Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument  Stone House

Lucas St. Clair, President of the Board, Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters

Mr. St. Clair will discuss progress in the first year of the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, as well as the opportunities and challenges ahead.

9:30 am  New Audiences, New Alliances: Expanding Reach & Impact  Stone House

Greg Moore, President & CEO, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Bess Mitchell Averett, Executive Director, Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park
Christina Hausman, Executive Director, Voyageurs National Park Association

A panel will share examples of how parks and organizations are working more broadly in local communities and creating new alliances to extend their reach and impact to strengthen support for parks. To be followed by full group discussion and Q & A.

10:15 am  BREAK

10:30 am  Topical Discussions: Key Follow-up and Planning  Stone House

Friends Alliance Steering Committee (facilitators)

Throughout the meeting, we will have a white-board where participants can list ideas for further discussion with small groups of your peers. This is an opportunity to resolve any unfinished conversations and help us to look ahead to the future work of the Alliance.

11:15 am  Closing Remarks & Announcements  Stone House

Deb Yandala, President, National Park Friends Alliance Steering Committee