Many thanks to our generous Paddle Raise donors who contributed $300,000 during the paddle raise at the FOA Annual Benefit to help restore Acadia's Carriage Road Bridges last weekend. And, you can join them! Every dollar raised will go directly to the restoration and preservation of these iconic and inspirational part of Acadia's natural and cultural landscape.

For those who want to support Friends of Acadia, there are many ways to participate:

- **Planned Giving**: Learn more about leaving a gift in your will by visiting the section of the Friends of Acadia website dedicated to Planned Giving.
- **New and Renewing Business Members**: As a $300 annual sponsor, you'll receive special recognition in Friends of Acadia publications, digital media, and at events. To be recognized, your gift must be made by July 29.
- **Benefit Digital Guide**: Review the guide to see which sponsors are offering benefits to donors of a suitable level.
- **Donor Recognition**: Our donors are recognized on the Friends of Acadia Journal.
- **Benefit Digital Guide**: View the guide to see which sponsors are offering benefits to donors of a suitable level.

Like any structures exposed to the elements, the bridges must be maintained for safety and aesthetics. The restoration work entails re-pointing, re-bedding, concrete in the arches where spalling has occurred, and cleaning of efflorescence (calcium build up on the stones as lime is leached out of the mortar by rain water).

Restoring Acadia's Carriage Road Bridges, a project begun more than 100 years ago, has been long overdue. The Bridges were constructed as a series of 17 stone arches, using locally-sourced granite blocks and mortar. Each arch features gothic arches, textured masonry surfaces, and protruding scupper drains. While they are first and foremost functional elements that allow park users to safely pass through the park, they are also landmarks that commemorate the creativity and craftsmanship of the men who built them.

The Cobblestone Bridge, John D. Eaton Peabody, and the Shore Path Bridges are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Cobblestone Bridge is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Beginning in 1917 with the Cobblestone Bridge, John D. Eaton Peabody, and the Shore Path Bridges, Friends of Acadia has been active in preserving and maintaining these bridges. In 2003, Friends of Acadia launched an enhanced planned giving program at the annual George B. Dorr Society appreciation event on July 29. An update was given about some of the George B. Dorr Society donors, and view photos from our newest publication, enjoy stories about the team's end-of-season presentation. The team will be showing photos and videos from the summer documenting everything in the park.

July 29, 2019, was the perfect evening for stargazing. More than 500 guests gathered under the lawn of the Asticou Azalea Garden for the George B. Dorr Society Benefit, was a smashing success.

Just as in the park, the pace at the FOA office quickens during this season. Our lawn of the Asticou Azalea Garden is all in support of preserving, protecting, and promoting the stewardship of our favorite park. It's mid-August, and though towns are brimming with crowds at times, the peace and tranquility of the park surrounds us in so many settings and in so many ways. Water lilies are blooming, the blueberries are ripe, the Precipice Trail has reopened, and summer nights are perfect for stargazing.