

Friends of Eagle Island, Inc.

Eagle Island - Where History Meets The Future



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PADDLING UP! –TO EAGLE ISLAND

On August 4, 2013, for a few hours, the lake around Eagle Island was again filled with canoes, kayaks, and motorboats circling the island. The air rang with voices calling out to friends and raised in song, the splash of paddles, and the hum of motorboats as Friends of Eagle Island gathered for the first **Paddle Up!** Over 40 people gathered in at least 19 boats. Thanks to our friends on Gilpin Bay who made it possible to launch many of the boats.

Participants included former campers, staff, family camp attendees, and a future camper as 2-year-old Lena, daughter of Nicky Sahady-Gabrielsen and granddaughter of Janne Sahady, happily enjoyed her canoe ride. Buz Graves, grandson of Henry Graves, Jr.—the original donor of Eagle Island—was a special guest. Bob Goodsell, our lead lawyer and father of Stef Goodsell, was there to support us in this cause. Several boats filled with Upper Saranac Lake residents stopped by to support us. One person called out, “We miss you at Chapel Island!”



Supporters arrived from New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, from Mariners from the '50s to campers and staff who were there just a few years ago. A special thanks goes to Carol Jackman who opened her home to many and provided most of the canoes.

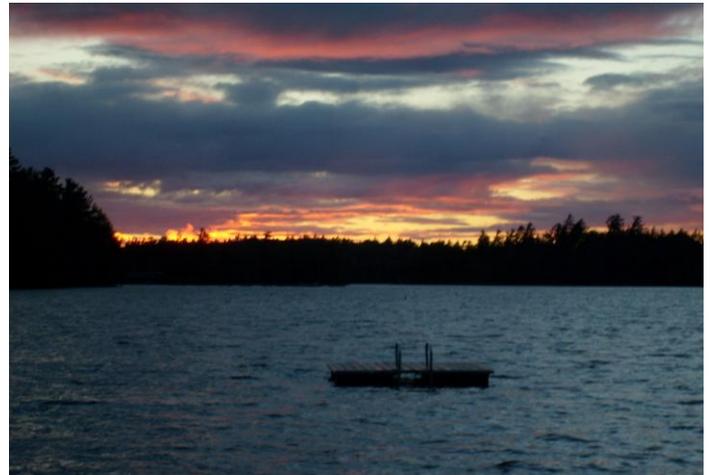
Although weather forecasts had predicted rain and chilly weather, August 4 was gorgeous. After being away from Eagle Island and Upper Saranac Lake for five years I had forgotten just how beautiful it is: heart-breakingly beautiful. The water was a deep blue, with just enough wind to ruffle the surface and sparkles of sun on the water. The sky was a rich blue with clouds that had just enough darkness to be interesting, the trees were a dark green, and the mountains rose above it all. As we circumnavigated the island, through the trees I could see the Lodge, the Boat House, the Ad Building, and the Dining Hall, an almost-empty Service Dock, and favorite tent platforms. Except for our group the lake seemed almost deserted. Even though this was the middle of summer, Eagle Island was alone (except for the current caretaker and friends, balefully watching our happy armada from the Service Dock).

Being on Upper Saranac on August 4. Seeing people on the water who had traveled hundreds of miles to send a message with their presence and their signs like “Camp Builds Character,” “Save All Girl Scout camps,” and “Eagle Island Belongs to Girls.” Meeting old friends and making new friends, singing songs with other guests on Carol’s porch, looking at the stars—that amazing view of a sky filled with more stars than you can imagine

anywhere else. The signs on the Boat House and the Adirondack Dock still say "For Sale," but this has re-energized me in the battle to save Eagle Island for future generations.

If you couldn't join us, take two minutes to watch Lauren Parmington's video at:
<http://youtu.be/0qIz9YlTk6A>.

And for those who stayed over till Monday after the Paddle Up, we continued the reunion weekend a little longer by getting together at Doctor's Out, where some of us were staying for the week. This is a small rental camp on Upper Saranac near Bartlett Carry and has a canoe and outboard that comes with the cabin. The owners are strong supporters of Friends of Eagle Island. We enjoyed camp food, Eagle Island songs and stories, made new friends and watched in awe the Adirondack Sunset.



Lawsuit Update

Buz Graves, Chris Hildebrand, two of our plaintiffs along with Mary Hotaling, former President of Historic Saranac Lake and an avid supporter of Friends of Eagle Island, attended the second hearing in the law suit against GSHNJ before Judge Ellis in Malone on Friday, August 30. Our lead counsel Bob Goodsell and our local counsel, Ron Briggs, appeared on our behalf. Scott Heck, the attorney for the Defendants, GSHNJ, Susan Brooks and Tiffany Wilson attended the hearing, as did the Assistant Attorney General, Glen Michaels. Our attorneys had added the Attorney General as a defendant so that his office would participate in the litigation. No one from GSHNJ attended in person.

The purpose of the hearing was two-fold. One purpose was for the Court to consider the motion our attorneys had filed for partial summary judgment asking the Court to void the 1980 transfer of Eagle Island by the Girl Scout Camp of Eagle Island, Inc (the special purpose New York not-for-profit corporation formed in 1937 to hold title to and operate Eagle Island) to Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex. The good news is that the Court granted essentially all of the relief we had requested, and, in fact, the Attorney General's office supported our position that the 1980 transfer was unlawful because GSCEI failed to seek or obtain Court approval. This is clearly an interim victory for us, as it sets the stage for further proceedings in which GSHNJ will need to seek retroactive approval for the transfer of the Camp to GSGE (now GSHNJ) if it is going to be able to make an unrestricted sale of Eagle Island. The Attorney General's office is sympathetic to our position, but our ultimate success will depend in large part on what further evidence our attorneys can unearth regarding the 1937 gift and how GSCEI treated that gift upon receiving it, as well as further evidence as to why GSCEI and GSGE failed to seek Court approval for the 1980 transfer, and whether the reasons that they failed to seek approval can assist an argument that approval should not now be given retroactively. Our attorneys will be undertaking additional discovery, both of GSHNJ and of non-parties, in an effort to eventually persuade the Court that any transfer of Eagle Island should be to an entity that will continue its use as a recreation camp.

The second purpose of the hearing was to continue the hearing from May 17th on the motion filed by the Defendants seeking to dismiss various portions of our claims. The Judge had continued that hearing to allow GSHNJ to provide documents in response of discovery requests that our attorneys had made. The Judge did grant GSHNJ a portion of the relief Defendants had sought in their motion to dismiss portions of our Complaint. In particular, to the extent that the Complaint asserted a claim that what is referred to as a “constructive trust” should be imposed based on the circumstances surrounding the 1980 transfer, the Court determined that that particular claim is barred by a six year statute of limitations. While our attorneys had maintained that our allegations of fraud were sufficient to overcome that statute of limitations, the Court disagreed. However, since the Court is ruling that the 1980 transfer is void and approval will now need to be obtained with the statutory showing being met, our attorneys are satisfied that the portion of the Complaint being dismissed does not negatively impact our case.

Nothing that occurred at Friday’s hearing impacts the other major claims in our Complaint, which are based on the misrepresentations made at the time of and following the 2008 Consolidation and the intentional undermining by Susan Brooks and GSHNJ of the efforts to continue operating Eagle Island. In order to allow time for further discovery, the Judge scheduled the next hearing date for January 16, 2014 at 10:30 AM.

Take a Hike for Eagle Island, Part 2!

Join a hike, or start your own, to help us raise the money needed to continue the fight to save our island home!! Hikes are going on across the *globe* throughout October. Details listed below. A map of all hikes can be seen here: <http://goo.gl/u78pOj>

These hikes are a fundraiser!

Sign up at <http://friendsofeagleisland.org>. Ask friends and family to donate and support The Friends of Eagle Island in our lawsuit to prevent the Girl Scouts from selling the camp.



Where & When to Take A Hike For Eagle Island...

Saturday, October 5 Hikes

Point Pleasant Boardwalk, NJ. 9:30 AM. Meet across from the Kiddie Train ride at Jenkinson’s Pier. Contact Marilyn Graber, mgrabber@friendsofeagleisland.org.

Peru Mountain, southwestern VT. Time and meeting spot TBD. Contact Carol Ewald Bowen, cebowen@friendsofeagleisland.org

Hike the Gunks. Shawangunk Ridge, NY 10 AM. Meet at the McDonald’s in Ellenville, NY and leave at 10 am to drive to the start of the hike. Bring lunch, and water with you for the hike. Rain date is October 12. Contact Mary Ratchford Hesselgrave, gunkshike@friendsofeagleisland.org. Take advantage of a unique opportunity to hike on one of the largest privately owned sections of the Shawangunk Ridge. This 5 mile, all-day hike, goes to the top of the Shawangunk Ridge following the historic Jacobs Ladder Trail and then bush-whacking about 2.5 miles along the escarpment. Then head down through a fern grotto stream negotiating boulder fields and water falls. There will be spectacular views of the northern Catskills and the Roundout Valley. For those less adventurous there are 5 miles of jeep/hiking trails including a lake and a magnificent cliff view of the Witches Hole State Forest.

Sleeping Giant State Park, Hampden, CT (Near New Haven) 10 am. Meet in the parking lot on Mt Carmel Ave., Hampden, CT. Jill Martin jmartin@friendsofeagleisland.org

Sunday, October 6 hikes

Hike the Monuments, Washington D.C. 1 pm. Meet in Lafayette Square on the North side of the White house. Meet by the statue of Andrew Jackson on a horse surrounded by cannon. Contact Judy O'Neil, joneil@friendsofeagleisland.org

Walkway Across the Hudson, NY. 9 am. Meet at red railway car at 75 Haviland Rd., Highland, NY. This hike is handicapped accessible. Contact Pat Foody, pfoody@friendsofeagleisland.org.

Wednesday, October 9 Hike

Hike to Happy Hour, New York City, NY. 5:30 pm. Meet at GSUSA headquarters, 420 Fifth Avenue, end at Papillion Bistro and Bar, 22 East 54th St. about 6:30. Contact Kara Dorso. kdorso@friendsofeagleisland.org

Saturday, October 12 Hike

South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Locust Grove Trailhead is across from the Millburn train station. Meet at 10:30, hike at 11. Many EIC friends live in this area. We hope to see you. Hike will go on even in the rain. Contact Michele Racioppi mracioppi@friendsofeagleisland.org

Big Basin State Park, Boulder Creek, CA 10 AM. Meet at Big Basin State Park headquarters. 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA. Contact Vicki Woolworth, vwoolworth@friendsofeagleisland.org.

Save the Girl Scout camps of Alabama. Hike Hayes Nature Preserve 10 am – 2 pm., Owens Cross Roads, AL. Meet at Interpretive Center near entrance. Hike the Flint Trail toward Beaver Dam Run. Contact Suzi Henley, suzihenley@gmail.com

Sunday, October 13 Hike

SOS Camps (Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois). Black Hawk State Park. Time tbd. Meet at shelter near Singing Bird Nature Center. Black Hawk State Park, 1510 46th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois. Contact Jane Duax soscamps@gmail.com

Monday, October 14 Hike

Boston, MA. Hike Minuteman National Park trail. 10:30 departure. 250 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA. Parking lot for Minute Man National Park Visitor Center. Contact Mimi Harrington mharrington@friendsofeagleisland.org

Hikes still to be Scheduled

Hunterdon County, NJ. Voorhees State Park. Meet at Hoppock Grove Parking Area past the park office.

Pittsburgh, PA. Contact Ginny Hildebrand ghildebrand@friendsofeagleisland.org.

Potential hikes

Interested in one of these? Contact organizer, or Mimi Harrington.

Los Angeles, CA. Baldwin Hills Conservancy/Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Meet at the Recreation Center which is accessible from La Cienega Boulevard.

Saint Petersburg, Russia. Sponsored by Mandy Spenz.

Your Hike Here. If you have an idea of a hike location contact Mimi Harrington and the information will get posted on the hike map.

"You can't control the wind -- you can only adjust your sails"

...Well, we have adjusted ours...please help by joining today!

www.friendsofeagleisland.org

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