

EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

MAY 2016

FRIENDS OF EAGLE ISLAND, INC.

VOL. 6 ISSUE 2



"Sun pillar" as seen from Eagle Island in April

CURRENT WORK AND SUMMER 2016

Busy Season

The winter months have given Friends an opportunity to develop detailed next steps for Eagle Island. We are making progress on the restoration and repair plans by working with our engineers and historic preservation architect. More definitive evaluations will be forthcoming now that ice is out and our consultants can get to the island safely.

We already know that the National Historic Landmark buildings, along with the ancillary buildings, need repair and, in some cases, new roofs. This work is a necessity to preserve the structures and provide a safe and comfortable environment for visitors. In addition, the electrical, water and septic systems need to be upgraded. Work will begin soon upon obtaining the proper permits where needed.

Ice out has also allowed us to get a closer look at our boats. Many

of you may remember the Ark which was a reliable vessel ferrying folks to and from the island for many years. You can now see the Ark at Spencer Boat Works for sale. We had to part with this piece of nostalgia for something more efficient. Recently, we were able to purchase a late model pontoon boat that will be used to ferry volunteers, contractors, consultants, supplies, and occasional guests to the island this summer.

Volunteers have been signing up for days, weeks and weekends to help get Eagle Island back in shape. Anyone interested in signing up should fill out the form (or email or call) so that we can have a discussion how best to use the skills, enthusiasm and interest.

PLEASE NOTE: This appeal is for individual assistance and not a formal work weekend.

VIDEO INTERVIEWS!

Anne Popolizio has begun a wonderful project of interviewing Eagle Island alum from across the decades. This video footage will be archived and used to produce short public relation pieces and historical reference. With the right filmmaker maybe it could even be the beginning of a short documentary. Eagle Island and "Friends" is truly a remarkable story.

Accommodations for volunteers on the island will be extremely limited in 2016 due to many basic comfort limitations the primary of which is there will be NO running water. The minimum age to participate is 16.

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GRANT WRITING by Carol Bradof

A Busy Committee

The FEI Grants Writing Committee, comprised of Jane Evans, Paula McGovern, Lora Myers, Michele Racioppi, Tomoko Werbe, Cindy Woolworth, Chris Wubbolding, and Carol Bradof (Chair) has met regularly since December.

We have composed "master" letters of information--for those foundations that pre-select their grantees- and "master" letters of intent for those foundations which accept applications. Four grant applications have been completed and submitted with at least three in progress.

The committee is evaluating and categorizing foundations according to our immediate needs. For example, historic preservation grants are a higher priority now than those which support camperships or camping equipment. We look forward to more detailed cost estimates that will come from the engineer's report regarding electric, water, and sewer expenses as well as detailed estimates related to restoring the historic buildings themselves so that we can apply for grants that seek to support very specific projects.

Just this past week FEI received notice of its first grant award! Cloudsplitter Foundation, based in Saranac, awarded \$20,000 toward the Eagle Island Restoration and Revitalization Project. It is exciting news and motivating to our Grant Writing Committee and other fundraising.

RECENT PURCHASES

A Van and a Pontoon Boat

Our overall \$1.5m budget included the purchase of a truck for the mainland and a transport vessel to ferry supplies and people to and from the island. These two items are vital to efficient operations this summer and in the future. We were very fortunate through our new relationship with the Boy Scout Council of Northern New Jersey that owns and operates the nearby Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation to purchase a 15 passenger van for \$5,000. This vehicle will serve a dual purpose of hauling construction materials and as a transportation vehicle once camp is in operation. Our second purchase was a late model gently used pontoon boat. This much needed vessel can ferry approximately 12 passengers and is a more effective transport of supplies. We are currently looking for a donor to fulfill this \$20k expenditure and have the opportunity to name the boat! Both expenditures were within budget. Anyone looking to support this initiative please contact Executive Director, Paula McGovern at: pmcgovern@friendsofeagleisland.org.



2004 Ford 3500 15 passenger van



2012 Sweetwater Pontoon
FEI's attorney Bob Goodsell

VOLUNTEERING

[Visitor's Policy](#)

[Waiver of Liability](#)

[Sign-up to volunteer](#)

Are all on the website at:
www.friendsofeagleisland.org/forms/

LAND USE DISCUSSIONS

Christine Wubbolding, President

One of the most important activities in the past few months has been pursuing zoning and permitting matters with the Town of Santa Clara. The "group camp" use has not been a permitted use under Santa Clara's land use code for quite a few years. The Girl Scouts were able to maintain it as a group camp year-to-year through continued use. When the Girl Scouts discontinued use of Eagle Island no request was made to the Town to preserve the ability to reopen the camp for a subsequent owner. In the following years, prior to owning the property, FEI had no authority to make such a request of the Town. Now that FEI owns Eagle Island, we have been in discussions with the Town of Santa Clara and have requested that they consider adopting an amendment to its Land Use Code.

In turn, the Town asked Friends to reach out to the local community for support of our efforts. FEI has begun that process and has already received an outpouring of letters of support and encouragement. Indeed, FEI has welcomed the opportunity to obtain community input. In early April, FEI held an informal discussion at Historic Saranac with a number of community members and has plans to host other informative presentations introducing FEI to the community and to openly discuss our plans and address concerns. FEI is also pleased to be invited to and participate in the upcoming USLA Membership meeting

on July 9th and looks forward to meeting more of our neighbors on the lake. Upcoming events will be advertised through the USLA website and other media outlets.

This process of obtaining input from the community has been very helpful in identifying, dispelling, and addressing some concerns raised by some homeowners in the area. One example of a concern is that jet skis and motorized PWC might become part of Eagle Island programming. That will not happen. Eagle Island will continue programming that embraces nature and has low environmental impact, which means NO jet skis or motorized PWC.

Another concern that a few lakeshore homeowners have raised is the possible excessive noise in the evening from the Mariner Boathouse, particularly given its location on the eastern shore of the island. Although specific programming and uses are not finalized, FEI will ensure that evening activities in that building will be limited to the earlier hours; the Main Lodge and Dining Hall, both of which are set back from the lake and protected by trees, will be designated for any group evening activities.

Eagle Island is and will remain a rustic destination, with activities which encourage guests to slow down and enjoy the natural and historic surroundings.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

FEI looks forward to developing long-term working partnerships

In addition to letters of support from a wide number of local residents FEI looks forward to developing long-term working partnerships and relationships with the following Organizations who have also sent letters endorsing our mission and vision for Eagle Island.





#THISPLACEMATTERS

National Trust for Historic Preservation

May is Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust is celebrating with three words that say it all: **This. Place. Matters.** Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter. *This Place Matters* is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities.

Eagle Island is our place that matters! If you are on Twitter or Instagram post and tag your favorite photos of this special landmark Great Camp.



Trudy Waddell & Janet Trombly

PRESERVATION50: NYS!

The 2016 Statewide Preservation Conference

Janet Trombly & Trudy Waddell represented Eagle Island recently at a statewide conference in Albany. They attended workshops and answered questions at the display table that AARCH so generously shared. They enthusiastically promoted Eagle Island to the historic preservation community. This annual conference moved to the Capital Region to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The theme **Preservation50: NYS** is part of the national effort to celebrate, learn from, and leverage the NHPA's first five decades to assure historic preservation's vibrant future in America.

ERNA SCHNEIDER HOOVER: A LEGACY ALUM

by Chris Hildebrand with Erna Hoover

Erna Schneider Hoover spent six summers at Eagle Island Camp (EIC) beginning in 1938 when she was 12 and the first year that EIC opened.

In an interview, Erna recalled many wonderful and vivid memories of Eagle Island including attending the dedication ceremony in "this land enchanted for all time" which was attended by Henry Jr. & Florence Graves.

She particularly recalled paddling back to Eagle Island in great joy, with the sun shining on the still waters of Racquette Lake, after a challenging five-day canoe trip during which it rained heavily. The group had struggled against strong currents and was forced to shelter overnight in an Adirondack lean-to.

Erna remembers accurately judging wind and waves and picking the winning strategy in a sailboat race.

After graduating with honors from Wellesley College, Erna earned a Ph.D. in logic and foundations of mathematics from Yale that led to a career at Bell

Laboratories in New Jersey. There Dr. Hoover broke three glass ceilings and became the first woman to head a technical department. She created a computerized switching system for telephone call traffic which earned one of the first software patents ever issued.

In 2008, Erna was elected to the National Inventor's Hall of Fame. Erna said her experiences at Eagle Island gave her and other campers the self-confidence to become leaders in Science, Medicine, Government, Environment, and the Arts. FEI is grateful to count Erna as one of our Friends and loyal Alumnae.

For more information on Erna see:

<http://invent.org/inductee-detail/?IID=380>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erna_Schneider_Hoover.



FUNDRAISING by Mimi Harrington

The Work Continues

Your amazing \$500,000 donations in 2015 have allowed FEI to begin the work required to bring Eagle Island back to life. But this is only a third of our goal to set us on the path of becoming a self-supporting organization. So the Fundraising Committee is back at work with dedicated members: Deborah Steinberg, Jill Martin, Marilyn Graber, Chris Wubbolding, Mimi Harrington, Ginny Hildebrand, Chris Hildebrand, Wendy Cohen and Laura Racioppi. We will be reaching out to our faithful supporters through phone calls and emails to ask you to reconfirm your previous pledges and annual donation potential. We need to know what level of annual giving we can count on for the next 3, 5, 10, or more years. We will also be confirming contact information so that our new database is accurate and complete.

There will be several opportunities this year for supporters to contribute, the first being our semi annual fundraising campaign starting in June/July, as well as specific projects with recognition. For example, one generous supporter can have the opportunity to give our new transport boat a name!

Friends of Eagle Island has launched its first crowdfunding campaign. **Adirondack Gives** is an online giving site through the Adirondack Foundation. 100% of donations goes to FEI thanks to the Foundation's generosity in hosting campaigns for nonprofits, charities and civic groups that support the Adirondack community.

Every contribution is meaningful. We are pursuing every means possible to financially support our long term plans through Grant Writing, in-kind donations, and crowdfunding, but demonstrating financial stability through individual support is the most meaningful of all.

WORK TO BE DONE

Service Dock and Boat Houses

With much disappointment the service dock and boat houses have not held up well. Initial evaluations by a number of professionals lead us to the unfortunate conclusion that the solution to salvaging this crucial infrastructure will far exceed the amount of money that had been budgeted. Construction estimates will be forthcoming.



CALENDAR

Sunday, May 29, 3-4:30pm

Informal Presentation & Discussion at the Santa Clara Community Center

Saturday, July 9

FEI at USLA Membership meeting

Sunday, July 10

Day Back Home for Eagle Island Friends

(details of event will be communicated via FEI mailing list soon and reservations requested)

Monday, July 11, 1-4pm

"Open Island" for local community

(details to follow)

Wednesday, August 17

AARCH Historic Tour
(Reservations through AARCH only)

WISH LIST

hand tools ♦ **power tools**

heavy equipment

(including wood chipper, compressors, utility trailer and log splitter)

For more details visit the [website](#)

or email cwubbolding@friendsofeagleisland.org



#Friendsofeagleisland



#EagleIslandADK



Executive Director, Paula McGovern
Capturing the sunset in April

How many of you have sat on these
rocks gazing westward as the sun
went down over H. Saranac Lake?

Back issues of this newsletter can be found on the website.



Friends of Eagle Island

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