



# EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

August 2019

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 9 Issue 3

## EIC CAMPER RETURNS

Mary-Anna Donovan  
Assistant Camp Director

Mary-Anna, a camp alumna, has returned to Eagle Island as Assistant Director in our inaugural 2019 season. We were lucky enough to grab five minutes of her time to interview her while camp was in session.

### What do you do when you're not at camp?

After graduating from Salisbury University, I became an 8th grade English teacher in Maryland. I also tutor for SAT and ACT.

### What is your favorite memory of your time as a camper?

Waking up in my Lakeside tent, and always being able to see the lake and the mountains. Learning how to canoe. Sleeping out on the Boathouse porch under the stars. And of course the friendships I made.

### What did EIC do for you?

Eagle Island gave me a sense of independence and a new connection to nature. I was more of an indoors person before I came, but camp gave me an appreciation for the outdoors and being out on the water.

### What attracted you to the job as Assistant Director?

I always kept up with the Eagle Island newsletter and Facebook page. I had worked seven summers at another camp, but as soon as I saw the EIC job listing, I applied immediately!

### Anything else?

I'm really excited to be back – the kids and I are having a blast!

(We're really excited to have you back, too! – Ed.)

Camper, 2007–2008; Assistant Director, 2019  
Salisbury University, BA, English, 2016



Erika Baily Photography

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM A DAY OF CAMP

New traditions and old: The day begins with a rousing rendition of "The Morning Report" from The Lion King, and a rundown of the day's activities.

The Lakeside Trail is well-used as the main route for all activities: from the Service Dock to the Peninsula for free play and "stump time," the Boathouse for arts and crafts, up to Main Camp for lunch, and to the Waterfront for swimming and boating--all with a beautiful lake view!

Swim lessons are an essential part of the day--as an island camp, we value this life skill, and what better place to learn proper technique AND have fun than in the clean, clear waters of Upper Saranac Lake?

Learning the ropes (or lines, as sailors say), as well as paddling and rowing, under the leadership of staff and volunteer EIC alumnae like Erika Merrell (pictured above).

And what better place for a picnic than on Mariners Rock, where generations of campers sat, dreamed, and stargazed?





Erika Baily Photography



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### A Taste of Summer

**Arts & Crafts** on the Boathouse porch, overlooking the water with the mountains beyond – Inspiration!

**Kayaking** on our brand new blue fleet.

**Indoor fun in the Lodge** under the watchful eye of Adam (the moose) during stormy weather.

**Building bat houses** for on the island to support this essential part of the ecosystem.



August 2019





## MEET OUR CAMP STAFF!

Here is a quick and fun introduction to our intrepid 2019 Staff. We asked them four questions:

1. What is your favorite place on the island?
2. What is your best experience with a camper?
3. What is your most unexpected fun memory?
4. What is your best memory with a fellow staff member?

### **Katrina Dearden**, Camp Director

1. The Peninsula, especially Tommy and Keefe's fortress next to the water.
2. Helping Max plant tree branches to grow into full trees, or making friendship bracelets with Miles.
3. Driving the campers in the van each day—sharing riddles and singing songs.
4. Saranac Lake StreetFest with Brandi and Randi; late-night pickle time with Mary-Anna and LeeAnn.

### **Mary-Anna Donovan**, Assistant Director, EIC alumna

1. The Lakeside Trail from the Peninsula toward the Waterfront.
2. Helping campers build their own mini campfires and seeing the pride in their faces.
3. Early-morning van ride chats with campers kept me awake.
4. I feel like I've known them forever and it's only been a month.

### **Molly Lowell**, Grove Counselor, Lifeguard

1. The Lodge porch, with a book.
2. Singing the Moose Song at the end-of-the-week campfire.
3. Row-boating the campers to and from the sailboats.
4. Meeting new pals and learning from their experiences!

### **Randi-Leigh Rippeth**, Grove Counselor, Lifeguard

1. Mariners Rock: a beautiful view and the best sunrises and sunsets.
2. Getting a camper to try sailing for the first time! We had a blast and she loved it.
3. I didn't expect to bond so much with the other staff. It feels like home.
4. Getting my toenail ripped off with Molly on the first day of camp! So memorable!

### **Brandi Bates**, Grove Counselor, Lifeguard

1. The Boathouse porch: the most relaxing view available.
2. A camper teaching me to play Farkle, and sitting and chatting about whatever came to mind.
3. Coming up with and hearing what Vikings would have tweeted if they had the technology.
4. All of them! We all joke and laugh and have a great time.

### **Maggie Burkley**, Grove Counselor, Lifeguard

1. The Peninsula: The space became whatever the kids wanted it to be.
2. A camper who was scared to go on a kayak decided to try. She safely learned to tip and get back on, and was beaming after.
3. The campers gave me so much more energy than expected. Their excitement made me even more excited.



4. I absolutely loved the positive, uplifting, and humorous work environment the staff helped to create.

### **Nick Bruno**, Grove Counselor, Lifeguard

1. The Boathouse porch.
2. When campers ask me to play songs and teach them to play the guitar.
3. Staff training, when we were all learning the games.

### **Eileen "Burnsie" Tallmadge**, Boating Counselor, Lifeguard

1. Any porch!
2. A camper had practiced her swim strokes on the weekend and was excited to show me on Monday.
3. Getting to sail.
4. Teaching staff to row a boat, watch them do it for the first time, and gain confidence.

### **Sue Shove**, Boating Counselor, Lifeguard, EIC alumna

1. Mariners Rock
2. A camper's excitement when they realized they could float on their back.
3. Watching sailing alums teach campers like it was just yesterday that they did this all summer.
4. Enjoying the delight of the younger staff that campers were having fun, and watching them learn to row and mastering that skill over the course of camp.

### **LeeAnn Millar**, Camp Nurse, EIC alumna

1. Boy, it is hard to pick! I think it might be the Lodge porch, or Mariners Rock.
2. Seeing a camper remember he DID know how to make friendship bracelets.
3. The happy sounds of children playing.
4. Getting to know everyone!

### **Kathy Gilroy**, Head of Maintenance

1. Mariners Rock in the early hours of the morning looking for shooting stars.
2. Watching the campers sail for the first time and seeing their proud faces as they return.
3. Getting to sail with Bernsie.
4. Same as number three above.

## IN THE NEWS!

Aaron Cerbone of the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* visited Eagle Island twice this season! The second recent was by far the most fun as he was able to view firsthand what he had heard about in the planning stages back in May. He was even recruited into a game, much to the delight of the campers. On his first, a cold, rainy day, he toured the camp with Katrina Dearden, Camp Director, and Paula Michelsen, Executive Director and volunteers, but in July he met the campers and counselors, and was able to experience the energy and enthusiasm of a staff coming together to provide a memorable camp experience. His articles have brought much positive attention to Eagle Island.



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

### Vern Prining

Vern has been in love with the Adirondacks since he was a boy camping in the area. He eventually became Commissary Director at Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation, and to this day, still makes an annual trip to Schroon Lake and his old camp. Vern fondly remembers Eagle Island in the early years, when the two camps had a staff party on turnover day. When close friend Chris Wubbolding, president of the EIC Board, shared her passion for Eagle Island, Vern, a skilled carpenter with exceptional knowledge of all aspects of construction, readily volunteered to help. Vern has since made two week-long visits to Eagle Island, helping install new flooring in the Guide House in 2018 and covering 800 square feet of the kitchen walls with new paneling in 2019. Thanks to our connections with Floodwood, Vern was able to combine his annual visit with the pickup of a loan of canoes and rowboats for Eagle Island this summer. Many thanks to Vern!

## OPEN ISLAND

On Saturday, August 17 over 180 people were on the island including over 37 volunteers and 150 visitors. There was (of course) a rousing sing-along and two guided walks around the island. Visitors and volunteers alike were able to envision campers on the island, and also see our progress on the water and septic systems and restoration projects to stabilize the historic buildings for the next century. Thank you to one and all for joining us for this special day on the island!



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## CALENDAR

### Open Island Day

Saturday, August 17

### Regional Reunion (Philly)

Saturday, October 16

### Regional Reunion (Boston)

Saturday, November 9