



# EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

September 2018

Eagle Island, Inc.

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## A CONCERT FOR EAGLE ISLAND

Trudy Waddell

August 15, 2018 marked the date of our second successful fundraising event, held in cooperation with The Wild Center in Tupper Lake. Dan Berggren, a well-known Adirondack singer/songwriter and storyteller, performed a sold-out concert benefiting Eagle Island, emceed by our own Ginny Hildebrand.

Ten months earlier, Dan donated signed CDs to the silent auction for our Camp in SoHo event, and later expressed interest in performing a future benefit concert. Dan toured Eagle Island for the first time in July 2018, and treated volunteers to an impromptu mini-concert, singing some of his original favorites, including "One with the Water." Benefit concert attendees heard this and many other songs from Dan's catalog, including a new song, "On This Island," which he wrote after his visit, having absorbed the magic of Eagle Island so many have known.

We were able to raise additional funds with a raffle of a Hornbeck canoe. Due to our local connection with Pete Hornbeck, builder of these prized and popular boats, he made a generous donation to enable the raffle. Raffle ticket sales alone brought in over \$7,000. The lightweight canoe was won by an Adirondack visitor, who was quite pleased to take it back to Washington, D.C.

As with any event, much of our success is due to our hard-working volunteers. We especially applaud the efforts of Eagle Island's Adirondack Committee, chaired by Carol Jackman. Countless hours were spent marketing the event, selling raffle and concert tickets throughout the Saranac Lakes area, and coordinating with The Wild Center. Kudos also to those behind the scenes, who took on graphic design, online ticket sales, and more.

We are grateful for the generosity of Dan, Pete, The Wild Center, and our event sponsors, who donated the fruits of their talent, their time, and their resources. We also thank those who continue to make and grow our connections in the Adirondack community. In so doing, they help us to grow our following and extend our reach, inspiring many in the local area and beyond to share and help us continue our vision of reopening Eagle Island for new generations.

More photos can be found on the [eagleisland.org](http://eagleisland.org) website.



## IN THIS ISSUE

<a href="#">A Concert for Eagle Island</a> .....	1
<a href="#">What EIC Did for Me</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Calendar</a> .....	2
<a href="#">The Squirrely</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Let's Get Operational</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Announcing Our Camp Director..</a>	3
<a href="#">Stories Behind the Boats</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Upper Saranac Lake Dam</a> .....	4



## WHAT EIC DID FOR ME

Andria Matthews

The Operating Room bears a striking similarity to sailing. Some days you're blessed with steady winds and blue skies. Other days are intense: one wrong move could mean a camper overboard or a capsized boat – or in the case of the OR, the loss of a life.

In the tight quarters of the OR, maintenance of sterility requires vigilance and awareness of others. It reminds me of sitting shoulder to shoulder with my fellow campers in our boats, ready to shift weight, cognizant of a line stuck under my feet, or the mainsheet around my fingers because a gust of wind could cause injury.

In the OR everyone plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of patients. It is a terrifying and exhilarating experience, that reading a textbook cannot prepare you for. But, perhaps, through the rigors of learning to sail, overcoming fears and gaining enough confidence to be skipper, I was better prepared to conquer my surgery clerkship.

Arriving at Eagle Island, I was a shy, nerdy kid, and secretly a bit boy crazy. At camp there was no worry about impressing or competing with boys. I was surrounded by strong, confident, competent women who could do it all: start fires, sail boats, lifeguard, and scale high peaks. There were no "boy" jobs or "girl" jobs, just jobs to be done. It's no surprise that my fellow campers and counselors have become incredibly successful in their adult lives. We were trained to be leaders, to care for others, to respect and protect Mother Nature, and have fun while doing it.

Throughout medical school, when the pressure seemed unbearable and fears of inadequacy crept in, I found solace in hiking and enjoying the company of my girlfriends. Often a comforting tune would pop into my head: "The water is wide, I cannot get o'er, and neither have I the wings to fly. Give me a boat that can carry two and both shall sail, my love and I."

I can't help but think that my brain is now wired this way, the neural networks I created on Eagle Island arm me with coping mechanisms to fall back on in times of stress. I am a resilient adult in part because of my dear EIC. So, as I embark on my new career, I want to say thank you to all the women and men of EIC who strive to keep the traditions of Eagle Island alive for generations of women to come, and who poured their wisdom and heart into me decades ago.

Yale College, Class of 2004  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
MD/MPH candidate, Class of 2019

## THE SQUIRRELY

Susanne Banta Harper's camp name in the 1940s was "Squirrely," so it was only fitting that the Phantom sailboat she and her family donated was named *Squirrely* on Dedication Day. She spent seven summers at Eagle Island and loved it so much that she sent her daughters and then a granddaughter. She also volunteered as a Girl Scout leader for both of her daughters.

*One of my favorite sayings when my children were growing up was this: "Everything I needed to know in life I learned at Eagle Island."*

*There is nothing quite like a four-day canoe trip to teach a girl how to get along. Always do your share of the work. No one likes a slacker. Better yet, pitch in and do whatever is needed. Being strong and capable is not an achievement. It's what you are born with. Help those who find things harder, and do it casually. No one likes a braggart.*

During her many years as a Girl Scout leader, Susanne encouraged camping and other leadership development activities. So, when EIC was on the verge of being sold in the 1980s, Susanne stepped up, proposing programs to expand the use of the island, many of which were instituted: create and promote a women's weekend, establish family camping, and find ways to attract other organizations to use Eagle Island for great camping experiences. She promoted diversity as a goal, and created opportunities for girls in urban communities to experience camp.

Susanne was a talented ballerina and was offered a spot in a ballet company, but instead worked and attended night school along with her husband. She went on to earn a master's degree and became an award-winning high school history teacher. She was chosen for a Fulbright Scholarship to China, among other prestigious study grants to Japan, Korea, and Russia. Susanne is also a published author, having written a novel, magazine articles, and short stories for children and adults, bringing history alive for her readers.

Susanne's legacy and love for Eagle Island will live on for the girls who learn to sail on the *Squirrely*.



Julia & Susanne Harper on Dedication Day

## CALENDAR

### "Meet the Camp Director / EIC Reunion"

Maplewood, NJ

Saturday, November 17, 2018

1:00-4:00pm

to register: email [events@eagleisland.org](mailto:events@eagleisland.org)  
call 973-996-8306  
online [eagleisland.org/new-events](http://eagleisland.org/new-events)

### Saranac Lake - Winter Carnival Parade

Saturday, February 9, 2019

## LET'S GET OPERATIONAL!

Chris Wubbolding

Becoming operational is and has been the motivator, passion, and endless work of all those connected to Eagle Island, Inc., including the Board, committees, volunteers, and supporters. Everything EI does is working toward getting campers on the island.

**Grant monies** allowed us to begin priority repair work on six of the historic buildings (Kitchen, Dining Room, Main Lodge, Family Cabin, Infirmary/Guide House, and Laundry/Trading Post). This includes stabilizing foundations, repairing and replacing log work, and chimney repair and roof replacements. The Dining Room basement is also being prepared to house the storage and chlorination tanks for the new water system.

**Todd Hall and ADK CampCare** installed new decking in the historic 1903 Pump House in preparation for installation of new water intake lines for the purification and pumping system. Kitchen repairs continue, including replacement of two severely damaged exterior wall sections and wall paneling, upgrading electric and plumbing, and installation of new venting for the fire suppression system.

**Summer volunteer workers** gave the Infirmary/Guide House a major facelift, including new floors, ceiling, paint, walls, and porch decking and railing. Volunteers also prepared and painted the interior of the walk-in refrigerator/freezer, and scoured the old but completely functional commercial stoves.

**Nothing money can't solve!** Eagle Island's biggest challenge currently is repair and a replacement of the water and septic systems. After a complete evaluation, engineering design, and two public bid rounds in Summer 2018, EI was disappointed to receive only one bid exceeding the engineer's estimate. EI is now considering re-phasing the work, simplifying the requirements, and bidding the project in increments. To this end, we are looking at laying main water lines and septic through Main Camp this fall.

This approach aims to best utilize funding and permit a limited opening, but does not change the enormity of distributing water and septic to outlying areas of the camp.



photo credits on this page: Ellen Foust

## ANNOUNCING OUR NEW CAMP DIRECTOR

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Katrina Dearden** as Camp Director/Assistant Executive Director of Camp Eagle Island, effective September 2018. Katrina comes to EIC from the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, where she was Camp Director for the last five years. Under her leadership, the camp doubled in size and expanded and updated its programming to respond to the growing and varied interests of the campers.

Katrina has been involved with camp since childhood, and her love for camping has deepened over the years as she has witnessed the impact that camp experiences have on young people. In addition to her work in camping, she has been a Fellow of the Summer Camp Society; attended a Camp Code Masterclass: "Designing Staff Training"; and is a regular participant at the ACA NY/NJ Tri-State Conference. Beyond camping, her interests are quite varied: She is a member of the Albany Curling Club and has played rugby in several leagues. She is a graduate of Widener University in Chester, PA, with an BS in Civil Engineering.

To quote Katrina, "I am passionate about the summer camp experience and truly believe in the power that summer camp has to positively change the lives of young girls." Join us in welcoming Katrina to Camp Eagle Island, where her passion and talent will help us again create a magical place for young women to learn and thrive. (Come meet Katrina on November 17 at our 2018 Alumni Reunion in Maplewood, NJ.)



Katrina chatting with  
Hannah, Joanna, Erika & Ryn



## STORIES BEHIND EAGLE ISLAND'S NEW BOATS

Ginny Hildebrand

The Dedication Day program opened with a new song, "On This Island", written by folk singer Dan Berggren after his visit to the island in July. Brief remarks introduced the women to be honored.

A plaque honoring Florence Graves's role in gifting the Island in 1937 to the Girl Scouts will hang in the old section of the Dining Room and a plaque memorializing former Eagle Island camper and Friend of Eagle Island activist Jeanne Wohlers will hang at the Boathouse, whose restoration was completed in part through the generous memorial donations of her husband and friends.

A fleet of six Mercury sailboats were donated by the family of our former beloved Vice President and former EIC Director, Mimi Harrington, who died in 2016. One boat is named in memory of **Mimi** and another in memory of her sister, **Zella**.

Family and friends of other EIC alumnae and former Mariner Scouts donated many thousands of dollars to purchase the naming rights of the four other sailboats. These boats will be named the **MacBeth** (in memory of Beth Rosengarten Rubin), the **Emily Jo** (in memory of Emily Novick), the **Marilyn** (in honor of Marilyn Kurtz Graber), and the **Chris H** (in honor of Chris Hildebrand).

The new 2017 Barge was christened **Mama Ginny 2**, after the Mariner Scout leader and counselor, Virginia Hildebrand, mother of Chris and Ginny Hildebrand.

The moving ceremony concluded with the singing of "Green Trees", "Peace" and "Taps" followed by the "Christening" of the Mimi with a bottle of champagne down at the waterfront. Video of the much of the event can be viewed on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). A longer version of this article is on the website at [eagleisland.org/boats](http://eagleisland.org/boats).



Zella's sons, Peter & Michael Tripp,  
Mimi's son's Nat & Will, and husband Peter Gow



## UPPER SARANAC LAKE DAM

A sinkhole in the Upper Saranac dam was discovered earlier this year. Without the dam, the lake would drop about four feet. The Upper Saranac Foundation has invested \$40k in a Phase I investigation and temporary repair and now raising money to the repair that will cost \$300K.

If you would like to learn more about this issue or donate to the repair, please visit the USF website [usfoundation.net](http://usfoundation.net)

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