



EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

May 2018

Eagle Island, Inc.

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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Mary Kate Burke

Mary Kate was a camper in the late 80s, becoming a CIT and ultimately returning in her early 20s as a Unit Counselor. She fondly recalls the camaraderie of an all-girls camp on a remote island and challenges such as her five-day canoe trip while a CIT.

After college in London, Mary Kate returned for the Camp's last two summers as a maintenance crew volunteer, which inspired her career change to teaching. After earning her masters, she taught in NYC from 2007–2013. She also taught in Singapore, where she met her husband, Shardul. They moved to Maplewood, NJ last August with their now 18-month-old daughter, Maya. While pregnant, Mary Kate brought Shardul to EI to share the beauty and magic of the place he had heard so much about.

Since re-connecting with EI, Mary Kate has jumped in with both feet. She hosted the Board retreat and has taken a lead role in the Camp 2019 Working Group. Networking with old and new friends, she is gathering information to guide the design of camp programs, market to potential campers, and generate additional financial support. Her perspectives as an educator and mother of a young daughter, coupled with her passion for EIC, are invaluable to our goal of reestablishing a camp that inspires and shapes the Mary Kates of tomorrow.

EXCITING NEWS!

As we head toward Camp reopening . . .

Due to an unbelievably generous opportunity and quick work to submit a successful proposal, Eagle Island has been awarded a donation in the form of a \$225,000 grant to help achieve our goal of Eagle Island full of campers. The terms of the grant provide \$75,000 per year over three years, which aligns perfectly with our plans for a limited "soft" opening scheduled in 2019, further expansion in 2020, and full capacity in 2021. This funding is earmarked for the development of a strategic plan and other activities critical to successfully launching youth and family camp programs. When completed, it will outline what is needed to fulfill the Camp's mission, identify to whom Camp will be marketed, and provide a roadmap for attracting campers and families. The funds will support hiring a Camp/Program Director as well as a marketing specialist. EI will contribute to these costs from other funding sources.

The grant provides even more incentive to complete the necessary infrastructure and building work. To that end, we will be seeking donations and other funding for these capital projects. As we move toward the ultimate goal of reopening, we will also be seeking donations for camperships and operational expenses to bring the sweet sounds of campers back to Eagle Island Camp.

CAMP 2019

An active Camp 2019 Working Group grew out of the Board's Annual Meeting in March. The members of the Working Group are Shirley Grill, Marina Lowry, Mary Kate Burke, Robin Greengrove, Tricia Hawley, and Bob Goodsell, along with Board President Chris Wubbolding, Vice President, Lauren Parmington, and Executive Director Paula Michelsen. The Group is working on critical tasks to achieve a three-year, progressive full camp reopening. These tasks include developing budgets, staffing plans, and job descriptions—including that for the Camp Director/Program Development position, which will require both experience and creativity, as they will be

challenged to create programs for a "new" camp that is also steeped in great traditions. With the skilled assistance of leadership coach Shirley Grill, the Group is formulating an approach to recruiting such an individual. Members of the Group are contacting and visiting other camps to glean their best practices, particularly those that can be applied to Eagle Island. This contact has been extremely encouraging, as the others share our mission of creating an environment for a youth camping experience that empowers young people.

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Judy Rush paddling her Hornbeck Classic-10
photo credit: Marc Wanner

A CONCERT FOR EAGLE ISLAND

Adirondack icons team up to support EI

Dan Berggren, the folk singer/songwriter, and Pete Hornbeck, the boat builder have both chosen Eagle Island as a beneficiary of their talents. Dan is performing a benefit concert at The Wild Center on **August 15**, and Pete has donated one of his popular original "Lost Pond" double-paddle ultralight canoes to be raffled at the event.



Our emphasis on respecting the environment and preserving the natural beauty and history of Eagle Island's piece of the Adirondacks led to the enthusiastic support of Mr. Berggren, Mr. Hornbeck, and The Wild Center.

Hornbeck-designed canoes are widely known, unique, and wildly popular watercraft. Dan Berggren's latest CD *This Planet We Call Home* features almost entirely his own songs, which tell stories about the Adirondack Mountains, its history, and its people. He is a tireless troubadour for the environment and an educator of history. Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben writes:

Dan is a throwback to the old role of the folk singer . . . he's articulating things that need to be said right now.

EI's Adirondack Committee will be publicizing this great event and selling raffle tickets for the boat all summer, which will significantly expand the knowledge of and familiarity with Eagle Island throughout the region.



WHAT EIC DID FOR ME

Stef Goodsell

When asked to write up "what EI did for me," I jumped at the chance! Only once I started to put pen to paper did I realize how daunting it would be to whittle down such a profound impact to 150 words. There are amazing friends—those whom I see regularly, and some I haven't spoken with in years—who have helped shape who I am today. And though I could wax poetic about amazing memories, inside jokes, boat names, and Song Contest winners, the biggest impact (and I know I am not alone on this) is the confidence instilled by spending summers on that island surrounded by women who were—or were learning to be—fearless.

This confidence and fearlessness is with me always—particularly at work in boardrooms and in meetings with CEOs, yet it is a recent experience that epitomizes EI's impact for me. I was at a bachelorette on a chilly spring night in the country and the group thought a campfire would be nice. Yet this accomplished, successful, and dynamic group of women looked around at each other, dumbfounded. Fortunately, there was one attendee who knew exactly how to build it.

As we move toward the future with a recognition that some things may change, the underlying premise of what EI "does" for those lucky enough to experience it will remain the same.

EIC, 1994–2004

Columbia University, BA 2009

Principal at the Public Relations and Communications firm of Kesk and Company, NYC

Let's grow the "CAMPFIRE CIRCLE"

We invite you to join EI's Campfire Circle as a monthly sustainer. This is a great opportunity for YOU to help us meet our ongoing financial needs. For \$100 or more per month YOU will be given special recognition in the next newsletter, and receive a commemorative "Campfire Circle" silver pendant as a token of our appreciation.

It is easy to set up a monthly recurring credit card donation on the **DONATE** button on our website. Being a sustainer gives EI a steady stream of funding, which enables us to plan for necessary work as we move toward having campers experience . . .

CAMP 2019!

THE TRADING POST IS OPEN

New Items for Pre-order

- Fleece half-zip pullovers (unisex sizing)
- Polos (youth, women's, & men's)
- Also: ceramic mugs, S'well-style water bottles, T-shirts, totes, notecards, bumper stickers, and patches

Online order deadline is **Friday, May 25**. Items are expected to ship mid-June in time for the summer season.

<http://eagleisland.org/tradingpost/>



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Summer volunteer work will be concentrated into two specific time frames: **June 29–July 15** and **August 11–19**, with a preferred minimum 3-day commitment. (*Other dates are possible, but will need to be coordinated.*)

Scheduled volunteer projects include (but are certainly not limited to) light carpentry, repairs, and painting in the infirmary and kitchen.

What better way to spend a few days than with friends on Eagle Island watching the sunset from Mariner Rock after a productive day of work?

All skill levels are welcome, but if you have a specific construction skill or license we would **LOVE** to see you and your family and friends.



Are you upgrading your iPad or tablet?

We are looking for one or two late-model tablets (iPads).

It needs to only be Wi-Fi, not cellular.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Beds & More from a TV Set

You may have heard about the Northern Adirondack prison escape a few years back. The upcoming mini-series for Showtime, ***Escape at Dannemora***, is based on that story. El's own Hannah Grill, a carpenter with the IATSE Local 52 union had worked on building and disassembling the sets—and seeing that the beds were similar to those on EI, she seized the opportunity to help us. When the filming of the interior scenes wrapped in February, Hannah secured the donation of **50** needed and practically new beds, mattresses, and bedding, AND arranged and accompanied the delivery truck and drivers all the way from Queens, NY, to Saranac Lake. Many thanks to **Possible Productions** and Hannah, who have helped us obtain some furniture that was built in the 21st century.



painted to look 'vintage'

Power Tools

A tremendous thank-you goes out to Debbie and Mike Barton (niece and husband of Marilyn Graber) who through his association with **Stanley Black & Decker** secured a treasure trove of new tools for Eagle Island. The donation includes much-needed DeWALT power tools, drivers, table saw, chainsaw, and compact router, as well as other items such as snips, levels, sawhorses, pry bars, and totes. The timing is perfect as we jump into a summer full of repairs.



CALENDAR

Volunteer Weeks

June 29–July 15
August 11–August 19

Benefit Concert @ Wild Center

August 15

Dedication Day / Visitor Day

August 18

Open Island Day

TBD, Labor Day Weekend

JUDY GOTTSCHO EICHINGER

Remembering Ruth—A Memoir

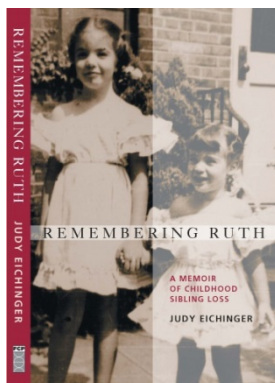
At eleven, I began spending a month each summer at Eagle Island . . . It took eight hours by chartered bus to get there, but I thought it was heaven on earth . . . When I was there, I sometimes forgot about Ruth's latest health crisis. Eagle Island became my salvation.

That's how Judy (Gottscho) Eichinger, Eagle Island 1953–1958, describes the impact of her experience as a camper in her recently published book, *Remembering Ruth, A Memoir of Childhood Sibling Loss*. Judy's beloved sister, Ruth, was born with almost no kidney function and was sick her entire childhood. She died in 1960, when she was 15 and Judy was 17.

In the book, Judy describes the deep pain of losing Ruth and her journey from a life of despair to one of fulfillment—in the hope of helping others who lost a sibling growing up.

Judy is chair of The Ruth Gottscho Kidney Foundation, started by her parents shortly after Ruth died. For the past 44 years, it has partnered with the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY, and the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx to provide youngsters with kidney disease two weeks of sleepaway camp.

"Eagle Island remains dear to my heart to this day," Judy says. "I can still smell the pines and hear the ripple of the water along the shore."



SOCIAL MEDIA

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Friends of Eagle Island
Inc.



EagleIslandADK

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Adirondack Folk Singer

DAN BERGGREN

is singing for Eagle Island

at The Wild Center

Eagle Island, Inc. is hosting an evening featuring musician and educator Dan Berggren, the award-winning Adirondack folk singer who has developed a style that captures the spirit of the history and sustainability of the Adirondack Mountains, its lakes, and its people.

The event will conclude with a raffle drawing for a beautiful standard "Classic-Ten" double-paddle ultralight Hornbeck canoe.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

7:00 pm Social time 7:30 pm Concert

THE WILD CENTER

45 Museum Road
Tupper Lake, NY

\$20/adult, \$10/youth

Starting July 1, event and raffle tickets will be available online or at **The Book Nook** in Saranac Lake.

(If you would like to help sell books of raffle tickets, please email info@eagleisland.org)

