

Friends of Eagle Island, Inc.

Eagle Island - Where History Meets The Future

Issue 7
June 2013



Lawsuit Underway

It's been nearly a year since we filed our initial lawsuit against the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) and we are pleased to inform everyone that things are finally underway.

Report on Court Hearing of May 17, 2013, before the Honorable John Ellis, Franklin County Courthouse

On Friday May 17th FEI's attorneys, Bob Goodsell and Ron Briggs, appeared before Judge John Ellis in Franklin County Court to oppose the motions to dismiss that had been filed by the GSHNJ. Those motions sought to dismiss the majority of our claims, without first allowing discovery of documents and other evidence that would support those claims. The GSHNJ and the individual defendants were represented by Scott Heck of the firm Gordon and Rees.

Bob Goodsell handled the argument on our behalf, after being introduced to the Court by Ron Briggs, who is our local counsel. The entire proceeding lasted for about an hour, with Mr. Goodsell taking a substantial amount of that time summarizing the facts of the case, as well as explaining to Judge Ellis the three main theories on which we believe we will eventually be entitled to the relief we are seeking -- that a restriction be recognized requiring that Eagle Island be utilized as a recreation camp for girls and young women, and that any sale or transfer of title be accompanied by that restriction. Mr. Goodsell emphasized the need for discovery from the GSHNJ, as much of the additional evidence that may support our claims are likely in possession of the GSHNJ or in the possession of non-parties who can be identified by GSHNJ.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the Court concluded that at least some discovery should be provided by the GSHNJ. Mr. Heck advised the Court that he was in the processes of preparing documents for the Attorney General, whom we have brought into the case as an additional defendant. We added the Attorney General as a defendant because the GSHNJ had taken the position that the Attorney General needs to be party to an action that seeks to enforce a "charitable trust," and one of the bases for the relief that we are seeking is that the 1937 gift from the Graves created such a charitable trust.

Mr. Heck agreed to provide our attorneys with the same documents he would be providing to the Attorney General, and, when pressed, agreed to provide all of the documents which our attorneys had previously requested in a discovery demand. Based upon this representation from Mr. Heck, Judge Ellis announced that he would not rule on the motion to dismiss, but instead requested that the parties return on Friday, June 28th. The GSHNJ will be allowed to renew some or all of the aspects of its motion to dismiss at that time, and our attorneys will have the opportunity to request additional discovery and to oppose any such motions.

While our attorneys would have preferred Judge Ellis definitively denying the motions to dismiss, they are quite satisfied with the outcome of the hearing and look forward to reviewing the documents which will now be provided by GSHNJ.

Judge Ellis did ask early in the argument whether there was any possibility of settlement. Our attorneys made clear that FEI had sought an amicable resolution before filing suit, which had been rejected out of hand by GSHNJ, who indicated that it would only entertain an offer at "market value" without any restrictions on the use of the Island.

In attendance at the hearing, besides Bob Goodsell and Ron Briggs, were Buz Graves (who Mr. Goodsell did introduce to the Judge), Pete and Beth Benson (Pete served as Eagle Island Caretaker from the mid-1970s through 2007), and Nancy Hale (Nancy was a counselor at Eagle Island in the 1950s). Their attendance and support was very much appreciated.

“Take a Hike” II - Eagle Island Alumnae + Supporters Spearhead National Solidarity Hike!

Two years ago, at almost exactly this time in June, 170 men, women, and children across the country and around the world took part in 41 hikes organized by the Friends of Eagle Island to raise money for our fight to acquire Eagle Island.



As our legal case against Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey moves forward, we continue to need financial support to keep fighting the sale of our beloved island. This coming **September** hikes will again take place as FEI unites with other groups fighting to save *their* camps from the Girl Scout's tragic garage sale of camps across the country. We are currently working with groups from Iowa, Alabama, and Eastern Ohio, but every day we hear about new areas where people are organizing to protect their beloved camps from the Girl Scout sell-off.

Imagine! What if all across the country, people of all ages took to the hills, the mountains, the beaches, and the streets?
Imagine! What if the press knew about our goals and our message? ***Imagine! Being part of this event!***

Eagle Island supporters live all over the world. We hope Friends will organize hikes in places from New York to New Zealand. With help from our sister organizations, we hope to have hikes happening all across the country in as many locations as possible. People have already volunteered to organize hikes in New Jersey, Boston, and New York City. What we need you to do is reach out to other Eagle Island alums and plan a hike. FEI can help you find other Eagle Islanders in your area. You and your friends and family will be able to donate toward your hike on-line through our website, or, of course, you can collect pledges by check or cash.

We'll announce the target weekend for the hikes very soon. While everyone is organizing participation and donations, FEI will provide both national press releases to dramatize the country-wide nature of our fight to save camps, and local statements you can modify for media coverage in your area. We know that saving our camps is not a spectator sport...we've all got to pitch in. So let's get up and out and show the Girl Scouts and the country that we are on the march from the Adirondack Mountains to the Alabama forests.

Annual Appeal

FEI's Annual Appeal was sent out on May 28th and contributions are already coming in. If there was ever a time to contribute now is the time. With our highly successful first hearing we need to keep up the momentum. If you have not done so please consider a generous contribution by [clicking here](http://www.friendsofeagleisland.org/become-a-member.html) or going to <http://www.friendsofeagleisland.org/become-a-member.html>.

One of Our Own Honored

Dorcas R. Hardy, President of Friends of Eagle Island, recently received the honor of being inducted as a member of the Olave-Baden Powell Society. The event took place from May 23rd to May 26th in Lucerne, Switzerland and was attended by members and guests from around the world, including Princess Benedikte of Denmark. The purpose of the Olave-Baden Powell Society is to help support the mission of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). More information on the event can be found at: <http://www.ob-ps.org/en/events/Events/Switzerland2013>.



We're Not Alone! Friends Around the Country Fight to Save Camps!

Ever since Friends of Eagle began its fight to save Eagle Island, we have encountered others around the country waging similar efforts. The selling of older, more traditional summer camps has clearly become a national problem. While each situation is unique, it is still helpful to be aware of these various efforts. Below are highlights of just a few cases:

- Camp Little Notch, Fort Ann, NY

Like Eagle Island, Camp Little Notch was a Girl Scout Camp in the Adirondacks that had its last summer 2008. Through the hard work of dedicated camp alumni, a deal was made with the Open Space Institute that preserved a portion of the land for use as a camp and allowed the rest to be used for sustainable logging. The work is not over - Friends of CLN must still raise money to purchase back the camp land- but with one successful camp season behind them and another on the horizon, CLN is definitely on the right track. For more info, visit: <http://www.friendsofcln.org/>.

- Girl Scouts of North East Ohio Camps

GSNEO, similar to Girl Scouts Heart of NJ, was one of the new councils formed after consolidation in 2007. In 2009, the council announced their intent for a full or partial closing and/or sale of a number of camps and Girl Scout properties, including Camp Crowell-Hilaka, Camp Lejnar, Camp Great Trail, Camp Jessie Mae Faegol, Camp Lycopodia, and Camp Singing River. This was met by strong protests from the Girl Scout constituencies, and efforts were made to convince the council to keep the camps open. However, in 2011, the GSNEO board voted to approve the sale of 5 camps and transform the remaining 2 into premier leadership camps. This case has since gone to trial and is now in an appeal. The case focuses on whether the council correctly followed its own procedures, rather than on the camps themselves. More information on this case can be found at <http://www.trefoilintegrity.org>.

- Camp Coleman, Alabama

Efforts to save this 88-year old camp recently made some headway when the board members of the Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama voted to "rest" rather than close the camp after strong protests from its members. The same decision was also made for Camp Trico. This decision was announced less than two weeks after a judge ruled in favor of camp supporters and against GSNCA in a discovery motion, giving the membership access to the council's fiduciary and operational documentation.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to camp sales around the country. The lesson here is that we are not alone- FEI is just one of many groups fighting to save a beloved camp. Recognizing this, FEI is looking into ways to turn these many individual efforts into one stronger voice for saving camps, starting with the "Take A Hike" events that will be happening in the Fall. For further information regarding these camps and others, go to www.facebook.com/SaveCamps.org or www.friendsofeagleisland.org.

"Paddle Up"

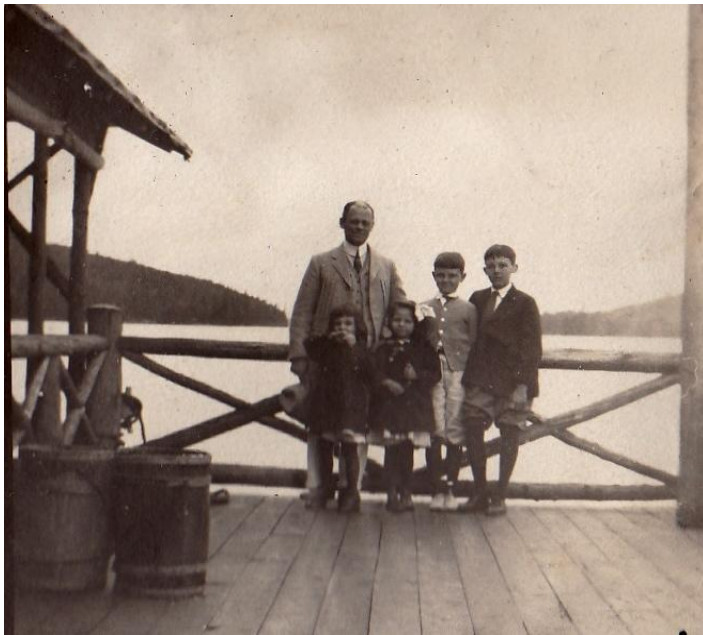
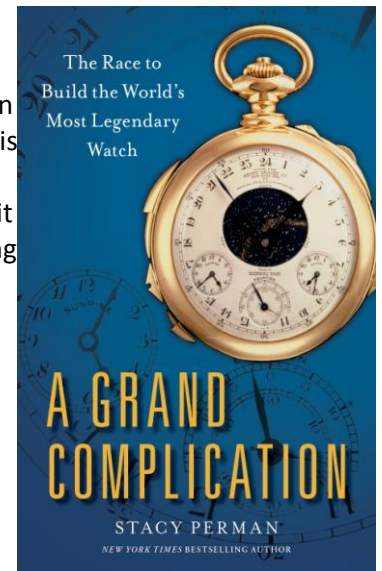
Come join us on Sunday, August 4 for a short canoe trip on Upper Saranac Lake. We may visit Chapel Isle, and paddle around our beloved island, weather permitting. The route will depend on who is coming, and from where. If you are potentially interested, let me know, Mary Hesselgrave at hesselgrave@ieee.org, so we can add you to our Paddle Up mailing list as we continue planning this event. Details are still being worked out. You will need to provide your own canoe. Any boat will do. We can help you with a place to launch and where to rent a canoe.

"A Grand Complication ~ The Race to Build the World's Most Legendary Watch"

A review by Kathy Meyer

A Grand Complication by Stacy Perman is about two men at the turn of the 20th century who challenged the Swiss watchmaker Phillip Patek, to make the most complicated watch. In horology a complication is anything beyond the telling of time (hours, minutes, seconds). It is a very interesting story about Ward Packard and Henry Graves Jr., who actually never met each other and had a fascination with pocket watches for very different reasons. Obviously it was the latter of these two contenders that caused me to pick up the book. It was fascinating to learn so much about the man who so graciously gave so many girls a lifetime of memories.

Much has been written in book reviews about the two men and their competition, so you can find out more by searching other book reviews or better yet, reading the book yourself, but the common thread for all of us is Henry Graves Jr. and Eagle Island Camp. "Like the chimerical Brigadoon, Eagle Island Camp appeared for a brief period each summer, enchanting its visitors before retreating into the frigid snow drifts of winter."



As it was for all of us who sojourned there in our youth, the Graves family also came the only way possible - by boat. "In the *Gwen*, a sleek motorboat named for their only daughter, Henry, Florence, and their four children sliced through a light mist hanging over the tranquil cobalt waters of Upper Saranac Lake heading toward Eagle Island." Ms. Perman's description brings back many a memory of those rides across from the landing to the island.

One might think that the lifestyle of the Graves differed greatly from those of the campers who later occupied the island, but I would say we had the some of the same entourage that accompanied our stay as well. "Their retinue of servants trailed behind in a separate boat carrying the family's steamer trunks . . . They were the same cooks, nannies, and housekeepers . . . local caretakers, guides and woodsmen also tended to them on the island." As campers we had cooks, counselors, maintenance staff, local caretaker, etc. Now granted it wasn't as lavish but they made

our stay the stuff of memories.

(Photo Courtesy of A Grand Complication by Stacy Perman)

"Life at the great camp was one of perpetual motion, with games of croquet and tennis, sailing, hunting and fishing trips." Not much changed when Henry Graves gave the island to the Girl Scouts ... there was still perpetual motion. How many of you can remember the games of human croquet? Or snipe hunting?

"Summers at Eagle Island provided the Graves children with a luminous Never Never Land where they shed their white-gloved restrictions under a canopy of birch, spruce, and pine trees. Athletic and outdoorsy, they delighted in the months they spent energetically exploring the woodland, swimming and canoeing." And of course it provided the same for those of us who were fortunate enough to be campers there.

Many in this group had the pleasure of meeting Stacy Perman when she attended the 2010 FEI Reunion to speak about her book and visiting the Island in the course of doing her research. The book is available at Barnes & Noble in the traditional book form or for e-readers on the Kindle, Nook or iPad through Amazon or iTunes



Henry Jr. and Florence Graves arrive at Eagle Island in the *Gwen*, July 1938, for the dedication of Eagle Island Camp
Photo album by Chappie (Hazel Chapment) first EIC camp director

*"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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