



EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

September 2020

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 10 Issue 3

LOOKING TOWARDS 2021 Katrina Dearden, Camp Director

As Summer 2020 comes to a close, we look forward to welcoming campers and participants to the island in 2021. Although there are many unanswered questions about how that will look or what needs to be done, we are hopeful that all will be able to enjoy the great outdoors on Eagle Island next summer.

The summer camp industry is learning from the experiences of camps that ran successfully, as well as those that were unfortunately forced to close. We are also examining the experiences of colleges, universities, and school systems. Adjustments will need to be made so that camp programs can be safer in the world of COVID-19. We have already expanded the hand-washing area on the Green Johns and maximized bed capacity while maintaining 6 feet between them. Adjustments have been made to schedules to keep participants in small "pods" while they travel between activities.

It is possible that further adjustments will need to be made, such as longer sessions, smaller capacity, and eliminating staff time off-island. Further, no one knows now what testing capabilities will be available and what will be required for camp to run.

With continual check-ins and updates from the American Camp Association, New York State Department of Health, and other professional organizations, Eagle Island will create the safest programming possible. The schedule for Summer 2021 is shown at right.

We are planning to open registration in November. It is, however, possible that modifications will need to be made as the future COVID-19 situation unfolds.

Rest assured Eagle Island will continue to actively monitor all aspects of the impact of COVID-19 while working toward our dual goal: a summer of programming with the utmost level of safety for our camp community.

Eagle Island Camp 2021

Alumni & Friends Retreat, \$450

Thurs June 17-Mon June 21

All-Gender Day Camp, \$375

Session 1-- Mon June 28-Fri July 2

Session 2-- Mon July 5-Fri July 9

Girls' Overnight Camp, \$850

Session 1-- Sun July 11-Fri July 16

Session 2-- Sun July 18-Fri July 23

Family Camp, \$750

Session 1-- Sun July 25-Sat July 31

Session 2-- Sun August 1-Sat August 7

Women's Wellness, \$375

Fri August 27-Sun August 29



WHY I CHOSE TO JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE Wendy Cohen

Just before my 10th birthday, I came to Eagle Island for the first time. I fell in love with it immediately. I was fortunate enough to continue as a camper for 7 years and staff for another. My story is not unlike many others that have already been shared—I was always sad to leave, I thought of camp all year long, and I could hardly wait to return the next summer. As an adult, those

memories and experiences have continued, and in many ways define who I am.

Looking back now, it seemed to me that I took for granted that Eagle Island would always be there. It wasn't until 2008, when I heard that camp had closed and was going

to be sold, that I realized other girls might never have the joy I received from being there. So I wanted to be a part of making sure this never happens. I've been back as a volunteer for 5 years as camp has prepared to again share itself with other girls and young women. And with that exciting prospect on the horizon, there is no doubt in my mind that I want to be a part of ensuring that that continues. By joining the Legacy Circle and including Eagle Island in my estate planning, I know that I have done everything I possibly can to assure the future of Eagle Island.

Eagle Island is grateful for the unwavering support and commitment of Wendy and others who, like Wendy, have designated EIC in their long-term plans. Please see the information on our website at eagleisland.org/planned-giving, and reach out to discuss what this might look like for you at cmackenzie@eagleisland.org.





WHAT EAGLE ISLAND DID FOR ME

Natacha Dambreville

My entire life I've been surrounded by strong women. From my mother, who immigrated to America from Haiti during the early 80s; to great troop leaders as a member of the Girl Scouts—from Daisies to Cadettes—to now being a grown woman, paving my own path in this perplexing place called "life."

I wouldn't be half the woman I am today if it weren't for the amazing women leaders in my life. The Girl Scouts organization gave me so much more than just amazing leadership; it gave me the opportunity to spend my summers on an island that truly changed my life.

I was born and raised in Irvington, NJ, where 9 out of 10 kids are not attending any form of summer camp, let alone sleepaway camp. Besides the socioeconomic causes for this, I would be remiss not to mention that for two reasons: One, it's a mission of mine to aid in changing that statistic; and two, the great outdoors should be accessible to everyone, no matter your finances, race, religion, etc. My experiences at Eagle Island Camp have shaped the woman I am today. For the first time in my entire life, I was able to be away from home—submerging myself in the great outdoors, sailing, learning how to start a fire from scratch and everyday survival skills—but more importantly, getting to know women from all walks of life. Honesty moment? If I were granted 3 wishes, 1 of them would be to experience EIC again.

But this August, my wish came to fruition. I spent a couple of days collaborating on projects, sharing camp stories, and getting to know other EIC alumni and staff. My perspective has changed on the size of the island, but what hasn't changed in 17 years was the energy that wrapped around me the moment I parked on the mainland, saw the breathtaking views, felt the crisp, soft wind cradling my face on the boat to the island, and breathed in the fresh island air filled with the warm love, community, and safety of EIC.

I think I speak for us all when I say 2020 has been one hell of a year. But I am grateful for the opportunity to return, unplug from the world, and help rebuild Eagle Island Camp for campers to enjoy in Summer 2021!

Camper 2003, 2004, Volunteer 2020

A.S., Essex County College, Mechanical Engineering

B.A., William Paterson College, Public Relations/Intrapersonal Communications Manager, Global Curriculum at IT Cosmetics

Join us for a
virtual celebration

5 years of ownership

Eagle Island, Inc.

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2020
7-8 PM

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ADIRONDACK DIVERSITY INITIATIVE AFFILIATE

Early in 2020, Paula Michelsen, Executive Director, and Katrina Dearden, Camp Director and Assistant Executive Director, began discussions with Nicky Hylton-Patterson, Executive Director of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI). Headquartered in Saranac Lake and funded in part by New York State, the organization's mission is to move "toward a more welcoming and inclusive Adirondacks." The ADI started as a volunteer effort in 2015 before Ms. Hylton-Patterson took the helm of the nonprofit in 2019, relocating to Saranac Lake from the Bronx (she was born in Jamaica and has also lived in Norway).

In February, EI formed a team to participate in ADI's Cultural Consciousness training led by Nicky, learning more broadly about diversity challenges while looking inward at our own organization. The team recommended to the Board, which was approved, that EI should seek to become an Affiliate Member of ADI. As part of this process, we will undertake a comprehensive audit of our practices, policies, written and online material, and our outward social media presence. The object: to be as welcoming and inclusive a camp and organization as possible. The team will share our progress as the process moves forward. As we plan for Camp 2021 and beyond, Eagle Island is dedicated to recruiting and welcoming volunteers, staff, and campers who reflect the diversity of all Americans.

For more information on ADI, please visit their website at diversityadk.org.

Eagle Island released the following statement on this important issue in June. While it was important to inform our community as to where we stand, we also recognize that actions speak much louder than words. We are committed to the hard work this will entail, starting with our partnership with ADI.

We are deeply troubled by the recent events and by the racial injustice that continues to plague us as a society. We recognize that this is an incredibly painful time for many across the country and many within our own Eagle Island community.

As an organization, the recent events and the outcry for change and reform have only emboldened us in our mission to inspire and empower girls and young women to be confident, collaborative, and courageous—attributes that are more critical now than ever.

Paula Michelsen, Executive Director
 Katrina Dearden, Camp Director, Asst. Executive Director
 Mary-Anna Donovan, EIC alum and Asst. Camp Director
 LeeAnn Millar, EIC alum and Camp Nurse
 Amy Mulligan, Chair, EIC Adirondack Committee, Saranac Lake resident
 Jane Evans, Co-president, Eagle Island Inc.

Eagle Island, Inc.

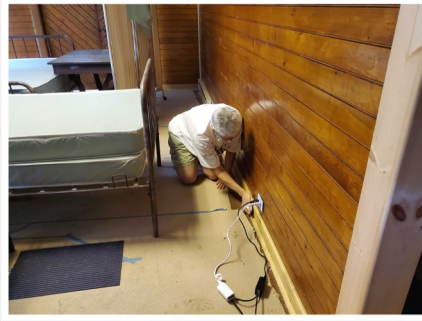
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CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The past few months saw our contractor wrapping up much of the 2016 New York State grant work. This included the finishing touches on the arched brick on the Dining Pavilion fireplace and securing for the next 100 years the spoked hub cord poles that hold the octagon together; extensive exterior repairs and refurbishment of the front of the Family Cabin (new cedar railing/balustrades on the second floor porch, restoring bark-covered pole work, topped with the period-correct red painted ends of the log purlin extensions); and extensive restoration of the lake side of the Main Lodge. The work under this Grant restored the grandeur of several of the buildings and actually improved their soundness. We look forward to similar results on many of the other buildings funded by our second NY State grant and our Federal "Save America's Treasures" grants.





Volunteer Update

After coming to terms with the inability to host campers in Summer 2020, we took our lemons and made lemonade. The island came alive with small groups of skilled volunteers who worked at a distance, joining the contractors continuing historic restoration work in Main Camp.

Incredible progress was made by volunteers on projects large and small: carpentry, painting, roofing, tree maintenance, trail maintenance, sewing, and so much more. With the completion of water and septic projects in Main Camp, volunteers enjoyed real bathroom facilities and hot showers. Volunteer cooks had new kitchen conveniences: sinks for prep and cleanup, and a brand-new dishwasher. The Family Cabin has been transformed into the Camp Office, Staff Lounge, and "Camper Care" room. Coordinating on-island projects behind the scenes was volunteer superstar **LeeAnn Millar**, who also served our camp nurse and resided on the island all summer. Special thanks to LeeAnn, Katrina, and all our dedicated volunteers!

We were also able to show off Eagle Island this summer and give tours of the island and its facilities to current and potential partners. These included representatives from Camp Treetops, Young Life camp, DEC Camps, Adirondack Diversity Initiative, Akwesasne-Mohawk, and the Adirondack Experience. We look forward to the opportunity to build relationships with respected organizations in and around the Adirondack region and share our progress with them.

