



# EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

June 2021

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 11 Issue 2

## DEAR DAD, a letter from camp by Dorna & Kristen Richardson

Kristen and I just got back from an absolutely wonderful long weekend at Eagle Island. Along with 28 other "campers" ranging in age from 32 to 78 years young, we spent four days enjoying traditional camp activities, catching up with old friends, and making new ones.

We shared our platform tent near Main Camp with Karen, who, like Kristen, hadn't been to the island as a camper, but fell in love with the place during Family Camp and wanted to come back. The island certainly casts a spell.

Various arts & crafts sessions were held on the Lodge porch overlooking the lake. We made suncatchers, beaded mask holders, and I learned how to finger-weave. I also attended a couple of yoga sessions held on the Boathouse porch by one of our fellow campers. It was so restful to do yoga to the sound of the gently lapping water.

We had a costume party one night in the Lodge, dancing to music from an ancient record player—and ancient records! Another evening we had a chance to take a twilight cruise around Upper Saranac Lake to watch the sunset and see places we remembered from our camp days, such as Chapel Island. There was also plenty of time to just flake off and relax, enjoying the quiet calm of the island.

One morning four hardy souls even swam around the island, with

lifeguards accompanying them by boat, and another morning there was a boat relay race. Teams had to go out to the buoy and back, first by canoe, then kayak, and finally by corchl, and it was great fun. Later we could take out a canoe, sailboat, or kayak to paddle around.

Of course, we sang camp songs with guitar accompaniment, and on the last night we had a campfire down at the Waterfront. It was great meeting the new camp staff, sharing our enthusiasm for the island with them, and wishing them well for the camp season.

Alumni & Friends Weekend 2021 was the first time since 2008 that there were overnight campers on the island. One of the nearby residents took a picture of a rainbow over Eagle Island the last day of the event. We're taking that as a good omen.

Love from your favorite daughters,

*Dorna and Kristen*



### Women's Alumni & Friends Retreat

Yoga on the boathouse porch

Relay races

Sister pairs (spanning 5 decades)



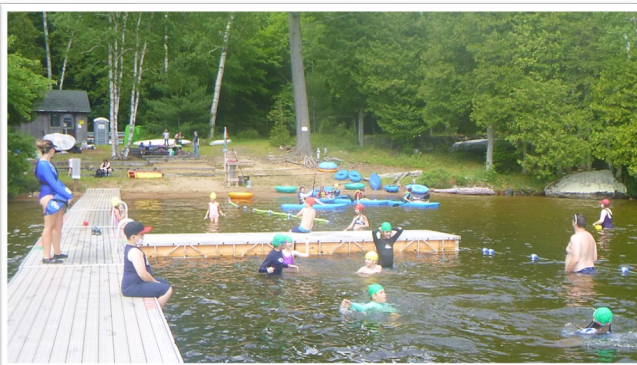
## DAY CAMP STARTS



### Eagle Island Camp is in full swing!

Day campers are swimming, kayaking, and paddling corcls, enjoying game time in the Lodge, and outside fun with their counselors. Arts & Crafts is on the Boathouse porch, and lunch is mostly outside, as a picnic or under the shade of the Great Camp porches. Since it is Day Camp, it concludes with one last boat ride from the Service Dock.

Photos will be posted each week at [eagleisland.org/camp-photos](http://eagleisland.org/camp-photos)







## CAMP STAFF 2021

The Eagle Island Staff arrived to a jam-packed week of training. The sessions included everything from quick and simple games, to waterfront safety, to cultural sensitivity, to fire drills. One workshop was about having difficult conversations with fellow staff. Katrina first talked about how important it is to always start out one of these conversations with a positive statement about your co-worker. Then the staff members formed groups of 2 or 3, and they were given role playing situations to work through. For example, if you feel a fellow staff member is not listening to your ideas, how would you express that? And how would you respond if another staff member began that conversation with you? Afterwards everyone shared ideas about how to make each other feel supported by their co-workers.

All of this training improves their ability to provide a great experience for the campers. In addition, the staff members are learning life skills which they will take with them anywhere they go. We have an enthusiastic and well-prepared staff here at Eagle Island!



1. Practicing safety checks at the Waterfront
2. Staff hanging out
3. Trip to Donnelly's for their famous soft-serve
4. Welcoming visitors at the dock
5. The last day of lifeguard training

## ISLAND OPENING

Memorial Day Weekend on Eagle Island was, for many decades, a few days to spruce things up, put up tents, ready the boats, and even have a bit of camp fun. This year was slightly different: the amount of work needed eclipsed what we had anticipated and new tasks cropped up each day. A hardy group of volunteers and new and returning camp staff, led by our intrepid executive director, **Paula Michelsen**, and camp director, **Katrina Dearden**, tackled whatever needed to be done and the "Work Weekend" stretched over a three-week period to ready camp: Floating docks, tents, kitchen cleaning and sorting, bed setup, and what seemed like an endless list of prioritized projects, small and large.

All in all, there have been over **50 volunteers on-island** who have donated their time and talent to getting camp ready for CAMP 2021!! Some came for a day or two, others for a week or more. Below are some examples of tasks that were taken on, and we are so thankful for everyone's hard work.

**Rick Rutledge, architect, volunteer, and huge supporter of Co-President, Karin Walsh Rutledge:** A few weeks before I arrived, I was "volun-told" that my help was needed for a fire safety project, and I awaited further instructions. The project involved identifying fire exits and routes of egress, and marking them on floor plans to display on each floor of the buildings (historic or not). With copies of the original drawings by William Coulter from 1903, I marked up the floor plans at home and then verified the information when I was on the island. It was interesting to study the blueprints of such a renowned architect, add to the drawings where the plans differed slightly from the existing structures (did you know the small room in the Guest House was not part of the original plans?), and to know that this wonderful example of Great Camp architecture will be back in use as an overnight camp for decades to come. Most of all, it was fun to return to such a beautiful place where I have so many fond memories from attending 3 years of Family Camp!

**Trish Hawley, member of the Property Committee:** "The Adirondack Washhouse needs a new roof!" That's the response I was given when I asked for a specific project that

I could manage, hustle up skilled volunteers for, and knock out in a weekend! (Operation "Island Takeover")

First on board were **Bob and Trish Van Cleef**. Bob is the sole proprietor of Yankee Housewrights, Inc. of Jamestown, RI. A skilled craftsman in custom homebuilding and repair, Bob is also a naturalist/natural history educator and volunteer emergency first responder. His wife, Trish, is Technical Marketing Coordinator for Agilent Technologies in N. Kingstown, RI. Agilent provides employees with volunteer time to be of service to their favorite causes. Trish is a master gardener, skilled handyperson, and excellent cook.

Rounding out the crew that weekend was **Ed Kriskewic** (father of our new PM, Tyler). Ed is a Head Ranger at a camp Trish managed and jumped at the chance to see his son's new "home." Working side by side with Tyler, his pride was palpable.

**Joe Foster**, of Joe's Plumbing, LLC of Newton, NJ, was not able to join us the first weekend but wanted very much to help, so one weekend became two. Joe brought his helper, daughter Hailey (future EIC staff?) and together they plumbed by day and fished by (late) afternoon. As a competitive fisherman, Upper Saranac Lake was the perfect enticement. Volunteer hours, wonderful...large Northern Pike... priceless!

The project was far more involved than anticipated; after the Memorial Workweekenders "gutted" the building, the first weekend saw success in shoring up the framing, replacing roofer boards, ice and water shield, and a new metal roof. Weekend 2 saw the installation of the new washer and plumbing for the slop sink in the laundry, the water line run for the new ice maker, and removal of two toilets and one sink (& replacements provided) for two bathrooms in the Family Cabin.







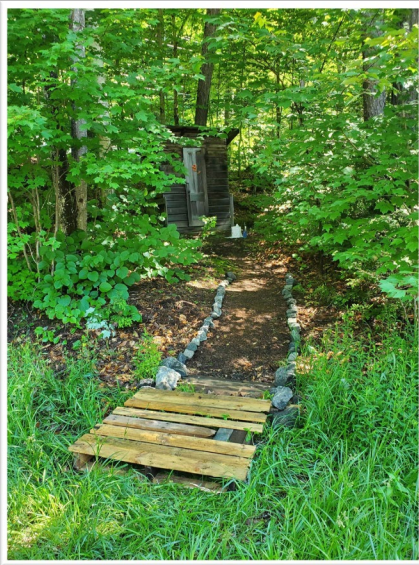
with, as the funder for this project, and doubly thankful for her

One weekend has become (fingers crossed) four, as the entire building needs a new undercarriage (Fall 2021) and the interior rebuilt (Spring 2022). We are all grateful to the foundation that Trish works

friends in the trades who all believe that we are only as good as the good we do for others!

Kudos to our Eagle Island property staff (**Tyler & Max**) for all of their continued hard work. Here's to completion of the ADK Washhouse in Spring 2022 (fingers crossed) and the possibility that this will double our present camper capacity.

Now to raise the funds to trench for the electric lines to the area, run new water lines, and hook up the septic. . . stay tuned!



## Alumni & Friends Retreat Service Project

Along with members of the Eagle Island Adirondack Committee, Alumni & Friends spent part of Saturday adding some much needed "curb-appeal" to the mainland property in preparation for camper families at drop-off. Gardens were dug, branches trimmed, and perennials were added to the sign area and pathways were lined with rock. Ready to welcome our campers!



## NEW at the TRADING POST

Visit the Village Mercantile in Saranac Lake in person or online at: [villagemerc.com/collections/eagle-island-camp](https://villagemerc.com/collections/eagle-island-camp)

These **handsome navy windbreakers** feature the Eagle Island logo embroidered in white. They are 100% polyester and are wind and rain resistant. The hood and bottom hem feature an adjustable bungee draw cord.

There is a large, handy zip pouch in the middle front of the jacket for storing phone, keys, wallet and more. \$45.00

**Classic flannel pants** never go out of style. These black plaid beauties feature the Eagle Island logo and lettering in white down the left leg. \$35.00

Both are available in adult sizes: Sm, Md, Lg and XL



## WHAT EIC DID FOR ME

Joanna Weill

When I think of Eagle Island I think of three main things: nature, friends, and songs. Most of my best memories combine all three.

I remember sailing on the lake singing with my friends when all we could hear was the wind and our voices.

I remember sneaking behind our tents to a patch of trees we named "the grove" to sing long after everyone else had gone to sleep.

I remember singing as we climbed Algonquin—and getting horribly out of breath!

In June I was lucky enough to attend Alumni & Friends Weekend with my sister. We were pretty ecstatic when people wanted to head down to Mariner's Rock with us to sing.

I'm excited that campers are back on the island, where I hope they will build lifelong friendships, enjoy the natural beauty, and sing their hearts out! And I hope to see my friends back on the island, so we can sing together again.

Camper 1997-2002; Staff 2004-2005  
BA Vassar College 2009  
PhD Social Psychology University of California, Santa Cruz 2016  
Senior Research Associate, Center for Court Innovation

Photos from 2002 & 2008



Share Eagle Island happenings with your friends!  
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## FAMILY CAMP - REGISTER TODAY!

Gather your family or friends!

Reservations are still available and include ALL MEALS, youth camp programming every morning for kids ages 5-13, and nightly evening programs. Family Campers can swim, hike, canoe/kayak, relax, or take day trips to other Adirondack attractions. Accommodations are in platform tents, cabins, and the historic buildings. A truly wonderful and unique experience!

**Sunday, July 25 - Saturday, July 31**

**Sunday, August 1 - Saturday, August 7**

\$750/pp

(age 10 and under are FREE)

Learn more at [eagleisland.org/family-camp](http://eagleisland.org/family-camp)



LOOKING FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY ADVENTURE  
THIS SUMMER?

### Family Camp on Eagle Island

Let Chefs Shannon and Parker do the cooking while you and your family unplug and enjoy an Adirondack Island vacation: a full week of outdoor fun and relaxation!

**JULY 25-31 & AUGUST 1-7**



## Open Island 2021



Saturday, August 21st  
Sunday, August 22nd

Registration Required

[eagleisland.org/events](http://eagleisland.org/events)