



# Eagle Island News

June 2023

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 13 Issue 2



## Opening Updates!

The spring 2023 Memorial Day crew was greeted on arrival with a task list that filled three full whiteboards! By the end of the weekend, they were almost all done. One task not on the list was installation of the waterfront docks. Why? Because our new swim platforms had arrived the previous week, and had already been put in the water. They are steady and ready for campers. The new donor wall honoring those who contributed to this effort has been designed, painted, and installed on the waterfront building.

Some of the other major tasks included a new roof on the waterfront building, and cleaning and inventory of the Unit House out in Adirondack/Islanders. Also, a staff room was created in the Boathouse - we removed all the fixtures from the "kitchen" room, and installed a new floor and bunk beds. Now we can house 6 campers and 2 staff in the building. The Boathouse porch will still be used for Arts & Crafts, and a new clean-up sink is being added on the south side porch. Many, many other tasks were completed, including trail clearing, sweeping, kitchen organizing, and sailboat launching!

Our next major projects are a new septic field for the Adirondack/Islanders tent area and Phase III Historic Preservation Renovations!



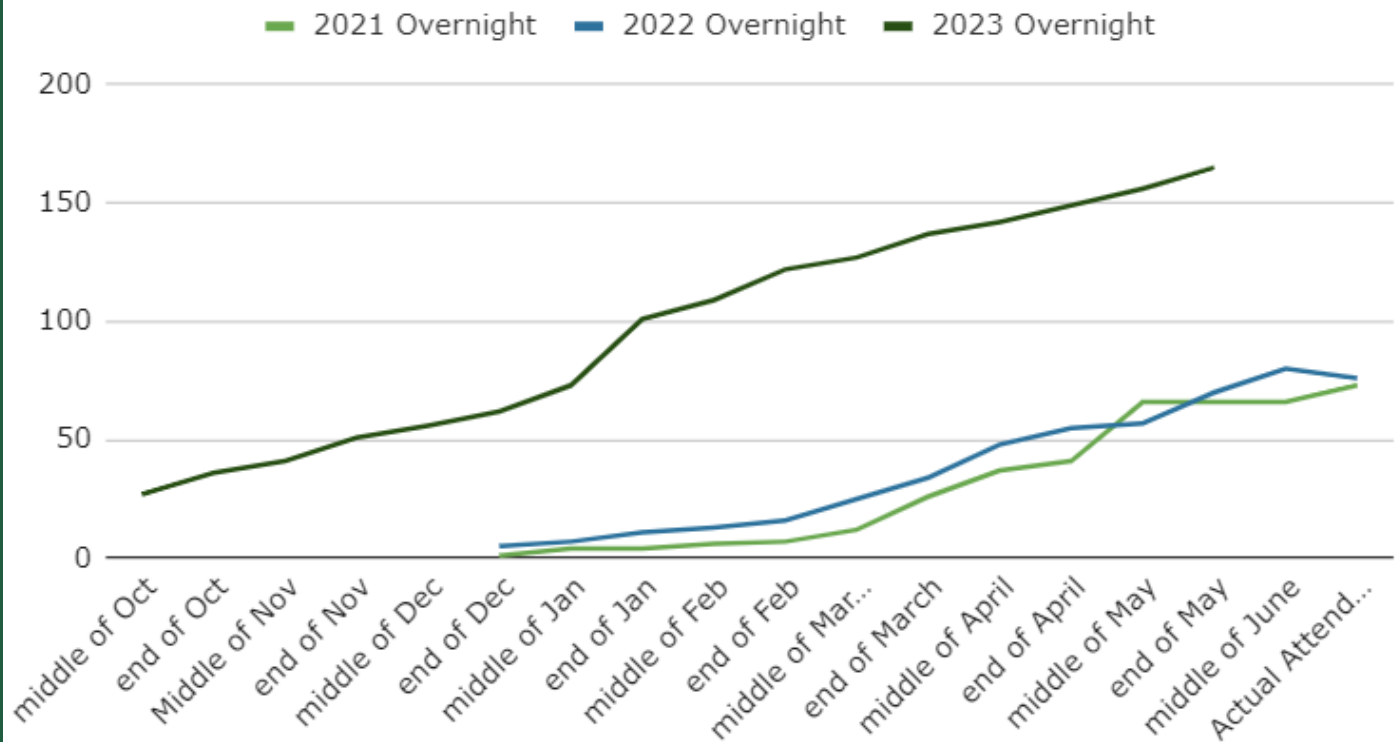
## Volunteer Highlight: Annie Wells by Anna Nelson

Little did Annie Wells know when she left Eagle Island in the summer of 2007 as a junior counselor, after being a camper since 2000, that it would be 16 years before she returned. She grieved when she heard the camp had closed but was excited to later learn that the camp had reopened. In May, she volunteered for two weeks to help prepare the camp for the summer, doing a variety of tasks—cleaning the green johns and the kitchen, sweeping out platform tents, and helping with roofing at the waterfront.

She found the camp practically the same as she had left it—with the familiar buildings, tent units, and waterfront she knew as a camper still there, and the same "feeling" about the camp. On closer inspection, though, she noted the improvements made to many of the buildings, a number with new names. Looking ahead to the future of the camp, she hopes the rich traditions she experienced at Eagle Island will continue and hopes one day to attend family camp with her sister and two young nephews.



## Overnight Camp Registration Trends



Can't make it to Eagle Island this summer?

Support camp another way!

Purchase an item or more from the Eagle Island's 2023 Camp Wish List next time you shop on Amazon.

Amazon Wishlist



<https://a.co/7UIASbn>

## 2023 CAMP IS HERE!

- Staff training is in the works and we are hosting a field of experts in various areas including health and wellness, customer service, mental health, and more.
- An organization, Smore Summer will also join us. The group supports camps in their journeys to integrate Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Diversity into every facet of summer. We are so excited to have them with us!
- We are still seeing registrations come in for youth programs and at this time we are 100% full for All Gender Day Camp and 90% full for Girls Overnight Camp.
- We still have lodging left in our Women's Weekends and Family Camp so if you are on the fence, now is the time to confirm your summer plans and start dreaming about campfires on the island.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported on-island and off-island projects!



# MEET SOME CAMP STAFF



**Olivia** [she/her]  
Counselor / Peer Mentor



**Alisha** [she/they]  
Camper Experience Manager



**Mariana** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Sarayma** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Sofia** [she/her]  
Kitchen Assistant



**Trevor** [he/him]  
Waterfront Experience Manager



**Echo** [they/them]  
Counselor



**Marcha** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Daesha** [she/they]  
Counselor



**Kaela** [she/her]  
Kitchen Director



**Lucia** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Kim** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Vianey Marat** [she/her]  
Kitchen Assistant



**Jennasia** [she/they]  
Counselor



**Kathy** [she/her]  
Counselor



**Hanna Sue** [she/her]  
Program Experience Manager



**LeeAnn Millar** [she/her]  
Health Director



**Josue** [he/him]  
Property Assistant



**Kelsey** [she/her]  
Sailing & Media Experience Manager

## Strategic Plan - coming soon!

The Strategic Planning Committee is working hard on Eagle Island's first strategic plan which comes at a critical moment in the organization's trajectory and maturity. Our intent is to chart a course for the organization's next five years with our mission, vision, and values serving as our true north.

Our organization's first 10+ years were focused on securing the island; rebuilding the infrastructure (physical and human capital) necessary to support youth programming; establishing and growing our financial foundation; and launching and refining our initial programmatic offerings. Having successfully completed these important goals— we are ready to focus our gaze on growing, expanding, and strengthening all of our programming, continuing to fortify and modernize our physical plant, and creating new ways to work towards our mission of inspiring and empowering girls and young women to be confident, collaborative, and courageous. We look forward to sharing our strategic plan for Eagle Island with you soon!

1 Clarify mission, clarify vision, establish core values/goals

2 Establish strategic initiatives based on core values/goals

3 Establish objectives, tactics, measures, and accountability

4 Refine above, assign owners for workstreams, discuss implementation

5 Develop Strategic Plan Narrative for external audience

6 Official sign-off from the Strategic Planning Committee and Board

WE ARE HERE!



**Women's Wellness Weekend**  
Relax, Rejuvenate, and Recharge

 Friday, August 18 - Sunday, August 20  
option to extend to Monday, August 21

learn more at [eagleisland.org/womensweekends](https://eagleisland.org/womensweekends)



**Family Camp**

Children under 4 are FREE  
Children ages 5-13 are half-price

August 6 - 8  
August 8 - 10

You can also register for both sessions!

 learn more at [eagleisland.org/familycamp](https://eagleisland.org/familycamp)



## Honoring the past to celebrate the future: Graves Family at Eagle Island



Long before the current campers set foot on Eagle Island, the Graves family spent nearly 30 summers on the property, enjoying the fresh air and unique setting. Today's campers walk in their footsteps and learn about Eagle Island's history. Staff member, Hanna Sue Percy created a video that uses historic photos to explore how the buildings looked during the Graves era, and how they are being used by the newest generation of Eagle Island summer residents.



This Great Camp building complex was designed by William Coulter, a prominent Adirondack Great Camp architect, and constructed in 1903. As stated in the National Historic Landmark nomination: "Eagle Island is arguably Coulter's finest extant rustic camp with design integrity to the original construction period."



Eagle Island will continue to educate campers and visitors about the rich Graves history and continue the legacy of Florence and Henry Graves, Jr., who gifted Eagle Island so that it "would forever be a place for children to play and to flourish."

We hope you enjoy a virtual walk through history and today's summer camp at Eagle Island. Watch the video at [www.eagleisland.org/media-coverage](http://www.eagleisland.org/media-coverage).



## Open Island Community Days

Thursday, August 17\*

Saturday, August 26

Sunday, August 27

10 AM - 2 PM

Visit [eagleisland.org/events](http://eagleisland.org/events) to register



*\*While under guardian supervision, children can participate in activities including crafts, scavenger hunts, and swimming at the waterfront.*

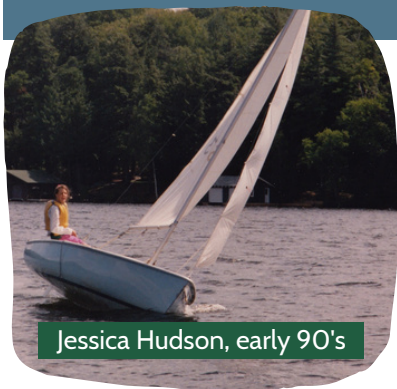
## First-Time Eagle Island Camper: Scarlett Fields By Anna Nelson

The first impression Scarlett Fields had upon arriving at Eagle Island for a week in the 2022 Camp Sampler program was “it would be the best experience of her life.” And her first impression did not disappoint. She loved her week at camp, her first time at a sleepaway camp, particularly making crafts such as bracelets and pins, as well as creating fairy houses with objects found on the island, like moss, mushrooms, and wood. Her days were full—starting with early morning swimming before breakfast, and numerous activities for the rest of the day, including crafts, games such as capture the flag, tug of war, and hide and seek tag (played at night with flashlights), and kayaking and boating. She also became a fan of Adam the Moose, bringing him gifts of flowers and celebrating his “Work” looking out for campers for decades.



She found the food at camp amazing, especially the yogurt bar at breakfast and the salad bars at lunch and dinner. She also enjoyed the camp parties, like the Glow Party, which included glow sticks and lemonade, punch, and Sprite served as a “glow” drink. Scarlett will be entering seventh grade in the fall and can’t wait to return to Eagle Island this summer.

Scarlett showed an “increase in her confidence and general exuberance to try new things following her time at Eagle Island,” said her mother, Amber.



Jessica Hudson, early 90's

Eagle Island is a place where all girls are given a chance to learn to do hard things (e.g., climb a mountain, swim around the island, skipper a sailboat, write and perform a skit); develop close friendships with peers; try new activities; work independently and collaboratively; and take risks in a safe environment. Our fundamental belief is that summer camp—its activities, its rustic and communal setting, its supportive and girl-led community, its focus on belonging and its unplugged-ness—helps girls develop the very skills they need to successfully navigate girlhood and adolescence.

We need to grow Eagle Island’s capacity so more girls can experience this magic! In order to do this, we must complete a number of projects and operational investments in order for the camp to expand. This begins with opening the Adirondack/Islanders tent areas, retaining and rewarding enthusiastic staff, providing financial assistance to more campers, and investing in resources to support the fast increase in camper registrations.



Mary Call & Tracie Few, 1989

Make a transformative gift at [www.eagleisland.org/donate](http://www.eagleisland.org/donate) to support the growth of girls into fearless women who embrace challenges and aren’t afraid to get their hands dirty.

After a summer on Eagle Island, YOU or someone you know came home a more confident young woman. Help the next generation of Eagle Island campers feel the same.



## Adirondack / Islanders Septic Project Update

To date, we have raised \$59,000 and our goal is \$100,00. THANK YOU to everyone for helping us bring more campers to Eagle Island! We will continue to fundraise to support this essential expense. Here is an update on the Adirondack/Islanders septic project:

- May 2023 - Inventoried tents, flies, and beds in the Adirondack Unit House - we are in good shape!
- June 2023 - Bid documents are due
- September 2023 - Adirondack Septic Project begins
- October 2023 - Adirondack Septic Project completed and reviewed for approval
- October 2023 - Open registration for programs housed at Adirondack/Islanders
- June 2024 - 40 Campers and up to 8 staff will be housed in the Adirondack/Islanders tent area

By securing these final funds, we can direct our focus towards investing in other crucial areas such as financial aid and future camp capital projects.

Be a part of our mighty tree and have a lasting mark at camp with a gift of \$500 or more!

[www.eagleisland.org/donate](http://www.eagleisland.org/donate)



Thank you to the many donors who supported recent capital projects like the new swim platforms and the ADK/Islanders expansion project.

*Art by alum, Jackie Heloise.*

## Legacy Circle

Let your love of Eagle Island be part of your long term plans.



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

Join the Campfire Circle with a monthly gift of \$100 or more and make your donation

**GREATER** over time!

Learn more at

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

