

### NEWS FROM EAGLE ISLAND

\***Summer 2017** The Friends helped the State build a new storage shed. Now all of the tools can be stored safely away from the caretaker's cottage, making it a more comfortable living area for the Park Manager and crew.

\***Bowdoin College** alumni visited Eagle Island again this year. Peary graduated from Bowdoin in 1877.

\***Trail Map.** The Friends are planning a new revised, more informative trail map for summer 2018.

\***Narwhals!** A project being explored for the Welcome Center on Eagle Island is having a "hands on" narwhal tusk display. Unashamedly copied from the display at The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, we hope it will further educate people about these amazing animals.

\***The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum** at Bowdoin College, Admiral Peary's alma mater, continues to hold lectures, films, and events on campus on many topics, including the Arctic. Check their website for more information and schedule of events. (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum>)

\***Comments and Suggestions** are always welcome from visitors not just when you are on Eagle Island - Please keep sending these via our e-mail: [Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com)

\***Gardeners, Docents, Volunteers!!** Reminder, we are always looking for volunteers either to serve as Docents, help with gardening crew, join our Trail Day fun. Contact us through our e-mail [Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com)

\*Do you have a favorite story, anecdote, or photos of Eagle Island you might be willing to share? The journal will be happy to consider any and all submissions. Thank You!

\*A BIG Thank You to Ben Sawtelle for coming to the rescue this year as Assistant Ranger.

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ADMIRAL PEARY INN  
BED AND BREAKFAST  
FRYEBURG, MAINE

Steve Harding

The Admiral Peary Bed & Breakfast on Elm Street, Fryeburg, Maine is currently owned by Donna Pease. Donna welcomes guests year round to this charming Inn in the western mountains of Maine. This is the residence Peary and his mother Mary maintained after Peary graduated from Bowdoin College as a civil engineer.



Peary moved to Fryeburg, Maine and surveyed much of the area in 1878 and 1879. One spot in particular that Peary surveyed is Jockey Cap, an easy hike up to a summit that provides a spectacular 360 degree view.



The monument on the summit was erected in Peary's memory by the Peary Family in 1938. The granite monument has topographical detail that allows visitors to identify what they are looking at in the distance. It was done from the original profile survey made by Robert E. Peary.



Donna has several pieces of Peary memorabilia positioned throughout the inn that allow visitors to come to know Peary a little more than just staying in the rooms he once occupied.

Reprinted articles from the New York Times are available to read recounting Peary's achievements. Framed posters of Peary and Henson, The S.S. Roosevelt and the famous photo of five men standing at The North Pole, are prominently displayed.



A major renovation of the Inn was completed in 2012, and Donna has renamed some of the eight rooms. The Henson room is now the Oriental Room, the Snowbaby Room is now The Paris Room, Jo's Room is now The Tuscany Room, and so on. This was so Donna could make the Inn a more personal place. Each of the rooms is now named for a place Donna has visited and is decorated with her extensive collection of Peary memorabilia. The Admiral's Quarters was not renamed however and one can stay in the very room Peary occupied. Donna has done a remarkable job keeping the history of this building alive. The Inn is very popular during foliage season as well as during the Fryeburg Fair. Donna also has the Admiral Peary Inn on the "Cookie Crawl" held each holiday season.

Please pay her a visit sometime.

The Admiral Peary Inn Bed and Breakfast

27 Elm St, Fryeburg, ME 04037

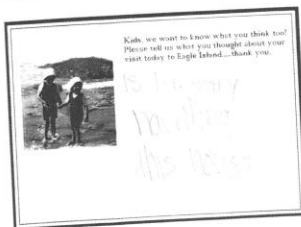
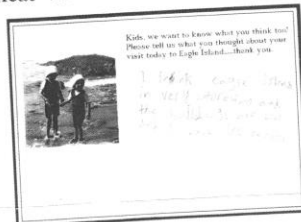
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## CHILDREN ALWAYS WELCOME!!

**TREASURE HUNT.** Just like Admiral Peary was on a "hunt" for the North Pole, children who visit the Island are invited to do their own treasure hunt for artifacts in the house. This has become one of the more popular activities on Eagle Island. Searching for items such as a large lobster, skates, a megaphone, and doing a count of stuffed birds keeps children's interest alive. Each child is then rewarded with a token gift from the Trading Post.

**INPUT.** Out of the mouths of babes, as the saying goes (Psalm 8:2). Everyone is invited to share comments, ideas and input. It is no different for the children visiting, sometimes it's their viewpoint that reminds us of how "cool" Eagle Island is and how "neat" Admiral Peary was!



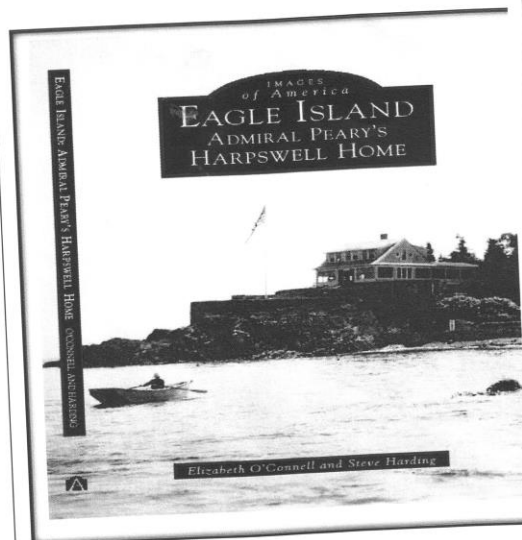
## CONGRATULATIONS!

Maine State Biologist Joe Wiley has retired. Mr. Wiley provided many years of expert advice to all involved in Eagle Island. He came to Eagle Island regularly to monitor the birds and their nesting habits. He met with the The Friends and helped us to understand the biology of the Island in order for us to help maintain it in cooperation with the Park Manager and staff.

The Friends want to congratulate Joe on his retirement and wish him all the best!

## EAGLE ISLAND: ADMIRAL PEARY'S HARPSWELL HOME

Recently published volume about Admiral Peary, his family and their home on Eagle Island is now available. If you would like copies, please contact us via our email address: [Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com)



(\$23.00 per volume; includes shipping, all proceeds go to The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island a Maine non-profit, tax exempt corporation.)



However, no one is on the island now until next spring and it is likely these species are growing even as this is being written.

For more information on invasive species, go to the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust page and look for the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership link. (HIPP).  
An excellent resource online is *GoBotany.com* from the New England Wildflower Society.

*Knapweed: Centaurea sp.*

The first time I saw this plant I thought it was a thistle. It has no spines, and it's everywhere on the mainland. Fields are full of it now. There are several species of knapweed in our area, all looking very much alike. This patch is on the edge of the lawn on Eagle Island, to the right as you exit the ramp on to the Island.



*Asiatic Bittersweet: Celastrus orbiculatus*



Of the three invasive species discussed here, this is the one people are most likely to recognize. *Asiatic Bittersweet* (there is a native species) is the vine seen climbing up and over trees everywhere, covering shrubs, rooting in cracks and crevices. This plant is rooting next to the stairs that lead to the beach.

Managing these invasive species, and others, on Eagle Island is critical. They are aggressive, fast-growing, and hard to defeat. Invasives are good at what they do, and they love disturbed areas. The hope is that as more and more volunteers learn to recognize these plants the better we can be at containing them. Whether we can ever fully rid the island of them now that they have a foothold remains to be seen.



**TRAIL DAY:** Annually, The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island hosts a "Trail Day." Usually mid-July just before the trails are opened to the public, a group of dedicated volunteers trim back the overgrown trails, apply mulch to trails, reset and paint picnic tables, signs, etc. The South Beach trail must be recreated due to Mother Nature's winter wrath when large heavy (heart) shape stones fill the walking trail and, year after year, The Friends move them back off the trail. Yes, there is a heart-shaped stone (see the photo)!

**Come see for yourself at next year's trail day. Date to be determined.**

**GARDENERS WANTED:** Every year our team of dedicated, expert gardeners works to preserve the historic gardens that were planted by Josephine, Marie and Inez. Thanks to Dale at Mid-Coast Growers for supplying such beautiful hardy plants. This is truly a labor of love.

**JOIN US NEXT YEAR! No experience necessary.** Just contact us through our website or via e-mail: [friendsofpearyseagleisland.com](mailto:friendsofpearyseagleisland.com)



### Invasive Plants on Eagle Island

Article and photos by Priscilla Seimer

Summer days on Eagle Island often bring a surprise or two; fuzzy fur balls that are young gulls waddle near the front door while a parent sits watchfully on the roof, an osprey sits in the pine tree above the lawn for several minutes, a dolphin or two is seen surfacing on the boat ride over.

Unfortunately, this year brought three unwelcome surprises. Three invasive plant species have made it to the island, and they are three of the worst in terms of their ability to spread. All three of the plants on Eagle Island were found near the beach or just on the edge of the lawn. It is entirely possible some others are lurking elsewhere on the island, although I did not see any.



***Black Swallowwort: Cynanchum louiseae.*** Found on the beach having rooted under a dead stump. This aggressive plant has resprouted for two years now. It sets seed pods shaped like little jalapeño peppers, containing a huge number of seeds that (like milkweed) fly when released. If you live in Brunswick this invader is everywhere. It has also been found in Harpswell. Its leaves are dark green. It often vines up structures, winds through hedges, establishes itself at every opportunity. Our area may also have the Pale Swallowwort. Only the flowers are different, and they are fairly small.

# EAGLE ISLAND JOURNAL

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE FRIENDS' PRESIDENT

History credits Admiral Peary with being the first to reach the North Pole, but Peary didn't succeed by himself. He surrounded himself with talents and dedicated hard-working people. Each of his coworkers contributed to the team effort with their unique talents and skills and with dedication that nearly matched that of their leader. I believe the single most important skill that Admiral Peary possessed was leadership, and with those superior leadership skills he brought out the best in each individual that ensured the success of the team. Peary's dedication to the comfort, safety, and well-being of this team was commendable and surely contributed to the successful achievement of their goal.

While many strive- but few if any of us succeed - to possess Admiral Peary's supreme leadership skills, I at least know how it feels to be surrounded by a superior team of talented and dedicated volunteers. There aren't many advantages to getting injured but when you're in my position and you are "out of commission" even for a short period of time after a fall, the friends and colleagues you work with come to the fore and the organization continues to function flawlessly.

I am truly blessed with my Friends colleagues, especially Steve Ingram. As always, Steve and the other team members pick up the slack and carry the ball of The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island. I continue to be grateful to each and every one of them. And I know Admiral Peary would be proud of them as well.

-Harry Rich, RAdmr., USN Ret.

## Summer Vacation on Eagle Island... And Not By the Peary Family!

This summer two Bowdoin College students spent their summer vacation on Eagle Island cataloging all the Peary artifacts left to the State of Maine by the Peary family. They were interns sponsored jointly by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Bowdoin College Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and funded by the Kane Lodge Foundation. (Peary's alma mater was Bowdoin.)

Dana Williams, '18, a Sociology major with a Biology minor and Tharumkrishna Vemulapalii, '19, an Environmental Studies and Government major, were selected based on their interest and participation in the international Arctic Council activities since coming to Bowdoin. Their challenge was to develop a catalog of items in the Peary museum on Eagle Island. They cataloged over 1800 items found in the museum and Peary library: artifacts, antiques, furnishings and the Peary collection of stuffed birds, bird eggs, shells, bones and tusks, and personal items, such as his ship trunks. The items ranged from one-page correspondence to the pianola that he took aboard the S.S. Roosevelt on his voyage north. Each item was photographed, a description given, its location in the museum documented, and its condition assessed. This information will be invaluable to the State of Maine and the Friends of Peary's Eagle Island to help prioritize the preservation planning for all the collection and to provide a digital archive of the collection for future research.

Kudos to Dana and Tharum for their diligence, thoroughness, and technical expertise in providing such a professional service to the State, the Peary MacMillan Arctic Museum and the Friends! It was clear from their presentation to the docents at the Docent Appreciation Luncheon at the end of the summer that, in return, Eagle Island paid them, as it does so many visitors, with memories of a special place.

-Steve Ingram Friends VP and Bowdoin class of 1965