

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

# *The Clapboard*

Preserving and Interpreting the Historic Structures, Landscapes, and Heritage of Sleeping Bear Dunes FALL 2017



Saving the history—Telling the Story





“I personally appreciate the work of Preserve.....I am always humbled by people who donate their time, treasure, and talent to that mission. There are many who love history and who love Sleeping Bear Dunes, but only a fraction of these manifest that love with real effort.”

- Tom Ulrich, Deputy Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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[Grassroots preservation] is empty pocketbooks, bloody fingers, and private satisfactions. It is long hours, hard work, and no pay. It is a personal dialogue with ghosts. It is a face-to-face confrontation with the past... It is an equation between self and history so powerful that it makes us lie down in front of bulldozers, raise toppled statues, salvage old boats.

- Peter Neill, 45th National Preservation Conference [1991]

# 20 year Celebration Coming Up

SUSAN POCKLINGTON, DIRECTOR

Next July, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (*Preserve*) will celebrate 20 years of serving Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as an official partner group. In the pages of this report, we gratefully highlight the accomplishments of 2017. Coming up on such a momentous occasion, we're also pausing to reflect back much further—to 1998—when the preservation “movement” at Sleeping Bear Dunes began. A movement to protect and preserve the historic buildings and landscapes that permeate the national park.

It's hard to imagine a time when we were advocating to save this comprehensive collection that tells the story of settlement and life along the lakeshore. But that is indeed how it began. Much has happened since our early years of meetings with the then park officials to persuade them into a different course of action - one of preservation rather than demolition. The voice of *Preserve* represented the hundreds of people who attended public meetings, wrote letters, and expressed their great desire to spare what is their heritage—farms, inns, log cabins and maritime buildings. Our voices changed the course of history.

Last summer, someone stated matter-of-factly during one of our volunteer projects, that the park's historic buildings are in worse shape than they were 10 years ago. This observation is likely true of any structures that have had *no* maintenance work done since they came into the park. It points to the continued need for member/donor support as we work alongside the park to preserve this collection for all to enjoy far into the future.

However, looking at the collection holistically, it couldn't be further from the truth. Having worked on several structures, our volunteers knew better. Clearly, this individual and probably many others, haven't realized the tremendous amount of stabilization, restoration or rehabilitation work that's been done, either because they have never witnessed, or have forgotten, what the landscape picture looked like ten, even 20 years ago. It's easy to forget the state the structures were in after 25-some years of neglect. Like the growth of a child—the day by day change may not be noticeable. But comparing pictures of then and now—the evidence is indisputable. In the Olsen farm ex-

hibit, a reactionary gasp is often heard when visitors see previous photos of what has now been preserved.

On the next page, a sampling of before and after photos show some of the impact we have made over several years. To our donors and volunteers, we humbly thank you, for it is *your* continuing support that is behind the changes you see. You didn't bow out once the park's new administration fully embraced preservation, thinking the job was done. It was just beginning. Without your financial gifts, or raising your hands with hammers and saws, this long road of preservation would have stopped short of the goal-line long ago.

So what goals have been met? This will be my 18th year with *Preserve*, the last ten as Director. Over a span of 20 years this July, we have organized as a nonprofit organization; successfully advocated against demolition; raised awareness of the magnitude of historic structures; preserved dozens of buildings; rehabilitated the Olsen Farm into *Preserve's* offices and an interpretive center; installed a professional exhibit; co-founded the Port Oneida Fair which draws 4,000 people; prepared additional buildings for potential adaptive-use; facilitated preservation training workshops; completed a strategic plan; developed historic tours; restored historic fields, orchards and gardens; and printed the first tour booklet for Port Oneida. These are some of the most notable achievements.

In our summer newsletter you'll hear about 2018's projects, expanded programs, and special events to mark our 20th anniversary. We're excited about some big plans as we move into the next chapter at Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. We hope you'll stay with us on this journey of preserving and interpreting this special legacy.

With gratitude,









# The Cabin in the Woods

By Bill Herd, Project Manager

It's easy to miss the little cabin in the woods set back off of Bohemian road in Maple City. But it's small size does not dwarf its significance as the oldest structure on the mainland in the park. The Kraits Cabin is Sleeping Bear's last surviving pioneer log home, and exemplifies the long tradition of log craftsmanship that European settlers brought with them.

A decade ago the cabin suffered a gaping hole and collapsed roof when a large tree fell squarely on top of it. Since then, this 157 year old structure has been rapidly deteriorating from exposure to the elements. Three years ago, after *Preserve* secured the cabin's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, we were finally permitted by the National Park Service to begin restoration of the building.



Immediately we began with emergency actions to slow the rate of decay. With the aid of youth groups, we removed the deteriorated sections and hauled out soggy carpeting, particle board, and leaves. The logs were treated to kill fungus growing profusely inside. We even covered the building with a gigantic tarp to keep the structure dry until major repairs could be made. These were temporary measures that slowed but did not stop deterioration.

Last April, our contractor finally completed the difficult task of replacing several rotted logs, leaving 85% of the original walls intact.

After four, three-day volunteer workshops between June and September led by volunteer Casey Reynolds, we are happy to report that the major restoration of the cabin is now complete.

## FOUR VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS RESTORE CABIN



### WORKSHOP 1

With solid walls in place, volunteers, including help from timber framer Barry Jones (shown above), first leveled the top, then rebuilt the loft floor. Other volunteers cleared debris from the inside.



### WORKSHOP 2

Probably the most exacting task was building the cedar rafters. They had to be notched, shaped and spiked into place just as the original had been. Finding 22 cedar logs of the right size and dimension was



the first hurdle, but we finally found them at a mill south of Cadillac, and trailered them to the job site. It was exciting to see the roof boards go on once the rafters were in place, as that meant we were one step closer to “sealing the envelope” as we say. Volunteers brought varying carpentry skills, from having experience, to no skills but a willingness to learn and take direction. Several volunteers came out for multiple workshops, eager to see the project through to completion.

Park staff helped out by installing recycled metal roofing for temporary protection until wooden shakes can be laid, and closing up rafters for bat prevention.



### WORKSHOP 3

Next, both gable ends were closed in with board and battens to match the original.

### WORKSHOP 4

Bill Love, NPS preservation specialist, taught volunteers the technique of daubing—filling the space between the logs where mortar was crumbling or missing. We caught on quickly, and together with the park, finished in three days.

With its repaired walls, new roof, and freshly chinked logs, the historic cabin is now weather tight, protected from wildlife, and no longer deteriorating.

There is still work to be done to return the cabin to the way it looked when it was first con-

structed. Join us next year when we fill in two doorways that were cut into the log walls in later years; replace the floor; repair floor joists if needed; repair windows and construct a rustic door.

**The Kraitz cabin is the most historically significant structure that PHSB has taken the major role in saving both by advocating for its preservation and by making major repairs.** It has taken several years and dozens of people; young adults, enthusiastic armatures, skilled carpenters both paid and volunteer, at a cost of over \$15,000 to date. The great-great grandson of the cabin's builder joined us as did the daughter of a former owner. Thanks to our supportive volunteers and donors, we can now say with pride that this iconic piece of American history will be around for many more years.





# A Lasting Landscape and a Sense of Place

By Susan Pocklington



Walking or biking through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, what always strikes me is the feeling of tranquility I get from the landscape—its open spaces, gnarly aged trees, rolling fields, weathered wood fence posts, straight pine wind rows, lilac bushes, the gentle call of “the crib” on the lake, an old cemetery gate, and alluring back dirt roads that transport me to another time. Like actors in a play, they jockey for my attention away from the usual stars of the show they support—the stoic buildings. They all have a part to play in this cultural landscape.

Preserving historic buildings is vitally important, but so is the land. The cultural landscape is equally important. In a phone interview last summer, the young reporter seemed to struggle with this idea as we talked. The concepts of preservation were likely unfamiliar to her and the result was a misquote, “*The cultural landscape is equally important, but so is the land*” - a mix of two statements that surely was confusing to the reader. I realized the constant need to educate that preservation includes historic cultural landscapes, which might be eye-opening to many. So what is a cultural landscape?

While I’m not an expert in the study of historic cultural landscapes, the concept in simple terms is that it encompasses not just the buildings left behind—but all the elements that have been touched by human interaction and shaped the land. I’ve always liked this definition:

**“A historic cultural landscape is a place where its usage spans generations; it is a part of the people who have traversed and shaped the land and who were shaped by it...”** *Save our Heritage Organization*

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is indeed a historic cultural landscape. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear has been keen on preserving these obvious yet subtler aspects of the story, along with the historic structures, and has done so for years. These features are part of the fabric of the landscape and give us a sense of place. Read on to learn of the efforts being made to preserve some of these features:

## Antique Orchards

Orchards were integral to the subsistence farmer, thus an important part of the cultural landscape. But little remains of the antique apple and pear trees. A collaborative orchard preservation initiative between the park (and its volunteers), *Preserve*, and the Leelanau Conservation District is gaining traction. An inventory of apple trees in the park revealed **80 antique varieties**, some rare in the country! A nursery of 200 grafts, made from cuttings and rootstock, were planted at the Kelderhouse farm in 2014, and over time, will be planted in batches to their permanent location at various farm sites.

Next summer, *Preserve* will fund a \$3,000 removable deer fence at the Kelderhouse farm where 30 trees from the nursery will be planted into the antique orchard. We are also working to secure tanks and equipment for watering.



How can you help? Join our adopt-a-landscape program to help prune existing fruit trees or to water the grafts. The public will certainly reap the “fruits” of this initiative in years to come. They are permitted to pick one bushel per family for personal consumption. Is your favorite apple part of this cultural landscape? Find out, and try many varieties, at the park’s fall Harvest Festival.

# Fields, Fences, and Foundations

The settlers of Leelanau had good reason to plant black locust trees. Black locust is the strongest wood in North America. It doesn't rot. Because of this, it was exported by the native population for making bows, was used to build Jamestown, and even lines garden beds at Colonial Williamsburg.

For Port Oneida's homesteader, a wood of that quality was highly beneficial on the farm. It made strong fence posts and wagon tongues among other things. It has the highest BTU value for firewood that heated their homes. And honey bees were attracted to its fragrant flowers. Black locust even survives well in dry soil and harsh winters—a perfect match for Port Oneida.

However, black locust also has a thorny side—literally and figuratively. Its dense thickets shade out native trees and underground root network spreads quickly. When farming ceased in Port Oneida, Black Locust, Autumn Olive, and Silver Poplar began taking over farm fields and encroaching on historic buildings. Thus, this trio threatens native cultural resources as well as natural resources. Fields are in danger of reforestation, creating inaccessibility of buildings and causing their decay from too much shade and moisture, and losing the farming story.

Preserve has been working to protect these agricultural landscapes—land shaped by grazing animals, tilling, plowing, harvesting, and most significantly from logging. Farmers took advantage of the black locust, but kept it out of their fields.

For years, Preserve has cut, lopped, sprayed and pulled this vegetation with the goal to get these fields as quickly as possible into the mowing program. However, the process is slow and fraught with difficulties. Flush cutting is necessary for mowing, but not easy for volunteers. Often a few

months between volunteer efforts allows quick regrowth, requiring going over the same ground again.



October, 2017, a forestry mulcher demonstrates clearing of black locust closing in on the Miller Barn.

Last year, Preserve suggested to the park a more effective and efficient solution—using a forestry mulcher. Fast forward to this October, when a trial clearing of two acres by this equipment proved to do what it promised. In the coming weeks we will fund clearing the densest area by the Miller barn. We have high hopes that this method will move us more quickly to the goal. Once in the annual mowing program (*in collaboration with Friends of Sleeping Bear*), the vegetation will be kept at bay.

Volunteers are not off the hook however! We'll still need to hand-lop areas along trails, or where typography is too steep for our brush hog. This is another opportunity to volunteer for our **adopt-a-landscape program** which entails using loppers a few times a year to stay on top of new growth. We also are interested in exploring what the park might think about implementing goat grazing which has proved to be one of the most effective methods, while also restoring a practice in keeping with the historic landscape.

The park milled and made good use of the mature black locust when they first cleared it, and would be the park's choice for many projects. But black locust is costly, often twice as much as cedar. So, while the invasive nature of black locust makes it difficult to control, perhaps the park would consider sparing some acreage away from historic structures that would be allowed to grow, and harvest for use on preservation projects. Mirroring the way of the settler's might not be such a bad way after all.





## Fences

Looking at historic photos of Port Oneida, it's obvious that another cultural landscape feature are fence rows—usually wood post and plank or wire, and split rails. Hundreds of fence posts marked property boundaries, gardens, orchards, and grazing areas. Remnants of posts and rusted wire can be found here and there, often twisted and covered over by long grass. An effort to restore these fences illustrating the picture and functionality of the farm has been made in recent years, initially using black locust. Numerous park volunteers have contributed in this way.

Preserve's proposal to restore limited wood fencing in and around the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm has been approved and will commence next summer. This aspect is part of a larger Olsen Farm landscape proposal being implemented in stages.

overgrown with vegetation, it was breaking up the concrete and we were losing the remains of an important piece of the Burfiend farming history. We also have a potential creative idea for adaptive-use of the foundation.



This year we completed a fence restoration project at the historic Boekeloo cabin in the Platte River district. The Christian Services Brigade from East Lansing focused their annual May and September trek to Sleeping Bear on the project. As usual, projects take some planning and funding on our part, but with some assistance in transporting the wood, we were ready to roll. The plank boundary fence required digging holes for 10 posts to complete the nine sections of fencing. The crew also stained the entire fence to match the original. These young boys did a fantastic job and still had time for fun, exploring the bog at the cabin!

## Foundations

Some historic buildings are gone. The only evidence of their existence is its foundation. Such is the case with the Carsten Burfiend barn which burned in the 1980s, and “grandma’s” house next to the Olsen farmhouse that was removed. The Burfiend barn foundation had become so

Traverse City Area Public Schools youth spent three days clearing it out—what a difference!

Along with cleaning up old foundations, we noticed that even if structures are in good condition after repairs, properties look unkempt if yards and flora are not properly cared for. The park did an evaluation of the cultural landscape in 2017 and came to similar conclusions. For example, Lilac and Sweet Shrub bushes are a historic landscape feature that require trimming to be preserved. Walnut, maple, and pine trees planted for food or protection from cold and soil erosion are dying and need replacing.

Last year, we proposed weed whipping, removing fallen tree limbs and logs buried in the grass, and trimming trees, lilacs and rose bushes at all historic farm sites such as Port Oneida, Good Harbor, and Platte River District. We got a small start on some of this work, but need more volunteers dedicated to this on-going project as part of our **Adopt-a-Landscape program**.





# Restoring the Olsen Farm Gardens



Master Gardeners Kathy Marsiniak, Bruce Barnes, and Jean Jenkins, planted two varieties of cabbage, lettuce and heirloom tomatoes; peas; beets, and carrots. Zinnias, Sunflowers and a Marigold mix bordered the garden.



Another crew of five volunteers installed a deer fence and gate around the garden in June.

When you tell a story, descriptive details are important for the story to come alive. At the Charles and Hattie Olsen Farm where visitors come to learn about the agricultural community of Port Oneida, gardens aren't just a detail though—they're essential. To portray an accurate picture of the Olsen farm, a plan to restore further the look and feel of the cultural landscape starting with some of the family gardens began last summer. These are based on historical documents and the book, "Farming at the Water's Edge".

Fortunately for us, three master gardeners volunteered their services. Armed with a list of park-approved plants, they were eager to get to work. Starting small, the plan was to restore just a fraction of the size of the original vegetable garden west of the house. Port Oneida native Fritz Barratt graciously tilled the plot with our tractor. It had been 45 years since the Olsen's last worked the land. We waited in anticipation to see the condition of the soil. It looked amazing, rich! Testing by Michigan State Extension confirmed it was indeed very fertile, with a good balance of nutrients. Let the planting begin!

Over the summer the garden thrived, bringing a fresh sense of life to the farm. It was heartening to watch visitors enjoying the garden and taking time to examine the map of plantings before coming inside to learn more in our exhibit—"A Storied Landscape".

## 2018 PLANS: FLOWERS, BERRIES, FENCES

In 2018 we hope to complete restoration of:

- 1) Hattie's perennial flower garden with partial fence
- 2) Five rows of raspberry and blackberry bushes
- 3) Fence posts at overflow parking entrance and across the road at mowed path to Dechow Farm
- 4) A farm stand by the garden area



# North Manitou Island & Our Dear Katie

*by David Watt, Project Manager*

The Katie Shepard Hotel on North Manitou Island moved closer to completion in 2017. Loyal volunteers, some returning for their eighth summer, spent over ten days working on window screens, ceiling boards, molding, cleaning, staining, and re-painting the porch.

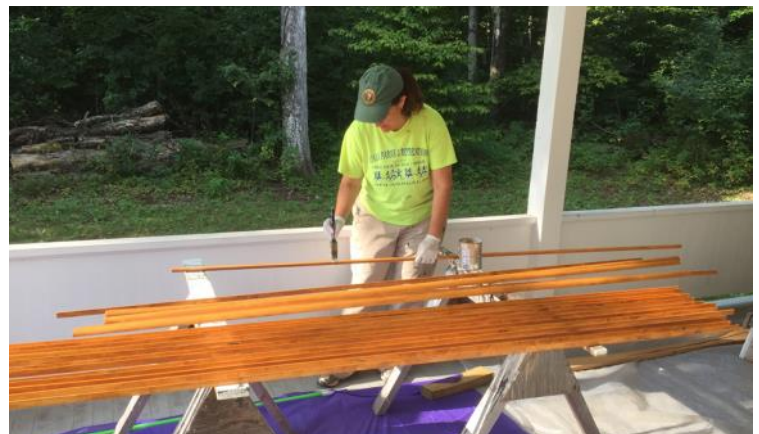
**Screens:** A team had repaired original frames and constructed some new on the mainland in fall of 2016. Last August we brought them to North Manitou where we painted them and added screening and molding. Having screens for “Katie” opens her up to enjoy the breeze off the lake for our workers, and hopefully, for folks that might be enjoying an overnight stay in the future!

**Ceiling boards:** With the first floor ceiling complete, this year we worked on the second floor rooms requiring new ceiling and wallboards. Before adding the boards to the two shed dormers on the north side, re-working of the framing was required to allow a finished appearance for the ceiling boards. The two teams did an amazing job and the results look great.



**Molding:** Much progress was made in adding quarter round molding around ceilings and at corners. Molding will need to be milled next year to replace old water-damaged sections in the main parlor.

Great pains have been taken through the years to salvage as much original wood as possible, and to match newly milled wood, in compliance with the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic preservation. However, because of water damage and animal odors we had to use new boards on the ceilings with the exception of one room which is entirely recycled original wood. We estimate that 95% of the floor and 90% of the walls are original Katie Shepard boards, most of which date to the original construction of 1895!



Much has been completed on the front and side porches, restoring interior floors and ceilings. Next year's goals include finishing molding, cleaning, staining and additional screens. Installing a well and vault toilet in the future are pending approval of a business plan for opening the hotel for primitive accommodations. We're pleased with the restoration of what we affectionately call “Katie”. Thank you donors and volunteers. We look forward to the day when we can officially show her off to the public!





# 2018 PROJECTS

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear takes on projects that require extensive planning. They involve funding of materials and/or contractors, logistical and volunteer coordination, documentary research, and sometimes training volunteers in specialized trades. The following are some projects planned for 2018.

## **Burfiend Farmhouses (2)**

- Repair upstairs floor
- Complete windows
- Historic Structures Report required for adaptive-use—\$30,000
- Assist with major beam replacement

## **Kraitz Cabin—\$10,000**

- Enclose non-historic features with hewn logs
- Build doors, install windows
- Remove deteriorated floor

## **Charles Olsen Farm—\$6,800**

- Restore gardens, farm stand, fencing
- Southwest concrete barn wall repair
- Interpretive kiosk and sign
- Exhibit audio

## **Field Restoration/invasive plant removal—\$3,000**

## **Boardman Cottage, North Manitou Island**

- Paint and mortar sampling - \$1,000

## **Antique Orchard restoration- \$3,000**

## **Barn Restoration Workshop - \$500**

## **Treat Farm Summer Chimney repair - \$3,000**

## **Glen Haven houses (2) roof repair - \$1,000**

## **Katie Shepard Hotel, North Manitou Island - \$1,000**

- Mill molding and complete installation
- Clean and stain wood

## **Schmidt Farm repairs—\$600**

## **Adopt-a-highway clean up in Port Oneida (Spring/Fall)**

## **Bournique Cottage, NMI**

- Assist NPS with repairs at remote location

## **Faust Cabin Restoration stage 2- \$15,000**

## **Boekeloo handrail - \$100**

## **Port Oneida Farmhouse (6) interior clean up**

## **Professional removal of bat guano—\$1,000**

- North Unity School, Dechow granary

**ESTIMATED 2018  
PROJECT EXPENSES  
\$78,000**

# CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2016-17

Our contributions this past year include expenses to hire contractors for specialized skills such as log restoration. However, the majority of our preservation projects are done by hardworking, qualified volunteers. Their contribution is significant. Volunteer crews leverage our funding in a way that brings the most value to donor's dollars.

Preservation Projects	\$18,767
Interpretation	\$5,410
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INKIND</b>	<b>\$24,177</b>

<b>IN-KIND TO PARK</b>	
6,178 volunteer hours value	<b>\$149,137</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:</b>	<b>\$174,314</b>



# Playing with Plaster and Cement



The concrete dome garage at the Treat Farm is an unusual feature that received some attention this summer. *Preserve* worked alongside the park to apply two coats of white/



gray wash on the exterior. They also joined the park's crew that worked on pouring the cement floor of the chicken coop.

Six volunteers also completed plaster repairs of two upstairs bedrooms in the Howard Burfiend farmhouse, under our hired instructor, Chris Frey.

## Cultural Fair Connects with Youth

It was a record-breaking year for the Port Oneida Rural and Cultural Fair with over 4,100 people in attendance, many being children. Many thanks to the demonstrators that inspire people of all ages by sharing these trades and skills. We heard of four small but endearing interactions of how the Fair connected with children.

After attending the one-room schoolhouse session, a girl about the age of 12 sat down at the old piano in the corner and began playing beautifully by ear. Her mother was visibly moved and explained to the "schoolmarm" that this was the first time the girl had been able to play the piano since she had suffered a serious concussion. We don't know why it inspired the girl to play, but that story certainly inspired us.

Another youngster contacted us to ask if she could roam from farm to farm playing her fiddle in costume. "Yes, of course!", we responded. We saw her at the Fair having a grand time. Perhaps she'd attended the Fair before and was inspired by other musicians there to join in the fun.

Four elementary aged girls were enjoying the civil war

re-enactors when one girl said rather proudly to her friends, "I've come to the Fair every year since I was little". Her friends were clearly impressed, perhaps a bit envious even! They asked what activity was her favorite, but she said she simply couldn't decide. We like that answer.



Finally, a boy about 8 years of age was riveted on the draw knife and shaving horse demonstration crafting 3-legged stools. The boy's enthusiasm deepened as he peppered the volunteer with questions. He kept coming back to watch. After visiting a third time, his mother, who could not coax him on to other activities, indulged his desire to stay while she visited other sites. Under close supervision, he tried his small hands at the craft, even taking some souvenirs home. His mother returned shortly

to her beaming son. Perhaps this budding woodworker will be demonstrating at the Fair one day.

The Fair is hosted by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in partnership with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear with support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, NorthSky Network and local businesses.



# Olsen Family Returns to Roots



Photo credit this page—Meggen Watt Photography

148 years after Ole Olsen left Norway to settle in Leelanau County, almost 150 descendants from all over the country gathered for an Olsen Family Reunion on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>. Relatives from Michigan, California, North Carolina, and as far away as Sweden came together at the Charles Olsen Farm in Port Oneida to meet family members and learn about the unique history of the area where their family homesteaded.



Janice (Olsen) Olson and Joel Olsen present ROOTStories

Among attendees were Janice (Olsen) Olson. Janice and her sister Nancy were the last of the Olsen family to be raised on the Charles Olsen Farm. The day before the reunion, Janice was also the invited speaker for our annual ROOTStories program where she shared memories of her family and growing up in the area.

The last Olsen reunion was in 2007 on the farm. Many in the family were afraid that once the children of Charles and Hattie Olsen had passed away there would be no more large Olsen family reunions here.

In September of 2016, Olee Olsen (one of the grandchildren of Charles and Hattie Olsen) and his son Olee Joel Olsen Jr. visited Port Oneida from North Carolina. They took Preserve's horse and wagon tour of Port Oneida with cousins Lorraine Olsen Zientek, and Bruce Denton.

*"I was blown away by the beauty of the area and the care that so many volunteers had taken of our ancestor's homes and farms" said Olee "Joel" Olsen Jr. who was raised in Charlotte, North Carolina and had never been to Northern Michigan. "I just knew we had to bring the whole family together to see and experience the area."*

Joel, together with Olsen family members Gail Denton Mack, Anne Nicholson, Ruth Olsen, and Janice Olson, began working with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear to plan a reunion that would unite the Olsen Family tree all the way back to the three brothers and one half-sister that had left Norway to come to Michigan in the late 1800s.

The event started in the morning with name tags for all, defining which Olsen they had descended from. Then they gathered inside the barn for a presentation on the Norwegian history of the Olsen family by Joel Olsen, and remarks from Preserve and the National Park Service. Local photographer Meggen Watt took hundreds of pictures and made them



available to all. A catered lunch under a large tent even included Bison skewers from family member DJ Oleson's Oleson Grocery store! Local artists Leif Spork and Lisa Psenka offered for sale Leif's commemorative tile and Lisa's painting, of the Olsen Farm.

Many brought old photos and memorabilia. Historian Tom VanZooeren recorded family member's recollections and *Preserve* scanned numerous photos for our archives. Among the most interesting were pictures of a family bible from the late 1800s, and a travel chest Helga Johnsdatter Roseth gave her oldest son, Ole Olsen, to travel to America.

We thank Joel for bringing his extended family back to Port Oneida, and hope they will continue to share their family history with us which evolved from roots established right here in Port Oneida.

Counterclockwise—Olee Olsen in his grandfather's chair; posters of Olsen history in barn; Joel Olsen presents Norwegian history (photo credit Meggen Watt Photography); Leif Spork's Olsen tile.



## Welcome New Board Member

Jim Munson ran a successful business in Birmingham for 41 years with 50 employees, until retirement in 2000. He brings his business acumen and a good sense of humor to the board. He also serves as a Glen Arbor Park Commissioner and on the Building and Grounds Committee at his church. Jim is on *Preserve's* Project Committee and has been a strong supporter of our work for several years as well as a volunteer. He resides in Glen Arbor year-round. Welcome Jim!

## Faust Cabin on Tour *by Penny Szczechowski*

The 1927 iconic Faust Log Cabin near Inspiration Point was one of the draws and highlights of the five-home Glen Lake Library Home Tour in July. *Preserve* served as liaison between Friends of the Library and the national park who now owns the cabin. The tour, a sellout with over 600 tickets sold, was an opportunity for people to finally get inside to see the log home that has interested people for so many years. It was also an opportunity to raise awareness about restoration needed.

*Preserve*, and park curator Laura Quackenbush prepared the cabin by extensive cleaning, and park Interpretive staff served as tour guides. Barb Siepker offered her book "Historic Cottages of Glen Lake" for sale with a portion of proceeds

going to the cabin's restoration fund. And a comment board encouraged ideas for the park's adaptive-use of the cabin.

The most asked question was "Where are the stairs to the lake?" and "How many stairs are there?". The stairs are no longer there. It was reported that Mrs. Faust climbed those 456 steps every day down to the lake and back again.

*Preserve* Historic Sleeping Bear is in partnership with the park to repair and preserve the cabin which was chosen as the centennial project of the Lakeshore in 2015. *Preserve's* donors provided \$10,000 matched by the Lakeshore for restoration of windows. An updated assessment of the structure will direct further fundraising efforts. Donations are welcomed!



# Faces at the Farm: Meet our Docents

Our docents and tour guides come from all walks of life and locations. Retirees, summer residents, locals, a high school student, and folks that like to stay and work at national parks across the country (find us at [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov)) were docents at the Olsen Farm exhibit that serves as, what we now call, the Port Oneida Farms Heritage Center. Docents kept the doors open six days a week for hundreds of visitors last summer. We're thrilled to have the help of such wonderful people—including several new volunteers and loyal long-time locals. With twelve docents, we added weekly Port Oneida tours, and opened the barn, which was a highlight for many. Come see us at the farm or take a Port Oneida tour next summer. Meet some of our 2017 docent team!



**Mary Crane** has been spending her summers in Port Oneida for the last 75 years. Mary was an employee of Historic

New England as a seasonal tour guide for nine years. She continues that tradition as a volunteer docent for the Port Oneida Farms Heritage Center and as a Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear board member. She has warm memories of many of Port Oneida's first generation residents.



**Charlotte Smith** lives in Florida and Glen Arbor. She has lots of experience helping nonprofits as her daughter runs a therapeutic horseback riding nonprofit in Florida. Charlotte's daughter Deb Miller is now a docent too!



**Chris Armbrecht** "Stories ignite our imagination. Port Oneida is unique in that the land and the early settlers who made it their home are co-authors in the telling of the story. My interest in nature, farms, and people have made the work as a docent a perfect fit. The exhibit is marvelously rich in displays which chronicle the connection between early settlers and their homesteads. Fun to observe which aspects of the museum visitors gravitate toward."



**Abby Caldwell** (pictured left) "I am a senior at Traverse City Central High school. I plan to pursue a degree in history and museum studies next fall. Last summer was my first time volunteering for PHSB as a docent. My love for history spawned from watching my mother refurbish old furniture and collecting vintage goods. This experience was super enlightening because it gave me first hand experience working with super passionate people. I loved teaching visitors about Port Oneida and hope to volunteer next summer! "



Linda and George Johnson lived in park housing and helped us for four weeks as docents and in the office. They love the national parks and have volunteered at many. "Our

favorite part of acting as docents was meeting the people. One guest from Norway commented on almost every artifact, comparing what was in the farmhouse to the place where he grew up. Another family had taken a year off to travel the United States, and their daughter had so many National Park patches that Park Rangers often asked to be photographed with her. People who visit the Olsen Farm are curious, eager to learn, and delighted to share their own experiences. We considered all visitors as potential friends!

Pat Diegel "I've loved this park for years. Port Oneida was always on my places to go list while vacationing. I met many wonderful people while volunteering this past summer. Can't wait to do it again!"

Phyllis Konold, from Florida and Glen Arbor, is a substitute docent serving mostly in the fall. She was thrilled when one day one of the Olsen family came in and she got to meet and talk with them about the history of their farm.





# Cheers for Volunteers!

Fiscal year 2016-2017 (Oct.1-Sept.30)

6,178 Volunteer Hours = \$149,137 value

Thank you for sharing your time and talents. You make a BIG difference!

*Please let us know if we missed anyone!*

Chris Armbrecht	Larry Gerould
Fritz Barrett	John Griffith
Bruce Barnes	Pat Harkness
Denise Brown	Elizabeth Hamrick
Arvon Byle	Peter Harkness
Sally Byle	Ulla Hjelm
Dave Card, Christian Services Brigade	Bill Herd
Abby Caldwell	Maggie Hill
Mary Crane	Abby Hill
Julie Cordano	Laura Hooper
Doug Detzler	Jillian Howell
Margo Detzler	Jason Howes
Pat Diegel	John Imboden
Ben Eichorst	Jean Jenkins
Jim Fonte	Linda Johnson
Beth French	George Johnson
Rosalie Gaertner	Barry Jones
John Goff	Jerry Kloock
Nancy Gerould	Peg Kloock



Barb Kobberstad  
Jim Kobberstad  
Phyllis Konold  
Ellen MacDonald  
Kathy Marciniak  
Don McNew  
Peggy McNew  
Deb Miller  
Tom Meerschaert  
Kathie Miller  
Dennis Mulder  
Sally Mulder  
Jim Munson

Rodney Nettleton  
Heidi Niederer  
Greg Osinski  
Ted Peltier  
Amy Peterson  
Emily Reynolds  
Casey Reynolds  
Alan Richardson  
Laurie Richmann  
Mark Richmann  
Stacie Sadowski  
Vince Sadowski  
Bernie Senske

Fred Siegmund  
Charlotte Smith  
Henry Sparks  
Lance Spitzner  
Adam Spitzner  
Quilters St. Mary  
Linda Stevenson  
Steve Stier  
Ty Stuber  
Jim Szczechowski  
Penny Szczechowski  
TCAPS  
Deb Temperly

Terri Temperly  
Jill Temple  
Susan Theiss  
Dennis Tishkowsky  
Pat Tishkowsky  
Ann Tschetter  
Henry Tschetter  
Tom Van Zoeren  
Morgan Watt  
David Watt  
Jill Webb  
Karen Wells  
Tom Whitaker



It was a beautiful September evening to celebrate the people behind *Preserve's* accomplishments. About 50 volunteers and members joined us for an Appreciation Potluck in the Olsen Barn where we enjoyed fabulous food and warm friendship. *Preserve* provided lasagna, and harvest time yielded many dishes of fresh garden vegetables, including some from the Olsen garden! Each table was adorned with uniquely arranged flowers and tokens of thanks for all.

National Park Superintendent Scott Tucker praised the efforts of *Preserve* and entertained us with his humor. One of the joys of the evening was recognizing several volunteers for reaching milestones in volunteer hours. Wood plaques with a photo of the Katie Shepard Hotel were presented to David Watt and Doug Detzler for 1000 hours; Margo Detzler and Fred Siegmund for 750 hours; and Len Allgaier for 500 hours. Volunteers are involved in many different roles at *Preserve*. The evening was special, bringing everyone together at the same time and place. We're already looking forward to next year's gathering!





## VOLUNTEER!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are many ways to get involved! Our volunteers participate in preservation projects, greet park visitors, give tours, tend gardens, serve at events, adopt a building or landscape, and help in many other ways. Applications are also currently being accepted for the Board of Directors, and committee positions for Adaptive-Use, Development, Outreach, and Projects. Please contact us for more details.

**Volunteer Staff:** Each year we hire a lead docent and tour guides with housing provided; or help with press releases, social media and our website.

**Specific Tasks:** Volunteers are needed for office work and other tasks. If you are interested, please complete the volunteer form at [www.phsb.org](http://www.phsb.org).

## WORK, PLAY, STAY!

Use your vacation to volunteer, play and stay. We have found that when volunteers work, eat, and lodge together, friendships and synergy develop, creating a productive and bonding "Preservation Vacation!"

We may be able to provide inexpensive housing for a weekend or during our project dates. Please indicate your need for accommodations when you complete our volunteer form at [www.phsb.org](http://www.phsb.org), or email us. Come join us for some work, play, stay!



Our North Manitou Island projects provide ferry transportation and usually housing for a dozen people

## RAISE FUNDS—RUN!

Help us raise funds at our annual Port Oneida Run, August 4th, 2018. Bring the family! Kids 1/4 mile Schoolhouse Dash, Homesteaders Hilly 5K, Farmer's Flat and Fast 5K, and a Tiller's 10K. Last year the run raised nearly \$4,000.



## BE A STEWARD

of SLEEPING BEAR

With a donation of any amount you can become a member or "Steward" of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. Please join or renew this year!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation

\$5,000+	Preservationist	_____
\$2,500-4,999	Harvester	_____
\$1000-2,499	Barnraiser	_____
\$500-999	Cultivator	_____
\$250-499	Tiller	_____
\$100-\$249	Homesteader	_____
\$50-99	Settler	_____
\$35-49	Pioneer	_____
Up to \$34	Friend	_____

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MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### PLOWSHARE SOCIETY

Join with a pledge to give a minimum of \$500 annually!



### GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

A membership to *Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear* is a meaningful gift for someone who loves the National Park. For the person who has everything, it is a great Christmas, Birthday or Wedding gift. A gift in honor or in memory is also a unique way to recognize a loved one.

### LIFESAVER LEGACY

Ensure a legacy you can be proud of. Planned Giving could include bequests, designating PHSB as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement account, gifting real estate, or artwork which benefits PHSB and may avoid capital gains tax.

Visit [www.phsb.org](http://www.phsb.org) for further details.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PHSB, P.O. BOX 453  
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[WWW.PHSB.ORG](http://WWW.PHSB.ORG)





# Honor Roll of Donors received October 1, 2016—September 30, 2017

## Preservationist

(\$5,000 & up)

Anonymous

Anonymous

## Harvester

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

Anonymous

Joel Oleson

## Barnraiser

(\$1,000-2,499)

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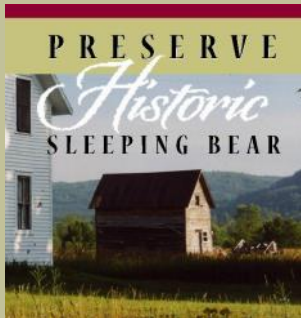
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Port Oneida Run  
Saturday, August 4

Port Oneida Fair  
August 10 & 11

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