



PRESERVE

Historic Sleeping Bear

*Preserving the historic structures
and cultural landscapes in
Sleeping Bear Dunes
National Lakeshore*

Fall 2006

2006 Work Projects

Boekeloo Cabin

One of the oldest cabins in the area received some much needed attention from Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear last July. The Boekeloo Cabin, otherwise known as the Boekelodge in Benzie County, was transferred to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 2005 from the Boekeloo family. Built in the late 1800's with logs felled at the site, it is a unique piece of property with the cabin situated between a cranberry bog once commercially harvested, the Platte River and Lake Michigan.



Contrary to some public misconceptions, work on historic structures in potential wilderness zones such as the parcel occupied by Boekelodge is allowed with certain limits to minimize the impact on wilderness values. These projects require a wilderness exemption where mechanized equipment will be used. They also require careful planning so that time and resources are available to accomplish work objectives in a brief timeframe rather than allowing several entrances and exits of traffic into these special areas.

While a full assessment of the cabin and work scope

were yet forthcoming, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear tackled portions of the project last summer that did not require a wilderness exemption from the park service. The secluded cabin is located at the end of Boekeloo road where volunteer work began on windows, doors, and boardwalks. All front windows and doors were scraped, caulked, primed and painted. Meanwhile, other crews rebuilt the boardwalk that had deteriorated. Loads of debris and brush were collected and removed from the property. Now that the assessment is completed for the Boekelodge, Preserve is considering the Boekelodge in their project plans for 2007. The most significant work would be to restore the logs that are badly deteriorating.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear looks forward to seeing the Boekelodge rehabilitated completely, allowing it to be considered for potential adaptive uses such as environmental education, or enhanced recreational opportunities for skiers, hikers, birdwatchers and nature lovers, providing a real "Thoreau" experience. Thanks to our great volunteers for their work on the Boekelodge!

The Charles Olsen House

Although Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and its generous grantors restored the majority of the Ol-

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Welcome Preserve's New Executive Director

In May of this year, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear welcomed Robynn James as the new Executive Director. Robynn has 14 years experience working in and leading nonprofit organizations, including Greenpeace, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Sierra Madre Alliance and others. Most recently Robynn served as Director of Development for the Catholic Diocese of Gaylord, and founding Executive Director of the Northern Michigan Catholic Foundation.



Robynn was attracted to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear because she feels strongly about preserving the cultural heritage of Northwest Lower Michigan. "I've been traipsing around this Park since I was a kid," she recalls. "We used to play on the dunes when I was still small enough to worry about getting sand in my diaper!"

In her leadership role, Robynn is committed to increasing regional recognition of the need for preservation of the historic farms and buildings in Port Oneida and throughout the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. "Each of these buildings has a

(Continued on back page)

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sen house in 2004, there are numerous projects still looming to bring the house and barn to full restoration. The stone and concrete-mix ramp to the barn is crumbling, house window sills need scraping and painting, storm windows need to be constructed, and roofing problems need fixing.

Last summer Preserve tackled a project left-over from the 1998 Celebrate Sleeping Bear event when volunteers had painted the exterior of the house but didn't finish the back side. In July of this year, Preserve's volunteers scraped the peeling primer, re-primed and painted the finish coat. What a job! In addition, a non-historic landing by the back door was cracking and unsafe. Board member, Ken Richmond took a sledge hammer to it and got a start on the area that will eventually include our handicapped accessible entrance. Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked on this project!



PRESERVE IDENTIFIES PROJECT GOALS FOR 2007

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

By Robynn James, Executive Director

A policy change being implemented by our Board and Executive Director is better advance planning of work projects for the coming year. We've committed to the Park Superintendent that we will submit our targeted project schedule for the coming year no later than January from now on. In turn, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has assured us that project approval will then be received months in advance of the project date. It's going to be a much better arrangement for everyone.

At the recent Board of Director's retreat in September, six projects were identified as priorities for Preserve. Those projects will be compared to the National Lakeshore's soon to be released Catalog of Needs, which identifies in detail the project scoping that has been done by the National Lakeshore,

including budgets, equipment and specialized labor needs.

Once we've reviewed the Catalog of Needs, we can assess the practicality of the projects we've proposed. The Board of Directors has identified the Martin Basch House, Charles and Hattie Olsen House, Boekeloo Lodge, field clearing, continued exhibit construction and possibly even a project or two on either North or South Manitou Island. We will have a project plan by early spring. Once the projects are approved by the National Park Service, hopefully no later than April, we can begin to publicize these to all our members.

The new protocols will allow more "snowbirds" to make plans to be part of the ongoing effort to restore and interpret historic farms and cultural landscapes at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Look for the finalized project schedule in the Spring/Summer edition of our newsletter!

A REASON TO SERVE *Recruiting New Board Members*

by Beth Stoner, Chair

Having spent summers in Leelanau County since I was five years old, the notion of volunteering to help sustain vital and valuable structures and landscapes which are now a part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was an obvious choice for me. It's not so much about hanging onto vivid childhood memories as it is about preservation, so future generations can discover, explore, and learn about the rich legacy of this precious resource and the many stories connected with its evolution.

When driving on M-22 through Benzie and Leelanau County, one is immediately struck by its pastoral beauty no matter whether it is winter, spring, summer or fall. Now, as a resident of northern Michigan, I believe it is essential that we

take steps to preserve and sustain this special environment. And that is exactly what Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is all about. Along with many partnering organizations, our mission is to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to be amazed by the intriguing historic structures and landscapes which exist in the 71,000 acres comprising the National Lakeshore.

It is satisfying and rewarding to tell the story of early pioneers such as mariners, lumbermen and farmers by weaving together the many clues they left in their fields, barns and homes. I invite you to join us in our effort to breathe more life into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. If you are interested in helping our cause by serving as an active board member, please give us a call!

EVENTS that ENRICH



It's obvious that work projects are essential to what we're all about at Preserve. But what do other events and programs have to do with saving buildings? Plenty. And we plan to do more. By reaching out to people and offering ways to connect with the landscape and its history, we are providing an enriching experience while creating new connections with those who can appreciate and support the preservation of these cultural resources. It is a feeling that is hard to describe, but these special places take root in the hearts of those who experience them first hand.

Imagine yourself hiking in our National Lakeshore on a trail that passes a weary barn. You can sense the presence of farmers long gone working amongst these old buildings where the scent of family livestock still lingers. Your witness to this enduring presence keeps it alive!

Events like the Port Oneida Fair, the Path to the Page writing workshop, our Preserve family potluck, and preservation work projects, are all great opportunities to feel the history. At these events you will find regular folks repairing a sill, welcoming visitors in to an historic farmstead, watching oxen mow a field, eating a picnic dinner in the shade of a barn, or sitting quietly at a gravesite that spawns inspiration for creative prose. Yes, it's the sun, the meadows, the blue sky, the animals, the people, the camaraderie, the accomplishment of a hammer swinging on a building project; it is the experience of the barns, the cleared fields and the fence posts that give our mission its context. What we seek to protect is our ability to poke in the barn, sit on the porch, and peer through the hollowed out trunk of an historic apple tree. Hopefully, these experiences help us to feel the value of these things that have endured through time, elements and social change. As a supporter of Preserve, you value these symbols of our past. So come join us for one of these programs next year and explore the connection. Then share with others why these structures and landscapes are important to you.

Photo credit: Aubrieta Hope
Path to Page participant

Programs *Watch our website for details!*

- *The Port Oneida Fair*—hosted by the National Park Service annually in early August at several historic farmsteads. A great time for the entire family showcasing crafts, skills and traditions of the late 1800's –early 1900's.
- *Path to Page*—a one day workshop combining writing and hiking using the interpretive history of selected historic sites as the basis for creative writing.
- *Annual Preserve Potluck*—held in July, a great time to meet and mingle with others who support us. A summer evening of good food and friends on the Olsen farm.



A Visitor Writes

"Friends—Visiting the Port Oneida historic farm district during our visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was one of our highlights. Wandering amongst the old farms added another dimension to our trip. The viewscapes were marvelous but it was the immense quietude of these old working farms that seemed most moving. We loved eating apples, using the outhouse, and sitting on the front porches throughout the district. One of your warm and friendly volunteers greeted us at one of the farms and helped illuminate the history further. We applaud your efforts to preserve these structures and the stories they tell."

Peace, Jeff Hoagland

Although the number of needed projects sometimes seems overwhelming, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore continues to make progress on historic preservation in the park. Most notable in 2006 were the many partnership and volunteer projects and the clearing of acres of historic fields in Port Oneida. The work season started out with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear working at the Martin Basch farm, Olsen farm and Boekeloo cabin (see story on page 1). Park and partner volunteers continued to assist in historic preservation throughout the park. Volunteers from the Glen Arbor Art



Field cleared—Kelderhouse farmstead

Association prepared the interior of the Thoreson farmhouse for installation of a new sill between the kitchen and back room. Manitou Island Memorial Society volunteers completed restoration of the interior of the South Manitou Island (SMI) schoolhouse and repaired fencing around the SMI cemeteries. The Huron Valley Sierra Club came to North Manitou Island for the eighteenth year in a row! This year, they cleared juniper from gravestones in the historic island cemetery, helping to prepare for a burial for one of the families associated with the island. Park volunteers repaired the roof on the Bufka smokehouse, finished the work Shielding Tree Nature Center started on the Lawr chicken coop, and repaired and restored the Johnson privy in the village on SMI. Other volunteer efforts helped park staff reset the Bufka privy on its foundation and repair the Peter Burfiend granary in Port Oneida.

LAKESHORE WORKS WITH P

The park hosted the 10th annual Michigan Barn Preservation Network workshop at the Ole Olsen barn in Port Oneida. Working with park staff, participants helped to repair the failing stone masonry foundation and bay floors, and replace deteriorated center posts. This workshop series has helped the Lakeshore maintain historic structures while also training the public in traditional building skills. A similar partnership continued with the Leelanau Conservation District, Michigan State University Horticultural Station, and the Leelanau Master Gardener Program in presenting a tree pruning workshop in May at the Miller orchard in Port Oneida.



Ole Olsen Barn Workshop

The Lakeshore's Buildings and Utilities crew rehabilitated the Esch house south of Empire. The work at Esch included replacing deteriorated sills, repairing the stone foundation, installing utilities and windows, and a fresh coat of paint. This work was accomplished to prepare the house for adaptive use as park housing, and it looks great! In Port Oneida, this skilled group of craftsmen transformed the appearance of the Kelderhouse farmhouse by replacing siding and the roof, re-sided the Dechow and Peter Burfiend granaries, roofed the Peter Burfiend farmhouse, and upgraded utilities in the adaptively used Dechow farmhouse. Elsewhere, they put a new roof on the Eitzen farmhouse on Townline Road, and

THE NEED IS GREAT!—PRESERVE'S ROLE CLEAR WITH FEDERAL DEFICIT

Make no mistake, with the federal budget in the red and no immediate turn around in sight, funding for our National Parks is in danger. The cost of maintenance back logs were cited a few years ago at \$4.9 billion. All of our parks are in desperate need of funds for maintenance, safety, programs, and preservation of natural and cultural resources. Over 260 million people visited National Parks throughout the country last year, and with visitation on the rise, it's obvious that people value these special places of beauty, culture and recreation. Clearly there is a need to identify additional funding sources.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear applauds the efforts of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for allocating a portion of their limited resources to saving the historic buildings in Sleeping Bear. In 1998 when Preserve was formed, the park agreed to expand the scope of historic resources they would attempt to save, provided they received help from partners like Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. We need your help to keep our promise and step up our assistance. Preserve Historic Sleeping

Bear's mission has not changed since its inception. Dozens of farm and maritime buildings continue to need our help before time takes their toll. Our role is to provide crucial financial and volunteer support that enables us to:

- **Quicken the *pace*** of preservation in the SBDNL
- **Expand the *scope*** of a specific project where SBDNL has funds but can only accomplish part of the project
- **Work** on projects that the Park has no funding for
- **Collaborate** with other partners to best utilize resources

In recent years the National Park Service has emphasized the value and necessity of partnerships in contributing to the park's ability to provide a quality experience and save our nation's heritage. The National Park Service's Cultural Resources Strategic Plan calls for greater collaborations with partners in order to meet these goals. Now more than ever, we need your commitment to continue the work of the last six years. Time is not on our side—we hope that you are.

PARTNERS IN FIGHT TO SAVE AREA HISTORY

repaired window frames on the North Manitou Island U.S. Life-Saving Service crew ready room. Finally, this year the crew found time to complete numerous smaller preventive maintenance projects to keep historic structures stable while they await more complete rehabilitation.

A significant new project this year was the work accomplished by the Lakeshore's Roads and Trails crew to clear historic farm fields in the cultural landscape of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. The crew worked long hours in the heat of summer to cut and pull trees and shrubs that were encroaching on the historic fields of the Kelderhouse, Peter Burfiend, and Lawr farms, improving their appearance dramatically! Highly invasive, non-native black locust trees were cut and used to make and install posts along the historic fence row locations in the newly cleared fields. In another non-traditional historic preservation project, Lakeshore volunteers and maintenance staff were in Glen Haven to begin the rehabilitation of the Fish Tug *Aloha*. New decking, framing, and sheet metal were installed to stabilize and repair this vessel, with phase two of this project scheduled to occur next season.

The 2007 fiscal year is shaping up to be a financially difficult one



Peter Burfiend granary before (l) and after (r)

projects. Although we have been fairly successful at piecing together a historic preservation program, help from partners like Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is needed more than ever. Just as one example, the Lakeshore had been scheduled to receive money for stabilization, rehabilitation and field clearing in Port Oneida. Because of the federal budget deficit, this project has been cut from the National Park Service five-year plan. The planning for the project is nearly complete, but without assistance from people who care about the history of the area, it is

possible that some of the targeted buildings may be lost. Anyone interested in Port Oneida or other historic sites within the Lakeshore should contact **Preserve** or the park to find out how they can contribute to the preservation of these important places.

The work that the park and its partners were able to accomplish in 2006 was substantial and will last well into the future. We encourage everyone to visit these historic places and let the buildings and landscapes tell you their stories. We are pleased to continue to partner with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, and are looking forward to working together into the future to preserve and interpret the many significant cultural resources of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Dusty Shultz,
Superintendent



On the front porch of the Olsen house, from left:
Dusty Shultz, Park Superintendent; Susan Pocklington, Associate Director;
Robynn James, Executive Director; Senator Carl Levin

Levin Encourages Work to Carry On

Senator Carl Levin made a stop at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore last June during a visit to northern Michigan. Dusty Shultz, Superintendent of the National Lakeshore invited the Senator to meet with the staff of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear during his tour of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

Executive Director Robynn James, and Associate Director Susan Pocklington, shared the progress that *Preserve*, the park and other partners have made in the on-going historic preservation effort. The Senator, though impressed with the progress, expressed concern about the magnitude of the work yet to be done given the deficit of the federal budget. Levin has shown his support over the years for saving this legacy in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and we are pleased to witness his continued interest.

OTHER WORTHY NEWS

WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING!

Check it out at www.phsb.org

We are excited to announce that our website is up and running! We are confident that more people will learn about Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear on the web. The site will help us to recruit volunteers who can sign up for projects and other tasks, and an online donation capability will be available after the first of the year. Visitors to the site will find maps of all the historic areas in the Park for exploring. We are in an on-going process of adding the history of each area as well. Leelanau communications of Leland developed the site, with design by Preserve's Associate Director, Susan Pocklington.



Partial funding was made possible by the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

HATS OFF TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Charles and Hattie Olsen farmhouse, home of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear welcomes visitors into the restored house to learn more about history in the park and to get a peek inside this well-known historic icon. Our gracious volunteer docents help us keep our doors open to these visitors. We could not offer educational activities at the Olsen farm during the Port Oneida fair, accomplish work projects or a number of other small and big tasks without people that sign up, show up and make it happen! We wish to extend our sincere thanks to these people that have served to help Preserve progress and grow.

Docents:

Chris Armbrecht
Mary Crane
Janet Force
Betty and Gil Ives
Bonnie and Dick Kay
Paula Leinbach
Nadine Leonard
Nancy & Bud Olsen
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Work Projects:

Bob Ball
David Boekeloo



Stuart Boekeloo
Trisha Denton
Sean Duperron
Kima Krammer
Marilyn Maslo
Ken Richmond
Jim Ristine
Roger Russo
Steve and Jan Schenek
Nancy Simmons
Tom VanZoeren

New Donor Software!

Many thanks to Rotary Charities of Traverse City for funding the purchase of new donor software to assist Preserve in keeping track of the donations and volunteer help of our friends. The volunteer component will help us organize volunteers for work projects which is central to our mission. We are looking forward to serving you better and more efficiently thanks to this enhancement of donor services!

General Management Plan/Wilderness Study

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is in the process of developing a new General Management Plan that will guide the Park for years to come. After hosting public workshops in June and offering a period for public comment, the Lakeshore has recently released Newsletter 3 which incorporates these comments and identifies draft management zones and management concepts. Public comment on these drafts can be made now using the GMPS/WS link on the homepage of the Park's website—www.nps.gov/slbe. The next step will be to develop management alternatives to be presented to the public in May of 2007.

As with the Park's previous attempt to develop a General Management Plan which was eventually halted, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear will again actively engage in the review and comment of proposed alternatives. Our primary focus is how cultural resources will fare in the plan according to boundaries and zones created that determine how these resources may be preserved and utilized. Our website will update this information as it becomes available.

YOU ARE NEEDED!

Join our volunteer team

With a new exhibit on the way in May and an expanded line-up of work projects in the coming year, we are on a campaign for recruiting new volunteers to help us. Check out our website at www.phsb.org for more specific descriptions and to sign up!

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Preserving the historic
structures and cultural
landscapes in Sleeping
Bear Dunes National
Lakeshore



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story that needs to be told,” Robynn muses. “Preserve has an exciting mission and I am looking forward to reaching out to local folks and visitors to get them interested and involved in saving these wonderful cultural icons.”

When Robynn was 11 years old her mother married the former manager of Frigid Foods in Suttons Bay, where the family still has a home. She says she has witnessed the decline of the agricultural base that once formed the backbone of the local economy. “Back when I was a kid, no one paid much attention to old farms,” she remembers, “because there were so many working farms still producing. Now that’s all changed, and many of the once beautiful and productive farmsteads have been paved over or developed as condos or residential developments. One day, not too long from now, kids may not even know what a barn looks like. That’s why it’s so important for us to make sure the history of our farming ancestors is given the care and preservation that they deserve.”

Currently, Robynn lives in Williamsburg with her husband, the artist Rufus Snoddy, and her children Maya, Alex and James. She says she’s looking forward to getting to know Preserve’s supporters, and welcomes you to call her at her office at the Olsen House at (231) 334-6103, or stop in during office visits year-round, Tuesday through Thursday.

Great Holiday Gift!



Local artist Mary Fuscaldo has donated artwork to help Preserve. These pastel prints are a signed, limited edition of giclee reproductions on 100% archival quality

cotton rag Arches watercolor paper. Prints are 13 1/2 x 10 1/2 Price: \$105 includes shipping. Send checks payable to: Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, P.O. Box 453, Empire, MI 49630. Specify your print selection when ordering.

PRESERVE HISTORIC SLEEPING BEAR

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