

THE CLAPBOARD

Fall 2005

Preserve Saves Buildings & Landscapes

What Was Actually Done? The Nuts & Bolts

This past summer was a busy one for Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear who initiated, funded, directly worked on and/or coordinated the completion of several preservation projects. We were also pleased to secure partnership assistance from a variety of groups and generous donors in accomplishing our project goals. All projects were planned and implemented to meet appropriate historic standards. Existing material was used when salvageable, lumber was specially milled and some historic material was donated from earlier salvage of historic farm buildings.



John Currin of Burbank, California traveled hundreds of miles to volunteer on the Martin Basch Granary project

(Right- Charles and Hattie Olsen Root Cellar before reconstruction)

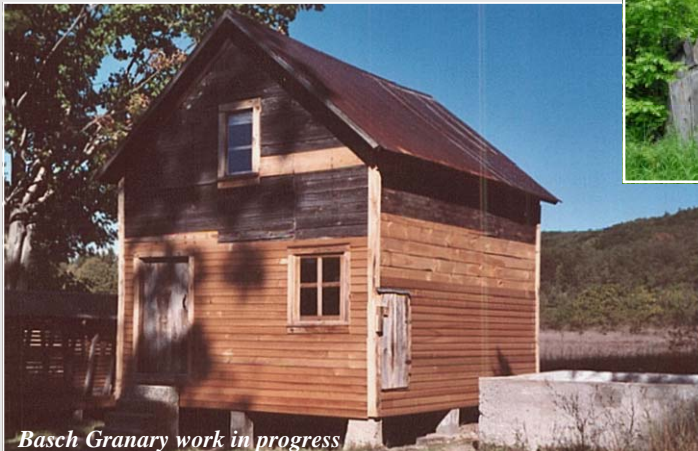


Hutzler Historic Field

Cleared hundreds of invasive trees and bushes over approximately 20 acres; trimmed some remaining orchard specimens; expanded cleared area up to and surrounding Hutzler cemetery and chicken coop; piled the debris in large piles for eventual burning under fire management plan. (see pics on page 3)

Martin Basch Granary

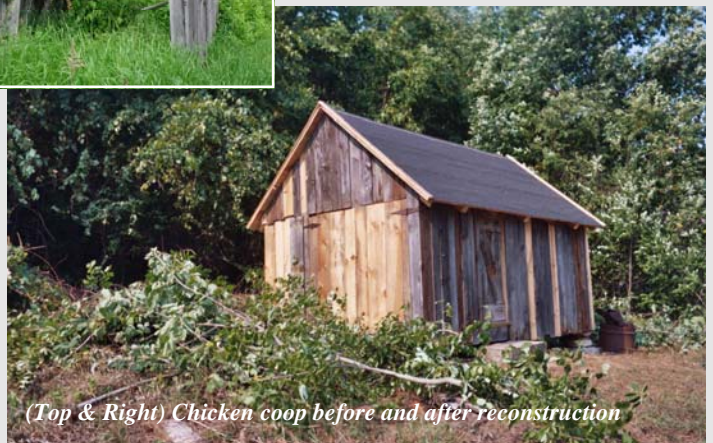
Replaced a rotted 8"x8"x22' hemlock sill, deteriorated 1" floor boards, rotted 16' pine rafter logs, and 1" pine building sheathing; repaired and reinstalled existing windows and wood plank doors.



Basch Granary work in progress

Hutzler Chicken Coop

Building was disassembled, salvaged all viable material; constructed new stone foundation; building reassembled on new foundation using existing and appropriate new material made of black locust, hemlock and pine.



(Top & Right) Chicken coop before and after reconstruction

Olsen Root Cellar

Disassembled remaining structure, dug out area and debris, salvaged all viable material – front gable, the door and parts of retaining wall; building was reassembled using existing and appropriate new material, such as 6"x6" hemlock timbers, 2"x8" framing lumber, and 1x random gambrel ends roof decking.

August Beck Farmstead

Cleared ten-foot area, surrounding farmhouse, to provide room for Manitou Island Memorial Society work team to conduct stabilization project.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

Work Project Partners, Grantors, Donors and Volunteers

All projects were funded in part by:

Michigan Department of History, Arts & Libraries through the Michigan Historical Center

All projects were coordinated with, and received in-kind donations from:

MARTIN BASCH GRANARY

Additional Donor Funding:

*Martin Basch Farmstead/David Seitz
Memorial Fund*

Partners:

Michigan Barn Preservation Network

Volunteers:

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Girl Scout Troop #89 & #555
Dennis Harrand
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Kima Kraimer
Ken Lardie
Pete Lewis
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Eric Neisen
Harold & Gloria Osgood
Susan Pocklington
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Patti Rudolph
Thomas Snyder
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David Weed*

In-Kind Donations:

Jeff Reinhardt



Volunteers take a lunch break during S. Manitou Project

OLSEN ROOT CELLAR

Volunteers:

*John & Jayne Bull
Eric Neisen
Ken Richmond
Jim Ristine*

SOUTH MANITOU INITIATIVE

Additional Donor Funding:

Manitou Island Memorial Society

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*Carlson Fisheries
Eastern Mountain Sports
Home Depot
Kima Kraimer
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Meijer
Ken Richmond
Sara Lee
Stonehouse Bread*

Hutzler Coop Volunteers:

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Gray Carlson
Eric Neisen
Ken Richmond
Jim Ristine
David Weed*

Hutzler Field Clearing Volunteers:

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Bob Kruch
Joe Kruch
Michael Matts
Matt Selby
Todd Ciolek/Cherry Republic
Jason Homa/Cherry Republic
Bob Sutherland/Cherry Republic*

y o u m a d e i t h a p p e n !

Group helps ‘make a difference’ on S. Manitou

“Doesn’t take long before the woods and the wilds will totally take over an area, and we want to stop that from happening, so one of the things we do as volunteers is to clear and sometimes mow a field. It just helps bring back the original cultural landscape.”

By Jolynn Paige
Of The Enterprise staff

[Reprint -An abridged version]

Volunteers with the group Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear are the kind of people who get excited about restoring buildings and landscapes that few people know exist.

Take, for example, a decaying 150-year-old chicken coop – part of the Hutzler homestead on South Manitou Island. Or the Hutzler root cellar. Or one of the many old farmhouses or barns — on the mainland and on the island — that are scattered throughout the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Park.

One of those volunteers is Ken Richmond, a Traverse City architect and tireless cheerleader for preservation projects. He’s a board member of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, a non-profit organization that exists to help preserve and reuse some of the buildings and cultural landscapes in the park.

“Our goal is to restore these buildings to as close to their original condition as we can,” Richmond said. “This past month we were able to go to South Manitou Island where we fixed up an old chicken coop and we cleared a huge field of trees.”

Richmond said the group is interested not only in preserving the buildings around the park, but also in what they call “the cultural landscape,” which means they want to prevent nature from encroaching on the untilled farm fields of many years ago. “It doesn’t take long

before the woods and the wilds will totally take over an area, and we want to stop that from happening, so one of the things we do as volunteers is to clear and sometimes mow a field. It just helps bring back the original cultural landscape,” he said.

For about a week in September, first one group and then another, took the Manitou Island transit ferry to South Manitou, where volunteers committed themselves to spending a few days working on projects.

The Park Service provided housing for workers, so they were able to stay on the island for several days. “I felt guilty because it was just too great. The weather was perfect, and we had perfect company. I feel really good about doing this work because I feel like I can make a difference,” said Richmond. “A group of employees from the Cherry Republic also came together to help out – a neat concept, don’t you think?” he asked. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear has been around since the late 1990s, and has had what Richmond calls an evolving relationship with the national park. “There was a time when this group and the park people were adversaries,” said Richmond. “But that time is over. We are now in a really cooperative arrangement with each

other, which has meant we’ve been able to get a whole lot done.”

On Oct. 21, 1970 Congress gave the go-ahead to take public ownership of private lands to protect the unique ecosystem of the dunes. Some of those lands included farmsteads, but the park’s plan had not included maintaining or preserving those buildings. A grass-roots effort was begun by several individuals who were distraught that the park was either tearing down the original farmsteads, or decided to let nature have its way with them. Members wrote letters, attended meetings, and made phone calls that all resulted in the current arrangement the group has with the park. The model — a non-profit agency working with a national park to help achieve common goals — has attracted some interest from other communities that border national parks.

“We are a group of volunteers, and we are a non-profit organization. We don’t get funds from the park, but we do work with them. For example we may need a certain kind of timber for a structure that they may have, and they’ll let us have it. We also work with them on coordinating educational programs for the public. It’s taken some time to learn the in-and-outs of working with the park, but we’re getting there, and things are really working out great,” said Richmond. Richmond stressed how critical it was that there were some key supporters of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear within the administrative structure of the Na-

tional Park Service. Members of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear invite the public to join in their efforts. They’re looking for people who are willing to be on their board, to help raise money, and to work on projects. Call 334-6103.



Replacing the roof rafters on Hutzler Coop



Loading cut brush into wagon



Joe Kruch cuts down young growth with brush hog

Lakeshore Partners with Groups to Save Historic Resources

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore continues to chip away at the long list of projects needed to preserve historic resources in the park. In fiscal year 2005, this work was carried out by park maintenance crews and a variety of partner groups in Port Oneida, Glen Haven, near Empire, and on both Manitou Islands.

Projects completed by the park's skilled carpenters and masons included tuck-pointing and painting the 100-foot-tall South Manitou Island Lighthouse Tower, completing rehabilitation of the old Glen Haven Paint Shop as a garage for the Day House, restoring a couple of outbuildings in Cottage Row on North Manitou Island, and stabilizing the Esch House south of Empire.

To work on the Lighthouse, park crews dangled nearly a hundred feet in the air in a "Sky Climber" work cage while they painstakingly chipped away and replaced eroded mortar.

The fresh coat of paint they added makes the white tower shine and contrasts with the glossy black of the lantern room at the top. Work was begun on the Esch House to adaptively use it as park housing. The first steps completed were replacing deteriorated roofing, sills, and siding, and installing a new well and septic. Crews are now working on rehabilitating the interior of the house. Also near Empire, park carpenters secured the floor and exterior of the Treat Farmhouse to prevent animal entry, using a donation from the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Partner projects included stabilization of the Martin Basch Granary, located on Baker Road in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (*Preserve*) funded this project, which marked the 9th annual Michigan Barn Preservation Network public workshop in the park. This workshop series helps the Lakeshore maintain historic structures while training the public in traditional building skills. Donations from *Preserve's* Martin Basch Farmstead Fund were used to match a Michigan Historical Center (MHC) grant to replace sill logs and siding in the granary. After the workshop, students with the Michigan Works employment program helped *Preserve* and Lakeshore volunteers to repair floors, windows, and doors. *Preserve* also used the MHC grant to help fund their ten-day volunteer project on South Manitou Island, restoring a farm shed and cutting and clearing shrubs from the cultural landscape at the George Conrad Hutzler Farm.

Other partner projects included cemetery clearing by the Ann

Arbor Sierra Club and the Manitou Islands Memorial Society (MIMS) on North and South Manitou Islands, respectively. Also on South Manitou, MIMS restored the Harrison Haas Shed, roofed part of the Beck Lodge, and hung drywall to restore the interior of the Schoolhouse.

Volunteers from the Glen Arbor Art Association (GAAA) rehabilitated the Thoreson Barn by installing a wooden floor, building stairs to the loft, and installing lift-out panels that provide additional lighting into one bay without compromising the historic integrity of the barn. GAAA also installed a new well casing and septic field to provide water and restrooms at the farm.

Using the same techniques that started the successful barn workshops, the park developed a partnership with the Leelanau Conservation District, Michigan State University Horticultural Station, and the Leelanau Master Gardener Program, and held a public workshop on apple tree pruning in Port Oneida. Sixty-five people attended the April workshop, which improved trees at the Kelderhouse and Lawr farms, as well as the Schoolhouse. The success of this workshop prompted planning for another in April 2006.



Bill Love, David Chew, & Lewis King work on the Esch House roof

The Port Oneida Fair again showcased the Rural Historic District, and the rich human history it holds. The Fair, sponsored by the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, was attended by a record 4,500 visitors. In addition to the many historic and artistic demonstrations presented, *Preserve* restored the Charles Olsen Root Cellar behind the house, showing visitors the sort of work projects that partner groups can accomplish. The Michigan Humanities Council has again awarded a grant to help fund the 2006 Fair.

These successful projects have preserved significant historic resources for the enjoyment of park visitors and many show how partner projects can extend federal dollars. We are pleased to continue our partnerships and look forward to working together in the future to preserve and interpret the many significant cultural resources of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Preserve Offers Interpretive Experiences

Port Oneida Fair



The Port Oneida Fair is a wonderful educational event for the entire family. Visitors experience a taste of history that abounds in the Lakeshore during this annual two-day cultural celebration.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear co-sponsors the Fair with seven other partners and the Lakeshore, planning over 100 demonstrations of traditional skills and crafts.



Thanks to presenters at the Olsen farm—Nancy Gerould/soapmaking, Howard Cain/buttermaking, Chuck Kruch/"Pioneers of Port Oneida" interpretive talk and Tom Mounts/cider press. Mark your calendar for next year's Fair on Friday and Saturday, August 4 & 5 !

Exhibit/Website Moves Ahead

Plans for our new **cultural interpretive exhibit** took a major step forward last summer. Preserve's staff, a combination of current and former board members, along with key Park personnel convened with Main Street Design's Michael Mercandante for an exhibit design charrette at the Olsen House. Representing the park was Chief of Interpretation & Visitor Services, Lisa Myers, Historic Architect, Kim Mann, Interpretive Ranger, Bill Herd, and Ranger Tom VanZoren, all of whom offer valuable experience and knowledge about the cultural resources within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The objective over the two-day design spree was to develop a rough draft for a permanent exhibit in the Olsen house. The group identified and prioritized key interpretive concepts to be communicated in the space available. Mercandante, and board member and architect, Ken Richmond, then spent hours over the weekend in the Olsen house, developing a design draft around those concepts, including some very creative ways of interpreting this cultural heritage. The complete project will require more funds than are available, so it is anticipated that the exhibit project will be implemented in stages.

Preserve is also working together with Leelanau Communications(LCI) to design a highly functional and informative **website**. An outline and website concept were submitted to (LCI) who is using their technology and experience to develop a comprehensive and in-depth site. Highlights include navigation maps and preservation status of the historic buildings & landscapes. We hope to have the website up and running by the end of January. Check it out then: www.phsb.org

Current funding for the exhibit and website has been made available in part by the Michigan Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Path to the Page

By Marcy Branski

In August, 2004, I attended Preserve's first "From Path to Page" workshop led by Anne-Marie Oomen, writer and chair of the creative writing program at Interlochen Arts Academy. Dressed for hiking and bearing notebooks, our group began the walk through some of the farmlands, and former homesteads, including cemeteries, to learn in a one-day session what we could about the individuals and families whose lives left their imprint on the beautiful and formidable landscape. There was no assignment. As we listened to histories, and spied old fence posts, long forgotten apple trees, or the pair of

pinus that once framed a house no longer behind them, we jotted notes, or in the case of one woman, sketched the reminders of bygone years. I, for one, wrote as fast as I could at each spot, because I knew the explanations would be lost to me after I left, so many piled upon one another.

With notes in hand, while we waited for lunch, I thought about the Miller barn defying the laws of physics and lakeshore winters, standing at the end of the cow path, beyond fence posts, and gnarled trees, and a story of an owl, who might make that barn his home, found its way from the path to my page.

(Continued on page 6)

Thanks to Greeters

With the help of our volunteer greeters, the Olsen House was open every weekend from July—September and during Fall color season. More than 500 curious visitors, interested in the history of the area and our preservation work stopped in to learn from our display, informational video, and to look at the restoration work on the Olsen house. Many thanks to our greeters—Chris Armbricht, Bonnie Kay, Paula Leinbach, Nancy Olsen, Dorie Price, Betty Rhoades, Barbara Sander, Carol Schleuter, Charlotte Smith, Linda Stevenson and Jill Webb. Also, to Lora MacDonald for her help in the office.

Members Gather for First Annual Potluck



Connecting with members is important to us. Our first annual potluck brought together about 40 of our supporters and friends for good food, conversation, sharing of Preserve's summer project plans and an opportunity to give input into the planning stage of our new exhibit. It was a beautiful summer evening to enjoy the grounds of the Olsen farm. We hope you'll join us next year. Watch for the date in our spring newsletter.



(Continued from page 5)

When I got home, I closed my eyes and saw, once again, the Manitou Islands, humps of land in Lake Michigan, that had played a big part in the lives of the early settlers, and the poem, "Lookout Point" began to push its way onto my journal.



Participants check out the view at Lookout Point

I've returned to walk the same path on three more occasions, each time bringing new friends, and delighting both in their reactions to the historic area and in my own ability to discover something new with each visit. I don't know if it was the exercise, the old buildings, the soft veil of rain, or the spirits of the families that spoke to me during the workshop, but my pen moved of its own volition from my pocket to the page, and I believe that when I tread the path again, I may see an owl cruise silently overhead on his way home from the hunt, back to the Miller Barn.

Path to the Page is an annual educational program designed to present interpretive history of the area through creative writing based upon historical facts.

Marcy Branski is a local award winning writer.

Lookout Point

(Part of the Bayview trail within the Port Oneida Rural Historic District)

mowed for hikers
a bench to rest
a place to look
a way to see
to see the islands
that welcomed immigrants
of long ago

a place to discern
changes in the sky
clouds that puff up pewter
then give way to azure
a place for breezes
that murmur secrets
of long ago

cleared of forest
that bane of settlers
enemy of farmers
view of the lake
deep indigo in steady motion
carrier of schooners
from long ago

rescued for me
and for my heirs
modern day saviors
sit inside walls
work at computers to
preserve the treasures
of long ago

Marcy Branski ©2004

FAQ ABOUT PRESERVE

What is Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear?

Launched in 1998, Preserve is a nationwide model of an historic preservation partnership with a national park.

What is your mission?

To protect, stabilize, restore and preserve the historic structures and cultural landscapes of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Where are you located?

We are headquartered in the restored historic Charles and Hattie Olsen House on Michigan Highway (M-22) just north of Glen Arbor in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

How many structures are included in the Lakeshore?

More than 360 historic structures are located within the park boundaries. One of the most prized historic landscapes in the nation, the Port Oneida Rural Historic District is nestled here. This 19th century farming community is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Explain your partnership with the National Park Service (NPS)?

We are an active partner with the NPS in safeguarding the historic structures and landscapes within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. As a government entity, NPS is unable to raise funds

(Continued on page 8)

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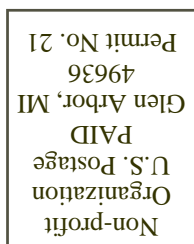
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PRESERVE HISTORIC SLEEPING BEAR

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WAYS TO GIVE

Membership and Donations

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear depends upon the financial support of its members and donors. We are a 501 C 3 tax exempt organization.

Memorials

A wonderful way to honor the memory of a friend or relative. A card will be sent to the family of the individual for whom the donation was made and is also noted in the newsletter.

In-Kind Gifts & Services

Donate office furniture; building materials & equipment for projects, including hammers, saws, a tractor and trailer; your painting or photograph of the Lakeshore's historic buildings or landscapes for our annual art auction.

Matching Employer Gifts

Take advantage of your employer's matching program to increase the impact of your gift.

Volunteer

We hope you will consider getting involved and meet others who share your love of these historic landmarks.

- ☐ Office Help (mailing, etc.)
☐ Special Events (planning committees and during event)
☐ Docents (greeting visitors at the Olsen House)
☐ Work Projects 2006 Please send me information
☐ In Kind Services
☐ Builder to supervise work projects ☐ Computer guru
☐ Caterer ☐ Accountant ☐ Attorney ☐ Other

Check your interest and include this form in the enclosed envelope.

FAQ's About Preserve *(continued from page 6)*

for historic preservation. A special report to the President of the United States entitled, Preserving Historic Structures in the National Park System, recommended, "Cooperative agreements and other partnership agreements to help with the maintenance backlog found in the National Park System." Thus, Preserve's valuable role is clear.

Do you overlap with other organizations?

Preserve is the only organization that partners with the NPS specifically to save historic structures and cultural landscapes throughout the Lakeshore. Other organizations have either a much more general focus or have interest only in specific sites. These other groups also serve a purpose, as the overall need far outstrips the capacity of our organization and the NPS. In fact, Preserve often works directly with these groups to accomplish our mission when it does overlap with theirs.

How are you funded?

As a 501(c)(3) organization, our funding comes from individual gifts and foundation grants. We are **not** funded by the National Park Service.

How can I become involved?

You can join our team of volunteers. You can become a member by making a contribution in support of our mission. You can help underwrite a preservation project. You can help sponsor educational events and activities.