

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Helping to Preserve the historic structures and cultural landscapes of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

THE CLAPBOARD

Fall 2007

Preserving Our History—A Season of Success

Saving the history and telling the story—this sums up well the activity of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and our work this past year. Thanks to grantors and volunteers, we were able to preserve several historic structures and continue to develop interpretive venues for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Funding from the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation allowed us to accomplish eight ambitious preservation projects throughout the Park. Our projects this year took us into Port Oneida, North Manitou Island, the southern end of the Park near Platte River, and kept us right at home as we finished up some long-standing needs at the Olsen Farm.

Olsen Barn Floor and Timber Support

It seemed like a fairly simple project to add a new layer of rough sawn white pine flooring to the south bay of the Olsen barn. But first we had to solve the problem of uneven and unstable flooring that was preventing visitor access to that area. Len Allgaier, board member and retired engineer, proposed replacing support timbers for underlying stability. The Park's historical architect, Kim Mann provided some old barn timbers from the Park and from there Len's work was a test of strength and perseverance.

The Traverse City Youth Corps, a new volunteer group working with the Park, offered Len six teenagers to help with this heavy-lifting prep work before the volunteer workshop in July. The Corps helped him raise and level the barn floor with posts and beams, while learning how to shim, use a laser, and set footers. Len says, "This project was really exciting for these kids. They were enthusiastic about building something and finishing it. They don't usually get to do something this complex." In addition, the teens were on-hand to watch and help with milling boards for the floor from trees that had been felled during a restoration project in the Park. Finally, a laser test for floor evenness proved successful and Preserve's volunteers went to work on July 14 & 15 to lay the flooring and trim, repair



Len Allgaier (left) helps mill trees for the Olsen barn floor

the stairs, and rebuild the rear shed door, under the supervision of board member and builder, Jim Ristine. Volunteers like Gray Carlson came from as far as Indiana to help—his second Preserve project.



Olsen House Ramp

Our July work project also included building a ramp off the back of the Olsen house for public accessibility to our restrooms and exhibits. The unobtrusive ramp, made of recycled materials, was completed by a great crew of volunteers.

At the end of the day there was a satisfying feeling as we held our annual potluck in the barn on the new floor with sawhorses turned into tables and work lights turned into mood lighting. The cooperative spirit between partners was applauded. Old timers took away small pieces of fragrant freshly cut pine as souvenirs. One of our volunteers remarked how a similar spirit of working together and celebrating worthy accomplishment was what put those structures there originally. We hope to continue that spirit.



A Message From Our New Director

*Acting Director since February,
Susan Pocklington, was appointed
Director in September*

Seven and a half years ago I found the perfect job—all for selfish reasons really. It fulfilled my desire to return to northern Michigan where I had previously lived and worked for several years; to have a short, but beautiful commute; to live nearer to family members; to utilize for a good cause the professional experience I had gained; and, most importantly, to engage in one of my passions—saving historic places from demolition, deterioration or development. But, I have always believed that your passion should be your work. It ultimately brings more blessings to all involved. Today, after serving as Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear's Administrative Coordinator, Associate Director and Acting Director, I remain just as impassioned to help serve this beautiful National Park in preserving its extraordinary historic legacy through the Park's non-profit partner Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear.

I believe that it is all too easy to fall prey to what I call the backyard syndrome—where we take for granted the unique features or beauty that surrounds us. For example, I knew someone who lived near the Eiffel tower but had never been to the top! Sometimes it's only through imagining what something would look like if it were gone that we cherish and take advantage of what we have. It often takes a game of "just imagine" to cure indifference. So, just imagine condos along our shoreline. Just imagine "No Trespassing" signs all over 72,000 acres of Leelanau and Benzie counties. Just imagine what this area would look like if the Park had never been established. What if you and your grandchildren no longer had the opportunity to poke your heads into a 120 year old barn to marvel at the craftsmanship, or see where the surfmen launched their rescue boats?

If you are still asking yourself, "How does saving or losing these historic places impact my life? Why bother?" Preserve can help you answer these questions. This coming year Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear will be ten years old. I look forward to beginning our strategic planning, setting campaign goals, expanding our scope of preservation projects, completing our interpretive exhibit, encouraging greater community participation, and challenging all of us to think on a much larger scale as to how to get this job done. I welcome your participation and help as we move into a new chapter in our role as a Park partner.

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LEN ALLGAIER is a retired General Motors executive with leadership and strategic experience in advanced product and manufacturing engineering. He founded or co-founded four State and National collaborative organizations including the Lakes Council of West Bloomfield and the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences. Len and his wife Gwen, a psychologist, have five grown children and live on Little Traverse lake. He designed and built three of his own homes, skills PHSB has already called upon.



JIM FUSCALDO of Cedar, has degrees in pharmacy and law. He is a retired attorney for Dow Chemical Corporation where he practiced general business, international, food and drug, and trademark and copyright law. His wife Mary is a free-lance artist specializing in pastels. Jim enjoys wild grass gardening, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Together they have three grown sons. Jim remarks, "I have a desire to participate in preserving the heritage and culture of Leelanau County."

JERRY MACK grew up on his family farm, where he developed a passion for historic preservation and a sense of stewardship for preserving our heritage. Jerry's wife Gale is related to families in the Port Oneida Historic District (Olsen, Burfiend, Brammer, Kelderhouse) and is a great granddaughter of the Olsens. From Newaygo, MI, Jerry holds degrees in history, environmental science, and theology and operates an antique business. An educator, minister, administrator, fund raiser, and businessman, Jerry brings many experiences to the board of Preserve.



DAVID WATT taught high school physics for several years. Previously, he taught engineering management at the University of North Dakota and was a consultant for management development training. Currently, he helps his wife, Becky Thatcher, with her business, enjoys racquetball, sailing, and his family—daughter Meggen, son Morgan and his family, and step-son, Devin. David lives in Glen Arbor and values the many opportunities to hike the dunes of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

PHSB Volunteers Save Burfiend Outbuilding From Collapse

Peter Burfiend

It was a tough call—this little shed at the Peter Burfiend Farm was barely standing. Was there enough original material left of this structure to make it worth saving? This was the Park's call and we feel they made the right decision. Many don't realize that once a building is lost, it is against National Park Service policy to reconstruct it unless there is a compelling need for that particular structure, and there is excellent documentation of its original construction. As a result, reconstruction of buildings in the National Park Service is very rare. This is one of the many reasons for quickening the pace of our work at Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear.



The fact that this structure was still standing,—however tenuously—defined this project as preservation, not reconstruction. Conversations with Assistant Superintendent Tom Ulrich ensured that we understood

the importance of salvaging as much original material as possible. Of the decision to preserve smaller buildings like this shed, Tom said, “The old outbuildings are a big part of what makes the district historically significant, as most farms don’t have these around anymore to tell the story of those early years of subsistence agriculture.” Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear’s volunteer Project Supervisor Jack Boss, and the Park’s Historical Architect Kim Mann assessed the structure carefully. Clearly,



the building next to it that lay on the ground was beyond hope. But this one....well, it was still upright even with most of the roof gone, and had a lot of sound wood in the walls. As with all projects Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear undertakes in the Park, we prepared a project proposal outlining the scope of work, supplies needed, safety precautions, and, perhaps most important, who is doing the work and providing which resources.

Thirteen Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear volunteers answered the call to come out and help over a gorgeous September weekend. They first carefully dismantled the collapsing portions, removing nails and sorting sound wood, before reassembling. Most new wood was strategically placed where it would be less visible. “Before” photos were taken for reference, to supplement

CAD drawings provided by the Park. The outcome was even better than expected. Under Jack Boss’s supervision, volunteers were able to re-use a good portion of the original material. Feed trays and other clues found in the shed show that this outbuilding had been used as a brooder house.



After restoration



Peter Burfiend chicken shed before restoration

Carsten Burfiend

As we write on this cold November day, dedicated volunteers are working to finish restoration of the Carsten Burfiend Brooder House which also was rated a top priority due to its condition and location in Port Oneida. The foundation, floor, back wall and roof were replaced using new and old materials.

These little sheds will survive to tell their stories. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is working with the Park, and with you, to make sure no other stories are lost.

Why Field Clearing?

Two reasons why Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore supports field clearing:

1. To restore historic agricultural fields.

The farm fields of Port Oneida and South Manitou Island are as much a part of history as the farmhouses they once served. The landscape is part of the story. Too often people focus on the buildings and overlook important features such as fencerows, orchards, or field patterns. It doesn't matter so much if the fields are no longer farmed, any more than it does that most buildings are not occupied. It is very important, however, to keep some of the former farm fields open. Imagine the farmsteads engulfed by forest and how difficult it would be to picture the farm as the settlers saw it. Visitors might even think "I wonder why they never cleared these fields. Maybe they were just harvesting trees." Clearing the fields also keeps open the picturesque views of the farms we all love.

2. To remove invasive and non-native species.

It seems like there's a lot of talk these days about removing invasive species. That's a good thing. Still, people have concerns about removing non-native trees and want to know the facts. So here they are from Park biologist, Ken Hyde: "Invasive species do just that—they invade, they take over. That means other species will lose ground, usually native vegetation. Often, as in the case of black locust, their root systems are very dense and aggressive, spreading rapidly and preventing regeneration of our oaks, maples and birch. They also keep our native wildflowers from growing and promote understories of invasive grasses, forbs, shrubs, and even other non-native trees, like tree-of-heaven." The locust was brought here by pioneer settlers because it grew quickly. They knew that its hard wood was suitable for wagon tongues and fence posts. From a few farmstead trees, the Lakeshore now has over 250 acres of black locust. The Park will maintain a few trees for historic accuracy but hopes to check the spread of invaders elsewhere. After all, the farmers didn't let trees grow in the middle of their hay fields!

More Projects in the Works!

Olsen Barn Ramp Work has begun to repair the Olsen barn ramp wall and apron which was deteriorating from age and water erosion. Volunteers removed loose concrete and power-washed the surface. The contractor then constructed wood forms using old weathered boards spaced 1/4" apart to match the look of the historic wall. The project is a delicate one as we try to match the existing color and texture of the concrete, rather than have it appear too new. We hope the final result will reflect the care that has gone into this project.



Katie Shepherd Hotel As part of the Cottage Row resort colony on North Manitou Island, the Katie Shepherd Hotel was built in 1895 and was one of two hotels that operated on the island. Preserve is using part of the Biederman Foundation grant to purchase materials for repairing the porch decking. We encourage you to explore North Manitou and all of its history.

Window Glazing Susan Theiss and her sister Betty Rhoades are experienced window glazers and volunteered to glaze, prime and paint the Olsen house front windows this Fall. They look great!

KUDOS TO TRAVERSE CITY YOUTH CORPS



TC Youth Corps was a tremendous help to us this summer tackling a variety of projects. Students built forms, poured concrete, removed black locust, dug out sod for landscaping, hauled milled trees and helped restore a barn. We were proud to present a donation of \$400 to support their program. We couldn't have done it without them and are excited about this partnership!

Preserve Collaborates on Miller Barn

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear's Len Allgaier provided timber framing instruction for the Park's 11th annual Barn Workshop sponsored by the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and the Park. It offered an opportunity for the public to learn skills while accomplishing work on the historic Miller Barn in Port Oneida. The focus this year was on repairing and rebuilding barn doors. Join us in 2008!

Proud Of Our Park—Time to Support It

Every year, over one million people step into the spectacular scenery, unique history and abundant recreational opportunities of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. They hike and ski its trails, swim in its fresh waters, play on its beaches, climb its sand dunes, hunt in its forests, and explore its fascinating pioneer and maritime history. Established by Congress in 1970, the Lakeshore protects—like an incredible conservancy—71,000 acres of unspoiled beauty and 64 miles of shoreline for our enjoyment. You can travel the world over and be hard-pressed to find such a rare and rich combination of resources as we have here in Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Our first responsibility is to appreciate what we have. We could be painting a very different visual here in 2007. People need to consider what this place could look like and what their recreational opportunities might be if the Lakeshore had not been established. With development across America resulting in the loss of farmland, shoreline, and open space, we can't over-estimate the impact the Lakeshore has had in preserving what is available for all of us to see and enjoy today. Many resort regions have commercial development that diminishes the enjoyment of the natural beauty and features of the region. But here, no advertising or business blocks the view of our dunes, woods and lakes as you drive through our National Lakeshore.

Local land conservancies are working heroically to preserve land for future generations. Fortunately, the National Park already saved some of the largest and most beautiful acreage for us. Your favorite "up north" resort, retirement dream house, or family cottage on the lake could all be set in a very different environment had the Park not been established. Certainly, having a National Park in our backyard to play in improves our quality of life! Unfortunately, carving out the Park from private lands was not easy for those who were required to move. Our compassion and gratitude goes out to these people, many of whom are still here as our friends and neighbors. But we are also thankful that Congress had the foresight to recognize that this place has such special features that it should be preserved for everyone's enjoyment. This wonderful spot is now owned by all of us, and is open to everyone.

Our responsibility today as joint stewards with the Park is to contribute to preserving these unique natural and cultural resources so that future generations can enjoy them as well. The Parks cultural resources are less known but equally as fascinating as its natural features. Here's a quick tour of some of the Park's cultural history, starting with the islands where the early pioneers first settled. **North Manitou Island** offers a true wilderness experience, yet also boasts a 20th century community including farms, a sawmill, lifesaving station, and Cottage Row – eight cottages and one hotel built in the late 1800s. **South Manitou Island** features

many historic structures illustrating life on the water. The Lighthouse guided ships through the treacherous Manitou Passage. Shipwreck remains are still visible around the island. South Manitou is also significant for its historic farms, maritime contributions and scientific agriculture, as well as some of the largest cedar trees in the world. In the 1800s the village of **Glen Haven** was a stopping point for steamships needing cordwood on their way from Chicago. Following that era, it moved through logging, agriculture, and tourism under the leadership of David Henry Day. Complete with a blacksmith shop, general store, boat house and the Sleeping Bear Inn—much of the village has been restored. The **Port Oneida Rural Historic District**, a collection of 20 farmsteads and a schoolhouse, was a pioneer settlement of agriculture and maritime occupations.

OTHER PARK PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2007

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CREWS

Esch house rehabilitation completed
Eitzen House sills, walls, and windows repaired.
North Unity School log construction walls repaired and siding removed.
Earl Walters House rehabilitated on South Manitou Island.
D.H. Day Log Cabin re-roofed
Fish Tug Aloha new decking, framing and sheet metal rehabilitation work with NPS and volunteers

OTHER PARTNERS

Thoreson farmhouse interior prepared and installed new sills – *Glen Arbor Art Association and NPS*
South Manitou Island (SMI) schoolhouse interior restoration completed with period furnishings – *Manitou Island Memorial Society (MIMS)*
SMI cemeteries fencing repaired - *MIMS*
SMI metal oil shed and storage building painted - *MIMS*
SMI field clearing and fruit tree pruning at August Beck and G.C. Hutzler farms - *MIMS*
SMI Harrison Haas Cottage foundation repaired - *MIMS*
SMI Benth Johnson Privy repaired and painted - *MIMS*
SMI Life-Saving Service grounds cleared of vegetation – *Huron Valley Sierra Club (HVSC)*
SMI Monte Carlo cottage painted - *HVSC*

PARK VOLUNTEERS

Dechow Chicken Coop and Dechow Barn stalls repaired Ole Olsen Barn Mangers rebuilt
Eckhart barns repaired and wood ramps rebuilt
Miller Barn doors and windows repaired; rebuilt deteriorated walls and bay floors; replaced deteriorated support posts

The preservation of all the Park's resources takes more funding than they have. The Park bought the land, and they work hard to preserve it for us, but they can't do it all. Across the country, Park Partners are making a huge difference at each of the 391 parks, raising millions of dollars from their communities to enhance what their Park is able to do to protect these special places. By securing grants, donations and volunteer efforts we too can play a crucial role. In our next issue of the Clapboard we will discuss our partnership with the Lakeshore, and plans to grow into a more powerful organization to protect this incredible gift of Sleeping Bear—a Park we can all be proud of and which welcomes your stewardship.

Meet Some Special Volunteers

We first met the Detzlers at our field clearing event last June. Doug and his wife Margo, celebrating their 33rd anniversary that day, were the first to arrive and the last to



leave. They jumped right in with enthusiasm and confidence as though they had done this kind of work before. Turns out, volunteerism is indeed old hat to the Detzlers. They have a summer cabin in Honor and winter in Greenfield, IN, where they have volunteered

for Habitat for Humanity and other organizations. When they learned about Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear a few years earlier at the Port Oneida Fair, they signed up to help. Margo, a retired fourth grade teacher who always devoted a week to teaching pioneer history at her school, was intrigued. "What caught our attention was that these buildings could be lost," says Margo. "We want to bring history back for our grand kids—make it come alive."

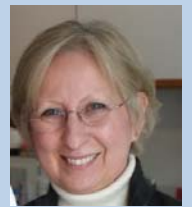
The workbee in June didn't quite finish the job and Margo e-mailed us a week later asking if she and Doug could come back and haul the rest of the black locust trees to the road. "I was amazed at their dedication and desire to see a project to completion," marveled Director, Susan Pocklington. But that was just the beginning. What makes the Detzlers so special is that they participated in not just one, but *three* of Preserve's sponsored volunteer projects in 2007. In July, they returned, bringing their son-in-law with them to help on the Olsen barn project. "I would love to bring my grand children out here some day and be able to say that we had a hand in saving this barn or that outbuilding. That's what connects the generations," says Margo. Their enthusiasm is contagious. They often bring guests out to explore the historic properties in the Park.

The two signed up a third time to work on the Burfiend outbuilding in September. Originally the plan was to work Friday only, but Doug couldn't resist returning Sat-

urday to experience the satisfaction of completing the restoration. This time, they brought with them Margo's mother who was celebrating her 91st birthday! She spent the day in a lawn chair watching from the sidelines with interest as the restoration took place.

"Margo and I like to do things together and she has some valuable ideas—like having me measure twice and cut once! She likes to do the general labor, like hauling and disassembling," Doug says. "We just think the Park's a great asset which they have preserved from development and we feel blessed to be a part of this area. We have met some interesting people and have become better acquainted with others. We'll be back next Spring." Preserve looks forward to it and to meeting those the Detzlers entice to join in!

When Jack and Cheri Boss submitted their on-line volunteer registration, we took one look at their skills and knew we'd struck gold! We had been looking to fill our treasurer position here, and **Cheri**, an Accounting Assistant for a CPA firm fit the bill. As our new volunteer fiscal



agent, she makes sure our records are accurate and entered properly. We are so thankful for her quick response to our questions.

Jack (left) works with a volunteer on an outbuilding



Jack is a skilled carpenter by trade. The home he built in Maple

City is amazing in quality and attention to detail. Jack volunteered to take on two Preserve projects: restoration of the Olsen house kitchen pantry, and supervisor of the Peter Burfiend project. Finding the historically appropriate materials was the most difficult aspect. He invested many hours into these projects and we can't express our gratitude enough. The results are fabulous! Jack and Cheri are great people to work with and we are so glad they found us.

Rotary Charities and Oleson Foundation Award Exhibit Grants

Rotary Charities of Traverse City and the Oleson Foundation, have awarded Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear grants in the amount of \$25,000 and \$7,500 respectively to help us construct an educational interpretive exhibit in the Olsen House in Port Oneida.

After two years of delay, our plans for the interpretive exhibit were re-ignited this past year. An estimate provided by designers in 2005 had revealed a price tag we weren't comfortable with. So, we stepped back and reassessed. Do we scale back the scope? Raise funds and implement in stages? We decided to do both – we scaled back the design while still maintaining its quality, and we will implement it in stages if necessary as we secure grants and donations.

In April, we began working with Main Street Design of Boston, MA, on the initial design elements beginning with a two-day planning meeting where people of different perspectives were invited to participate—docents, writers, teachers, board members, and interpretive staff from the Park. This design development phase is now complete, funded by the Americana Foundation, the Michigan Humanities Council, and matching funds from two donors.

The next step is final design development, fabrication and at least partial installation by next summer using the Rotary and Oleson funds. Further funding will be needed to complete the rest of the fabrication and installation. The interpretive exhibit will tell the stories of the Port Oneida land, community and people who settled here. It will also show the extent and significance of the cultural resources within the Park, preservation efforts, work to be done and encourage exploration of these unique areas. Stay tuned!

Tom VanZoeren Nominated



Some people see a need and just can't help but fill it. Tom VanZoeren is one of those people. A recently retired Park Ranger after 29 years, Tom was concerned that no one was recording the history related to the historic properties in the Park and that the opportunity to speak with family members would be lost. The Park had only begun looking to save many of these properties a few years earlier,

so recording oral history was not at the top of the priority list. In 1993, Tom began volunteering on his own time to interview descendants of these families. One by one he met with people and began compiling photos, recordings and transcripts of these conversations for the Park and PHSB's archives. To date he has completed documentation for the Charles and Hattie Olsen, Thoreson, Laura Basch, Ruth Oleson and Fred Baker farms and is currently working on the history of the Carsten Burfiend farm.

To honor his significant contributions, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear nominated Tom for the **Distinguished Volunteer Service Award** category of the State History Awards through the Historical Society of Michigan. This award is for individuals who "have made an outstanding contribution to the appreciation and understanding of Michigan history through the collection, preservation and promotion of state and local history." Sixty applications were considered—quite a competition! Although Tom unfortunately did not win the award, he has won our praise. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear recently awarded Tom \$800 in funding to continue his work on family histories and provide information for our interpretive exhibits. With numerous farmsteads to cover, both on the mainland and the Manitou Islands, he has much work ahead of him in his "retirement". Buildings and stories—both need saving.

A photograph showing a row of tall, thin pine trees that have been burned, standing against a backdrop of green foliage. The trees are dark and charred, contrasting with the vibrant green of the surrounding forest. The scene is likely near a schoolhouse as mentioned in the caption.

On a hot, dry and windy day in June, a fire broke out in Port Oneida when a power line ignited the tops of pine trees. Nine area fire crews and the National Lakeshore battled the blaze, guarding the historic schoolhouse before the fire jumped the road missing the Kelderhouse, but consuming nine acres, mostly grass. No buildings or people were harmed thanks to the quick response of the fire crews and those working behind the scenes. It was evidence of great team work from everyone and a reminder of how precious these structures are. (Shown here is a row of burned pines near the schoolhouse)

Weighing In On Environmental Assessment for Port Oneida

Board Supports Olsen as Visitor Contact Station

This Fall Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore released the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Port Oneida which included a range of alternatives for a Visitor Contact Station (VCS) and Park housing in the Historic District. A number of factors were considered in the EA such as safety, visibility, location, parking and proximity to trails. The VCS will include a restroom, interior and exterior exhibits, visitor parking, and an outdoor gathering space for groups. The Park conducted a numerical rating exercise which resulted in the Kelderhouse farm being advanced as the preferred alternative for the VCS.

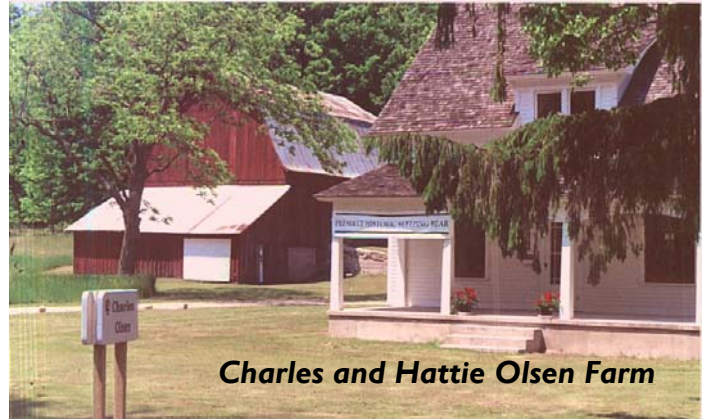


Kelderhouse Farm

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear's Board of Directors toured the Kelderhouse farm inside and out to consider it along with the other top choices – the Olsen farm, Dechow farm and Carsten Burfiend farm. After discussion with the Park regarding the pros and cons of sharing space in a VCS, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear submitted their comments to the Park during the public comment period in **strong support of the Olsen house** as their choice for the VCS location.

The Park and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear have been working together as partners on the Olsen house rehabilitation, its exhibit design, landscape plans, field guide content and general direction of our projects and vision. We feel that the Olsen house already serves as this point of contact, avoids redundant efforts and models a good partnership.

In our comments, we reiterated Preserve's goals to raise funds, sponsor volunteer preservation projects, heighten awareness of the significance of historic resources, engage the community's help, interpret the history and facilitate adaptive-use. Our comments stated, "Our board made a strategic decision in 1999 to work toward rehabilitating and occupying a visible historic



Charles and Hattie Olsen Farm

structure in the Park as a venue from which to help us accomplish these goals...It was our feeling that by offering an educational experience about the resources in the Park, their stories, their significance and the need for help in preserving them, the effect would be to engage the visitor's support of the Park's preservation effort. We believe that the Olsen house is the best location from which to provide this educational experience and achieve this outcome." Further, given that funding is uncertain at this time to implement the plan, it could be years down the road before any other location for a VCS could be rehabilitated and waysides developed.

The Olsen house already provides:

- Indoor restrooms
- Plenty of space for parking
- Large indoor gathering space (barn)
- Volunteer staffing
- Exhibits, with more being developed
- Excellent visibility and accessibility off road
- Close proximity to trail system
- Cost efficiency. Less money needed to spend on rehabilitating a new VCS, leaving more funds available for preservation of other historic structures
- Immediate availability
- Wheelchair and stroller accessibility
- Protection of Port Oneida from increased traffic by being at its gateway but not in its center.

You can view the Environmental Assessment on-line at nps.gov/slbe and quick link PO EA.

Park Moves Forward with General Management Plan

Preserve Looks to Root Historic Resources in Plan

What will Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore look like in twenty years? That is the question that the Park is answering with the public's input. A General Management Plan (GMP) is a broad plan that directs Park management. In March of 2007, GMP Newsletter 4 suggested four **preliminary** alternatives. A public comment period invited the public to select, modify, or build their own alternative. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear submitted detailed comments centered on the Park's cultural resources. Most importantly, we applauded the Park's stated intent to preserve as many cultural resources as possible. We were also pleased that every action alternative, proposed removing wilderness from nearly all areas containing cultural resources. Our recommendations addressed ways to help guarantee the longevity of the Park's historic resources, and to clarify terms that could be interpreted in a manner detrimental to this goal.

First, we proposed amending the Enabling Legislation and revising the park Purpose Statement to specifically include preservation of *cultural resources* (as in Newsletter 1). When the park was first established, legislators had no idea of the full extent of cultural resources within its boundaries. These changes would give the most protection to these resources for the future.

Second, given the Park's stated desire to save cultural resources, funding remains the key obstacle, and illustrates the very reason Preserve was founded. In lean fiscal times, it could be all too easy for historic preservation to fall through the crack, and Newsletter 4 allowed some caveats to deal with insufficient funding. In each action alternative the Park reserved the right to allow some of the historic buildings to "return to nature" depending on whether they were "fundamental resources" (those structures they see as most important), and on factors such as historical significance, condition, use, etc. However, if we saved only these "fundamental resources" we could lose some popular and significant structures. These terms left a door ajar to allow moldering. Preserve suggested instead, that the Park give historic and natural resources **equal priority** even in times of limited funding, and remove "return to nature" as a possibility. We do agree that not every historic structure needs to be in the Experience History zone, which requires more formal interpretation and expense. Simply removing "return to nature"

would allow for safely placing historic resources into the Recreation or Experience Nature Zones.

We also felt that the maps must include all cultural resources, such as those in the Good Harbor and Platte Bay units and on the islands, to give a true picture of the location and extent of this historic legacy and to help direct public comments.

Superintendent **Dusty Shultz** responded to these and other comments with an August update on the Park website – edited here for space: *"The 'return to nature' possibility highlighted the fact that the Lakeshore contains so many historic structures that anticipated funding levels are unlikely to allow us to preserve them all. The GMP is intended to help us make the difficult choices of where to expend our limited funds. It provides a framework (e.g. identifying fundamental resources and management zones) in which to prioritize equally hard decisions for the National Lakeshore's natural and recreational resources. Just as we all must be prudent with our own household budgets, and make spending decisions based on what is most important and cost-effective, the Lakeshore must be prudent with tax dollars based on the same principles. We received comments that pointed out 'return to nature' might be chosen based on the priority factors. The Draft GMP will correct this and will show that the decision to be made is NOT whether to intentionally let some resources go – but, rather, how to prioritize allocation of our limited funding, partnership, and volunteer efforts."*

The Park's efforts to incorporate public input into the GMP has been exemplary and we look forward to reviewing the draft document next Spring. Preserve recognizes the Park's difficult task of balancing visitor services with resource stewardship of cultural and natural resources, and will work to increase our impact in helping the Park to save its legacy.

Preserve's Executive Summary

- Amend the Enabling Legislation and revise the Purpose Statement.
- Remove "return to nature" entirely.
- Remove "park priorities" as a caveat in management zone language.
- Define "available funds".
- Provide detailed maps showing all cultural resources including Tweedle/Treat, Bufka/Eitzen, Boekeloo Bournique and other cultural landscapes which were not identified.
- We support wilderness designation on North Manitou Island, with the exception of noted areas for Experience history. We have added resources in the history zone not mentioned in any alternative.
- On South Manitou Island, we support Recreation Zones surrounding Experience History. Zones to allow for rehabilitation and better access to cultural resources.

Corporate Sponsors Help in Preservation

ARCHITECTURAL GARDENS, *Traverse City*

Last winter, Joe Holder of Architectural Gardens Landscaping stopped in to see what Preserve was all about. It seemed appropriate to share with him one of our goals — to restore the Olsen House landscaping including an arbor, picket fence, and historically accurate shrubs and flowers. Joe eagerly took up the design phase of the project—pro-bono—providing a complete landscape restoration design. The Park provided a list of plants appropriate for the early 1900s. We also relied on oral history regarding fruit trees and specific rose varieties. Thanks to Joe, our landscape project was off and running. See *project article on the next page*.

CHERRY REPUBLIC, *Glen Arbor*

Cherry Republic of Glen Arbor awarded Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear a \$4,000 grant for the restoration of historic farm fields. Owner Bob Sutherland has such a passion for preserving the landscape, he asked his employees to spend half a day in October helping to clear fields in Port Oneida. Thirteen employees signed up,



worked hard, and learned more about Preserve's efforts.

Preserve's first field clearing project began in June behind the Olsen house

and continued throughout the Fall over to the schoolhouse, clearing black locust trees south of the Bayview trail. Trees were felled and treated by the Park to prevent regrowth, while volunteers dragged fallen trees to a chipper. The change is impressive and really opens up views of the barn from the east!

Regular mowing is needed to keep fields clear once the trees have been removed. To this end, Cherry Republic is also donating money towards the purchase of a tractor that the Friends of Sleeping Bear are raising funds for. In a meeting last Spring, with the Friends, Preserve suggested working collaboratively on field clearing due to the extensive work needed. Contributions are welcomed toward this purchase. Contact PHSB.

Cherry Republic gives us all an example of corporate involvement in the community and they strongly encourage other businesses to get involved.

NORTHWOOD HARDWARE, *Glen Arbor*

Sometimes it's the small things that add up. John Kenney of Northwood Hardware has done many things for Preserve over the past few years that have been a big help, and frankly have just made life easier for us. This summer, John really impressed us. He had volunteered to acquire and install a gutter over our back door. Imagine our surprise when he arrived with not only a new, painted gutter for the back door, but also a historically appropriate gutter for the Olsen barn which he found coming off an old barn in Manton. Preserve has been working on restoring the deteriorating stone/concrete mix retaining wall of the Olsen barn ramp, but we needed to fix the cause of the problem - water running off the barn roof onto the wall. He picked up the gutter, had it sandblasted, cut and painted, and helped the Park install it. It's great to have a friend like John Kenney and Northwood Hardware.



BRAUER PRODUCTIONS, *Traverse City*

One of our Spring projects had three goals:

1. Record oral history for Park and PHSB archives.
2. Provide a training tool for tour guides.
3. Provide an opportunity for our board and docents to become better acquainted.

The project? Videotape Park ranger, Bill Herd, conducting a tour of selected sites in Port Oneida. Sure, there are books about Port Oneida, but they don't convey the knowledge Bill Herd has. We felt it was time to get this knowledge on tape to secure it for years to come. Enter Rich Brauer of Brauer Productions, well-known for his professional quality films and videotaping, who offered to do the taping. In May, board members and docents took the tour and gained further appreciation of what Preserve's work is all about. Preserve plans to supplement the Park's interpretive tours by training volunteer tour guides using the video. Much thanks to Brauer Productions for their taping and editing on this professional quality video.

Adopt-A-Building Your company can make a difference by adopting an historic structure! Please call for information about this developing program! 231-334-6103

Eagle Scout Project Restores Landscape



When Trevor Kirt went looking for a community service project to earn his Eagle Scout status, he stumbled upon his family roots in finding it. Trevor's mother Linda responded to a press release about our field clearing work bee as a possible Eagle Scout project for her son. But Director Susan Pocklington had long had the idea that replacing the picket fence and arbor that once graced the front yard of the Olsen house would be a great scout project and suggested this to Linda. Susan's eyes grew wide at what she heard next: Trevor is a "shirt-tail" relative of Port Oneida's own Charles and Hattie Olsen! His father's Aunt Betty was wife to John Olsen, one of the nine Olsen children. To have a relative complete this project was the perfect fit. And so it began.

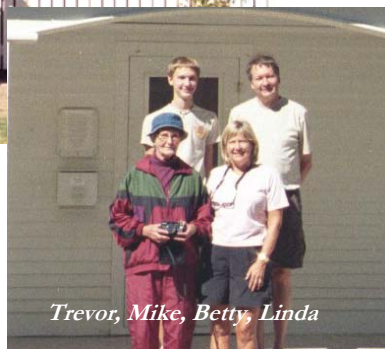


Pickets are measured exactly

Eagle Scouts are required to see a project through from plans to execution and must secure all the necessary materials and labor including writing letters to local businesses for materials donations. We learned that Trevor's dad had good carpentry skills, ensuring solid supervision and help with construction. The Kirt family was given historic photos of the fence and arbor, enlarged to show the detail from which to draw up the designs. Trevor and his dad made the pickets, set the arbor posts, and applied the first coat of white stain. Meanwhile, we had our work cut out for us in preparation for the installation. The arbor and fence were only part of a larger landscape project drafted by Architectural Gardens. The Boy Scout troop would not only be helping Trevor install the arbor and fence, but also to plant bushes and landscape the

property. Zimmerman's Landscaping and Four Seasons Nursery generously donated butterfly bushes, Spirea and other plants for the project.

We also had to prepare the ground. We brought in Susan's friend, Jim Sturmer of Lake Ann who volunteered to help. Jim has a degree in Landscape Architecture and is a builder. He outlined the shape of the planting beds according to Joe's plan and staked out where each plant should be placed. Next, the Traverse City Youth Corps removed sod from the planting beds to prepare for planting. Gray's excavating brought in 30 yards of top soil to increase the grade and improve the slope away from the building. Finally, the Eagle Scout project day arrived on September 22nd. On this beautiful warm day, about fifteen scouts and parents arrived. Jim supervised the planting crew while Trevor supervised installing and painting of the arbor and fence. Compost had been delivered and mixed, mulch was added, grass seed planted, straw laid down, and soaker hoses with timers were buried around the plantings.



Trevor, Mike, Betty, Linda



As the day progressed the project took shape before our eyes and by late afternoon it was an amazing transformation. The house had taken one more step to looking like a home again. After so many years of being left dormant, the Olsen house has never looked better. Trevor's Great Aunt Betty came from Traverse City and watched from the front yard with a smile on her face. Thanks to Trevor, his family, the entire Scout Troop # 30 and all the other volunteers and donors for this lasting contribution to Preserve and the Park. And, the Scouts have promised to help with future Preserve projects! (P.S. Stay tuned—next Spring the Glen Lake Garden Club will help with planting our flowers!)

Ways to Give to PHSB

Volunteer

We need volunteers throughout the year. We hope you'll consider getting involved, and meeting others who share your love of these wonderful buildings. Volunteers are need for office help, preservation projects, and events. See a complete listing and sign up on-line at www.phsb.org.

Give the Gift of Membership

What do you give the person that has everything? Yet another tie for him or more perfume for her? A membership to **Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear** is a meaningful gift for someone who loves the Park and its historic aspects. When you give a membership in the amount of \$50 this holiday, your recipient will receive a membership card *and* a colorful Port Oneida Fair poster of the Carsten Burfiend farm by water-color artist, Carolyn Risk. See the poster on-line at www.phsb.org/store.

Join: Preserve 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 loved one. A card will be sent to the family of the individual for whom the donation was made and it is also noted in the newsletter.

In-Kind Gifts & Services: Building materials and equipment for projects, your painting or photograph of the Park's historic buildings for our art auction, and all kinds of other gifts or services help us.

Matching Employee/Employer Gifts: Take advantage of your employer's matching gift program to increase the impact of your gift.

Planned Giving

There are many types of planned gifts. Some popular examples are:

BEQUESTS A bequest is the naming of a charity in ones will to receive a gift. Many people don't realize that without a will or trust, they are leaving the distribution of their life's work up to the state. Plan ahead to ensure a legacy you can be proud of.

GIVING RETIREMENT ASSETS TAX FREE The law allows gifts from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) of qualified seniors, to charity, free from federal tax, and, which count against required minimum distributions.

Bequest from Volunteer

Dorcas Malott loved the time she spent as a college student working at Camp Innisfree located on Pyramid Point, (now known as Camps Leelanau/Kohahna and LOC). Owned and operated by Gus and Paula Leinbach, Innisfree ran back-to-nature outdoor education programs. Young adults that worked for the Leinbachs had fond memories of their time on the point, and many continue to stay in touch with Paula and her sons. In 2001, Dorcas returned from her home in Oregon to Leelanau to catch up with the Leinbachs, explore Pyramid Point, and join in one of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear's volunteer projects at the Martin Basch farm. Clad in overalls, slight in build, and excited to be back, she eagerly shared her memories of working at the end of Port Oneida Road and her delight that these historic farms were being preserved. Unfortunately, in July of 2006, we were saddened to hear that Dorcas had passed on, and were equally surprised to learn that Dorcas had left a bequest to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear for \$22,000. Obviously, our mission resonated with Dorcas who clearly loved Port Oneida. We are grateful to Dorcas for entrusting us in our work to restore these historic properties, with the help of her generous bequest.

THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIR, BETH STONER

Our sincere thanks to Beth Stoner for her leadership as Chair of the Board the past two years. Beth shepherded *Preserve* through periods of important transition during her tenure. Her generous support, her ability to encourage input and discussion from the board, and her judicious handling of affairs were notable qualities. We wish her well in her continued work in Development at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

**"Donors don't give to institutions.
They invest in ideas and
people in whom they believe."
G.T. Smith**

Spaghetti Fundraiser

Cherry Republic offered area non-profits an easy way to put some additional change in their coffers this summer. The company offered to host a spaghetti dinner each Wednesday at their restaurant, with half the proceeds to benefit a different non-profit each week. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear signed on for August 8th. 100 tickets were available at \$10 and we sold about 95% prior to the event. By the end of the evening we sold out – earning \$581. The full dinner (featuring their cherry spaghetti sauce!) was delicious. Thanks, Cherry Republic!

Watch for our 2008 Calendar of Events this Spring!

Port Oneida Fair Grows

Every year the Port Oneida Fair gets bigger and better, with each co-sponsor adding new and interesting features. As an example, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear found another



Volunteer, Amy Petersen plays a game of "Grace" with a youngster

team of horses to accommodate the popular wagon rides. We also added an "antique" photo shoot complete with costumes, rug hooking, and a farmers market. We were so happy to have returning the St. Mary's Quilters, Tiller's butter-

making, Creation Farm Soap, our Penny Rugmaker and Dulcimer couple, and Cherry Republic ice cream.

The Park is host to this fun-filled two-day event that has visitors raving. Co-sponsors are responsible for



activities at their sites. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear – Olsen House; the Park and Empire Museum – Dechow farm; Glen Arbor Art Association – Thoreson Farm and Civil War Enac-

Path to Page Program

Anne-Marie Oomen continues to engage writers with this one-day program she has honed for us, finishing its 4th year. She has developed writing exercises, readings and appropriate historic facts of selected farms in Port Oneida to combine creative writing with history. Hiking to six historic sites, Anne-Marie shares her knowledge of writing and specific farm history with participants to inspire their muse. The program is flexible as she adapts it to the talents and interests of each. Once again, she was "blown away" with what flowed from the pens of her students who came from varying backgrounds and motivations. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear offers this program as a way of encouraging folks to learn about *Preserve* and explore the rich history of the Park.

tors – Kelderhouse. Other co-sponsors, such as the Leelanau Conservation District, participate with a booth. Friends of Sleeping Bear is the official sponsor as fiduciary for the grant funds.

The date was changed last summer to avoid with other festivals, so mark your calendars for the second Friday and Saturday in August 2008. The fair is made possible with a grant awarded by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Thanks to all volunteers and co-sponsors for a great event that annually educates

about 4,000 visitors on the rural culture of the area.



BOEKELOO ASSESSED

A big step in the preservation of the Boekeloo cabin in Benzie County was taken last winter when *Preserve* funded a site assessment of the property. The preservation estimate is \$57,000. We will continue to seek grant funding to preserve this log structure, one of only four in the Park. The Boekeloo family, whose lease expired in 2006, is offering \$3,000 in matching funds toward future grants.

The Olsen Family Comes Home to the Farm



Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear welcomed back close to eighty Olsen family members to the Olsen homestead on August 12th for a family reunion. Plans had been in the making for several months with the help of local relative Lorraine Zientek. Invitations were sent last winter along with a request to bring photos and stories to share with us. Aside from the pleasure we'd hoped it would bring the family to host a reunion where memories abound, we thought it would be beneficial to bring everyone together to capture those memories of the family and the farm. We want to have the most thorough and accurate history possible for our resource area that will house oral history recordings and photos. In planning our exhibit we had some questions such as: Where was the wood stove located? What did they have in their pantry? Where was the clothesline? What kind of roses grew on the porch trellis?

Preserve provided the tent and chairs, and the family provided the most delicious home-cooked food. One relative commented that, "usually the Olsens eat and run, but not this

time!" That was a good sign that everyone was enjoying themselves. Tom VanZoeren was on hand to scan photos and record oral history. His wife Alice volunteered to video-tape the event, and volunteer Heather Koch also listened in on conversations with a recorder in hand. Thanks to Tom and Heather for transcribing this information which is being made



Garnett Olsen

available to the family as well as for our resource library.

The family was pleased that the house is being used to benefit the public. One family member offered to loan Grandpa Charles' rocking chair and several made donations that were used for the Olsen landscape restoration. In particular, one donation was to plant a fruit tree in memory of her mother.

Charles and Hattie have two daughters still living – Lorraine who lives in Leelanau County and Garnett who moved to Florida in July. Before she left, Garnett made a surprise visit to the Olsen house, sharing what she remembered about her parents and bringing Hattie's sewing basket and nightgown to give to us. We hope that family members will come back to visit again.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear volunteers worked over **815** hours for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore this year. Way to go! We appreciate all of your help!

PROJECTS

Landscaping

Jim Sturmer
Boy Scout Troop 30
Amy Peterson

Field Clearing

Len Allgaier
Todd Cidler
Andrew Cooney
Doug & Margo Detzler
Kathy Horton
Roni Hazelton
Jennifer Nowicki
Jon Mane
Bud & Nancy Olsen

Donna Owsley
Bob & Rita Quinn
Betty Rhoades
Andy Romzek
Michele Steikar
Bob Sutherland
Molly Szafranski
Devon Volz
Jared Volz
Katy Wiesen
Ron Winkler

Olsen Projects

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Jack Boss
Gray Carlson
Doug & Margo Detzler
Jim Fuscaldio

Alex King
Jerry & Gale Mack
Amy Peterson
Betty Rhoades
Jim Ristine
Susan Theiss
David Watt

Peter Burfiend

Paul Badura
Chris Bardenhagen
Jack Boss
Denise Brown
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Bill Irwin
Jerry Mack
Gary Osinski
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Rich Uglov
David Watt

Carsten Burfiend

Jack Boss
Buzz Meyer
Lou & Kathy Ricord
David Watt

Port Oneida Fair

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Sarah Crane
Dick & Bonnie Kay
Heather Koch
Paula Leinbach
Bud & Nancy Olsen
Amy Peterson
Dorry Price

Betty Rhoades
Barbara Sander
Charlotte Smith
Dee Smith
Linda Stevenson
Susan Theiss
Tom VanZoeren
David Watt
Jill Webb

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Cherry Republic
Aubreita Hope
Mike Hulbert
Ruch Kalchick and
St. Mary's Quilters
Jerry & Peg Kloock

Julie Rhodes
Shari Wittaker

DOCENTS

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Betty and Gil Ives
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Judith Malott

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2008 Preliminary Projects

The following are projects Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is considering for the 2008 season.

- **Ole Oleson Farm Outbuildings**
- **Fitzgerald House in Glen Haven**
- **Boekeloo Cabin**
- **Field Clearing – Port Oneida**
- **Field Clearing - SMI**

Internship Opportunity

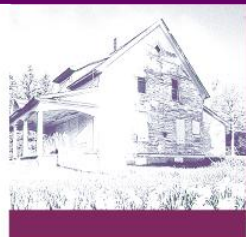
Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is looking for its first intern to work Spring or Summer. With funding provided by The Porter Family Foundation, the internship will provide assistance with a variety of duties. A complete job description is being developed. Some desired skills may include desktop publishing, accounting experience, volunteer and event coordination, and construction experience for our projects. For further information email phsb@leelanau.com.

Park Passes to be Available at Olsen House

Beginning next summer, visitors to the Park will be able to purchase a park pass at the Olsen farm interpretive center in Port Oneida, home office of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear.

Did you know that about 80 percent of Park fees stay in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore? These fees can be used for operating and for preservation of natural and cultural resources. This means that increased purchases of Park passes will make more money available to preserve the Park's resources. Passes are required whenever you enter Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Cost is \$20 for an annual pass, \$10 for a lifetime Senior Pass and \$10 for a seven day family pass. That's less than you would pay for dinner and a movie, and allows you and your family access to the entire Lakeshore! Passes are also available at the Park Visitor Center in Empire, the Platte River and D.H. Day Campgrounds, the Dune Climb, Pierce Stocking Scenic drive and several beaches. Support the Park's resources—get your Pass today!



PRESERVE

Historic Sleeping Bear

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

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