



The Clapboard

Historic Sleeping Bear

2020
Annual
Newsletter
PHSB.ORG



SPACE TO REFRESH

Dear Friends,

As an organization committed to preserving the stories and structures of our heritage that exemplified backbone, grit, resourcefulness, and resilience just to survive, history will also record this past year as one exhibiting similar characteristics by the men, women, and children of our country. History never pushes the pause button, but is ever recording the events of our times and how we mark them.

This year was also marked by the heightened necessity, significance, and appreciation of our national parks. The personal impact of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was seen in the daily lives of a record-breaking 1.7 million visitors in 2020. It will be a time recorded in the history books when perhaps like never before, people flocked to parks for refreshment of mind and body, and spaces where families and friends could recreate together. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was here for you in this historic time of need, in part because of a community of supporters that preserve and protect the Lakeshore—it's unique cultural and natural resources.

It also seemed that more people than ever before were looking for new places beyond the usual trails to discover, and found to their delight—the historic sites in the park. Places like the Boekeloo Cabin down a long two-track road. Or new spots within the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, perhaps finding out-of-the-way historic trails and an old car in the woods among other relics. They may have stopped in the Olsen Barn to view our temporary exhibits as an alternative to the Port Oneida Heritage Center being closed this season. Perhaps they participated in our fun, new Heritage Hunt. And we were so grateful that our gardeners at the Olsen farm continued to labor in the gardens and grow flowers, vegetables, and raspberries for people to enjoy.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Port Oneida Run, and delay until next year most of our group preservation projects given the nature of that work. However, we took the opportunity to pause and refresh after 21 years of work and growth to accomplish a number of infrastructure projects that will set us up for increasing our impact on the park in the future, including new board members, adaptive-use plans, and a new website.

In times like this we have hope because of YOU—our donors and volunteers who are making a difference by helping to preserve these fascinating historic landscapes. Recently, I received a letter from a first-time major donor who gained a new appreciation of the heritage areas: *"I am so happy to be able to donate this year to PHSB. As I did quite a bit of biking on the trails and hiking this summer, I really loved seeing the barns and other old structures still standing for my enjoyment."* We are grateful and excited that more people are appreciating the vast collection of barns, farmhouses, inns, log cabins and more that are being preserved and utilized as places that you and your families can connect to year after year. If you believe in our mission, please join us in preserving and presenting this heritage into the next generation.

With gratitude for all that you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial 'S'.

SUSAN POCKLINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sleeping Bear Celebrates 50!

"51 is the new 50"



Happy Birthday to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore which turned 50 on October 21, 2020! It's a milestone for sure, and Sleeping Bear had big celebration plans ready to roll out during the year. Social distancing and closures, however, resulted in cancelling most of their celebratory plans.

Superintendent Scott Tucker said their goals for the 50th were to "honor the Park's first 50 years by sharing a year-long commemoration with our community; thanking those who have played a role in making the park what it has become; inviting new connections, support and goodwill to ensure its future; and showcasing the magnificence that makes the park special....."

"Because of the foundation of the last 50 years, our visitors find value in their visit far beyond the dunes and beaches. They can walk in the footsteps of previous generations and connect with the rich history of this place.

Our story becomes their story - It is not finished, we are only beginning!"

- Superintendent Scott Tucker



Great Outdoor Act (GAOA)

GAOA passed this year will provide funding for priority deferred maintenance projects on NPS and other federal lands. including picnic areas, campgrounds, roads, trails, and other critical infrastructure. However, Sleeping Bear was not on the list for 2021 and does not know what parks or projects will be selected for projects in 22, 23,24, and 25.

HSB Receives Grant for 50th

Historic Sleeping Bear received a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs last year to present a special program in celebration of the 50th. The program was to feature plays written by Anne-Marie Oomen, regional writer and author, and includes dramatic readers and musicians. The evening program scheduled as part of the Port Oneida Fair, links two tales from our regional history and surrounding areas into a reader's theater style performance that reflects both tales of the past and current concerns for the environment. The plays, "The Stone that Rises", an account of a feisty Carson Burfiend and his resilient wife Elizabeth; and the "Aral Story", about Charles Wright, an unscrupulous timber man who cuts the great white pine forests of Northern Michigan without conscience. We hope to bring this to you in 2021!

Prior to the shutdown, they were able to get one event in—a Winter Fest held in January at the Dune Climb on a perfect snowy day. Historic Sleeping Bear was in on the planning of the well-attended event, helping at the hot cocoa and marshmallows tent and watching all the other winter games such as sledding the dunes and an obstacle course with snow and smiles all around!

Going forward, the Park's Lead Interpreter, Lisa Griebel says, "There's no way to know how things are going to really play out even in 2021. But we are hoping that all the events and activities originally scheduled for 2020 will be able to take place." Meanwhile, on their website—you can find a virtual "Take the Pledge", "Explore the Shore", scavenger hunts, and can browse their [Virtual Museum](#).



Recap of Impact

Who we are and what we do

Preserve historic buildings

Adopt a Farm

Adopt an Orchard

Adopt a Landscape

Adaptive-use of structures and fields

Operate Port Oneida Heritage Center

Develop interpretive exhibits

Interpretive wayside signs

Port Oneida Fair

Educational heritage programs and classes

Heritage Tours—walking, auto, horse and wagon

Antique orchard preservation

Cultural landscape field restoration and mowing

Annual Barn workshop funding

Tour Booklets

Historic Sleeping Bear partners with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to preserve and interpret its rich pioneer heritage.

We are a philanthropic partner providing funds and volunteers to help preserve the park's 360 historic buildings— inns, farmhouses, log cabins, and landscapes to enrich individual lives and communities.

Garden Restoration

Fund Preservation Equipment

Historical Research Archives—oral history, images and interviews

Artifact Acquisition, inventory and preservation

Engage Youth in Heritage Preservation

Adopt a Highway—Port Oneida

Olsen farm produce for classes and food pantry

Mowing the Fields

A Behind-the-Scenes Look with a Port Oneida Descendent

On any nice summer day from mid-July to mid-August, you will likely see a tractor moving across the farm fields of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. That work is in part, a partnership between Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Historic Sleeping Bear as part of the commitment to tell the story of farm life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. HSB has been assisting with the removal of invasive and encroaching vegetation and maintenance of the fields since 2004 to prevent regrowth in the farm fields, paying thousands in labor and mowing equipment, and logging hundreds of volunteer hours to remove trees and brush by hand. For more efficient removal of trees and brush, in 2018 we facilitated a demonstration and then funded the rental of a forestry mulcher. The Park was impressed too, and recently rented their first forestry mulcher this past fall.

Once the heavier work of field clearing is done, the fields are put into a mowing program. It's a job that goes on quietly in the background, but one that also takes significant financial contributions and volunteer effort. In fact, as the project involves both cultural and natural resources, HSB approached the Friends of Sleeping Bear in 2007, to collaborate on the project by joining our volunteers in the mowing aspect. About a dozen volunteers from both organizations now spend 350 hours annually to mow the agricultural fields and preserve this historic landscape.

But there's one main person at the helm. Almost half of the hours can be attributed solely to mower-extraordinaire and lifelong resident of Port Oneida,

Fritz Barratt. Fritz grew up down the road from Pyramid Point and is the driving force behind the mowing program logging over 200 hours yearly. "It's very therapeutic actually", he says. "I enjoy doing it because I like to see the farms look like farms." Fritz trains and schedules all volunteers, keeps the equipment fueled and oiled, and works with the park and HSB on equipment maintenance. He also mows the outlines of the fields so volunteers stay within the boundaries. No one knows these fields better. "I know where the rocks and impediments are," says Fritz with a smile.



Fritz Barratt spends 200 hours mowing the fields of the Port Oneida Rural historic District

He also mows the outlines of the fields so volunteers stay within the boundaries. No one knows these fields better. "I know where the rocks and impediments are," says Fritz with a smile.

All of the mowing is done in approximately five weeks starting in July in order to protect ground-nesting birds. Wildflowers in some fields such as the Olsen farm are left to flower before mowing, helping to attract pollinators.

Spending 50 hours a week atop the Massey Ferguson tractor, Fritz is doing what he has done

since he was a teenager in the mid-1950s when he not only mowed the family farm, but baled hay for almost every farm in Port Oneida. Someday soon, Historic Sleeping Bear and the Park would like to see farmers lease some fields for hay. When that day comes, Fritz Barratt says he'll show us which fields will be best for hay production.

A critical and costly part of the operation is the equipment required to mow the now 925 cleared acres. The Park did not have equipment to spare for this undertaking and by 2015, a large tractor, mower, and brush hog were urgently needed. HSB launched a fundraising effort

(Continued on page 6)

Continued from page 5 "Mowing the Fields"

and local donors jump-started the purchases. But it was Cherry Republic who made a \$6,000 multi-year grant commitment towards the new/used machinery. A debt of gratitude goes to Cherry Republic for their incredible generosity. We could not have done this without them and are happy to report that the equipment was paid off this past summer. Everyone who loves the scenic beauty of Port Oneida should be grateful for this gift. Cherry Republic owner Bob Sutherland remarks, "The historic landscape around Port Oneida is an iconic part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes. Cherry Republic is very proud to support the preservation of that landscape by donating funds for a tractor/mower". Preserving the open fields and orchards that frame the buildings allows visitors to enjoy the pastoral peace and beauty of Port Oneida and imagine life in a simpler time. The historic field restoration program requires continual support - the older small tractor now needs replacing from the wear and tear - and more volunteers are desired, so if you think you might like to sit atop a tractor in the summer sun, please let us know.

Top: Fritz Barratt mowing fields of Port Oneida. Bottom: Bob Sutherland tries out the tractor when it was purchased in 2015 with a grant from his company Cherry Republic.



Adopt -A- Programs

Adopt-A-Farm

Do you like to hike in the Park? Why not do what you love and help us preserve the historic properties at the same time? Whether you adopt a farm, a cottage, a log cabin, inn, or any other historic property, you will be helping to preserve and maintain these cultural treasures that grace the landscape and tell of our history. Hike to the site and survey the historic property once a month, using our checklist to report issues needing attention such as broken windows, or a tree on a roof. You get the idea!

Adopt-A-Landscape

Adopt a field, orchard, or garden, to help maintain the historic integrity of these cultural features. Contact us to see which fields, orchards or gardens are available to adopt. Go to phsb.org for details of the program.

• Fields

Adopt a field to mow or to remove invasive and non-native vegetation once a year.

• Orchard

Adopt an orchard to prune in the spring, or help water newly grafted young trees as needed in the summer.

• Gardens

Sign up to plant some approved flowers at one of our selected farm sites to show they are cared for. Some weeding and watering. Or, chose to weed whack around structures.

Adopt -A-Highway

We are the proud adopters of M-22 along the Port Oneida stretch. Spring and fall we clean up trash for MDOT to keep it looking beautiful. Join us for this group project in!

RAISE YOUR HAND!

- Historic Preservation
- Docent Team
- Gardens Crew
- Adopt A Farm/Landscape
- Board or Committees



2020 Projects Paused

Adaptive-Use Plans and Gardens the Highlight

We have to be honest, this was a tough year for our preservation projects. After 21 years of tackling about six projects a year, it just wasn't the same not seeing and working shoulder to shoulder with our great project volunteer team. We're not sure, but we think they may have missed us just a little bit too.

These project volunteers—coined our “Hands and Hammers Crew” are amazing. But with the pandemic, it was too difficult for groups of volunteers to do what they do best, and what they do is not always easy. These dedicated folks choose to spend some of their warm-weather days in Sleeping Bear beauty repairing and preserving its vintage structures—climbing ladders, scraping, hammering, painting, measuring, building. Not exactly a walk in the Park. Some even travel a distance, like Bernie Senske a, woodworker from Rapid City who has logged 284 hours since 2008. You get the picture—amazing, like all of our volunteers.



2021 TENTATIVE PROJECTS

To see our anticipated list of projects for next year, and to look back over 22 years of project accomplishments, please visit our new website at phsb.org.

We are very excited about what is coming for projects and adaptive-use in the next few years. If you would like to help by volunteering on our project crew, please go to phsb.org.

This summer, a small crew returned to Thoreson Farm for a day to finish up a painting project. Distanced and masked, this was the only project where they could catch up. Other projects like The Kraitz Cabin and Olsen Farm painting were held up by reasons beyond our control, such as the unavailability of our contractor. The Faust Cabin had a stress test installed on the trusses

last winter. So far so good, but we'll give it one more winter to provide a more thorough test before making conclusions about repairs. Meanwhile, we are looking to fund a new roof for this unique structure.

Major traction this year revolved around our Adaptive-Use of the Carsten Burfiend farm. Two new board members Neil Schoof, an architect, and Caitlin Phillips, experienced in hospitality, are helping us develop plans to submit for re-use of this farm for accommodations.

One of the brightest spots of the summer, literally, were the Olsen farm gardens. Our incredible dedicated gardeners worked under no spotlight of praise. Husband and wife team, Bruce Barnes and Kathy Marciniak selflessly planned, planted, weeded and watered the vegetable and flower gardens, and composted, as they have the past four years. And Jean Jenkins cared for our lovely new raspberries! We're so grateful for the efforts, skill, and passion these volunteers bring to bear on the historic Olsen farm landscape.

We certainly hope our other projects get back on track in 2021. With the delayed year, there will be even more to do! We look forward to reconnecting with all of our volunteers and friends contributing in many different roles for Historic Sleeping Bear.

Telling the Story

Barn provides exhibit space

The Olsen barn was the perfect place to pivot to last summer as a space to safely open to the public. We decided to close the Port Oneida Farms Heritage Center last season, but docents greeted visitors—many biking the Heritage Trail—into the impressive barn with gambrel roof and wide sliding doors. Temporary exhibits about the function and architecture of the barn, and HSB, along with in-person interpretation and providing our tour booklets gave people more information as they explored Port Oneida!

Signs coming soon!

Next spring as you explore the historic properties you will finally see some interpretive signs in areas like Port Oneida. These window signs will tell the story of the farm sites until the park determines their final plans for permanent signs. We are in the final stages of design for these informational signs that will enhance your visitor experience.



Heritage Hunt: A fun challenge for exploring!

This summer HSB had to get creative with our programming due to the pandemic and the ensuing safety regulations. We came up with a way to encourage exploration of the fantastic historic properties in the park. Abby Caldwell, our college volunteer Summer Program Assistant helped organize our first Heritage Hunt and Contest!

We posted visual and written clues about 20 of the historical structures within the park on our social media pages. Participants had to match each clue with its structure and take a selfie in front of it. Then they needed to post it on Facebook or Instagram at #secretsofsleepingbear for the chance to win a Historic Sleeping Bear baseball hat! Our virtual scavenger-hunt contest gave people a reason to get outside and to learn more about Port Oneida in a safe and socially distanced way. A lot of people mentioned how excited they were that HSB created programming for the whole family to enjoy during such a historic and challenging summer. Clues can still be found on our Facebook page!

We learned some things about running a virtual challenge and will continue to expand these kinds of fun offerings. Our three winners Karen Corson, Nathan Yera, and Rylyn Year, matched all of the clues and won our special hats!



Heritage Hunt Winners show off their Heritage Hunt hats

Time Stands Still on North Manitou

By Stacie Longwell Sadowski

This is the time of year when we would normally be celebrating progress on the Katie Shepard Hotel Project on North Manitou Island, sharing images and stories from what would have been our 12th consecutive year on the project.

Past years have seen progress toward our goal of preparing the once collapsing building for some limited public use. HSB sends a group of about a dozen volunteers for 10 days each August to continue working on the historic cottage.

This year, concerns for public health amid Covid-19 were an obstacle for our volunteers to be gathering and working together on the project. Additionally, the Manitou Island Transit ferry was unable to bring guests to either the North or South Manitou Island. Dock conditions on both islands, due to high water and shifting sands, made public transportation impossible the first part of the season. Visiting the island required a private boat or a charter service.

My husband Vince and I are regular participants in the annual island work project. We met on the project as volunteers in 2014, got engaged on the island in 2015, and were married in 2016. The Katie Shepard Hotel and the island are very special to us, and we normally visit several times a summer. We wouldn't miss a year, if we could at all avoid it. Although the work project could not go on this year, we were able to charter a boat and spend two weeks backcountry camping there this summer.

The island enjoyed a year of peace and repose. The few visitors who came, by private boat or charter, were far less than in a normal year of over 4000. The village lawns and buildings were maintained as usual, and the island remained largely silent, except for the waves, wind in the trees, and thrum of occasional passing freighter engines. When we arrived, after a routine orientation and check in with the staff, we made our way down Cottage Row in the village to see our fair lady, the Katie Shepard.

Walking past all of the graceful cottages, their windows gazing east toward the Manitou Passage, it felt like coming home. Their cheerful and dignified silence greeted us again.



We passed the Boardman Cottage, the Shirley Foote Alford Cottage, the Riggs-Londergan Cottage; each one welcoming us with their time-weathered familiar faces. The grassy path, lined with stones from the original boardwalk, was less worn than usual. Past the Foote Cottage, the Trude Cottage, and finally passing

the remains of the Blossom cottage near the end of the walk, the Katie came into view. I caught my breath as I always do at her beauty. Even when she was in decay a decade ago, she always has had a grace, a voice that speaks of summers past. The high shingled peak, expansive wrapping porch, beach stone foundation, and wide steps invited us forward. Touching the siding near the front door, I whispered "hello Katie."

Last year, we had made such great progress in refinishing the floors and cleaning the wood planked walls. It felt like she may be finally ready to begin opening for limited indoor guests soon. The interior had gone from dark and lonely to bright and cheerful; doors and windows wide open, awake and part of the world again. As we walked up, seeing some windows shuttered still from last year, it was a sad reminder of how so much of 2020 has been lost. Time stands still on the project, but time continues to impact the house. We could see peeling paint on the exterior that means another painting is due. There will always be maintenance of one kind or another; old houses require that kind of love and care.

We desperately look forward to the day when we can throw open the doors and windows again, and invite you all to step back in time with us. Many of the volunteers who have worked on this project have a deep affection for the house and the island. As island historian and author Rita Hadra Rusco would have said, we've been claimed by the Spirit of the Manitou. The house carries the voices of the past; of Katie Shepard, her mother, their guests and island staff. It is truly a happy place, with a joyful energy that speaks of a by-gone time.

Soon Katie, soon.

To learn more about the Katie Shepard Hotel Project, visit phsb.org. Stacie Longwell Sadowski is former Board Chair and current Special Projects Coordinator, volunteering with HSB since 2010.

THANK YOU DONORS!

received October 1, 2019—September 30, 2020

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If we missed your name or there are corrections, please let us know!

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With a donation of any amount you become a member of Historic Sleeping Bear. Thank you!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation

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GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

A membership to *Historic Sleeping Bear* is a meaningful gift for someone who loves the National Park. A gift in honor or in memory is also a unique way to recognize a loved one.

LIFESAVER LEGACY

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

Visit www.phsb.org for further details.

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We love hearing from you!

"You and PHSB are doing great work. Our favorite—the Port Oneida area. We've hiked, skied and run there over the years. Thankfully, due to PHSB, the Park Service came to realize and embrace the natural and cultural treasure of Port Oneida" - Members, Ed and Kathleen Dunn

Sleeping Bear Dunes 50th logo merchandise "GET YOUR BEAR GEAR HERE" proves popular!



Our special run of the new Sleeping Bear 50th logo merchandise was a hit! Just in time for the holidays, the orders exceeded our expectation within the two weeks it was available. Historic Sleeping Bear selected a great variety of colors and styles to outfit the entire family! **It was so popular that we will be offering more merchandise throughout the year so stay tuned** through our website and Facebook, or sign up to get our emails!

Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser!

This was made possible through permission from the NPS to use it's logo as a philanthropic partner of the park.

"Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, National Park Service, 1970-2020"