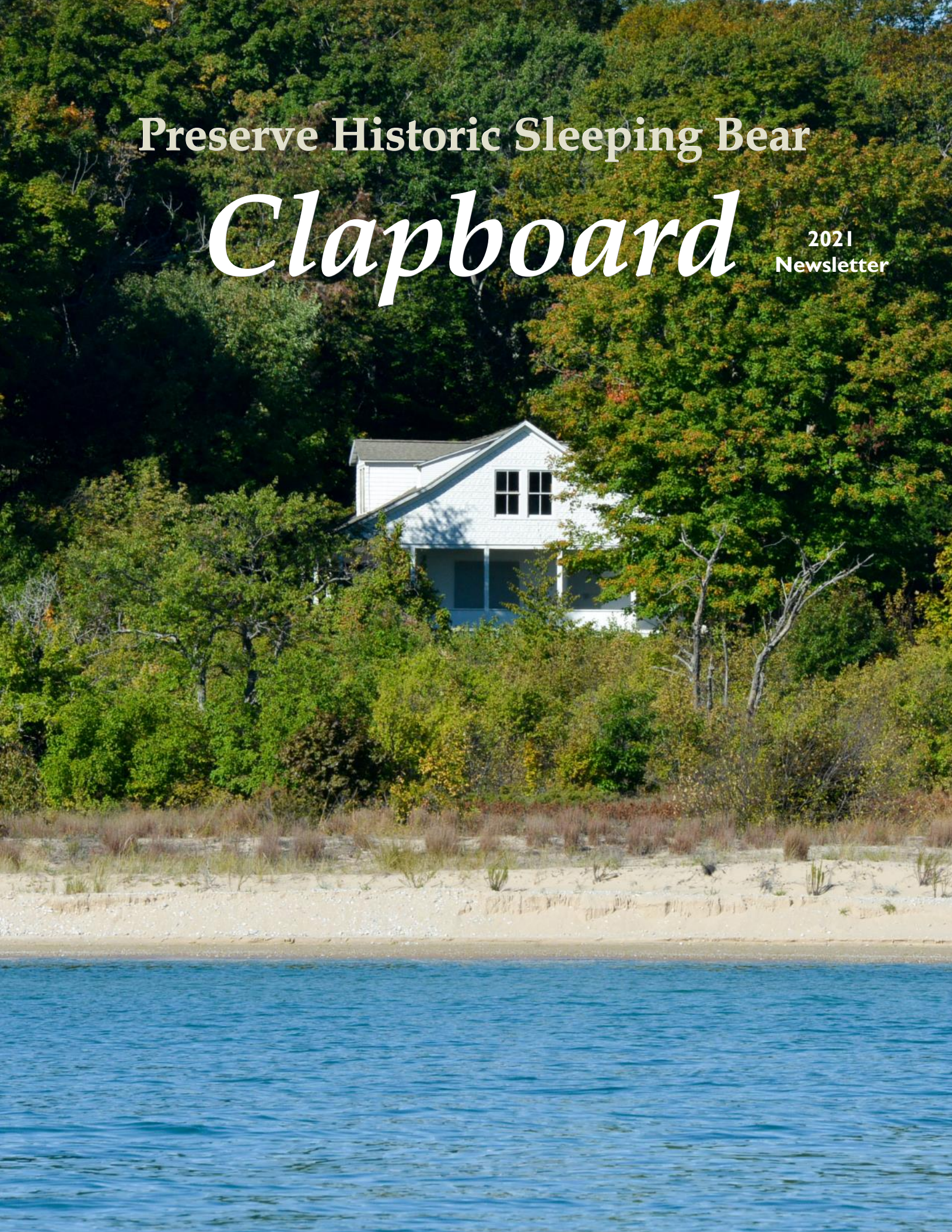


Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Clapboard

2021
Newsletter



From your Director



Having to cancel many projects and programs last year due to the pandemic, we were thrilled to get back to work on historic structures, and welcome visitors from around the globe to the Heritage Center.

We are grateful for our donor's support that didn't waiver during this time. Those donations were put to good use this year preserving the amazing historic side of our loved national park that more people discovered as they headed for the outdoors. Your support funded contractor fees and materials for restoration projects on three log cabins, repairs to the Olsen farm, milling wood, developing interpretive signs, heritage bike tours, and more. Thank you so much for this past support!

Volunteers put in thousands of hours on the preservation crew, and as tour guides, mowers of farm sites, and stewards in our adopt-a-farm program. We can't do any of this work without your dollars and volunteer hours that provide this service for the education and recreation of visitors now and in the future.

Looking ahead to 2022, we have a full plate of preservation projects proposed. We are also eager to forge a new chapter in our work and become fully engaged with the park on a vision for potential reuse of some historic sites that could bring new life to properties—to open them for the enjoyment and enrichment of visitors and our communities. Our goal is to preserve the historic landscape, and offer places and activities that create a connection to the past for an engaging present!

It's this connection with our history, our community and each other that provides the passion for what we do. With your help, we can continue to care for this incredible legacy in the Lakeshore.

SUSAN POCKLINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PRESERVE HISTORIC SLEEPING BEAR

A note from the park



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SLBE) and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear Preservation (PHSB) have had a long history of cultural resource partnering. The 1999 creation of PHSB prompted a shift at SLBE in regards to how cultural resources were managed in the park. Those results are seen today with the stabilization and preservation of many structures in Port Oneida as well as cottages on North Manitou Island.

The park is again in a transitional phase with our entrance into adaptive reuse of historic structures. Adaptive reuse includes historic leasing. Leasing could provide opportunities for PHSB to infuse resources into unfunded projects to bring new life and opportunities into our historic structures. These project funding sources will require a number of preplanning documents for a large amount of contracted work each year in the park. The park looks forward to leveraging the new 10-year partnership agreement with PHSB to transition with one another as our needs change and to also assist in this document preparation.

In the coming year, it is anticipated as COVID protocols wane, large public events will again be scheduled in the park. PHSB has been very instrumental in meeting the organizational and operational needs of the Port Oneida Fair. In addition, PHSB has been a partner for the Barn and Pruning Workshops which we hope will resume this coming year.

The park anticipates PHSB will continue assisting with gathering oral histories, conducting research, and providing educational tours in addition to new projects that assist in the completion of National Register nominations, and Historic Structures Reports for future park lease opportunities. As the park transitions, there will be new opportunities for PHSB to change and grow with us. It's an exciting time in the park and we look forward to working with PHSB as we transition together to meet the challenges of preservation ahead.

KIM MANN
HISTORIC ARCHITECT
SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

New Life for Historic Structures

Reusing select historic structures for practical, program, & preservation purposes

Standing back and surveying the park's historic structures now compared to 1999 presents a stark contrast. After the advocacy of the public and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, the park thankfully shifted direction on preserving its historic buildings that were in danger, and has never looked back. Since then, the incredible progress can't be overstated. It's almost hard to imagine the status of what we were facing during those times. It's easy to forget the falling porches, bare siding, rotted roofs, and vines growing out of windows. Today, we would be hard-pressed to find any historic buildings actually falling down thanks to the dedication of national park maintenance crews and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. The scorecard is impressive.

Yes, there remains much work. Make no mistake, dozens of buildings are still badly in need of repair. And then there is window restoration, repainting, interiors to clean up, preserve or restore, and re-roofing every few decades or so. But we are beyond the triage phase. PHSB will continue to play a major role in preservation. Alongside this necessary maintenance, the timing is right for another track that is emerging. The next chapter in the life of some structures, we believe, is in a balanced approach to reuse of select properties that is a win for the public and the park while maintaining what is so special about the park's historic properties.

KATIE SHEPARD HOTEL

Business Plan Submitted

We are excited to report that our Executive Director submitted a business plan to the park last February detailing PHSB's proposal to reuse the hotel on North Manitou Island for rustic accommodations. The plan has been circulated amongst park Division Chiefs, and is in the cue for consideration. We look forward to hearing from the park on their response. While our project on the hotel was delayed in 2020 and 2021, the project is close to the finish line, anticipating only one more season, and another to make ready for reuse is approved.



GOFFAR FARM

The Goffar farmhouse and barn sit off the Heritage Trail and M-22 on the east side of Narada Lake. This farm was selected by the park for seasonal employee, intern, and volunteer housing in their 2007 Port Oneida Environmental Assessment. With this goal in mind, work has finally begun on the interior of the spacious home, vacated by the owners only within the last 20 years. The barn is threatened by the rising waters of the lake but plans are in the works to address the situation. When the Goffar farm is ready for occupancy, national park housing currently at the Dechow Farm will be moved to Goffar. The Dechow farm, having exceptional interpretive potential, will be reviewed for other uses.



New life continued...



BURFIEND FARM

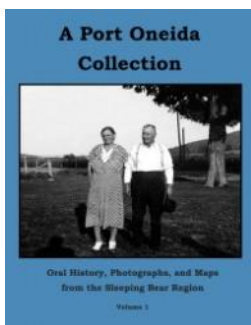
This beautiful farm situated on the bluff of Lake Michigan was the home of Port Oneida's first settlers, Carsten and Elizabeth Burfiend. After much consideration, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear plans to present a proposal for reuse of the farm this spring. The two side-by-side farmhouses are an ideal location, and have good capacity for, lodging. If in use, the farm has further opportunities for interpretation, such as opening to the public for tours.

The proposed project is significant to PHSB and the park, as income generated from the operation would go back into historic preservation in perpetuity. Previously, your support allowed us to restore all the windows in one house; paint both houses; and restore the privy. Next steps in preservation will be determined pending acceptance of our proposal. Our hope is that this farm will have new life breathed into it as a way of preserving it forever.

Work on Hotel Highlighted at Conference and in Magazine

Stacie Sadowski, PHSB board member and Special Projects volunteer, was a presenter at the 2021 Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference. The online presentation was titled, "*Historic Preservation on a Remote Wilderness Island on Lake Michigan*"

Stacie also wrote an article, "*Pounders and Painters: Restoring the Katie Shepard Hotel*", for the Michigan History Magazine, November 2021 edition which can be found in Meijers, Barns & Noble, or read [here](#).



LEARN ONLINE

Want to get into the archives and read more about the people that lived in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District? You can access our archives online to listen to oral history recordings and read transcriptions taken by our Port Oneida Historian

Tom Van Zoeren. Go to www.phsb.org under "explore". Tom's latest publication, "*A Port Oneida Collection*" is available at our store or at his site <https://vzorallhistory.org/>.



Your Gifts at Work 2021 Highlights

On this and the following pages you will see examples of the impact of your donations in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore including three log structures.



#1 North Unity Log School

Thanks to your support, restoration continued on North Unity School, a log structure in a sweet spot off the Heritage Trail at Narada Lake. Critters often create problems in preserving structures. We had previously excluded bats from entering. But they had stained the interior vertical siding which was carefully removed to salvage as much original material as possible.

Cleaning the boards was time-consuming—a task done over four YouthCorp workshops. Ants had also taken up lodging inside, causing rot on one of the logs. Our Project Coordinator and local barn and log expert Jeff Reinhardt did an excellent job replacing the dovetailed log. Restoration will continue next summer with volunteers. Want to help? Fill out our volunteer form at <https://phsb.org/volunteer/volunteer-application/>.



#2 Faust Log Cabin



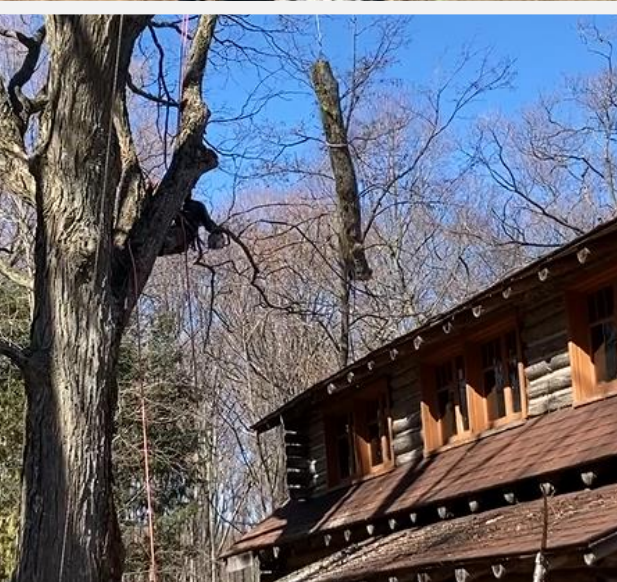
One of the most beautiful spots in Leelanau County is Lookout Point overlooking Big and Little Glen Lakes. Sharing that view is the Faust Cabin, a.k.a. Glen Craig. The 1929 log cottage was willingly sold to the National Park Service in 2016. Maintaining this beautiful home is a high priority for the park and PHSB.

Our work last summer focused on installing a French drain on the back of the cabin as a measure to keep water away from the stone foundation. Your support provided the materials needed. Many thanks to our crew—Lance Spitzner, Doug Detzler, Greg Smith, and Casey Reynolds for delivering materials, digging, hauling, and installing.

While a second assessment from a roof contractor estimates that the roof is good until about 2025, the three chimneys need further inspection by a mason contractor. In addition, the large east exterior stone chimney has also pulled away slightly from the house. PHSB will be addressing any chimney issues in 2022. Your support will provide funding for this important preservation work.

We are grateful for the generosity of Top-Notch Tree company of East Lansing, who has pruned historic trees in the park for us the last three years, pro-bono. On this cabin, dead tree limbs hanging over the roof were trimmed to provide more sunlight on the shingles and prevent moss build-up as well as potential damage by falling branches. In 2022 our volunteers will begin the large task of restoring the windows to further tighten up this structure that has a bright future.

This unique cabin is featured in the beautiful book, “Historic Cottages of Glen Lake” by Barbara Siepker, available in our museum store.



#3 Kraitz Log Cabin

2 CONTRACTORS	20 VOLUNTEERS
2 DAUBING WORKSHOPS	469 HOURS
16 WINDOW WORK BEES	\$25,003

These numbers describe the effort and resources on this restoration project in 2021 alone! There is not enough space here to possibly acknowledge the full scope and craftsmanship that has gone into this historically significant structure over the past few years transforming a weather-worn cabin to one that will open for tours.

While we will put on the finishing touches of a front stoop, trim paint and loft ladder in 2022, last summer completed the major preservation of the cabin. Our timber-framer hand-hewn and installed five additional timbers with masterfully notched dovetail corners where non-historic windows and doors had been. Under the supervision of Project Coordinator Casey Reynolds, volunteers beautifully and painstakingly repaired and installed windows, and handcrafted new windows for those missing. Daubing workshops provided training for volunteers, NPS crews, and the YouthCorp.

With his love of woodworking, seasonal resident Greg Smith found his niche with PHSB. Volunteering

123 hours this year, Greg says, "I do it because I really enjoy working with PHSB and our team. I look forward to it every week. No matter what they have us doing, I enjoy it and learn a lot from their Project Coordinator." Much of his time was spent on patient and careful window restoration.

Our volunteers from Christian Services Brigade did a masterful job installing floor joists and specially milled flooring. To every volunteer who has worked on this structure over the years, you should feel a great sense of pride in what you have done. Thanks to you and our very generous donor support, the oldest structure on the mainland in Sleeping Bear will live on and tell the story of 1850s North Unity settlement. Bravo!

(Large photo: Christian Service Brigade; Below Doug Detzler & Greg Smith; ;Bottom: Josephine Arrowood & NPS)



Growing my Connection to Community

by Camille Czarny, Summer Assistant



Last summer, I had the pleasure of working at Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (PHSB). I am currently a junior at Michigan State University in the James Madison College program, double majoring in comparative cultures & politics and social relations & policy. During my junior and senior years of high school I had volunteered as a summer teen docent for PHSB. Once again, I found a fit with PHSB this time as volunteer Lead Docent and research assistant.

Over the course of the summer, I gave tours of the Port Oneida Heritage Center, helped with events, and assisted with the gardens and farm stand. After a lapse year due to the pandemic, I rekindled PHSB's GenZ program that got me interested in preservation and nonprofit work. Committee member Abby Caldwell and I recruited three high schoolers from Traverse City West Senior High to join both the Gen-Z Outreach Committee and become teen docents. They were taught the duties of

operating the heritage center and learned the history in the museum to provide tours. The GenZ project is an initiative to interest high schoolers in participating in our local history. They also helped develop a "History Hunt".

I also conducted two small research projects. The first was a study on the historical presence of Indigenous people in the local area. For this, I focused on researching the life and legacy of Joseph Wakazoo, the Chief of an Ottawa tribe. He and his Tribe were originally from the Holland area, at the time known as Black River. Allegedly, after a massive smallpox outbreak, Chief Waukazoo moved his tribe to Northern Michigan, settling in what is now known as Northport, but was named Waukazooville by the Chief after the tribe arrived. During this move, they would have canoed right along the Port Oneida shoreline. While doing this study, I was invited to go on a walk with a National Park Interpreter and the Director of Repatriation, Archives, and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Eric Hemenway. The information I gathered through this study will be added to PHSB's future tours.

The second study was looking at small-scale sustainable farming, specifically on national park acreage. I also opened and ran the farm stand at the Heritage Center—learning garden upkeep routines, how to harvest produce and maintain farm stand operations. Farm stand customers seemed to really appreciate the work we were doing. Furthermore, I studied a small-scale farming initiative located in another national park. Their approach to farming includes using as little water as possible and places a heavy emphasis on the importance of biodiversity. I considered these applications to gardening and farming in Port Oneida and how our system of watering was in line with this approach. PHSB's Master Gardener, Xi Bromley continued the "companion planting" method that involves planting certain vegetables, herbs, and flowers near each other for mutual benefit to provide protection and improve the growth of certain plants.

Overall, working at PHSB this summer has invigorated my passion for working with nonprofits and the local community to improve the environmental, political, and social landscape around us. I am grateful to have had this summer opportunity..

Photo: Camille Czarny (L) and Marguerite Church at the farm stand

New Bike Tours Ride the Historic Side

Our wheels were turning last winter when we created a menu of bike tours in Port Oneida and Glen Haven for a more immersive experience. We partnered up with Glen Arbor's Crystal River Outfitters to offer a deal on bike rentals to customers needing a bike. With the growing interest in biking, we wanted to combine the fun of biking with discovery of local lore and history! Ride the rural landscape and get a close-up guided tour of the area's history imagining life in the late 1800s-early 1900s. It's a fun group, or multi-generational family experience intended to connect you with each other and your heritage!

There were so many ideas for routes, we had to pare it down to four: Farm to Farm tour; Biking Historic Sleeping Bear; Off the Beaten Path; Bike and Hike; D.H. Day "king of Glen Haven"; and a Wheels and Water package that combined biking and kayaking.

Tours use individual audio devices so that customers can hear our guides speaking while biking. Very cool! Our awesome tour guides were knowledgeable, fun, and up for going on this new journey with us! In our second year we hope to better inform the public of this adventure that merges natural and cultural aspects of the park. We look forward to more visitors coming on a ride with us —see you on a tour!



**"I just want to tell you how enjoyable and informative the tour was. There is literally nothing that I would change. "First Rate" comes to mind."
- R. Cojeen**

Creating a Connection with Youth

Glen Lake School Farm Field Trip



Two first-grade classes stepped off their school bus at the Olsen Farm on an early June day. We were excited to greet our first student field trip from Glen Lake Schools. It had long been a goal of ours to have area classes visit the farm for learning activities that introduced them to their region's history.

Three groups rotated between the farmhouse exhibit, the barn and root cellar, and the gardens and old-fashioned games. Though the day was hot, students were actively engaged in our interactive interpretation of Port Oneida pioneer life, and the impressive barn. Hands waved high when students were challenged to find things like pegs and hay doors—clues to the barn's construction and function.

In the farmhouse there were treasure hunts for artifacts, while outside students had fun with burlap sack and potato spoon races. We hope this is just the beginning of hosting youth groups in the region as we expand our offerings. And, if the day is a hot one, they may just get to cool off under the spray hose again which brought giggles of delight from this inaugural group!

Glen Lake School's First Graders learn about pioneer life

New Window Panels Tell the Story



Hiking or biking around Port Oneida, your spirit of curiosity may be piqued about the story of each farmstead, or of Port Oneida itself. Who lived here? How did they survive? For the first time, you can find this information at eight sites by looking in the windows.

Frankly, we were eager to design and install these interpretive signs. Requests for interpretive signage had been heard frequently. The new complementary signs will address that request and may whet the appetite to learn more. Signs can be found at the Carsten and Howard Burfiend, Basch, Bufka, Thoreson, Kelderhouse, Eckerdt, and Ole Olsen farms.

In 2022, PHSB proposes developing window panels for the Miller barn, John Burfiend barn, Boekeloo Cabin, Kraitz Cabin, and Treat Farm. The legacy of these farms continues as they represent the ordinary, common, farm family that was truly the backbone of America. Encouraging the understanding and value of this way of life, and considering the role of small family farms today is a welcome offshoot of this historical interpretation.

EXHIBIT UPDATES COMING

The exhibits in the Olsen Farmhouse at the Port Oneida Heritage Center will get some updates next summer. Changing up some panels, adding a bit of audio, and an outdoor kiosk to provide interpretive information to visitors when we are closed, are all in the plans. The exhibit opened in 2016 and has welcomed visitors from Memorial Day—Labor Day nearly every year since. Titled, “A Storied Landscape”, it’s the place to learn about the story of Port Oneida in detail: where they came from, how they got here, and where they all went. Maps, films, treasure hunts for children, a museum store, and the red barn and gardens make it an engaging place to visit. Come check out the additions next summer!



Visitors enjoy new interpretive signs at Thoreson Farm

Gathering Again: Annual Picnic

We love our annual picnic each summer. It's a time to see many of our donors and volunteers in the same place, share a meal, and recognize the people that contribute to our work and fun, along the way.

After skipping a year, we considered how to safely convene our friends and the faces of the organization. Outdoors, with larger tables, and distancing, masked up we served up a tasty dinner and enjoyed socializing and an update from Executive Director Susan Pocklington. The event turned out to be a gorgeous evening with 60 people in attendance. We've said it a few times in this newsletter, it's all about connecting—to each other, the work, and the history we are preserving. Watch for 2022 dates and join us to connect with others that share this passion for preserving our unique heritage in Sleeping Bear!



Volunteer Spotlight

MEET TRISH VAN HOUTEN



With the qualities of a career librarian as well as holding a degree in Historic Preservation, Trish VanHouten is a wonderful, welcome fit for Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. She was looking for a new adventure, she says, when she found us.

“After retirement and a move to Northern Michigan I wanted to find a way to give back to this wonderful area that is now our home. We have been enjoying Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for vacations the past 15 years. I was searching for something in historic preservation, and was intrigued by discovering such an opportunity within the National Lakeshore.”

Trish found her opportunity serving weekly as a summer docent at the Port Oneida Heritage Center. She greets visitors, facilitates self-guided tours, answers questions, and sells items from our museum store, along with other heritage center duties to provide a safe and welcoming experience.

“My working life has been primarily in the non-profit and public sectors”, she adds. “I have seen the difference that volunteers can make for an organization’s mission and have worked with many wonderful volunteers over the years so I have been looking forward to being able to do more post-retirement.”

What does she consider the highlight of this experience? “I have met many interesting people from all over the country as well as from other countries and have so enjoyed seeing how much they enjoy the history of the area and the beauty of the park. I have also found that volunteering has spurred me to learn more about both the natural features of the National Lakeshore and about the history of Northern Michigan, both of which I find fascinating.”

Each docent is unique and brings a great service to the Heritage Center. It's because of them that the doors are open. Come join our docent team!

Stewardship Program

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Join our group in summer or fall to keep M-22 in Port Oneida clean and free of trash through our active partnership with MDOT.



ADOPT-A-FARM

Volunteer to check a historic property and report problems such as broken entry, missing boards, animal damage.

Meet Brendan

“Hi, my name is Brendan Yera and I am currently a sophomore in high school. I adopted the Eckerdt Farm last year. Ever since I was little I’ve loved exploring Port Oneida and enjoy learning the history of the area. When I discovered I could adopt a farm it felt like a good way to get involved and help preserve a part of history! It’s rewarding and fun and I hope to do it for years to come.”

We are thrilled to have Brendan watch over the farm.

Brendan checks on the farm about once a month with his mom. He does a great job of reporting and sending photos of things needing attention. Perhaps his example will inspire other young people to get involved!



Brendan at the Eckerdt Farm

ADOPT-A-LANDSCAPE

Farm and Field –remove invasive, non-native vegetation with loppers or mow fields with our tractor

Gardens –volunteer to help with gardens at farms or inns.

Orchards –select an orchard to prune each Spring, or help transplant or fence newly grafted antique varieties from the nursery into their new location



Meet Mark

Mark Bartell, a retired Director of Public Safety, signed up as a new volunteer in May. By October, he had been all over the park lending a huge hand in a variety of ways.

When we contacted him about mowing lawns around Port Oneida farmhouses he was all in and ready to assist. Not only does this make the buildings look cared for, mowing

also helps as a firebreak.

Each week Mark drove from his home in Beulah to check the farms in Port Oneida for which needed mowing and trimming. The park mows each farm periodically during the summer, but filling in the gaps when yards were looking shabby was impactful and leverages park resources. Particularly at the Olsen Farm/Port Oneida Heritage Center, when grass was growing quickly, mowing and trimming on alternate weeks from the park, kept the Center looking beautiful and welcoming to visitors.

Field mowing in Port Oneida and on North Manitou Island was another activity he took to. But his volunteering didn’t stop there. He also adopted the Ken-Tuck-U-Inn closer to his home, mowing that regularly, saving the park from hauling equipment to this more remote location.

Mark was most eager, however, to get in on PHSB’s preservation action, participating in two projects including the Kraitz Cabin. He explains, “I like the interaction with people that have a similar vision. When you have a group helping to improve a historic building you find a sense of comradery and satisfaction. Volunteering to me is just helping in whatever way I can.”

PROPOSED 2022 PROJECTS

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear takes on projects that require extensive planning, funding of materials and/or contractors, logistical and volunteer coordination, documentary research, and training volunteers in specialized traditional trades. The following are projects proposed for 2022.

Faust Log Cabin

- Repair and Glaze windows
- Repair stone chimneys

Kraitz Log Cabin

- Build front stoop and loft ladder
- Apply finish coat of linseed oil on exterior trim
- Interior trim paint

N. Unity Log Cabin

- Repair/replace 6 windows and sills
- Remove bat residue on logs
- Whitewash logs or reinstall interior boards

Charles Olsen Farm

- Replace rotted siding
- Repair and re-glaze windows
- Rebuilt pantry window
- Rehabilitate back entry kitchen
- Reinstall back ramp
- Install water line to garden
- Install deer fence around raspberries
- Design and install interpretive kiosk and sign
- Update exhibit and add audio

Eitzen Farm

- Rebuild entrance fence
- Demo new method of paint removal and linseed paint

Katie Shepard Hotel, North Manitou Island

- Paint exterior
- Refinish upstairs floors
- Complete deep cleaning and staining upstairs
- Install doors and windows
- Repair wraparound porch steps

Port Oneida Farmhouse interior clean up

- Interior lead and asbestos removal

Cottage Row—preservation of identified cottages

Antique Orchard restoration—fencing & transplanting

Barn Restoration Workshop

Fund new carpentry equipment

Field Restoration/invasive plant removal

Farm implements—relocate & install interpretive signs

Adopt-a-highway clean up (Spring/Fall)

Adopt-a-Farm

Adopt-a-Landscape

CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2020—2021

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

Preservation Projects

\$32,062

Interpretation

\$10,792

TOTAL CASH & INKIND

\$42,854

IN-KIND TO PARK \$168,699

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$211,553

The Boardman Cottage on North Manitou

The unsolved mystery of a Frank Lloyd Wright connection



It's an intriguing place, North Manitou. One of two islands in park boundaries, it has the park's largest tract of designated wilderness enjoyed for solitude and backcountry camping. It's also a place of history and mystery because we'll never know everything about the lives of those that once summered there, worked the land, or occupied Maritime posts shepherding ships through the Manitou Passage.

If you're a regular reader of our newsletter, you know that our focus on the island to date has been restoring and hoping to reuse the Katie Shepard Hotel. We have also repaired the Londergan Cottage, stabilized the Boardman Cottage, and looked forward to being part of continued restorations of the six turn-of-the 20th century cottages comprising "Cottage Row", in the island's coastal village.

The next step in our preservation of the Boardman Cottage was to write a Historic Structures Report (HSR). Some may know this cottage by other names—at one time called the Blossom Cottage, or the Monte Carlo in reference to some serious poker games that took place there!

In 2017, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear completed, in cooperation with the national park, the HSR for the Boardman Cottage. The report provides the park with documentary evidence about the cottage history, current condition of the structure, and recommendations for treatment that would be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office.

The work was done pro-bono by Tom Whitaker, whom we met when he volunteered on our Katie Shepard Hotel project while living in Ann Arbor. Tom is a historic preservation professional with an impressive career history. He has restored Notre Dame's Golden Dome, and the University of Michigan's Bell Tower. More recently, he was Project Manager on the restoration of the world-famous Washington D.C. Union Station following a 2011 earthquake. Then in 2015, Tom was hired as a Senior

Executive by the Kennedy Center to be Project Manager for its multi-million dollar, 72,000 square foot expansion. With that completed, he now serves as their Historic Preservation officer. To have someone of his caliber take on the Boardman report was an honor and a tremendous contribution.

This is where history and mystery come into the story. The Boardman Cottage, built in 1894, has had a swirl of speculation around it for years that it is a Frank Lloyd Wright design. This played an important part in determining our recommendation to the park as to how it should be preserved. Though there is nothing conclusive, based on our research, the report provides strong evidence that the Boardman Cottage was designed by the renowned architect.

Whitaker turned over every rock he could find to confirm or deny evidence of the rumor. His belief that Wright's fingerprint is on this cottage, is supported publicly by Kim Mann, the Historic Architect for Sleeping Bear Dunes, and Thomas Heinz, a FLW scholar and author.

The first clue was found in the mid-1990s by Heinz who discovered a notice in the March 1894 issue of *Inland Architect and News Record*, a Chicago-based architectural trade journal where architects list their projects. The notice read:

"Architect F.L. Wright: For F.R. Bagley, at Hinsdale, Illinois, a two-story, basement and attic residence, 42 by 40 feet in size; to be of frame with stone basement, have hardwood interior finish, the modern plumbing, gas fixtures, etc. Also for George W. Blossom, a summer cottage, to be built at Manitou"

Wright would have been a young 26 year old at this time and was involved in moonlighting projects, including George Blossom's Chicago home built in 1892, while working for the firm Adler and Sullivan. Intrigued, Heinz researched the cottage and visited North Manitou to investigate. As a result, Heinz, an architect himself and author of several books on Wright, concluded that it was a FLW design, stating, "The building was clearly designed by an architect where the others [on Cottage Row] were at best constructed by a carpenter". He included the cottage in his *"Frank Lloyd Wright Field Guide,"* published in 2010 listed as "The George W. Blossom Summer House," based on Blossom's name in the notice. It is surmised that this is

due to the fact that as Silas Boardman's son-in-law and business agent, George Blossom commissioned the design.

Field research, previous studies, drawings, books and other references and deeds at the Leelanau County Register of Deeds office were researched by Whitaker. Preliminary inquiries were also made, beyond readily available sources, in an attempt to more definitively associate the cottage with Frank Lloyd Wright. Nevertheless, beyond the Inland Architect notice, no documentation was uncovered, such as a signed drawing or any personal correspondence specifically tying this structure to Wright.

However, a considerable amount of other evidence and analysis presented in the HSR makes a strong case for this association. This includes the relationship Blossom had with Wright, and numerous architectural comparisons and points including clarifying the floor plan of the cottage. The cottage was previously thought to have a "dogtrot plan," but it is, in fact, a square floor plan. with a massive central hearth—a fundamental element of many Frank Lloyd Wright-designed houses from the same time frame. With architectural additions having been made such as bedrooms, detecting the original design required a comprehensive examination.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation has made no official opinion on Wright's involvement with the Boardman Cottage. And the opinion is strongly contested by William Allin Storrer, a Wright scholar from Traverse City. Yet, Storrer's own research also shows that there are great similarities between the Boardman and other Wright designs.

While it was not the purpose of the HSR to make an absolute declaration that the Cottage is indeed an early commission of Frank Lloyd Wright, the physical and circumstantial evidence is very compelling and led Whitaker to write that, "it is highly likely that the Boardman Cottage [Blossom] is indeed designed by Wright."

Based on this, Whitaker recommends in the report that the National Park Service treat the cottage with a high standard of care and to presume it is a Frank Lloyd Wright design for all intents and purposes. It recommended full restoration versus rehabilitation or minimal preservation, returning it to the original 1894-1902 appearance, and that treatment should be performed under the assumption that the structure is of national historical significance.

This 55 page body of work is extremely valuable, providing the park service with an assessment of construction and preservation details as steps commence to preserve this cottage.

Perhaps one day the mysterious history will be solved and we can put a period on the question. Or maybe Wright never intended for anyone to know if indeed, he had a hand in a rustic cottage across the lake.



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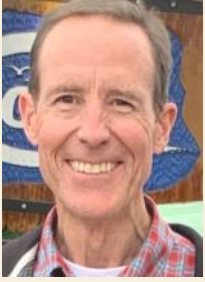
Board Members

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Welcome to our most recent board members!

Jim Duntley



Jim is enjoying retirement with his wife on their farm in Honor after having worked as a systems developer and programmer for a commodity trading advisor in St. Louis, Missouri. He has many experiences to bring to PHSB including building maintenance, remodeling and repair, and extensive property management. He has served on, and been the chair of several boards and Finance Committees exposing him to fundraising & board development. He ran his own business and has expertise in budgeting, accounting and computer network design and implementation. "I greatly appreciate the work that PHSB is doing in preserving the history, sharing it with the community and preserving the physical structures."

Pam Murphy



Pam and her husband live on a farm in Cedar with a barn and chickens. Pam has owned a solar energy consulting company, KMGroup for 15 years. Previously, she worked in Washington, D.C. including for the League of Women Voters. She authored the book, "The Garbage Primer, A Citizens Guide". Pam has served on the Leelanau Children's Center Board as Vice President, a volunteer for the Inland Seas Schoolship, and the Advocates for Safe Drinking Water and Lakes. "I spent all my summers as a child just down the road from Port Oneida. How I loved exploring the farms on foot and my horse, and now that I'm a full-time resident, I'd like to celebrate those wonderful summer memories by giving back, and what better group to join. PHSB has expanded its connection with locals and tourists, and I would love to help it continue to cement its place in the county."

Caitlin Phillips



Caitlin has degrees in Hospitality Management and an MBA from Michigan State University. As owner of a historic home and a Residential Real Estate Agent in Ann Arbor, she appreciates historic properties. Her family's private Olmsted Camp in western New York keeps her busy on the side. She has served her local PTO- Parent Teacher Organization for 10 years, belongs to the Red Cross, and has successfully raised funds for ambitious projects. Her interests include Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Vocal Music, Staging and Interpretation, and Hosting Fundraising Events. "I am honored to provide continued service to the preservation legacy in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore."

Stacie Longwell Sadowski



Stacie served as our Board Chair from 2010-2013 (formerly Stacie Hill) and has a love for the historic properties in the park. Her passion for historic preservation continues through her volunteerism with our projects on North Manitou Island, where she and her husband Vince have done extensive research and exploration. She is an alumna of Michigan State University and holds a master's in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University. Most recently she was employed as the Development Director at the Gilmore Car Museum in the Greater Kalamazoo area where she lives. She has also volunteered and served on boards with her local historical society, alumni association, and nature center. Having owned a 120 year old farm in Ionia she appreciates the ongoing care necessary for historic structures.

Neil Schoof



Neil is a retired architect, after a 37 year career. He and his wife live in Suttons Bay after many years in Chicago. Neil volunteered on the Old Wicker Park Committee, and a community group in one of Chicago's Landmark Districts where they lived. His architectural work included buildings in the Landmark District where he was guided by the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic preservation. He currently volunteers as a driver for ShareCare in Leelanau County. Neil is Chair of our Adaptive-Use committee, focused on the rehabilitation plans for two historic structures, bringing his expertise in maintaining the historic integrity of the properties.

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If we missed your name or
 there are corrections we
 apologize. Please us know!

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OUR MISSION

Partnering with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to preserve and interpret its historic structures, landscapes, and rich heritage for visitor and community enrichment.

Our gracious and hardworking gardeners quietly, steadily, have restored and now care for the perennial, raspberry and kitchen gardens at the Olsen Farm. These gardens bring historical authenticity, beauty and learning opportunities to the Port Oneida Heritage Center.

Thank you! Xi Bromley, Jean Jenkins, Kathy Marciniak, Chris Nettleton