

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear *Clapboard*



2022
Newsletter

From your Park Superintendent



In early February 2022, the entire Leadership Team of the National Lakeshore sat down with the Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (Preserve) Board for the first time any of us can remember. Yes, we meet often in small groups or one on one on projects, but this may be the first time in memory that all the key players were in the same room at the same time. We spent the afternoon hearing about a dynamic vision for the future of Preserve in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. The passion, excitement, and commitment to the National Lakeshore's historic preservation, education, and visitor experience were the highlights of the afternoon.

This desire has remained after 24 years of partnership. In the spring of 2004, the rehabilitation of the Charles and Hattie Olsen House in Port Oneida was completed and it became the Preserve headquarters. It was 2009 when volunteers first began working on the Katie Shepherd Hotel on North Manitou Island. It was 2014 when Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear helped secure the original rustic furniture that was inside the Faust cabin. It was 2016 when the ribbon cutting took place for the opening of the Olsen House exhibits, and when work began on the final restoration of the Kraitz Cabin, the oldest structure in the park.

Over the years, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear has conducted oral histories, supported the antique apple grafting project, provided volunteer labor on dozens of historic structures, provided educational experiences by horse and wagon, bicycle and car,

and since their inception, has provided well over \$2 million in support to your National Lakeshore.

As Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear begins its 25th anniversary year and this new initiative for the organization, there is much to reflect upon, be thankful for and dream about. The historic fabric of the National Lakeshore has been preserved, restored, and documented due to their partner support over the past 25 years. The current board's vision put forth in February has excited our team. The possibilities for additional educational opportunities, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and visitor experience all fit in perfectly with the mission of the National Park Service.

The ambitious vision will not be enacted overnight, but we have time to do it right. The 10-year partnership agreement signed last year between Sleeping Bear and Preserve sets the stage. It gives time to evaluate, plan and begin the implementation of their vision. The first step will be a feasibility study that I hope to see in the coming year. From there, the possibilities are endless.

I am excited at the potential the board has brought to the table and I look forward to capacity building for the partner organization in the coming years. I can't wait to see what Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and our partner Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, will be when we celebrate the park's 75th anniversary in 2045.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Tucker". The signature is stylized and fluid.

SCOTT TUCKER
SUPERINTENDENT
SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

From your Executive Director



Over 150 years ago, Port Oneida was slowly growing as immigrants made their new life out of the forests of Leelanau. Over the decades, their cabins and farmhouses were filled with pioneer and maritime livelihoods, hard work, rewards, steadfastness, and contributing to their small farming community.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear is coming up on our 25th anniversary next year. We too have a history with our own challenges, growth and successes in our work for the community. Thankfully, many people helped us forge our way in saving these places that matter—board members, generous donors, and volunteers giving of their hearts and hands. It's been an effort of love to save a truly unique collection of cultural treasures and the stories connected with them. We all understood then and now, the value of this heritage to the local and larger community for future generations.

There were many milestones on the path to success. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear saw a community in need where its historic buildings were being left to deteriorate. Starting as an advocacy group that changed the trajectory of the national park's plan to remove or let mold most of these structures, we matured into a robust preservation organization. Rehabilitating the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm was also a pivotal point. It signaled a firm commitment to, and a home-base for, our preservation work, and opened new opportunities for educational and interpretive programs.

Since inception our goals were clear: preservation of structures and landscapes; facilitating adaptive-reuse; and an educational track that preserves and shares the history of the people. Without Preserve, and the urging of the public to "save as many as possible", the future of this unique heritage looked dim. Now, after almost 25 years of dedicated and talented crews doing amazing preservation work, that legacy is bright. This past year, we took another giant step forward by developing an inspired vision for reimagining some historic properties for educational purposes. Our past has led us to this much anticipated chapter and we look forward to sharing this with you in the coming year. We are deeply grateful for your support.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Susan", with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

SUSAN POCKLINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PRESERVE HISTORIC SLEEPING BEAR

Summary of Service

NUTS AND BOLTS

As a park partner, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear exists to provide heritage preservation and education projects, programs, products, and payment for park needs, that enrich the community and visitor experience. This past year was full of seeing these activities in action due to our fantastic donors and volunteers. Check out this summary of service we support!

PRESERVE STRUCTURES

Completed preservation projects on historic structures including one farm and two log cabins.



ADAPTIVE REUSE

Furthered the development of a vision for adaptive use of select historic properties



LANDSCAPE STEWARDS

Funded antique orchard restoration; mowed historic agricultural fields, and removed invasive vegetation.



FARM STEWARDS

98 volunteer hours protecting historic properties by checking them on a regular basis reporting damages or animal entry



INTERPRETATION

Offered educational tours, publications, served as fiduciary for the Port Oneida Fair. Raised funds for new exhibits



HERITAGE CENTER

Welcomed 2,500 people to the Port Oneida Heritage Center by volunteer docents serving 367 hours.



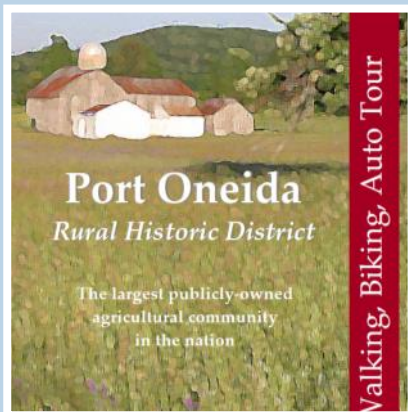
HERITAGE PROGRAMS

Talks, speakers, classes, & school field trips on topics related to history, culture and agriculture.



HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Over 642 hours researching historic documents, photographs and oral history recordings.



GARDENS

318 volunteer hours by our Garden Crew caring for vegetable, flower, and raspberry gardens



CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARK

2022 Fiscal Report

Our contribution to the preservation of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is measured in dollars, project and program expenses, and volunteer hours. Completing historic preservation projects and offering visitor services is attributed to Preserve's generous donors, and our dedicated volunteers who leverage donor's dollars. Thank you to all!

CASH DIRECT	\$3,237
CASH INKIND	
Preservation Projects	\$69,883
Interpretation	\$20,287
TOTAL CASH & INKIND	\$90,170
VOLUNTEER IN-KIND	\$200,665

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$294,072

Highlights

- 10** preservation projects of historic structures and landscapes
- 900+** acres of agricultural fields and meadows mowed keeping invasive vegetation at bay
- 36** educational heritage tours
- 90** days Port Oneida Heritage Center welcomed visitors
- 2000+** Port Oneida Fair visitors
- \$5050** raised for Port Oneida Fair
- \$500** funded Antique Orchard Restoration
- 8** new interpretive window signs in Port Oneida
- 3** new NPS maintenance tool kits at \$3,037
- 6,700** volunteer hours
- Countless!** visitors of the park's 1.5 million, that enjoyed Sleeping Bear's cultural history in part due to the impact of Preserve's work.

HANDS & HAMMER CREW



Heritage Center Projects

Ramp and exterior wall **180** Hours

When repairing old buildings, tackling one problem often leads to discovering another. Such was the case this summer at the Olsen farm, home of the Port Oneida Heritage Center and Preserve offices. An estimated one week project turned into three weeks. Red squirrels had chewed their way under the handicap ramp into the house.

In order to get to the root of the problem the ramp had to come off. In the process of sealing up the back wall to keep the critters out, we also found and addressed drainage issues that had rotted out a fair portion of the exterior wall boards. While our schedule was thrown off and the scope of work expanded, we were glad to uncover needed repairs that would have taken more effort down the road. Finally, new steps were also built with the addition of a railing for better accessibility.

Storm Windows

128 hours

Exterior storm windows save on heating costs and protect the wood of the primary windows. Three new volunteers learned the process and technical skills of window restoration, completing 5 storms (10 sashes). We also hope to purchase interior storm window inserts making the building even more energy efficient.

Storage Shed

89 hours

With the park's permission we built a detached storage shed in the area that the original back porch had been. Rod Nettleton and Ross McAninch volunteered for the job. Our long-time friend Bernie Senske milled all the wood for the structure. In these times of high wood prices these measures saved significant dollars.

Raspberry Garden Fence

39 hours

Volunteers spent a day constructing a fence to keep the deer and Sand Hill Cranes from plucking our beautiful red and black raspberries!

Large photo: Casey Reynolds; Right: Cameron Brooks-Miller and Curtis Fahlberg; Below: left to right, Mark Richman, Doug Detzler, Alex Spitzner



NORTH UNITY SCHOOL RESTORED



10 WORKSHOPS
9 VOLUNTEERS
1 CONTRACTOR
491 WORK HOURS



L: Mark Bartell, Greg Smith, Casey Reynolds, Cameron Brooks-Miller, Doug Detzler. R: Casey R., Curtis Fahlberg, Cameron Brooks-Miller, work on windows. Pg. 9: Curtis Fahlberg helps install restored windows

North Unity School

This little schoolhouse tucked in the woods by Narada Lake on the Heritage Trail offers a glimpse of our history. Preserve's project on the log cabin started three years ago with sealing up small entry holes once bats were confirmed to have left the structure. In 2021, a major hand hewn log was replaced and interior vertical siding was removed, numbered, and cleaned of bat guano.

Our summer-long project this past season involved three major tasks. Primarily, restoring all six windows (12 sashes!). This involved removing old paint, repairing or rebuilding the sash, sills, and trim; building new window frames, and finally, glazing and painting with linseed oil products—a long and detailed process. But our crew was excellent, supervised by Project Manager Casey Reynolds. We even milled our own wood for much of the project! Secondly, crews reinstalled vertical siding on the front wall where the chalkboard was, leaving exposed logs on remaining walls to show the original log structure. Third, multiple volunteer daubing workshops closed any gaps between the logs. We can't wait to welcome visitors in 2023!

Project Volunteers: Mark Bartell, Cameron Brooks-Miller, Rick Cain, Doug Detzler, Jim Duntley, Curtis Fahlberg, Mark Richman, Greg Smith, Dutcher Trobaugh.



Kraitz Cabin



A multi-year restoration project of this cabin was completed last year. This year finishing touches included a second clear-coat applied to all exterior trim and building the front stoop. The cabin will be open for Log Cabin Day!

Above: Kraitz descendant and volunteer Tom Meerschaert works with Curtis Fahlberg (not pictured) and Casey Reynolds.

LOG CABIN DAY

Sunday, June 25

Preserve will be honoring Michigan Log Cabin Day by opening all six log cabins on the mainland in Sleeping Bear for tours! Having worked on four of the cabins, we are eager to have the public come in and learn about their craftsmanship and history.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SAVING GOFFAR BARN

From Narada Lake and the Beavers

DONATE TODAY

GOAL: \$40,000

The barn is in danger as its beams sit in water and mud from encroaching water levels due primarily to beaver activity. Plans are to move the barn about 50 feet at a cost of \$40K. Please donate and help us get this historic barn out of the lake!





C. 1925

For the most part, cultural and natural resources play nicely together. Challenges do arise however, when preservation of structures, and wildlife habitat, bump into each other. When at odds, it takes careful planning from the park to fulfill its mission to: “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.”

Beavers, bats, and nesting birds, for example, are some of the wonderful wildlife found in Sleeping Bear that play a big role in the ecosystem. Spotting beavers and their engineered dams also makes for a cool visitor experience and can be seen in their enlarging habitat on Narada Lake between the Goffar farm and North Unity School. But, these small critters can create big problems when it comes to preserving Sleeping Bear’s significant historic buildings and landscapes. It’s a conundrum requiring extra measures from preservation crews which, by policy, must work with or work around wildlife habits and habitat. It effects how and when Preserve and Park crews work on buildings, mow fields to protect nesting, and handle tree work.

While the Leelanau County Road Commission was able to mitigate water over Port Oneida road due to beaver activity, the historic Kelderhouse road connecting east and west sides of Port Oneida still remains

closed—hostage to a beaver takeover. In the case of the Goffar barn, our furry friends, along with mother nature have created a dilemma. The historic photo above shows how far the barn historically was from the water. The Goffar and then Prause family farmed their 80 acres here for decades. In their day, however, beavers posed no threat, as they were trapped or hunted by residents and Native Americans .

While that idea has been discussed, last year the Park asked Preserve to fund an assessment of the barn and recommendations for restoration. Given that the beavers are here to stay, well-known Leelanau County barn-whisperer Jeff Reinhardt was contracted, and submitted his recommendation to relocate the barn. Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear will fund contractors to build a new foundation and move the barn approximately 50 feet closer to the house. The Park is seeking federal funding for restoration of the barn once moved.

For projects where wildlife are inhabiting a structure or having a negative impact, we must work to protect not only the cultural resource but the wildlife, using various solutions. This adds a layer of complexity to preservation usually unknown to the public. Perhaps the Goffar barn, literally in the lake, has brought this issue to the surface like no other.

GOFFAR FARMS PAST & PRESENT

Historical information and excerpts from John W. Goff and Tom Van Zoeren



Goffar farmhouse near the Dune Climb

Leelanau locals may remember the yellow Dune Valley Motel north of the dune climb at the corner of Co. Rd 109 and Harwood Road that leads to the group campground. The farmhouse during that time was the owner's home and motel office. Historically though, the farm with 120 acres had originally belonged to Alexis Goffar Senior and his wife Jennette who immigrated from Belgium to Chicago in 1856.

By 1887, Alexis Sr. sold the property to his son, John B. Goffar; who sold it soon after. Later the Harwood's owned the property. Fast forward to the 1960s when eventual owner Allan Carmichael operated an 8-unit motel for 30 years until they sold to the park. The motel units were removed but the farmhouse remained and became a field office for the park and the first office of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear in 2000 before being removed, having been deemed ineligible for the National Register.

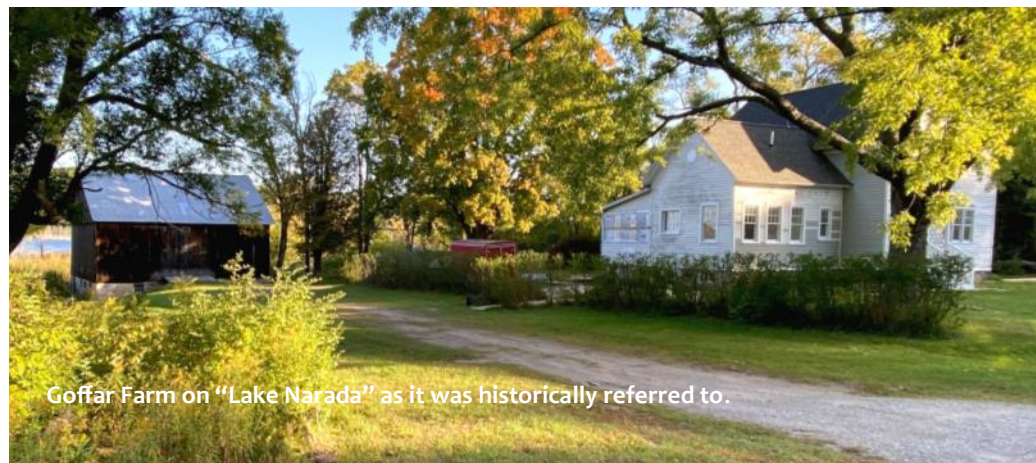
Alexis J Goffar, Jr., just 17 when his parents came to the U.S., was a shoemaker by trade. After he married, he and wife Catherine also moved to Glen Arbor and farmed for six years in the dunes area, but later abandoned the sandy soil and in 1868 purchased 80 acres on what we now know as the Goffar farm on Narada Lake. On their Narada Lake property, Alexis erected a log cabin on the south shore. An Agricultural Census for 1870 reveals that only 10 of their 80 acres was improved. Alexis undertook other occupations besides farming. The Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1873 lists his occupation as "Boots and Shoes". In 1870 and 1876 Alexis was appointed North Unity postmaster; was made 'Register of Officers and Agents, Civil,

Military, and Naval in the Service of the United States' in 1871 and 1873; was Cleveland Township clerk in 1874; and school superintendent in 1881 for North Unity School. An entry in a Traverse Region publication of 1884 indicates that Goffar, "Has thirty-five acres cleared. Has a good frame barn, and is preparing to build a house. Since moving on his farm has worked seven years at shoemaking, which has kept back his farming."

The Goffars sold their farm to Julius Prause in 1893. By 1912 Julius' son Albert and his wife Ida (Dechow) owned the Narada Lake farm. In 1919, they sold the farm to Ida's sister Olive and her husband Milton Manney, then purchased the Ole Olsen farm, and Kirchert farm, (now extant) where they moved to, across the lake. Apparently, a misunderstanding brewed over who had rights to the lake, landlocked between the two properties. The Manney's thought they were getting the whole lake with its good fishing, providing promise for a small resort. The Prauses' new farm, however, included a small bit of the northern portion of the lake. For years they had continued to use the lake for occasional fishing. Over time the Prauses used it more and allowed use by others. The Manneys were afraid the small lake would become depleted of the fish. A civil suit was filed and ire developed between the two families. The dispute was tried in Circuit Court and in 1929 went before the State Supreme Court. Ultimately, the judge ruled in favor of the Prauses.

After Albert helped Milton put out a fire at Milton's house, the two sisters patched up their differences and were again the closest of sisters. Following Olive's passing, the farm was purchased by Glen Arbor dentist Leo Roman who then sold to the Park with a 25-year use-and-occupancy. The farm was rented out for the remainder of the provision.

The next chapter in the story of the Goffar farm is in the making. Completely rehabilitated by summer, national park seasonal employees will be able to experience and make memories at this historic property on Narada Lake.



Goffar Farm on "Lake Narada" as it was historically referred to.

Preservation & Interpretation Action



WHY WE LOVE TO GIVE

Some people intrinsically know the value of something when they see it. They feel it and take action to do what they can so that others can appreciate it. Vik and Susan Theiss of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Glen Lake, have supported the cultural resources of the park both physically and financially as long-time volunteers and donors of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. Their love and affinity for the area's history seen in the structures and its stories is the foundation of their support.

Long before the park was established, Susan had been coming to Leelanau to attend Camp Kohahna on Pyramid Point. "When I first came up here, I was 12 years old. As a child, I saw these farms being used, lived in, and worked, so I had a love for them then. And when I came back years later and saw them abandoned, it really was disturbing to me. I wanted to bring it all back. Though the people couldn't come back, the farms could come alive again. And that's why I wanted to help restore them. With Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, I was able to do that as a volunteer for years."

Prior to that, the pair were part of public lobbying to get the park to care about these historic structures.

"There was a lot of controversy about that early on, and it took a lot of public effort to convince people in the Park Service that this was going to be important. Then as things matured and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear got started, the effort got some legs. And that's one of the outcomes of this organization," Vik says. "Port Oneida is one of the most significant historic areas in the country, and to let it go away would be a tragedy."

A former art teacher, Susan hasn't shied away from wielding a saw or glazing tool on Preserve projects. And as a DIY carpenter, it was a good fit for Vik as well. Vik has also contributed to Preserve in a unique way—by spending significant time researching linseed oil products and techniques from overseas that makes our work more efficient, and with results that last years longer.

Another benefit they note is getting to work with other people and to learn what motivates them, which they find fulfilling. They have also learned new skills as volunteers, including how to do stonework, post and beam construction; and how to restore old windows—

skills they have used in their own home. Between the two of them, Susan and Vik have worked on about 15 structures, including cabins, barns, and lots of windows.

"I stand here and I look at these buildings and the landscape and it feels like home to me", Vik says. "This place has a soul. And when you feel that, you want other people to feel it, too, it's something that's in your heart. And so I work on it and I support it financially because I

think it's important. It's important because I want to give back. But also important that other people have the opportunity to feel it. And if none of this was here, it would just be a field and the trees. And we have plenty of that. There's 71,000 acres here in this park. But this is special. It's a unique thing".

There are two kinds of experiences Vik has had in this park. When he first came here it was all about the beauty. "But then there's another part, the historic district", he says, "which is about the nature, AND the people and the communities that were here. When you learn about the history, the stories of how

families lived, worked, and died, it makes you feel part of the story, part of this community. And I would hope that people would have the opportunity to see the beautiful nature part of this park and the historic part."

"That's right. You can step right into the scene," adds Susan. For example, as avid walkers in the historic districts, they were walking around the Miller Barn one day and a Miller relative came by and shared that the lookout, historically, had been called Charlie's Lookout. "We've been up there hundreds of times", Vik recounts. "But now to us, it's Charlie's Lookout."

"I just love this land. I love the environment here. And the farms are part of it and so why wouldn't I preserve it." Susan says. "To maintain it and contribute to it is wonderful."



"I love this land, and the farms are part of it"

Photo: Enjoying one of their favorite hikes to Lookout Point (Charlie's Lookout!) in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District

Restoring the *Sugar Maples*

It was the last of three sugar maple trees that had once flanked the driveway of the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm, and the Port Oneida Heritage Center. Sadly, it was time to say goodbye. Likely over 80 years old, the three trees were removed over time, having deteriorated to the point where, with one more strong wind they could topple over. Part of a long row of sugar maples lining M-22 west of the farm, they and others were a practical piece of the cultural landscape. Every spring the maples were tapped by the Olsen family for maple syrup and tasty treats, as well as for inexpensive sugar.

After some research, we found a ten-foot native sugar maple species at a local nursery. On a drizzly October morning in 2021, the new maple was planted by George Robinson, Casey Reynolds, and Susan Pocklington. This could be the start of a potentially bigger project. Though we may not see the tree reach the height of the original in our lifetime, it will beautify and shade the yard, and continue the cultural history of the farm. Perhaps one day it too will be tapped for syrup, sugar and candy!



Maple Sugar Event

March 4 & 5 10–3

Sleeping Bear Dunes and Preserve are excited to announce their first Maple Sugar Event!

Activities will include hikes to the Sugar Shack at the Dechow Farm with interpretive stops along the way. Learn about trees, tapping, and the evolution of maple syrup. Demonstrations, maple sugar candy and taffy making will be at the Olsen farm.

Check www.phsb.org for details as the date gets closer.

Stories of Sleeping Bear

Two Lost Tales of the Past



It's a picture-perfect August evening at Thoreson farm. The barn is the backdrop and scene-setter. Over 100 people are seated comfortably in their lawn chairs. The performance begins and the audience is ushered back in time by local author Anne-Marie Oomen and the Beach Bards.

The collaborative performance of music and dramatization told two historic tales within Sleeping Bear. "A Stone that Rises" re-enacted the struggles of Port Oneida's first settlers, Carsten Burfiend and his resilient wife Elizabeth. The second tale was "The Lost Community of Aral" portraying Charles Wright, an unscrupulous timber man who cut the great white pine forests and refused to pay the taxes.

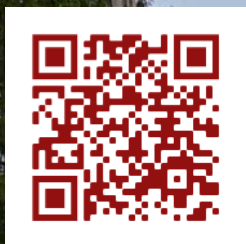
It was a captivating medium to bring stories of area history to life. Plans to do more are on our "must do" list. The engaging storytelling presentation was funded with a grant to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear from the Michigan Humanities Council, matched by the Port Oneida Fair Committee of which Preserve is the fiduciary and Olsen farm site host.



Debut of Sleeping Bear Dunes New Film!

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear hosted the debut of the new Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore film last April at the Traverse City Opera House. The beautiful, historic venue was a wonderful space to view the film on a large screen. We invited the Friends of Sleeping Bear to co-sponsor the event, sharing the stage and introducing park Superintendent Scott Tucker, who provided commentary about the three-year making of the film. The film will be shown to visitors for many years in the Park's Empire Visitor Center.





JOIN OUR TEAM! VOLUNTEER

Sign up at WWW.PHSB.ORG

Carpenters
Masons
Window restoration crews
Orchard pruners
Docents
Bike Tour Guides
Horse & Wagon Tour Guides
Gardeners
Farm stand manager
Farm and Field Mowers
Farm Stewards

Thank you to our great Garden Crew that gather once a week caring for our gardens.

In Appreciation *Donor Voices*

"... when I read the 2021 newsletter, I was blown away by all you have accomplished. A great impact on the Park and surrounding community."

Tom Porter

"Thanks for all that you do to help preserve this beautiful area!!"

Don and Jeannette Basch

"To the fab folks at PHSB. Thank you for all you do – I'm inspired by all of your work!"

Josephine and Jeffrey Ross

Thank you for writing—we love hearing from you!

Grant to Update Exhibits

A \$10,485 grant from the Biederman Foundation will help us refresh and update current exhibits at the Port Oneida Heritage Center. Since opening "A Storied Landscape" exhibits in 2016, thousands have visited and gleaned more about the story of Port Oneida as seen through the lens of Charles and Hattie Olsen.

The addition of audio components will bring a new dimension of learning. First-ever exhibits for the Olsen barn will expand the interpretive story; and an outdoor interpretive kiosk will inform visitors about Port Oneida, the Olsen family and Preserve when the heritage center is closed.

Sign up for our e-news and get the latest updates!

<https://phsb.org/about-us/newsletter/>.

THANK YOU PHSB SUPPORTERS!

received October 1, 2021—September 30, 2022

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Society Member

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\$10,000 +

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HOMESTEADER \$100-249

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Bruce and Mary Barber
Arvon and Sally Byle
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Kira Davis, NPCA
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Michael and Joyce Deren
Ed and Judy Duda
Robert Dumke
Duane Dunlap and Nancy
Hulka
Robynn Farkas
David and Kathleen Fischhoff
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SETTLER \$50-99

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Huntington Bank
Debra Kivisto
Zachary and Candi Kurmas
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David Meyers
Gregory and Rhonda Myers

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

PRESERVE Historic Sleeping Bear

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2023 Events

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Log Cabin Day—June 25 *New!*

Port Oneida Run—August 5

Port Oneida Fair— August 11 & 12