



# The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Inc.

P.O. Box 6344, Traverse City, MI 49696

[www.friendsofsleepingbear.org](http://www.friendsofsleepingbear.org)

## Projects List 2007-2008

### 2007

- **Non-Motorized Multi-Use Trail** – The Friends obtained a total of \$22,500 in grants from the Americana Foundation (\$12,500) and Cherry Republic (\$10,000) to conduct the Environmental Assessment and first stage engineering and design for the trail. This project was coordinated by the Northwest Council of Governments and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Gosling-Czubak, a Traverse City engineering firm, conducted the study this summer and their report is in the review process now. A public meeting to review the results will probably be held this coming spring. The trail will generally follow M-22 and M-109 from the northern border of the Lakeshore (CR-651) to the Benzie/ Leelanau county line (Manning Rd. a couple of miles south of Empire).
- **Paint for Buildings on North and South Manitou Island** – The Friends provided 53 gallons of paint and primer (\$1,790 retail value) to paint various historic buildings on North and South Manitou Islands. A significant portion of this was donated by Sherwin-Williams of Traverse City (about \$1,400 value).
- **GIS Computer** – A new computer was purchased to be used exclusively for GIS mapping and resource management software. This will significantly upgrade the mapping and database capability used to manage natural, physical, and historic resources.
- **Timber Milling** – \$1,000 has been allocated to pay for costs to have lumber milled from logs on or near the Lakeshore to be used on restoration projects for barns and other historic buildings.
- **Barn Workshop** – The Friends provide supplies for the barn restoration workshop.
- **Visitor Booklets** – We've been working with Park Staff to develop some inexpensive guide books to provide visitors with more information about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. They have been hot items! The suggested donation is \$1.00 per book or sticker to cover the printing cost. This project required an initial investment of \$2,000 to get started in July, but by the end of the year, sales of the books have covered almost all of the costs. Next year this project will pay for itself through booklet and sticker sales.
  - **Farms & Cabins** – Explore some of the historic farms in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore but not in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.
  - **Geology** – Learn about the significant geological features that make up the Lakeshore, inland lakes, and dunes.
  - **Glen Haven Walking Tour** – This little guide takes you back in history to the heyday of this little logging village. Walk down the street and imagine what it looked like in 1900.
  - **Lighthouses** – The lighthouse on South Manitou Island is the only lighthouse within Sleeping Bear Dunes. Learn about its history and get a glimpse inside this historic structure. Descriptions of the lighthouse that was on North Manitou Island and other lighthouses in the area are also included.
  - **Manitou Islands** – The National Lakeshore includes North and South Manitou Islands, but many visitors never have a chance to go to the islands, so this booklet provides a way to learn about the islands and their history. Maybe readers will be enticed to take the ferry and explore them first hand.
  - **Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive** – The scenic drive is one of the most popular destinations in the Park. This booklet describes what you'll see on your drive.
  - **Port Oneida Driving Tour** – The farms in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District in the northern part of the Lakeshore make up the largest intact historic agricultural district in the U.S. Drive from farm to farm and get out and explore the old fields and buildings as you learn about the people who lived here.

## 2008

- **Tractor and Brush Hog** – The historic farmsteads in Port Oneida and other parts of the Park are being taken over by the woods. After field clearing activities, the fields will be mowed by volunteers to retain the historic agricultural landscape. The tractor and mower cost over \$15,000.
- **Adopt-A-Beach Program** – This program organizes volunteers to do regular beach clean-ups at all beaches within the National Lakeshore and report the results. The program was started in 2008 in cooperation with the Alliance for the Great Lakes.
- **Adopt-A-Garden** – The gardens around the Lawr Farm
- **Non-Motorized Multi-Use Trail** – The Friends supported the finalization of the Environmental Assessment and the final report for National Park Service Review.
- **Paint for Buildings on North and South Manitou Island** – The Friends provided 40 gallons of paint and primer through a donation by Sherwin-Williams of Traverse City, one of our corporate sponsors.
- **Defibrillator** – This is the third one provided by Friends. There are now several in various locations around the Park and in patrol vehicles.
- **Loon and Trumpeter Swan Nesting Platforms** – Materials were provided to prepare 5 Common Loon nesting platforms and 3 Trumpeter Swan nesting platforms on inland lakes within the park.
- **Seed Harvester for Collecting Native Seeds** – Automation of the collection of native grass seeds will provide native grasses for restoration projects.
- **Piping Plover Protection & Interpretative Signs** – New signs for the mouth of the Platte River and Glen Haven to educate visitors about the endangered Piping Plover.
- **Biodegradable Sand Fence** – Dune stabilization fences are required in many parts of the park. These fences will biodegrade when buried in sand dunes eliminating the safety hazards of the old fence designs where steel posts and wire were left buried in the sand dunes.
- **Site Restoration Bioblankets** – Sites which were once home sites, roads, businesses, or gravel pits are being restored to their natural habitat. Bioblankets are natural fiber mat materials used to stabilize bare soil slopes.
- **Timber Milling** – The Friends paid the cost to have lumber milled from logs on or near the Lakeshore to be used on restoration projects for barns and other historic buildings.
- **Barn Workshop** – The Friends provided supplies for the 2008 barn restoration workshop.
- **DH Day Exhibit** – The interpretive exhibit about the life of David Henry Day, the central figure in the development of Glen Haven and the surrounding area, is being built and will be installed in the Glen Haven General Store.
- **Pierce Stocking Drive Audio Tour CD** – Developed and produced a CD-based audio tour of the popular scenic drive at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It is now on sale at the visitor Center bookstores.
- **Port Oneida Books** – Books documenting the families of Port Oneida are being written and published based on oral history interviews and family photos and other documents.
- **Visitor Booklets** – Two new booklets were published in 2008:
  - **Ghost Towns** – Several small logging villages sprung up along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the mid-1800s. Most of them are completely gone now, but this booklet documents their history and some of the colorful characters that lived there.
  - **US Life-Saving Service** – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is unique in possessing three USLSS stations, which were established to rescue passengers and crew from distressed ships in the Manitou Passage.

## Ongoing Programs

- **Port Oneida Cultural Fair** – This 7<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the agricultural heritage of northern Michigan is coordinated in conjunction with the National Park Service and several local groups. The fair has over 100 demonstrators and artist and serves about 4,000 visitors during the two day event.
- **Adopt-A-Trail** – Over 35 volunteers spend hundreds of hours walking the 100 miles of trails in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Their purpose is to keep the trails clean and clear.