



# The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Inc.

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

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

## 2009 Projects List

**Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail** – This 27-mile non-motorized multi-use 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). In 2007, the Friends obtained \$22,500 in grants from the Americana Foundation and Cherry Republic to conduct the Environmental Assessment and first stage engineering and design for the trail. This project is coordinated by the Northwest Council of Governments, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and TART trails. In 2009, the Friends received a \$5,000 planning grant from Rotary Charities of Traverse City for a fundraising feasibility study.

**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. There are now 10 booklets and almost 14,000 have been distributed since beginning in 2006. This year, we added a new booklet "Birding" by Alice Van Zoeren, which describes the best birding locations in the Lakeshore.

**DH Day Exhibit** – This exhibit describing the life and businesses of D.H. Day located in the Glen Haven General Store opened in July. It is like walking through Day's scrap book. Friends volunteers worked with park staff with grants from the Friends to create this exhibit. Stop in and see it next summer.

**Lane Road Access Stairs** – Volunteers from Cherry Republic and the Friends worked with Roads and Trails staff from the park to build these access stairs at the end of Lane Rd. in Port Oneida. The new stairs provides a safe access to Lake Michigan and dramatically reduces erosion of the bank. We hope to do a similar project north of Lane Rd. next spring. Funding is from a grant by Cherry Republic.

**Thoreson Farm House Restoration** – Donations have been coming in to support the restoration work at Thoreson Farmhouse. Some work was done this summer and more is scheduled for next year.

**Piping Plover Signs** – Three large, beautiful, new signs were purchased describing the endangered Piping Plover beach bird and the work being done to protect it on Lakeshore beaches. The signs will be installed at Platte Point and North Manitou Island in the spring of 2010.

**Bio-Blankets for Site Restoration** – Friends purchased erosion control blankets for two restoration sites.

**Tools for Youth Corp** – Funds were donated to the SEEDS organization to purchase tools for the Youth Corps to use during their projects in the Lakeshore this summer.

**Werner Cemetery** – A new fence was installed at the old German Cemetery north of the Miller Barn in Port Oneida. The fence was installed by the Youth Corp and volunteers. Funds were provided by John Erickson, who has ancestors buried in the cemetery.

**Paint for Buildings on North and South Manitou Island** – The Friends provided 80 gallons of paint and primer to paint various historic buildings on North and South Manitou Islands. A significant portion of this was donated by Sherwin-Williams of Traverse City.

**Barn Workshop** – The Friends provide supplies for the barn restoration workshop which was held this year on South Manitou Island.

## **Ongoing Programs**

**Port Oneida Cultural Fair** – The 8<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 had over 100 demonstrators and artists and served about 4,500 visitors during the two day event. This year, the Friends donated over \$7,500 to cover Fair expenses.

**Field Clearing and Mowing** – The Friends purchased a tractor and Brush Hog mower in 2008 to maintain the agricultural landscape in the historic agricultural areas of the National Lakeshore. This year a team of volunteers pulled trees and mowed several hundred acres of fields in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

**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.

**Adopt-A-Beach Program** – Over 40 volunteers do regular beach clean-ups at all Lake Michigan beaches within the National Lakeshore and report the results. The program was started in 2008 in cooperation with the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Several of our volunteers also help with the Botulism study reporting on the number of dead waterfowl that show up on the beaches.

**Adopt-A-Garden** – The gardens around the Lawr Farm have been restored. Volunteers keep the gardens pruned and weeded spring through fall.