



The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Inc.

P.O. Box 545, Empire, MI 49630

www.friendsosleepingbear.org

2010 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. This project is sponsored by the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee coordinated by the Northwest Council of Governments. The trail will be built in the state and county right-of-ways and in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. We are fortunate to have TART trails coordinate the fundraising effort. This past year, the Friends contributed **\$6,250**.

Port Oneida Cultural Fair – The 9th 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 3,000 visitors during the two day event. This year, the Friends donated over **\$6,250** to cover Fair expenses.

Visitor Booklets – We've worked with Park Staff to develop some inexpensive guide books to provide visitors with more information about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. There are now 11 booklets and almost 16,000 have been distributed since beginning in 2006. We added a new Wildflower Field Guide. Donations this season amounted to \$7,355, which will be used for printing new booklets and other projects. This year we provided free maps and guides of the villages on North and South Manitou Islands.

Adopt-A-Beach – Over 40 volunteers pick up trash along 35 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The volunteers record the trash they pick up and report it to our partner, the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Beach Patrol is once per month on the individual's schedule.

Adopt-A-River – This is the first year for this program to have volunteers kayak the Crystal River and pick up trash along the way. River Patrol is on the individual's schedule and they patrol at least once per month. We hope to expand this to the Platte River in the future.

Adopt-A-Trail – Over 35 volunteers pick up down branches and report to Park Roads & Trails crew any large trees down or erosion problems. Over 100 miles of trails are monitored. Volunteers walk their trail once a month on their own schedule. Once built, the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail will be included.

Historic Landscape Maintenance – Many of the historic farm fields in the Park, especially in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, are being overrun by trees which destroys the historic landscapes. The Friends manage volunteers who clear these fields by pulling trees and mowing the fields.

Plover Supplies – The Friends provided **\$500** to purchase new waders, rechargeable batteries, and camping equipment to support Piping Plover monitoring crews on North Manitou Island and Platte River.

Digital Camera – A digital camera was purchased for the Natural Resources staff to document projects and monitoring efforts. **\$499**

EMS Oxygen Cylinders and Regulators – The park's remaining steel oxygen cylinders have reached the end of their useful lives. The oxygen refill company will no longer fill these cylinders. The Friends have purchased 8 new aluminum cylinders and regulators for emergency use. **\$1500**

Barn Workshop – The Friends provide supplies for the barn restoration workshop which completely restored the Barratt Pig Barn in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. **\$6,200**

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. **\$126.**

Coal for the Blacksmith Shop in Glen Haven – The Friends arranged for the SS Badger Car Ferry in Ludington to donate most of the coal we used in the blacksmith shop this year. Estimated value: **\$300.**

Projects Planned for 2011

Wetland Restoration – A permanent deer exclosure fence will be built around the perimeter of an artificial wetland used to remove excess nutrients from effluent generated from a closed-loop fish cleaning station we maintain for visitor use. In addition to construction of the fence, this project involves re-establishing targeted wetland plant species in the wetland. **\$9,500**

Lake MI Access Stairs – Volunteers from Cherry Republic and the Friends will work with Roads and Trails staff from the park to build these access stairs at the end of the access road about a mile north of Lane Rd. in Port Oneida. The new stairs will provide a safe access to Lake Michigan and dramatically reduces erosion of the bank. **\$3500**

Crystal River Signs – Signs will be fabricated and installed at the four primary Crystal River access points, including two liveries, to indicate current water levels and associated boating precautions to protect the river environment. The signs will characterize the effects and experience of floating the river at different water levels, guide use toward lower draft boats at low levels, and discourage use at critically low levels. **\$2000**