

# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020



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# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Friends,

During these challenging times, we find light in the constants: the meaningful difference our supporters make in our daily activities. Nature provides us with a constant stream of beauty, inspiring creativity. It also provides us with the hopeful outlook we require to move through these times of uncertainty with a positive mindset. Nature plays a critical role in mankind's well-being, and it is gratifying to be a part of the many ways the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is helping others get out and appreciate our National Lakeshore. You have been with us every step of the way.

The pandemic prompted Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to operate in a different way this past spring and summer to protect park staff and visitors. Even now, the impact is still being felt. Many programs, like our accessibility program, continue to be on hold. It is times like these that we are more grateful than ever for the support of our community, friends, and sustained partnerships. As we faced a multitude of challenges as an organization, I saw the strong bonds in our community of Park support. With your help, Sleeping Bear Dunes welcomed an estimated 1.4 million visitors this season; further testifying to the fact that people of all ages, race and socio-economic backgrounds turn to nature for help in coping with the uncertainties of the world. Friend's volunteers answered the call for help, spending over 14,000 hours hosting programs, helping ensure trails were clean and safe, answering visitor questions, or simply welcoming visitors with a friendly wave. I am proud to be a part of an organization that represents the collective voices and resources of hundreds of volunteers and supporters who love the National Lakeshore.

In the last year, your generous donations helped us provide critical support for the Park. Donors like you helped conduct research, increase visitor safety, perform trail maintenance, and preserve unique natural habitats. We thank you for your support.

I am fortunate to have experienced the solidarity and support of our members under these tough conditions. It gives me hope for the future knowing that with your help we can bounce back, stronger than ever before. While we cannot predict what the next year may look like, I am confident our supporters will continue to play a vital role in our organization for years to come.

**ROSS MCANINCH**







As Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore celebrates the 50th anniversary of the park's establishment in 1970, we must remember our story is not finished.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, we will look to how the past 50 years will shape the next 50. One key piece of the celebration is acknowledging how we have gotten to where we are today. These ventures would not have been possible without the passion and commitment from innumerable employees and partners throughout the years, not to mention the sacrifices of former owners within the current boundaries of the park. The challenging task of preserving and protecting the Lakeshore's resources could not be done without the dedication, creativity, and a little sweat from the countless staff, volunteers and visitors.

Every opportunity a visitor has to connect with the Park is an opportunity to ensure the story here is being told. Because of the foundation of that has been laid, our visitors find value in their visit far beyond the dunes and beaches. They can walk in the footsteps of previous generations and connect with the rich history of this place.

Our story becomes their story - It is not finished; we are only beginning!

#### SCOTT TUCKER

Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

## BEAR LOGO MERCHANDISE IS A HIT

To celebrate the Park's 50th anniversary, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore granted the Friends the use of the park's 50th anniversary logo for fundraising efforts. What did we discover? There are a lot of supporters who wanted to celebrate with us! The limited edition sales closed November 8th, thank you for your overwhelming support. If you didn't get your order placed in time, rest assured, a second sale will be forthcoming. Don't miss out on your chance to own a piece of history.



#### WHY I JOINED FOSBD...

"I love the outdoors and becoming a SBHT volunteer offered me the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people and contribute something beneficial back to the community.

Fredrick Luthardt



## TAKE THE 50TH PLEDGE



What does Sleeping Bear Dunes mean to you? Whether it is practicing leave no trace principles while visiting the Park or limiting your environmental impact by using a reusable water bottle, you are doing your part. Join us as we pledge to respect, protect, and enjoy Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the next 50 years.

*"I pledge to respect, protect, and enjoy Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the next 50 years."*







## FRIENDS MISSION

*"Protecting resources  
and heightening visitor  
experiences in  
partnership with Sleeping  
Bear Dunes National  
Lakeshore."*

Like most organizations, the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes has been changed by COVID-19. Though some activities remain active, others have been altered to ensure visitor and Park staff safety. The fresh air and outdoor activities will continue and as a charitable partner of the Park, FOSBD's role continues today, even in this new reality.

With your help our organization continues work on several projects, new trail work and creating virtual environmental education opportunities for kids and families. This past season was inherently like no other inside the Park. It has proven that as the world heals, people are turning to the outdoors now more than ever. FOSBD is a guiding light that continues to build partnerships and programs to ensure that the Park is here for generations to come. As a community-funded organization, none of our work happens without support from donors like you.

We recognize this is a challenging time for many. If you have not yet made a gift this past year, please do so today. Gifts large and small help sustain the Park's lands, waters and programs that connect the next generation of conservationists to the outdoors. Join us as we make Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore everyone's Park.

### DONATE TODAY AT FRIENDSOFSLEEPINGBEAR.ORG

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore connects us with nature, history, culture, loved ones, and friends old and new - creating memories that last a lifetime. Your gift protects the park, and preserves those possibilities for moments of magic today and for generations to come. Donate today at:

<https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/donate-now/>

## WHY I GIVE

My family spent summers at the lakeshore for more than 30 years beginning in 1990. Some of my earliest memories of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore are from family vacations when I was a teenager. We spent weeks camping, canoeing, and exploring the trails within the Park. As I crest the last few steps on the Empire Bluff Trail and Lake Michigan comes into focus, the view still takes my breath away.

During my youth I would visit the Park with my parents. I knew that someday I would bring my children here so they could experience the many rewards the Park offered. From the sunsets over the lake, to the wide meadows full of wildflowers and wildlife, each visit I made pulled me deeper into the landscape and history.

Most visitors feel the inspirational embrace of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The magic felt here connects them with one common, shared experience of being wonderfully overwhelmed with its beauty and majesty. With its increased popularity I have felt a need to maintain the sources of that magic. Recently, through the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes I was able to contribute to projects focused on the preservation of its flora and fauna. My gift is helping to preserve the magic found within the Park so that future generations of my family will get to experience the same awe and wonder as I did.

*Meredith*

### YOUR DONATION TO THE FRIENDS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

There are several possible ways in which contributions to the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes may reduce your income taxes. See our website for more information: <https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/2020-donations-to-the-friends/>





## Kettles Trail Update

Last year, your support helped Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes turn an isolated section of the National Lakeshore into a three-mile-long trail across some of the Park's best wildflower fields and unique glacial topography. Continuing our commitment to finding ways to make more experiences in the National Lakeshore easier for people of all abilities to enjoy, your support helped make the first section of this remarkable trail universally accessible.

Thanks to your generous support, we can continue work today with the installation of a wooden retaining wall, earthen observation platform and interpretative signage. The impact of your gift extends far beyond building a trail though. It has impacted countless YouthWork program participants that work on the trails, helping them build confidence, learn job and life skills, and build lifelong relationships with other project participants. Thank you for continuing to make an impact in our community.

"This experience has been one that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I am so proud of the work that I have done and know that because of me and my crew, others will get to enjoy it for years to come."

YouthWork Project Member

## Access to nature is a human right

Nature and the opportunity to play outdoors should not be a luxury that's accessible only to a few. Your support allows programs to reach across racial, ethnic, and economic barriers to ensure that all people have access to the great outdoors and opportunities to connect with other like-minded individuals.

## Still Making an Impact

Volunteers continued supplementing Park Law Enforcement staff providing critical support with Preventative Search and Rescue roles. With visitations to the Park reaching record numbers this past season, this program was instrumental in reducing emergency calls by 85%.

The volunteer group from the Friends of Sleeping Bear helps reduce the number of emergency calls to both the rangers at the Park and the Glen Lake Fire Department.



## Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail: Maintenance, Operations, and New Trail

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes volunteers maintain the SBHT every week by blowing off debris, fixing erosion issues, removing down trees, and replacing damaged or stolen signs. This winter, grooming took place on the trail to enable visitors to cross-country ski from Glen Arbor to Empire and from Crystal View Road to Port Oneida Road. Trail Ambassadors ride the trail almost daily to help trail users and report maintenance issues. The operation and maintenance of this well loved trail would not take place without your support.

We are excited that work will begin in 2021 on design and engineering for the next segment of the trail from Bohemian Road (CR-669) to Good Harbor Trail (CR-651). This section will be a mixture of paved paths and boardwalk that will open a beautiful area of the Park to visitors of all abilities to enjoy wetlands, farms, and forest and will end at the beach. We are working with TART Trails to raise funds to build this next segment. Please donate by visiting: [sleepingbeartrail.org](https://sleepingbeartrail.org) or contact us at [info@friendsofsleepingbear.org](mailto:info@friendsofsleepingbear.org) for more information.



14,000 volunteer hours

12 Friends organized programs

2,000 pounds of trash removed from shoreline

363 volunteers working on Park projects

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



## ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO RESTART IN 2021

Many programs were temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep visitors and volunteers safe like, the accessibility program. This closure also put plans to implement a second track chair on hold.

We are happy to announce that, with your help a second chair was purchased during the closure. In the first year of the program 71 visitors utilized the track chair, now, with two chairs, we are able to serve even more visitors! With the continued help of several volunteers, no one will be turned away. Your support is making the outdoors accessible to all!



## FRIENDS OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES

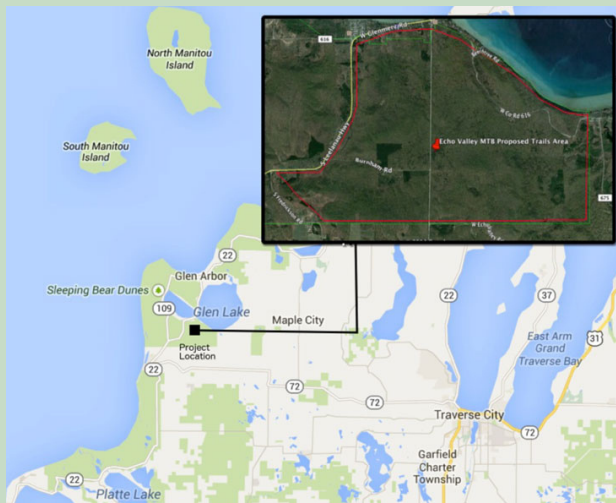
would not be the same without the dedication and passion of our volunteers. Hundreds gave their time and talents for the betterment of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the surrounding communities last year.

Want to become more involved in Friends of Sleeping Bear? Consider volunteering with one of our several programs. Visit the VOLUNTEER section of our website to discover your next adventure at:

<https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/volunteer/>

### WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

"To support the park's mission and stay informed on what is happening at the park."  
- Doug Baker



## WORK SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON ECHO VALLEY TRAIL

Work is scheduled to resume on the Echo Valley mountain bike trail. We are excited to announce that a project team has been established, led by the staff of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, to develop several possible trail alternatives. The team will conduct a current conditions assessment followed by an environmental assessment.

Funds from donors and a challenge grant from Cherry Republic in 2014 will be used to contract with a company who specializes in mountain bike trail design. A specialized consultant will be contracted to lead the environmental assessment. Additional funds will be need to complete the study phase of the project - BUT we are getting started!

## Dark Sky Initiative

The night sky is no longer visible in much of the world due to artificial lighting. However, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore area enjoys starry skies including spectacular views of the Milky Way. This extraordinary resource is possible because the sky quality in the area is only minimally impacted by sky glow which can be detected along the horizon at Sleeping Bear from as far as Chicago. Only proactive protection will keep it that way.

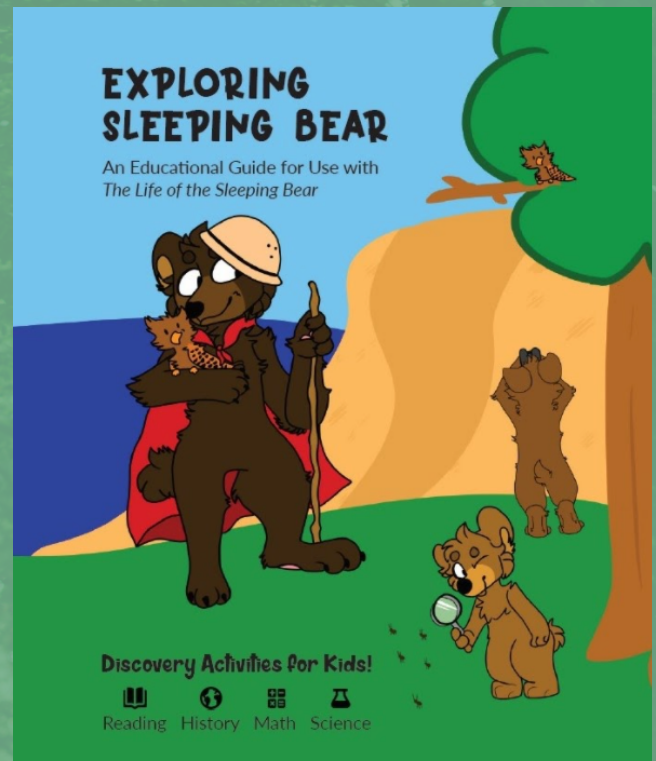
The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is spearheading an initiative to protect this resource. Preserving our outstanding dark sky is not only great for community and visitor enjoyment, like casual stargazers or professional astronomers, it is critical to the survival of the wildlife that inhabit and migrate through the area. There is scientific evidence that light pollution has deadly consequences for creatures big and small, including migrating birds and insects that make up our great and complex ecosystem. Light pollution also has a negative impact on the health and well-being of humans.

As a donor, you can support this dark sky initiative. Funds earmarked for dark sky will be used for proactive protection of this special resource, including lighting restoration projects, community collaboration, and night sky educational and visitor programs including astronomy-based recreation. For more information, please contact [info@friendsofsleepingbear.org](mailto:info@friendsofsleepingbear.org).



# NEW LIFE OF SLEEPING BEAR EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

Available at  
[lifeofthesleepingbear.org](http://lifeofthesleepingbear.org)



Announcing a new release to accompany the Life of the Sleeping Bear Book, the Friends have created Exploring Sleeping Bear: An Educational Guide for Use with The Life of the Sleeping Bear. This NEW 24 page booklet includes grade level suggestions, educational standards, recommended websites and hands-on activities to help guide exploration through 11 themed units including Glaciers and the Lakes, The First People, Dark Skies, Boats of the Manitou Passage, and Black Bears. If you are looking for ways to jump start a successful year of learning with educational activities that are fun for the whole family that you can implement from your own home and neighborhood – get your copy of the Life of the Sleeping Bear and Booklet.



*"I love this book. It has something for everyone, the historian, the environmentalist, the traveler, the photographer, and perhaps most of all, the person who has lived or visited here almost forever and never realized the true stories of The Life of the Sleeping Bear."*



## BOARD MEMBERS

As of Oct. 1 2020

**CHAIRMAN**  
Ross McAninch

**VICE CHAIR**  
Laurie Pope

**TREASURER**  
Jerry Peterson

**SECRETARY**  
Doug Baker

**MEMBERS**  
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Heather Patterson  
Joan Antle  
Kerry Kelly, Past Chair  
Laura Ann Johnson  
Natalia Szymczak  
Steve Klein  
Steve Young  
Tracy Barrilleaux

## Thank you to our 2019-2020 Business Supporters

Cherry Republic  
Northwoods Hardware  
Grocer's Daughter Chocolate  
Crystal River Outfitters  
Leelanau Vacation Rentals  
Sleeping Bear Surf & Kayak  
Empire Chamber of Commerce  
Duneswood Resort  
The Cottage Book Shop  
Art's Tavern  
Anderson's Market  
The Homestead  
Serbin Real Estate  
Sleeping Bear Gallery  
Northwood's - Home and Gift  
Glen Arbor B&B  
Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce  
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[friendsofsleepingbear.org](http://friendsofsleepingbear.org)

**Email**  
[info@friendsofsleepingbear.org](mailto:info@friendsofsleepingbear.org)

**Phone**  
231-631-4244

**Mail**  
P.O. Box 545  
9922 W. Front Street  
Empire, MI 49630

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

PROJECT	FY 2020
Income Projects	\$ 9,382
Educational Publications	\$ 19,748
Book: <i>The Life of the Sleeping Bear</i>	\$ 814
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 29,944</b>

Expenditure Projects	
Ginseng Protection	\$ 26,856
Accessibility Initiatives and Programs	\$ 7,185
Snowshoe Field Trip Program	\$ 5,968
Building of Kettles Trail	\$ 3,806
SBHT Operations	\$ 10,917
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 54,732</b>

Park Priority Projects	
New Snow Plows (3)	\$ 19,024
Junior Ranger Workbooks	\$ 9,600
Law Enforcement Body Cameras	\$ 6,580
Water Leak/Pipe Finding Equipment	\$ 5,200
Bark Ranger/Food Storage Intern	\$ 4,300
Beach Water Quality Supplies	\$ 4,000
Other	\$ 630
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 49,334</b>

<b>Total Support:</b>	<b>\$ 134,010</b>
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