



P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630

2001/2002 Vol.12, No.3

November 2001

**GREETINGS ISLAND FRIENDS!!**

**News from Our President  
GMP Response Letter to the Park**

Enclosed you will find a letter written by the SMMS Board to the Park Superintendent regarding the proposed alternatives to the General Management Plan. It is VERY important that every member take the time to sign this letter and mail to the address to which it is addressed. Please also feel free to add additional thoughts and comments of your own at the bottom of the page or on additional pages. Sleeping Bear Dunes has this new Superintendent and she needs to hear from EVERY member. Please take the time to sign and mail this letter. It is the South Manitou Memorial Society's opportunity and responsibility to express its opinions about the way we would like to see the Island managed! I hope you will each take this opportunity, and as your President, I thank you!!

**New Park Superintendent**

Joe Orbeck and I have met and introduced the SMMS to Dusty Schultz, the new Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. Superintendent. Ms. Schultz, a native of Lilly, Pennsylvania, comes highly recommended for her strong park operations experience and outstanding performance in the area of community relations. She has managed diverse resources and has built constituencies. She has served as Superintendent at Moores Creek National Battlefield in Currie, North Carolina; Lincoln Boyhood, Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Tennessee; Allegheny Heritage Railroad National Historic Site and Johnston Flood National Memorial, in Pennsylvania. We are thrilled with her strong background in managing National Historic Sites. We look forward to a positive working relationship with her.

**News from the National Park**

A crew, headed by Russ Chapman, have cleared brush and shrubs from around the structures at the George Conrad and George Johann Hutzler, and August Beck farms. This was accomplished to protect the structures from fire.

The Park is requesting funding to rehabilitate the lighthouse for interpretation. The planning should be finished

**Annual Meeting Minutes of the South Manitou Memorial Society  
July 28, 2001**

Meeting began 1:35 p.m. About 45 attendees. Meeting was opened by President, Dr. Don Morris.

Introductions were made by all present. Gloria Backus Mark wanted to know if anyone knew of her father, Daniel Backus, that had lived on the island, but they could find no records.

Also, Mr. Robert Oberst and his wife, came for the first time, descendants of the Becks and Thompsons. They were pleased to know that half the people at the SMMS meeting were their relatives!

Minutes of 2000 meeting were approved with a motion from Paul Rocheleau, and second by Harvey Rocheleau. Motion passed.

Election of officers. Paul Rocheleau was complimented on the great job of Election Committee Chairman. Three officers were renominated. President, Dr. Don Morris; Vice President, Ms. Lynn Roe; and Treasurer, Mr. Joe Orbeck. Secretary, Judy Fogle, has stepped down, and Joni Carlson elected to take her place. Motion made by Paul Rocheleau, second by Don Tobin. Motion passed.

Joe Orbeck presented the Treasurer Report. See attached. Motion made by Paul Rocheleau, second by Harvey Rocheleau. Motion passed.

Discussion about the National Park Service and the new superintendent is Dusty Schultz. She began work in mid-August. Meeting attendees were pleased to hear that she comes with experience on "history".

Discussion about the GMP and four alternatives presented in three hearings around Michigan. Lansing, Traverse City, and Empire. None of alternatives were agreed upon by SMMS. We have 60 days to reply. Discussion Agriculture being used to maintain open fields and farmlands. Bill Goeman questioned where SMMS is going with these four alternatives. It appears that none of the Alternatives allowed for motorized travel or tours to the historic farms on SMI. This continues to be a major concern for our elderly/handicapped members. Lynn Roe mentioned that cultural history will be lost if tours or motorized travel is not allowed. Marie Smith wondered if we could work with the Leelanau Road Commission. Don Morris said he would confer with the road commission. Opportunities to open roads on the island were discussed. Questions for Road Commission: What keeps road commission from opening roads on SMI? Is there an agreement? Or is it verbal? How did roads get closed? Who pays the taxes? Bill Goeman wondered if the roads need to be kept open for the fire trucks?

Jack Barratt mentioned that Kim Mann, NPS, urged SMMS to be involved - that we can have a voice.

Judy Fogle made a motion that SMMS officers gather information about the four alternatives, write our own alternative,

send a mailing to all members, with sample letter/enclosed addressed envelope for members to mail to NPS. This would need to be done in a timely matter, in order to meet the 60 day deadline (since the meeting, we found out that this deadline can be extended to meet our needs). Kathy Bietau added that we should contact the NPS, read the paragraphs on SMI in Alternatives. Numbers count. Joe Orbeck said this would cost approximately \$450.00 to do this mailing. Second by Harvey Rocheleau. Motion passed.

Paul Maleski asked about the right for living relatives to visit the graves of their relatives on SMI and NMI. Dale Hutzler replied that legally these people can visit their relatives graves with NPS providing the transportation up to two times a year. Discussion about the NPS Cemetery Policy.

Discussion about Glenn Haven boat dock being rebuilt/opened. Discussion about who really owns it; the township or NPS.

Kathy Bietau reminded us that SMMS needs to set up a website and someone to maintain it. We need to have our own website and email address. Since the meeting, Judy Fogle has done research and discovered that the website and email address may be set up through Michigan State University - and possible for free.

Dale Hutzler brought to our attention the issue of handicap accessibility on the island—and that park management never wants to hold this discussion with our group.

Kathy Bietau added that a SMMS brochure would increase awareness and membership to our Society. It would also help bring in younger members, campers, and visitors. Brochures could be placed at the Manitou Transit Office, islands, and other places. The brochure could be sent to past attendees of SMMS potlucks/meetings. The "sign-in" book is being kept with the Secretary, Joni Carlson. Kathy Bietau will begin work on this brochure.

Paul Maleski made a statement that it is hard to make change, and that NPS will fight us until we are all in our graves, and then everything will be quiet.

Kathy Bietau talked about projects for next summer, which entail finishing the inside of the SML schoolhouse. Note: If you are interested in being contacted for this outing — send letter or email to Kathy Bietau. Dale Hutzler asked if the bathroom should be included, or outback where they used to be? NPS will decide those types of issues. Kathy Bietau will work with Kim Mann to organize this project.

Joe Orbeck thanked Judy Fogle, out going secretary of SMMS, for the fine job she has done for the past four years. Judy Fogle got a count of members going to SMI on Sunday, that were at the meeting. 17 total, to fill two containers. Judy Fogle announced that there were 10 SMMS T-shirts in small adults and children sizes for sale. (All sold). Motion made by Julie Morris to close meeting, second by Paul Rocheleau, adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

**Additional minutes** from meeting with Bill Herd, NPS, who arrived late, 3:45 P.M., because of earlier obligations. Present: Bill Herd, Don Morris, Judy Fogle, Joni Carlson, Joe Orbeck, Paul Rocheleau, and Kathy Bietau.

**Announcements:**

\* \$750,000 will be given to SMI in 2003 to restore lighthouse and living quarters.

\* The inside of the Schoolhouse is currently being worked on by Park maintenance staff — the ceiling and walls are being plastered.

\* The back of the Visitors Center is completed and ready for SMMS to display items, do interpretation, sell books, handout membership brochures, and etc.

\* SMMS can prepare their own GMP "Proposal" for SMI. Bill Herd highly recommend that we get together with groups, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and the Michigan Land Institute in Benzonia — to prepare a joint proposal. Bill reported that the Agreement made in 1973 regarding wilderness areas to be managed as wilderness was only direction to manage as wilderness — and was supposed to be re-evaluated at a later date — which did not happen. Now it appears that the time limit may have expired to make a decision and that these areas have become wilderness. They can only be changed by an Act of Congress. This is only speculation at this time. This issue is in litigation.

\* We brought up the fact about the history of rye. Could be a way to open the wilderness areas.

Prepared on August 7,2001 by Judy Fogle

\*Note: It was learned very recently that the largest Giant White Cedar Tree at the Valley of the Giants on SMI fell over on Sept. 10, 2001.

**TREASURY REPORT  
South Manitou Memorial Society  
June 30, 2001**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>6-30-01</u>
Glenn Furst Memorial Fund	\$ 10,000.00
Jack Phillips Memorial Fund	1,783.72
Huntington C.D.'s	15,035.65
Huntington Money Market	8,136.37
Huntington Checking Account	430.35
<b>TOTAL ASSETS 6/30/01</b>	<b>\$ 35,386.09</b>

<u>CREDITS</u>		
6/30/00 Balance - Savings	\$ 5,385.71	
Checking	1,081.72	\$ 6,467.43
7/21/00 C/D Consolidation	\$ 658.00	
8/20/00 Donation, Bldg Restoration	500.00	
99/00 Memberships/Donations	845.00	
99/00 Interest - M/M	99.23	
99/00 Interest - C/D's	1,373.43	3,476.37
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>\$ 9,943.09</b>

<u>DEBITS</u>		
99/00 Newsletter	437.75	
99/00 Postage	307.44	
99/00 Miscellaneous Expenses	119.11	
99/00 Project Expenses	512.07	\$ 1,376.37
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>		<b>\$ 1,376.37</b>

**NET CASH \$ 8,566.72**

<u>MEMO - 6/30/01 Balances:</u>	
Savings	\$ 8,136.37
Checking	430.35
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$ 8,566.72</b>

**\*TOTAL ASSETS** **\$ 35,386.09**

**Individual Funds (In Above Assets)**

Glenn Furst Memorial (Perpetual)	\$ 10,000.00	
Jack Phillips Memorial (Perpetual)	1,783.72	
Fred Burdick Bequest	3,187.25	
SMMS Perpetual Fund	5,000.00	
Lighthouse Fund	625.00	
Donation to Jack Phillips Fund	75.00	
Donation to Fred Burdick Fund	50.00	
TOTAL Allocated Funds		-\$ 21,220.97
<b>*Available Operating Assets</b>		<b>\$ 14,165.12</b>

Submitted by Joe Orbeck - Memorial Society Treasurer. 7/28/2001

November 1, 2001

Superintendent, National Park Service  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
9922 Front St. Highway M-72  
Empire, MI 49630

Dear Superintendent Schultz:

The South Manitou Memorial Society (SMMS) would like to respond to the proposed alternatives to the General Management Plan currently under consideration. We are in favor of a combination of alternatives 3 and 4, with the following modifications:

**South Manitou Island:**

South Manitou Island has seen a rich history of logging, agricultural production and community life. This history is so interesting and intriguing to the island visitor that it must be preserved and interpreted. South Manitou has a long-standing history of ferrying visitors to the island for day and overnight trips. These opportunities must be preserved. The SMMS, among other groups, has a strong history of volunteerism with the Park that must also be preserved.

**Cultural & Agricultural Landscape Zones:**

Unlike North Manitou, many of the dwellings and buildings on South Manitou are still intact and opportunities for restoration exist. We are in favor of preservation of the following buildings and farm fields for their historic value and for adaptive uses through partnerships:  
*All of the cultural resources in Alternative 3 — with the expansion to include:*

- \* The Theodore Beck Farmstead
- \* The George Johann Hutzler Farmstead and gravesite.
- \* The George Conrad Hutzler Farmstead (We've placed a gravestone marker there) Rosen Rye Location.
- \* August Beck Farmstead (We have placed a gravestone marker there).
- \* The Old Dock / Burdick Store area.
- \* The George and Maria Haas Farm. (We have placed a gravestone marker here)
- \* The Elizabeth Shoemaker Gravesite (We have placed a cross and picket fence here)
- \* The Prince Girls Gravesite (We have placed crosses and a picket fence here).
- \* The Old Cemetery — near the old dock area

**Backcountry Zone on South Manitou Island:**

SMMS would like to see most of the "backcountry zone", to enable us to preserve outlying gravesites, family farms, cemeteries, historic sites, etc. This may be as simple as an interpretive sign telling visitors who lived here, what they did, how they lived, or could go so far as to become a living history farm through partnerships, etc. Visitors are very interested in the human history of the islands.

The SMMS has been preserving outlying gravesites on South and North Manitou for many years. This is very important to our group — it is our foundation and purpose for establishment. We have an investment in time and money in this endeavor. We would like to see these sites preserved. We would like to build hiking trails to these graves from the main trails and roads, so that family members and visitors can see these sites and pay respect to their relatives who have passed on. We are interested in rehabilitating the oldest Cemetery on South Manitou — near the old dock area. Some of these graves date back into the early 1800's. The Park should have a copy of the island map where we have placed outlying grave markers. We would like to produce a small map or brochure to highlight and guide visitors to these sites. They are part of the islands human and cultural history.

**Primitive Zones on South Manitou Island:**

We would support "primitive zones" along the shoreline on the western dunes, at the Valley of the Giant Cedars, gull point, north point and other fragile natural areas.

**Coming Through With Rye:**

The team should review the 1996 NPS plan, *Coming Through With Rye: An Historic Agricultural Landscape Study of South Manitou Island at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore*. This study provides recommendations concerning the agricultural landscape and cultural resource sites on the island.

\* 246-247. Recommendations of historic landscape features located within the potential National Register District.  
\* Pg. 188— Cultural traditions — relating top— residents islanders doing interpretation on the island.  
\* Pg. 191 — the proposed Historic Agricultural District.  
\* Pg. 204 — 206 — Potential National Register District.  
\* Pg. 241 — Historic Agricultural Landscapes.

**Day Use and Motorized Use:**

Day use to South Manitou must be maintained. Many past residents and their families enjoy coming to the island for the day and taking the island tour. It is their heritage, and we must provide for this experience. It has been that way for many years. The SMMS is in favor of maintaining the current motorized road access to the Cemetery and Farm Loop, and including the Leelanau County Road Commission's proposal of access to the Cedars. We favor additional allowances (outside this loop) for vehicular access when doing projects at cultural resource sites to carry supplies, materials, and to transport volunteers.

**North Manitou Island:**

There is a wilderness myth associated with North Manitou. The island was a major center of logging, agricultural production, and had a significant community life beginning in the mid-late 1800's. This cannot be forgotten, in lieu of a wilderness philosophy. The visibly "unnatural" approach to the island signals "less than" a wilderness experience. with the massive dock construction and the PV array solar panel equipment.

**Day Use and Motorized Use:**

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**Cultural Landscape Zones:**

SMMS recommends Alt. 2, including the expansion of the Cultural Landscape Zone to include all of Cottage Row, the east side Sawmill area, the Boumique Home and associated buildings, the Island cemetery, and the Paul and John Maleski farmstead. The John Maleski farmstead has significance to the commercial fishing industry in the Leelanau area. The South Manitou Memorial Society (SMMS) has spent time and money—putting cement crosses on the gravestone of the Maleski brothers' grave. We would like these graves to be preserved as well as the hiking trails built to them so visitors and family members can pay their respects.

**Day Use:**

Day use should be allowed in the cultural landscape zones, and we favor reuse of these buildings through partnerships (i.e. hostels, nature interpretive camps, etc). The Village has a unique and interesting history that lends itself to attract and provide a great day trip for visitors. Day visitors to the village area would not detract from the overnight visitors wilderness experience, given the present condition and appearance of the Village.

**Primitive Zone vs. Backcountry:**

Most of the remainder of the island, with the exception of the above-cited Cultural sites, could be managed in the primitive zone. The agricultural areas around the sites must be kept in backcountry zone so work can be done in these areas. We must keep our options open for future uses.

**Visitor Center:**

We need to provide an area to be used for a small interpretive center in the Village. Nearly all visitors to North Manitou are intrigued with its past history. They want to know about the obvious "human disturbed and inhabited" sites on the island. The island has a rich history that could be interpreted in a way that would not detract from the wilderness experience of the island.

Thank you for soliciting public input in this very important planning process.

Sincerely,

South Manitou Memorial Society Member

**New Member Seeks Family Genealogy**

Sharon, the only grandchild of Alvina Beck and William Wiest, is interested in genealogy. She would like to correspond with those willing to share genealogical information and stories about the Becks, Alvina, and her brothers and sisters. Please contact her at the following address. Thank YOU!!!  
Sharon Boots  
2363 Old Trail Drive, Reston, VA 20191 Phone: 703-620-5095 Email Sgboots232@aol.com.

**Another Inquiry**

Jack and Sue Hughes have just returned from their last trip to South Manitou Island as residents. The Jenks' lease has ended, after 43 years. We are all saddened by the end of an island home. However, while they were there they met a man that was looking for someone to talk to about "Uncle Fred Burdick from North Manitou". (South?). He had several pictures of cottages and people, dated about 1900. Jack and Sue kindly sent this note to the SMMS, to pass along this man's name and address: William Ballard 4010 Lorina Cir. N. Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Please contact this man if you can be of assistance or are interested!

**South Manitou Picnic Recipe**

Gloria Backus Marks and her husband came to the picnic for the first time — and had a wonderful tune! She wanted everyone to know how welcome they made her feel! She was asked about her Super-Goober Upsidedown Cake — and so here it is:

- \* 1/4 cup butter
- \* 1/4 cup brown sugar
- \* 1/3 cup peanut butter
- \* 1/3 cup peach juice
- \* 1-3/4 cup well-drained canned sliced peaches (large can)
- \* Cake Mix — white or yellow.

Combine first 4 ingredients in a 9-1/2" iron skillet or 9"x9"x2" square pan. Place over low heat and stir until butter melts and mixture is blended. Remove from heat. Arrange peaches on top of mixture. Set aside. Mix cake mix. Pour gently over peach mixture. Bake at 375-degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool 5 minutes and invert. Good Luck!

**GMP Response Letter from the SMMS**

The preceding 2-sided letter is the response from the South Manitou Memorial Society to the National Park Service regarding the Proposed Alternatives to the General Management Plan. Please remove the staple from the Newsletter and remove the 2-sided letter. You may add additional comments at the bottom of the letter or you may attach additional pages to express your concerns — other than what has been presented by the SMMS

**Sign and Mail the letter to:**

Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L.  
Attn: Dusty Schultz, Superintendent  
National Park Service  
9922 Front St. Highway M-72  
Empire, Michigan 49630

It is important that the Park Service hear from as many members of the SMMS as possible. This letter can be copied if more than one member would like to respond! Thank You!!

The South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter is copyrighted 2000/2001. Vol.12, No.2. The deadline for articles to be included in the next Newsletter is Feb 15, 2002. Please submit to Newsletter Editor: Kathy Bietau at: 11196 W. Clear Lake Cir. Branch, MI 49402. OR E-mail to [bietau@cartrier.net](mailto:bietau@cartrier.net)