



# 2018 Annual Report

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was created by the Michigan legislature on May 31, 1895. The commission's purpose was to administer Michigan's first state park, which had previously been Mackinac National Park, the United States' second national park, from 1875 to 1895. The commission's jurisdiction was extended in 1909 to Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City, Michigan's second state park. Over 80 percent of Mackinac Island is now included within the boundaries of Mackinac Island State Park, which also contains Fort Mackinac historic site. Colonial Michilimackinac and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse are located within Michilimackinac State Park. In 1983 the commission also opened Historic Mill Creek Creek State Park, east of Mackinaw City. The historic sites and parks are together known as Mackinac State Historic Parks. Annual visitation to all these parks and museums is nearly 1,000,000. Mackinac State Historic Parks has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1972.

**WE PROTECT, PRESERVE AND PRESENT MACKINAC'S RICH HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR THE PUBLIC.**



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**RICHARD POSHUMUS**  
ALTO





**Chuck Yob, Chairman**  
Mackinac Island State Park Commission

**Phil Porter, Director**  
Mackinac State Historic Parks

**Dear Friends,**

Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to share the story of another successful year. In 2018 we continued to fulfill our mission by restoring and preserving historic structures, acquiring and collecting historic objects, discovering the past through documentary and archaeological research, protecting and enhancing our natural resources, and sharing our rich history through exhibitions, presentations, and publications.

Notable accomplishments include restoring the brick walls at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, roofing and painting several Mackinac Island buildings, remodeling the second floor of the Mackinac Island Visitor's Center for the Artist-in-Residence Program, opening the Hearthside museum store, repairing roofs and bastions and Colonial Michilimackinac, installing new exhibits at the lighthouse and Colonial Michilimackinac, expanding marketing and sales initiatives, and publishing new books and reprinting several others.

We initiated work on the Mackinac Island Botanical Trail, the Native American Museum at the Biddle House, and the Detroit Public Television Mackinac Island documentary. We completed our 60th consecutive year of historical archaeology at Colonial Michilimackinac and our 30th consecutive year of education outreach programs.

All of this on top of successfully hosting nearly 1,000,000 park and historic site guests and managing our accounting and personnel systems. We continue to administer dozens of leases, use permits, franchises and concessions. We oversee our collections, mitigate invasive species, operate six museum stores, and manage three state parks, the Mackinac Island Airport, a multitude of historic buildings and sites, and dozens of support facilities.

As always, we appreciate the great support of the Mackinac Associates board of directors and membership. Their support in 2018 helped fund a multitude of important projects that allowed us to successfully fulfill our mission of protecting, preserving and presenting Mackinac's rich historic and natural resources.

On behalf of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and the Mackinac State Historic Parks staff -

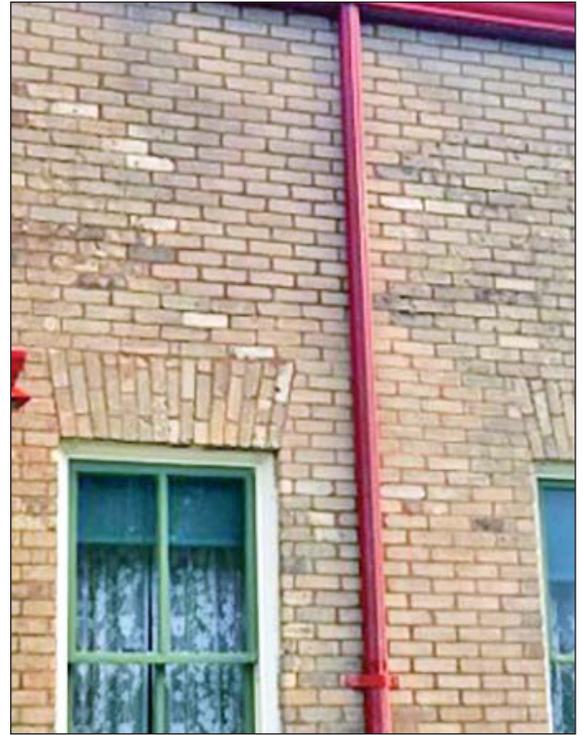
**Thank you!**



## Interpretation, Education and Publications

Mackinac State Historic Parks presents the rich history of the Straits of Mackinac through a wide variety of resources including exhibits and live interpretation, education activities, and a comprehensive publication program.

New initiatives for 2018 included the installation of new exhibits at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, audio visual programs at Colonial Michilimackinac, installation of the annual art exhibit at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, successful completion of the 30th year of education outreach programs, and publication of *The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History*, and *Where Shall They Be Sent? Confederate Political Prisoners at Fort Mackinac*.



*Restoring the exterior brickwork of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse has long been a priority project for Mackinac State Historic Parks. The difference is quite remarkable.*



**Native American encampment at Colonial Michilimackinac.**



**Starting top left, moving clockwise:**

The new orientation video in the King's Storehouse at Colonial Michilimackinac; "Landscapes of Mackinac" Gold Medal winner Lauren Brady with her piece, **The Sighing Tides**; Curator of Natural History Jeff Dykehouse presenting a Water, Woods and Wildlife education outreach program; the "Landscapes of Mackinac" exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

# PRESENTING HISTORY

2018 Annual Report





**Left:** Daily drill at Fort Mackinac.

**Bottom left:** MSHP hosted more than 76,000 people as part of a group in 2018.

**Below:** A new exhibit dedicated to the science and technology of lighthouses opened at Old Mackinac Point for the 2018 season.

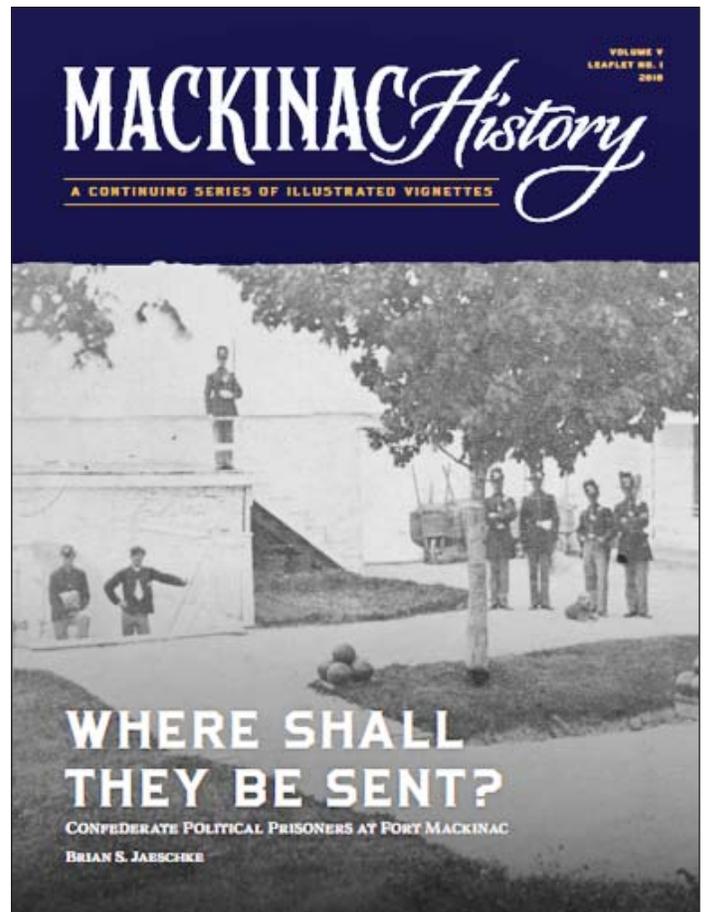
**Bottom right:** *The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History* and *Where Shall They Be Sent? Confederate Political Prisoners at Fort Mackinac* were published.



## The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

PHIL PORTER



## MACKINAC History

A CONTINUING SERIES OF ILLUSTRATED VIGNETTES

## WHERE SHALL THEY BE SENT?

CONFEDERATE POLITICAL PRISONERS AT FORT MACKINAC

BRIAN S. JAESCHKE

# Treasures from the Sand: Archaeo



# ology at Michilimackinac

On August 25 the archaeology field crew completed this summer's excavation at House E of the Southeast Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac. This was the 60th consecutive summer of excavations at Michilimackinac, making it one of the longest-running archaeology programs in North America. House E was first occupied by Charles Henri Desjardins de Rupallay de Gonneville, and later by an as-yet-unidentified English trader.

The root cellar was the most interesting area of the excavation this summer. Some of the planks and corner posts of its north, west and south walls are now visible. Fragments of recognizable ceramic vessels, including a plain white tin-glazed earthenware jar, feather-edged creamware plates, and a blue and white Chinese export porcelain saucer, were excavated from the cellar. The most unusual artifact of the summer, the handle from a small sword, testifies to the fashionable lifestyle of the English trader living in this house. By the late eighteenth century small swords had no practical function but had been relegated to a stylish accessory.

A second deep feature was discovered west of the cellar. It contained a mixture of artifacts typical of 1781 demolition rubble. Elsewhere in the house, archaeology staff were able to determine that a previously unidentified row of posts was a joist support.



**Opposite, starting top moving clockwise:** One of the more unusual finds of the season, a brass thimble with a small section of string preserved inside it; a circular trade silver brooch; exposed creamware found in the root cellar; a lead seal that originally would have been attached to a bolt of cloth or other textile; and a sherd of Chinese export porcelain.

**Above:** Part of a bone-handled table knife with three inches of the blade and two inches of the bone handle present.

**Left:** Part of a catlinite MicMac pipe, which was a three part smoking pipe. MicMac pipes were used by Native Americans and adopted by some French Canadians.

## Collections Acquisitions

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission began collecting historical objects in 1914, with the opening of a "museum" in Fort Mackinac's Officers' Stone Quarters. Systematic collecting began after the launch of the Revenue Bond program in 1958. Today the collection numbers over 22,000 objects. This year we added nearly 500 items to the historical collection. The objects were acquired both through donation and purchase, some of the latter supported by the Jahn Collections Development Fund. The pieces include a vast array of object types.

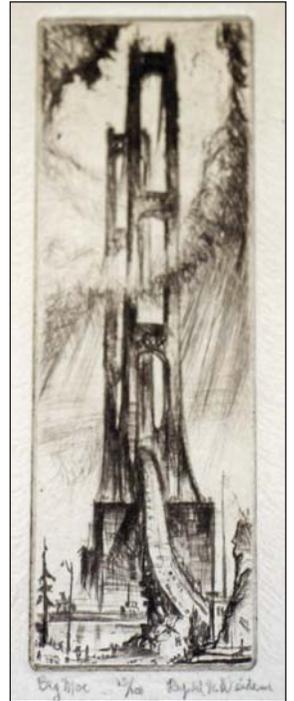
Significant additions to the art collection include a watercolor by Stanley Bielecky and two miniature engravings of the construction of the Mackinac Bridge by Reynold Weidenaar. Very rare, these two works were part of a series of five bridge views by the noted Grand Rapids artist. Over the last eight years we have acquired examples of the three larger, better-known works and this acquisition completes our collection. The Bielecky watercolor is on exhibit at the Manoojian Art Museum and the Weidenaar works will join them next season. The Weidenaar acquisition was acquired through the Jahn Fund.

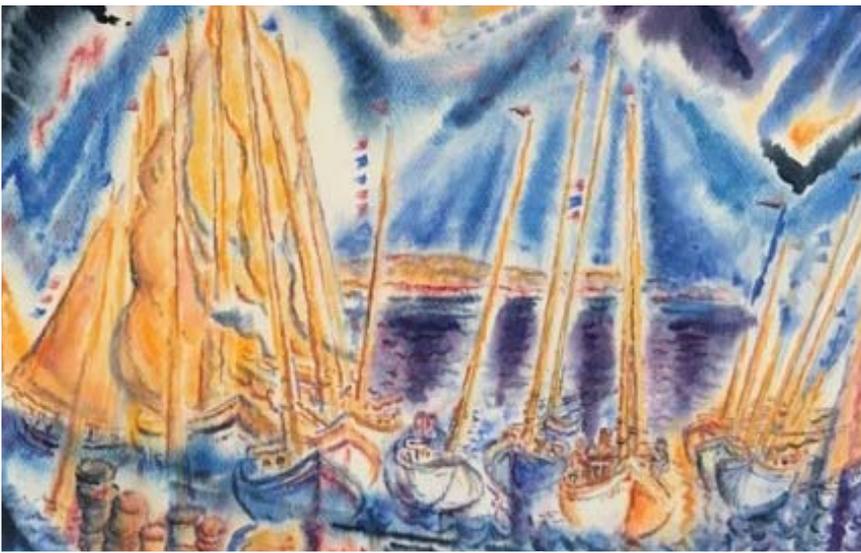
Numerous original historic photographs, dating from the 1880s to the 1970s, were donated and purchased. This included a previously unknown stereoview card and several commercial cabinet cards. We have been actively collecting these since the 1960s and yet continue to find unique examples of these popular photo souvenirs of the Victorian era. Two significant donations of family photo albums were also made. The first were from a descendent of a crew member from Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station, now the park visitor's center. The views show the men at work and play on the island and the only known images of the station's interior. The second donation of albums were from descendants of the Milton Tootle family of the East Bluff. Among the photos are views of the famed Japanese Garden on the cottage grounds and images of family and friends swimming at the Cudahy family pool on the West Bluff and golfing at Wawashkamo. A number of glass plate negatives were also part of the gift. Thirteen excellent mid-twentieth century press photographs were added to the collection. We also acquired twenty previously unknown postcards.

A wide variety of other objects demonstrate the breadth and depth of our collections scope. Of note are a number of pieces added to the souvenir-ware collection including four



Kriesche engraved pressed-glass items as well as a number of late-Victorian, German-produced pictorial porcelain pieces. Other interesting acquisitions included an 1891 New Mackinac hotel register; a *SS North American* ship's newsletter; and shipwreck artifacts from the 1871 *Colonel Ellsworth*. Several historic objects were also purchased to enhance existing period settings at Fort Mackinac.





**Opposite top: Big Mac** by Reynold Weidenaar.  
**Opposite bottom:** The Cudahy pool.  
**This page, starting top, moving left to right: Colonel Ellsworth Ship's Compass;** watercolor from Stanley Bielecky; golfers at Wawashkamo Golf Club; garden at Tootle's Cottage; **At Mackinac Straits** by Reynold Weidenaar.

# Collection Donors

**SARAH NEWTON**

*Watercolor painting of regatta boats by Stanley Bielecky*

**DR. LYNN EVANS**

*Plastic shopping bag from Mackinac State Historic Parks and National Geographic School Bulletin with Fort Mackinac article*

**DR. KEITH WIDDER**

*Sketch of Post Hospital and Steward's Quarters at Fort Mackinac by Jim Worden and panorama of Fort Mackinac from Main Street*

**PAUL WANDRIE**

*Register from New Mackinac Hotel*

**PHILLIP POMBER**

*Birchback basket, souvenir leather container, bone manicure tool, Bayview Yacht Race medal and Native American pottery sherds*

**KATHY TOUCHTONE**

*Mackinac Island wood souvenir box with lid*

**SAM HOILES**

*Henry O'Brien's Carriage Line business card*

**DAN DUNNIGAN**

*Wood walking stick made by Don Andress for Commissioner James Dunnigan*

**DEB BEARD**

*Island House print by Christine Garrity West*

**JOSEPH WOOLHEISER**

*Coast Guard photograph albums of his father with images of Mackinac Island*

**RON AND PENELOPE SCHNEIDER**

*Rendering of Cornwell painting of Beaumont and St. Martin*

**KARIN EVERETT**

*Historic Mackinac two volume set by Edwin O. Wood*

**STU STUART**

*Posters and brochures from Stu Stuart comedy show*

**CRAIG WARREN**

*Ship's compass from shipwreck Colonel Ellsworth and cannonball from straits*

**ELLEN PAVELEK**

*Mackinac Island brochures, souvenir decal, Teysen's suggestion card and color postcards*

**PENNY DRAPER**

*Framed photograph of Dr. John W. Claxton, pastor at Little Stone Church*

**DEBRA ORR**

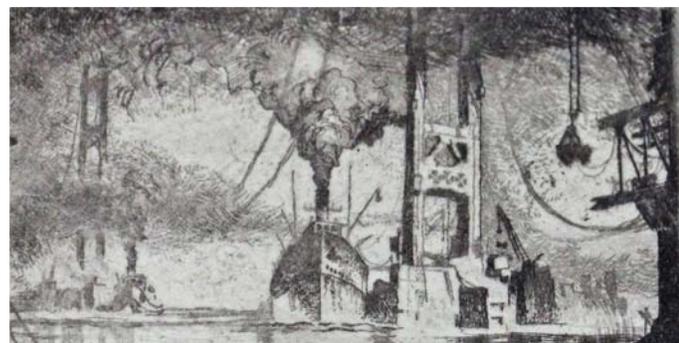
*Mackinac Island The Island News newspapers, black and white photographs of SS Alabama, color postcards of Mackinac Island and straits area and architectural pieces from the Orr Cottage*

**CYNTHIA HARRIS**

*Souvenir arrowhead from 1763 attack at Michilimackinac*

**WALTER HANNABASS**

*Photograph albums with images of the Tootle family including images of the Tootle Cottage garden on Mackinac Island*



## Productive Business Partnerships

Mackinac State Historic Parks hosted nearly 1,000,000 guests at its parks and historic sites in 2018. Exciting public programs and exhibits, an effective media campaign, and productive partnerships with several area businesses and organizations drew visitors to our sites from across the globe. Nearly 30% of tickets sold to MSHP historic sites came from somewhere other than our ticket windows. Below is a list of local, regional and national admissions partners:

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry	Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry
Diamond Tours	Mackinaw City Chamber of Tourism
Island House Hotel	Mission Point Resort
Grand Hotel	Lakeshore Excursions
Great Adventure Tours	Troop Mackinaw
Murray Hotel	Mackinac Island Carriage Tours
Inn on Mackinac	Mackinac Revealed
Lake View Hotel	Baymont Inn & Suites
Tauck World Discovery	Bob Rogers Travel
Brightspark Travel	Corporate Travel Service
mParks	Educational Tours
Central Michigan University	Lilac Tree Hotel
Midwest Tours	Chippewa Hotel
Harbour View Inn	America's Preferred Home Warranty
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians	Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Assoc.
Premier World Discovery	Days Inn and Suites - Bridgeview
Gate 1 Travel	Greenlight Groups Tours
Road Scholar	Motor City Travel
First Dakota Bank Travel	Legacy Travel, Inc.
Gerber Tours	Collette Vacations
Crown Choice Inn & Suites Lakeview	Hampton Inn
Days Inn Lakefront & Suites	Strange Escapes

## Online Sales

Mackinac State Historic Parks first offered tickets for sale on its website in 2016. Since that time it has continued to grow by leaps and bounds, eclipsing \$100,000 in 2018.

<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>\$30,642.04</b>	<b>\$70,958.63</b>	<b>\$109,102.74</b>
	 <b>57%</b>	 <b>34%</b>

# "Excellent historical experience!"

"We arrived at 9:00 a.m. and didn't leave until after 3:00 p.m. without one moment of lack of something to do. Staff was excellent, very knowledgeable, warm and welcoming and willing to answer any questions you might have. Very interesting presentations every half hour with well done museum presentations of artifacts. Overall wonderful experience!"

**TripAdvisor**



COLONIAL

**MICHIIMACKINAC**

EST. 1715

# Outstanding Visitor Experiences

## Mackinac State Historic Parks garnered several awards and commendations in 2018.



Fort Mackinac selected as the "Most Historic Landmark in Michigan" by Reader's Digest Magazine



Mackinac Island selected as one of the top ten "Best Island in the United States" by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler



Mackinac Island selected "One of the Most Tourist-Friendly Cities in the United States" by Expedia



Mackinac Island named the Number 1 "Hottest U.S. Destination for the Summer of 2018" by TripAdvisor



Seven of Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites were awarded the TripAdvisor **Certificate of Excellence** in 2018.

- Mackinac Island State Park
- Fort Mackinac
- Colonial Michilimackinac
- Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park
- Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
- Fort Holmes
- Arch Rock



# "Lots of Historical Significance"

"There is so much to see at this Fort and you will get a real sense of how the soldiers lived and worked. Lots of exhibitions and demonstrations and the cannon is fired periodically (cover your ears). There is a 15 minute movie which is very interesting. Children will be fascinated by everything. Don't miss lunch at the Tea Room where the view of the water is just magnificent."

**TripAdvisor**



## Improving our Parks

Mackinac State Historic Parks continues its uncompromising effort to care for and improve its park resources for travelers from around the world. Park enhancement projects for 2018 include restoring the exterior brick work at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, repairing and painting multiple structures, adding interpretive signs, constructing the Artist-in-Residence facility on Mackinac Island, replacing headstones at the Post Cemetery, combating invasive species, and improving the Mackinac Island Airport.



**Starting top left, moving clockwise:**  
 Replacing a previously misidentified headstone at the Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery; bastion work at Colonial Michilimackinac; replacing the roof on a kiosk in Marquette Park; National Restoration fixing the brick work at Old Mackinac point Lighthouse; the kitchen of the new Artist-in-Residence apartment on Mackinac Island.

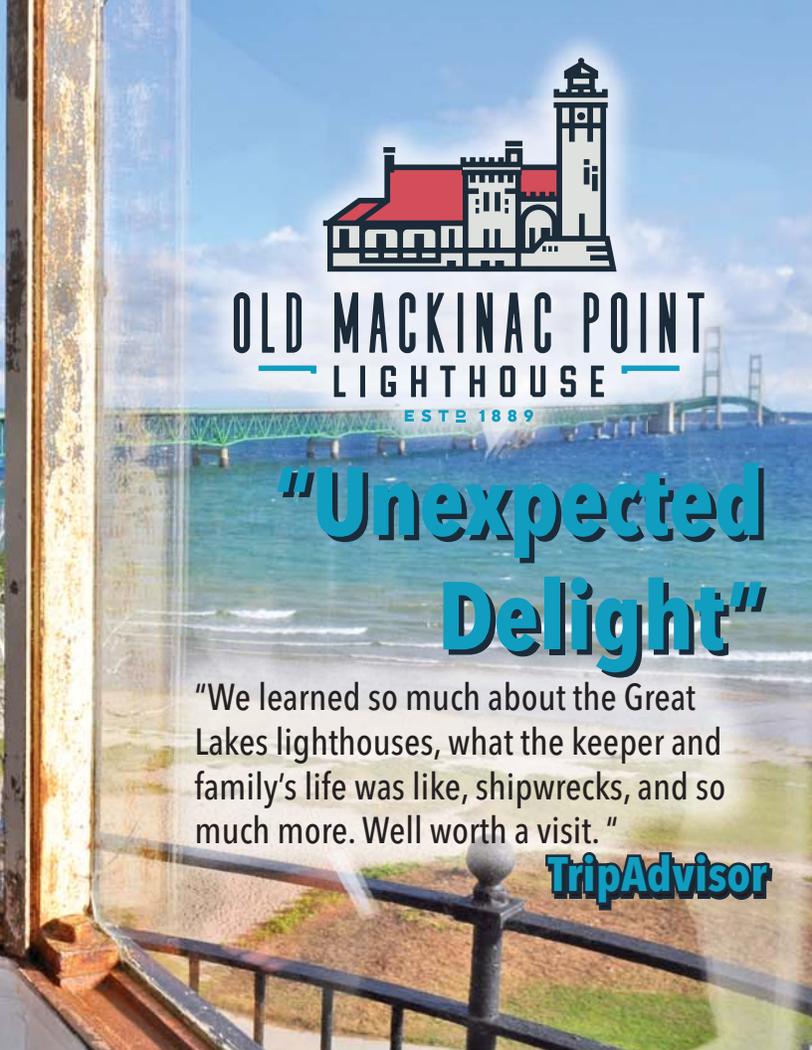


**OLD MACKINAC POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE**  
ESTD 1889

## “Unexpected Delight”

“We learned so much about the Great Lakes lighthouses, what the keeper and family’s life was like, shipwrecks, and so much more. Well worth a visit.”

**TripAdvisor**



## “Wonderful spot! Family fun and history combined”

“We had a great time at Mill Creek Discovery Park. Seeing the mill run and getting the explanation of the era during which it was in use was very interesting and the gentleman giving the demonstration was EXCELLENT. Add to this the fun of the zip line, climbing wall and suspension bridge and you have a fun family experience.”

**TripAdvisor**



**HISTORIC  
MILL CREEK  
Discovery Park**



## Volunteers

In 2018 volunteers donated 30,464 hours of service time to Mackinac State Historic Parks. Volunteers supported a wide variety of activities including historical archaeology, collections management, interpretation, park maintenance, and visitor services. As usual, the largest number of volunteer hours was recorded by the more than 800 boy and girl scouts who participated in the Mackinac Island Scout Service Program.



**Starting top right, moving counter-clockwise:** The Fort2Fort Five Mile Challenge drew 400 runners and required dozens of volunteers; Fort Fright remains the biggest event on the MSHP calendar, and is successful thanks to the 50-plus volunteers that operate it; Girl Scouts serving with the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp; Civil War Weekend at Fort Mackinac brought reenactors from around the state.



# There's Nothing Like Good Friends!



Mackinac Associates provides support to a variety of programs at Mackinac State Historic Parks. Our largest endeavor continues to be our support of education programs. Funding was provided to send staff and interpreters into classrooms across the state as well as scholarships to schools to help support their visit to a Mackinac State Historic Parks site. Other Mackinac Associates projects in 2018 included a new orientation video for Colonial Michilimackinac, new casework for the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum and new technology exhibits at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and a water fountain at Marquette Park, among others. We also provided support to Detroit Public Television's documentary "Mackinac - Our Famous Island" that will air in 2019. This year's special projects totaled \$195,500.

Events are always a highlight and 2018 was no different. The annual G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration was held at the historic Captain's and Major's Quarters next to Fort Mackinac, which were open for tours as part of the event. The annual meeting in August saw great attendance with a program on native plants by Jeff Dykehouse, curator of natural history for Mackinac



*Curator of Natural History Jeff Dykehouse leading a tour at the Mackinac Island Botanical Trail during the Annual Meeting.*

State Historic Parks, and Jack Barnwell, owner of Barnwell Landscaping and Mackinac Associates board member. The program was followed by a preview tour of the site for the Mackinac Island Botanical Trail.

Lastly, behind the scenes, 2018 was a year of change for Mackinac Associates. Long time staff member Diane Dombroski retired after 25 years. We will be forever grateful to Diane for her role in supporting and growing Mackinac Associates over the years. We hired a seasonal membership office assistant for the first time in 2018 to assist with membership and events. And, at the end of the summer we welcomed Michelle Walk as the new Membership and Grants Coordinator. We did not have any trustees go off the board in 2018 but as a result of a bylaw change saw the addition of two new trustees and welcomed Nancy Porter and Skip Young to the board.

We continue to appreciate our members and their support through membership dues and contributions. It is through their generosity that we are able to fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing Mackinac's heritage.



*Michelle Walk, left, and Diane Dombroski during the 2018 Annual Meeting. Dombroski retired after 25 years with Mackinac State Historic Parks.*

## Board of Trustees

Peter Pellerito, *President*  
Jack Barnwell  
Kathy Lieder  
Ann Parrish

Harriet McGraw, *Vice President*  
Mary Jane Barnwell  
Wesley Maurer  
Todd Petersen  
Skip Young

Tom Lockwood, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Jeb Burns  
Mark Mercer  
Nancy Porter



**MACKINAC**<sup>®</sup>  
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