



2020

# *Annual Report*





# Who We Are

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 Mill 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.

## Mackinac Island State Park Commission



**DANIEL J. LOEPP**  
CHAIRMAN  
BIRMINGHAM



**RICHARD A. MANOGIAN**  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
TAYLOR



**WILLIAM K. MARVIN**  
SECRETARY  
MACKINAW CITY



**RACHEL BENDIT**  
ANN ARBOR



**MARLEE BROWN**  
MACKINAC ISLAND



**PHILLIP PIERCE**  
GROSSE PTE. SHORES



**RICHARD E. POSTHUMUS**  
ALTO

## Mackinac State Historic Parks Staff

Steven C. Brisson, Director

### Executive Staff:

Jodie L. Borowicz, Chief of Finance  
Kathryn M. Cryderman, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Myron Johnson, Mackinac Island Park Manager  
Dominick M. Miller, Chief of Marketing  
Robert L. Strittmatter, Mackinaw City Park Manager  
Craig P. Wilson, Chief Curator

### Accounting:

Judy A. Elmore, General Office Assistant  
Jody L. Scheele, Accounting Technician  
Lori A. Thornton, Accounting Assistant

### Administration:

Kenneth A. Fegan, Human Resources Coordinator  
Michelle H. Walk, Membership and Development Coordinator

### Marketing:

Cassandra M. Boothroyd, Group Travel & Special Events Coordinator  
Suzette M. Schmalzried, Sales Manager

### Museum Programs:

James V. Evans, Lead Interpreter  
Dr. Lynn L. M. Evans, Curator of Archaeology  
LeeAnn Ewer, Interpretive Assistant

David E. Harkleroad, Interpretation Coordinator  
Brian S. Jaeschke, Registrar  
Keeney A. Swearer, Exhibit Designer

### Park Operations:

Troy A. Allaire, Park & Rec. Ranger  
Jacob Brown, Park & Rec. Ranger  
Mark L. Bunker, Painter  
James H. Cardinal, Maintenance Mechanic  
Gary A. Horn, Laborer  
Robert J. Horn, Groundskeeper  
Patricia A. Kitchen, Janitor  
Craig R. LaCross, Laborer  
John R. McClure, Carpenter  
William E. Nieman, Park & Rec. Ranger  
Mike Paeth, Park & Rec. Ranger  
William Pechta, Carpenter  
Lawrence D. Rickley, Equipment Operator  
Vincent W. Sova, Park & Rec. Ranger  
Terry J. Stempky, Park & Rec. Ranger  
Scott A. Thompson, Carpenter  
Justin A. Wright, Park & Rec. Ranger



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR

### Dear Friends,

By all measures, 2020 was an unprecedented year. Despite the pandemic, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission persevered and ensured the park remained under good stewardship to protect Mackinac's rich history and natural resources for its visitors now and for years to come.

The year 2020 marked our 125th anniversary. The pandemic, of course, changed our celebration plans and put on hold some of our favorite programs and events. In many ways, the pandemic emphasized the importance of the beauty and value of our parks. Once we were able to safely open in June, visitors were drawn to our sites for peace, refuge, natural beauty and a much-needed good time.

Despite the challenges, we adapted to successfully provide cherished experiences such as the "A Day in the Park" art show, artist-in-residence program, archaeological dig at Michilimackinac and the 18th annual vintage "base ball" game (a victory for the Fort Mackinac Never Sweats). Other highlights included the completion of the Native American Museum at the Biddle House, the restoration and exhibits on the second floor of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, the opening of the new Huron Road picnic shelter and restroom, the upgrading of the audiovisual programs at The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art



*Daniel Loopp,  
Chairman*



*Steven C. Brisson,  
Director*

Museum, and publication of a new book, *Through an Officer's Eyes*, while another, *Preservation at Mackinac*, will be available this spring.

With reduced summer visitation as a result of the pandemic we addressed the reduced revenue through careful planning, lower spending and the generosity of Mackinac Associates. Thus, we began 2021 with a conservative financial outlook and readiness to adjust programs and finances as needed. Because of our approach to 2020, we remain optimistic for our future.

Thank you to the entire Park Commission for their visionary leadership, the entire staff for their tireless work and Mackinac Associates for their incredible support. As we approach the end of the pandemic, we will move forward to fulfill our mission to preserve and present the public treasures under our care.

**Thank you!**



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





The state of Michigan acquired a treasure 125 years ago when the lands that made up Mackinac National Park, including Fort Mackinac, were transferred to the newly formed Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Since that time the commission has operated with the mission to protect, preserve, and present Mackinac's rich historical and natural resources to the public.

*Protect, Preserve, Present*



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The makeup of the administrative staff of Mackinac State Historic Parks looked much different at the close of the 2020 season versus the end of the 2019 season, thanks to several high-profile retirements from the organization.

Phil Porter, after working for Mackinac State Historic Parks for 49 years, with the past 17 as director, announced his retirement in July and stepped down in early October. Porter will stay on as director emeritus through the 2021 season. In this new volunteer role he'll offer assistance to Steve Brisson, who was appointed to the director position October 4, and work on special projects.

Chief of Finance Nancy Stempky announced her retirement in early 2020, and stepped down in June. Her replacement, Jodie Borowicz, began in June in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and navigated the financial health of the organization through the operating season.

Jeff Dykehouse, MSHP's curator of natural history, retired in January after having been with the organization since 1983. His position went unfilled during the 2020 season, but will be filled in early 2021. Equipment operator Robert McGreevy retired from his position with the parks in November after 38 years. His position will be filled in 2021. Lead interpreter Jim Evans, who has spent the past 50 years with Mackinac State Historic Parks, announced his retirement in November. His position will be filled during the 2021 season.

After Brisson's appointment to director, Craig Wilson was promoted to chief curator and will now oversee interpretation at all of MSHP's historic sites as well as the archaeology and collections programs. Wilson was previously curator of history. Dominick Miller was promoted to chief of marketing and oversees all marketing efforts, including museum stores and group sales. He previously served as marketing manager. Additionally, Michelle Walk's title was changed to Membership and Development Coordinator to better reflect the duties of her position; she had previously served as membership and grants coordinator.



**PHIL PORTER**

**DIRECTOR**

**RETIRED IN OCT.**

**NANCY STEMPKY**

**CHIEF OF FINANCE**

**RETIRED IN JUNE**

**JEFF DYKEHOUSE**

**CUR. OF NAT. HIST.**

**RETIRED JAN. 2020**

**ROBERT MCGREEVY**

**EQUIP. OPERATOR**

**RETIRED IN NOV.**

**JIM EVANS**

**LEAD INTERPRETER**

**RETIRED JAN. 2021**



**STEVE BRISSON**

**DIRECTOR**

**JODIE BOROWICZ**

**CHIEF OF  
FINANCE**

**DOMINICK MILLER**

**CHIEF OF  
MARKETING**

**MICHELLE WALK**

**MEMBERSHIP &  
DEV. COORD.**

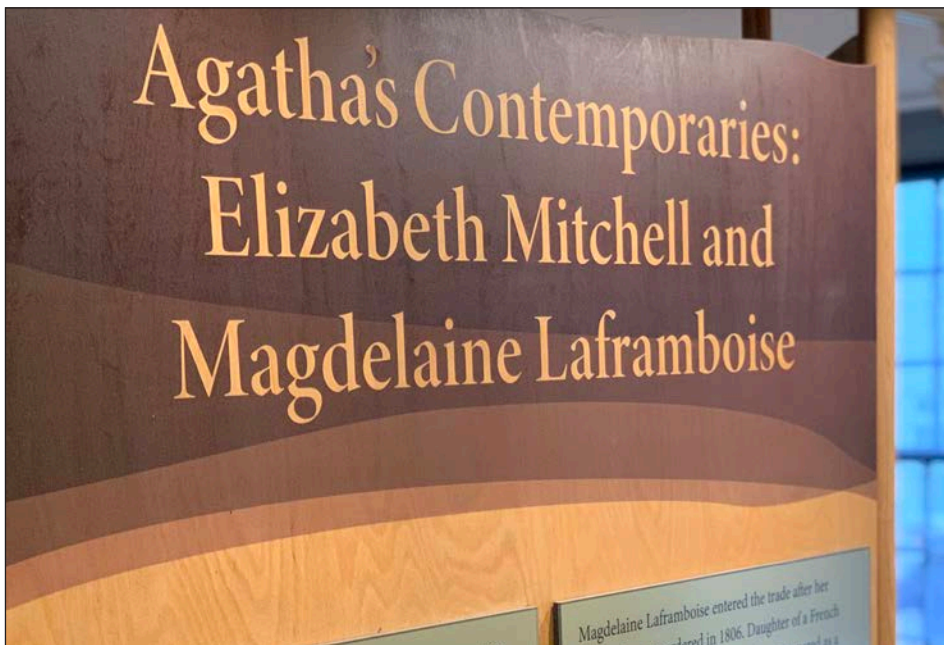
**CRAIG WILSON**

**CHIEF CURATOR**



## MACKINAC ISLAND NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM AT THE BIDDLE HOUSE

At the beginning of 2020, the Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House was on target to open in early May. Working in conjunction with tribal partners, namely the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the exhibit script was finished, and physical work took place through the winter. Work screeched to a halt in March at the outset of the pandemic, though. As staff and contractors were allowed to return to work safely, progress continued at the Biddle House, resulting in an open house in October. The Biddle House will have its first full season in 2021.



**Above:** The newly installed sign at the Biddle House.

**Left:** Inside the house.

**Below:** Inside one of the main galleries. The exhibits were designed to be movable and easy to replace when needed.



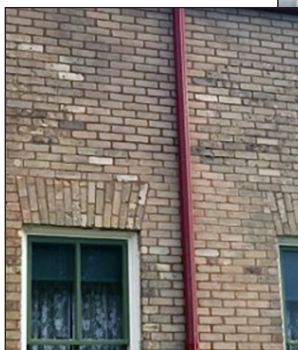


## RESTORATION OF OLD MACKINAC POINT

The restoration of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse has been ongoing since 1999. Since that time the house itself has been restored back to its 1910s appearance; the Barn has been returned to its original location on the grounds and the privy added back on; the Warehouse has been reconstructed and interpreted as the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum; intensive restoration work has been done on the brickwork on the exterior of the house as well as the chimney at the Fog Signal Building; a fog signal whistle was reinstalled on the Fog Signal Building; painstaking restoration work by staff carpenter Scott Thompson has restored windows, trim and baseboards back to their 1910 appearance and luster; sections of fencing have been replaced around the house to maintain its appearance; and, in 2020, the second floor of the house was opened to the public for the first time in its history as new gallery and period settings.

The extensive brick work, work done in the house to open the Science and Technology exhibit, and the expansive work on the second floor were all possible thanks to a generous gift from the estate of Marianne Pettegrew.

Restoration on the lighthouse will continue as we further our mission to protect, preserve, and present Mackinac's rich history to the public.



**Starting top right, moving clockwise:** One of the new rooms upstairs, set up as Chet Marshall might have kept it; the fog whistle on the Fog Signal Building; chimney repairs at the Fog Signal Building; inside the Barn; inside the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum inside the reconstructed Warehouse; before and after of brickwork on the lighthouse.





# *Protect*

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission protects not only the historic structures under its purview, but the natural wonders, like Arch Rock, found within its parks. The commission has overseen Mackinac Island State Park since 1895, Michilimackinac State Park since 1909, and Mill Creek State Park since 1975, and continues that stewardship today.





## 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.

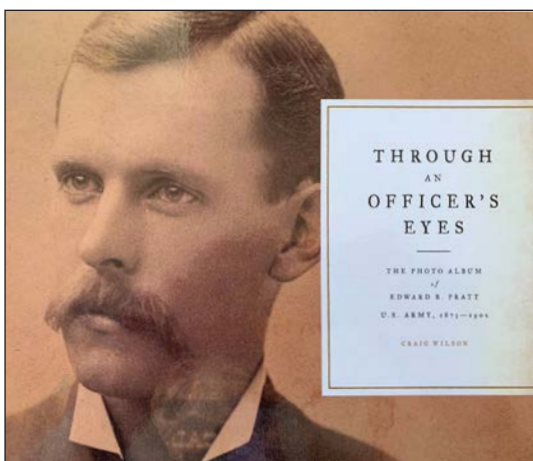
In addition to the opening of the Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House and the continuing restoration work at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, new programs and tours were introduced at our historic sites. These included a "Michilimackinac 1777: At War" program at Colonial Michilimackinac, updated tours, demonstrations and clothing at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, installation and exhibition of "A Day in the Park" juried art contest at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and expanded demonstrations at Fort Mackinac. Additionally, Fort Mackinac debuted a new cannon during the season thanks to the generous support of Mackinac Associates.



The 32nd year of education outreach was partially completed prior to the pandemic, and the 33rd year of outreach debuted in December in a new virtual format. 2020 also saw the publication of *Through an Officer's Eyes: The Photo Album of Edward B. Pratt, U.S. Army 1873-1902* and updates to the *Historic Mackinac Island Visitor's Guide*.



**Starting Top:** *Ghosts off Truscott Street* by Gail Churco, 2020's Gold Medal winner; Socially distanced tour at Colonial Michilimackinac; New cannon at Fort Mackinac; Sawpit demonstration at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park; Exhibit panel at the Biddle House; 2020 edition of the *Historic Mackinac Island Visitor's Guide*; *Through an Officer's Eyes - The Photo Album of Edwin B. Pratt, U.S. Army, 1873-1902*.



# The Biddles in Business

The living room or parlor, with its prominent fireplace, was likely used by the Biddles for family and social gatherings.



## TREASURES FROM THE SAND:

On August 22 the archaeology field crew completed this summer's excavation at House E of the Southeast Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac. This was the 62st 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 in the south-central area of the house was better defined this season. The surrounding soils and artifacts recovered indicate it was built as part of the 1730s construction of the rowhouse. The most definite French colonial artifact was a *Compagnie des Indes* lead seal dating between 1717 and 1769.

The most unusual artifact of the season came from the edge of this cellar. It was a brass sleeve button with a clear glass or rock crystal face with an intaglio bust of a bearded man. Beards were not common in European cultures in the eighteenth century, so he was not a contemporary figure. Research continues into Biblical, classical and historical possibilities.

Work continued on the southeast root cellar. The character of the soil is changing, but cultural deposit continues.

We did reach the bottom of an isolated structural post between and slightly north of the cellars. The final depth of the feature was nearly six and a half feet below our datum. It could be a support post for the floor due to the presence of the cellars. Considering its depth, a more intriguing possibility is that it is a remnant of the original 1715 fort.



**Top:** Current excavation site.

**Above:** An isolated structural post that could be a support post or potentially a remnant of the 1715 fort.

**Below:** Brass sleeve button with an intaglio bust.







**Top left:** Screening for artifacts.

**Top right:** Entact, engraved "Jesuit" ring.

**Bottom left:** Lead seal stamped with the mark of *Compagnie des Indes*.

**Bottom right:** Possible evidence of a French wall.





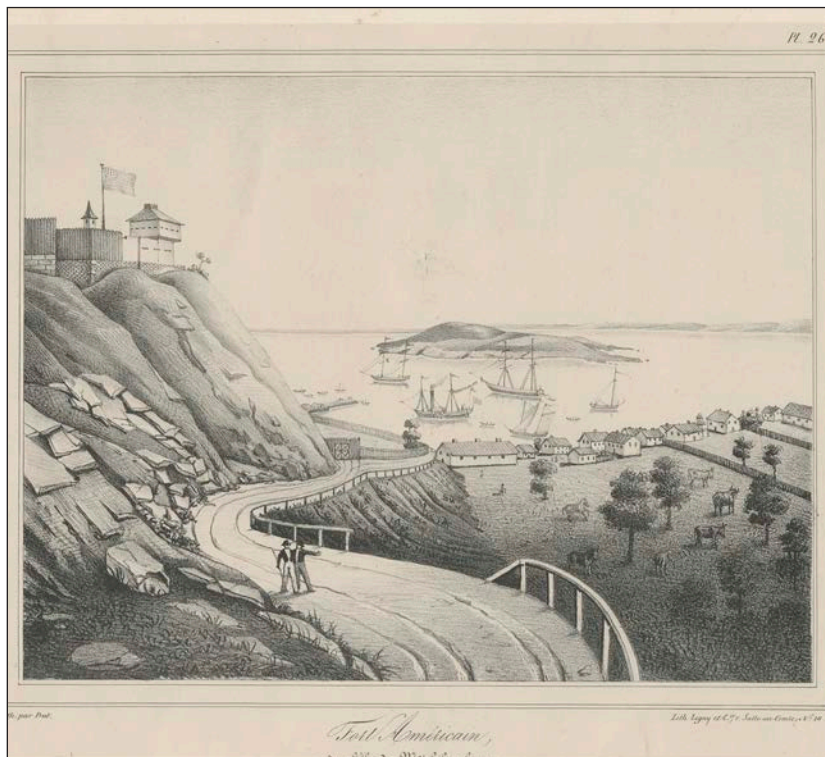
## ADDING TO THE COLLECTION

In 2020, we accessioned 425 objects into the state park historic collection and archives. In addition to several purchases, over 160 items were donated for the collection. Although the summer collections internships were cancelled, the park was able to engage an intern in the fall. During this time, the inventory scheduled for the summer of the Heritage Center General/Furniture Storage and the historic buildings downtown was completed.

Several of the objects purchased in the early part of the year were for new exhibits including the Native American Museum inside the Biddle House and the restored second floor of the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Purchases for Biddle House included a school textbook and axe which now appear in the museum's exhibit cases. On the second floor of the lighthouse, two new bedroom period settings were furnished with beds, dressers and other items to show what may have been used originally by the families.

During the summer, the park purchased several pieces of souvenir china and glass, a register from the St. Cloud Hotel, postcards and other items from avid collector John Huibregtse of Mackinac Island. Many pieces of ruby glass inscribed by island store owner Frank Kriesche were among the new additions. Two unique purchases this year were a brass luggage tag and an early 1800's lithograph. The brass tag is inscribed with the name of Captain George Etherington who commanded the British troops at Fort Michilimackinac from 1762 to 1763. The lithograph entitled *Fort Americain dans l'Île de Michilimakimac* dates to 1838 and was drawn by Jacques Prat for the publication *Vues et Souvenirs de l'Amerique du Nord* by Francois, comte de Castelnau.

Donations this year include a silver service, photographs, steamer trunk and paintings. The silver service belonged to Bernard and Laura Wurzburger who owned a residence on Mackinac Island around 1900. The set has floral etchings with some pieces inscribed "LW." Photographs included snapshots from different eras on Mackinac Island, images of the east end of Grand Hotel under construction and a color view of Fort Mackinac by the Detroit Photographic Company. The steamer trunk came from islander James Bond and has a storied history belonging to both Dwight Kelton, soldier and author of *Annals of Mackinac*, and Helen Donnelly. Finally, thanks to the Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program, the park received two of the paintings inspired by artists who stayed on the island in 2020.





## ADDING TO THE COLLECTION



**Opposite Top:** *Fort Americain dans l'Ile de Michilimakimac*; **Opposite, bottom left:** Brass luggage tag enscribed with Captain George Etherington; **Opposite, bottom right:** Part of the purchase from the collection of John Huibregtse; **Above:** painting from Artist-in-Residence Rachael Van Dyke; **Middle:** Dwight Kelton trunk; **Bottom:** Photograph of Fort Mackinac by Detroit Photographic Company.

### 2020 Accession Gift Donors

#### Robert Beatty

Iron 2-pound cannonball from British Army on Mackinac Island

#### Ryan Wilson

Postcard of Arch Rock

Mackinac Bridge postcard folder

Straits of Mackinac Picture Guide

#### Charlevoix Public Library

Nine pieces of silver from the Wurzburger family of Mackinac Island

#### Garry Hosmer

Copy of *Mackinaw City Settlers and the Savage Straits*

#### Sarah Newton

Copy of Picturesque Mackinac photograph album by E.J. MacAdam

Color postcard folder of Mackinac Island locations

Copy of *Old Fort Mackinac on the Hill of History* by Roger Andrews

#### Anonymous

Mackinac Island State Park Commission Centennial flag

#### Brian Scott Jaeschke

Participant magnet lanyard from Boy Scout Mackinac Rendezvous III

Felt souvenir pennant of Mackinac Bridge

#### Mecosta County Genealogy Society

Color postcard of harbor on Mackinac Island with several boats

#### Dr. Lynn Evans

Color postcard of the Southwest Rowhouse at Fort Michilimackinac

#### John Hullet

Black and white images of Grand Hotel construction, Mackinac Island locations and *Sainte Marie* railroad ferry

Souvenir map of Mackinac Island by Irene Harsha Young

#### Alvin Schaut

Color linen postcard of Grand Hotel and front driveway

#### James McClellan

Rusted knife blade that was found west of Mackinaw City

#### Jeri Gustafsson

Black and white snapshots of Fort Mackinac, Grand Hotel and Fort Michilimackinac

#### James Bond

Steamer trunk belonging to Dwight H. Kelton and Helen Donnelly of Mackinac Island

#### Doug Newton

Color photograph of Fort Mackinac from the harbor by Detroit Lithograph Co.

#### Rachael Van Dyke

Watercolor of Trinity Church

#### Laura Crigger

Black & white photos of Fort Michilimackinac and ferry dock

RPPC of Mackinaw City and Chief Wawatam ferries

#### Phil Porter

Mackinac Island Improvement Association Record book

Mackinac Island Yacht Club directory

R.D. Musser applique

Round Island Lighthouse button

Two Tootle Dry Goods centennial medals

#### Patrick Wise

Painting entitled *View From The East Bluff*

#### Douglas McGregor

Six black & white and color films produced by the Moral Re-Armament

#### Walter Hannabass

Diary of William Tootle as teenager

Photograph of Tootle Cottage before renovation

Snapshots of Mackinac Island and other locations taken by Tootle chauffeur

#### Ann Rogers

Black and white snapshots of Mackinac Island locations



*Present*



Visitors have long been fascinated by the historic sites contained within the various parks managed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Since 1958, the year the commission began its modern museum program, nearly 24,000,000 people have visited Mackinac State Historic Parks' historic sites and museums. The American Association of Museums has thrice accredited Mackinac State Historic Parks, while Fort Mackinac and Colonial Michilimackinac are National Historic Landmarks.





## By the Numbers

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mackinac State Historic Parks' historic sites did not begin opening until June 12, more than six weeks behind schedule. Additionally, major elements of our sites were not available, including the Adventure Tour at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, tower tours at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, the Kids' Art Studio at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and portions of Historic Downtown Mackinac. Even with this delay, the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, and closed elements, MSHP still hosted nearly 200,000 people at a ticketed location, with hundreds of thousands more within Mackinac Island State Park and/or Michilimackinac State Park. Exciting public programs and exhibits, an effective media campaign, productive partnerships with several area businesses and organizations, and the outdoor nature of our sites drew visitors from across the globe.



114,742



43,314



6,660



12,183



6,884

## Attendance and Retail Revenue

Attendance revenue was down 38% over 2019, owing to several factors:

- The Covid-19 pandemic, which caused a six week delay in opening our historic sites
- The loss of pre-booked groups. More than 69,000 people visited our sites as part of a group in 2019; in 2020 it was 2,193.
- The cancellation of major events such as An American Picnic at Fort Mackinac and Fort Fright.
- Visitor hesitation to travel during the pandemic.

Museum store revenue was also down, obviously, but finished only 21% down despite a much shorter season. Store sales at the Colonial Michilimackinac Visitor's Center, the Hearthside Store inside Colonial Michilimackinac, and the Fort Mackinac Sutler's Store remained strong. Credit goes to Sales Manager Suzette Schmalzried for her steady leadership during the 2020 season.

### Attendance Revenue:

**2020: \$2,005,981.22**

**2019: \$3,222,008.16**

### Museum Store Revenue:

**2020: \$785,733.14**

**2019: \$1,000,844.41**

## Partners

We are grateful to our strategic partners for selling tickets to our sites during the 2020 season:

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry  
Grand Hotel  
Mackinac Island Carriage Tours  
Lake View Hotel  
Murray Hotel  
mParks  
KM Tours  
Miller Family Tours  
Chicago Russia Tours

Mackinaw City Chamber of Tourism  
Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry  
Mission Point Resort  
Harbour View Inn  
Troop Mackinaw  
Baymont Inn & Suites  
Croswell Tours  
Bob Neff Tours

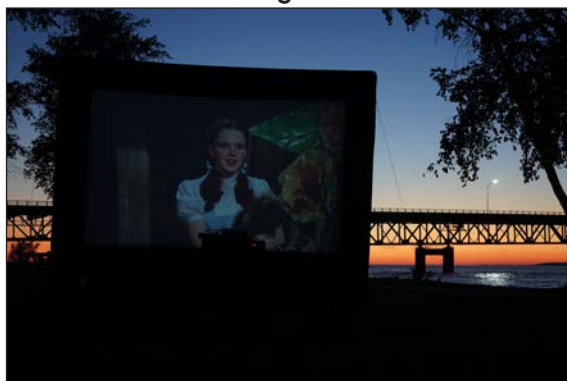


## MACKINAC PARKS: 125



Mackinac State Historic Parks turned 125 years old in 2020. Established in 1895 when the federal government shuttered the country's second national park, Mackinac National Park, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission has pursued the important mission of protecting, preserving and presenting Mackinac's natural and historic wonders. To celebrate this milestone anniversary, Mackinac State Historic Parks had planned to host a series of events throughout the 2020 season, spread across its family of sites and parks, with most of them being free. While the pandemic stood in the way of fully celebrating the anniversary, many events still took place. Highlights included Movies by the Bridge in Mackinaw City every Saturday and Movies in Fort Mackinac every Tuesday, unforgettable evening

cannon firing events at Colonial Michilimackinac and Fort Mackinac, special themed weekends at all of our historic sites, intriguing "Hidden History" evenings at Colonial Michilimackinac, an "Island History Series" on the Mackinac Island, and guided and narrated treks to some of Mackinac Island's most beautiful natural and historic sites. Exciting anniversary collectibles, including color-changing mugs, shirts, hats, and more, appeared in our museum stores. Biere de Mac Brew Works in Mackinaw City brewed a special beer in honor of the anniversary, and Ryba's Fudge provided the official fudge.



**Starting top, moving clockwise:** Fire at Night at Colonial Michilimackinac; Interpretive Assistant LeeAnn Ewer with *Fleur de Mac*, the official beer brewed by Biere de Mac; Mackinac Parks: 125 merchandise; a showing of *The Wizard of Oz* for Movies by the Bridge.

## RECOGNITION

Six of Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites were awarded TripAdvisor **Travelers' Choice** awards in 2020.



Arch Rock  
Colonial Michilimackinac  
Fort Holmes  
Fort Mackinac  
Mackinac Island State Park  
Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse

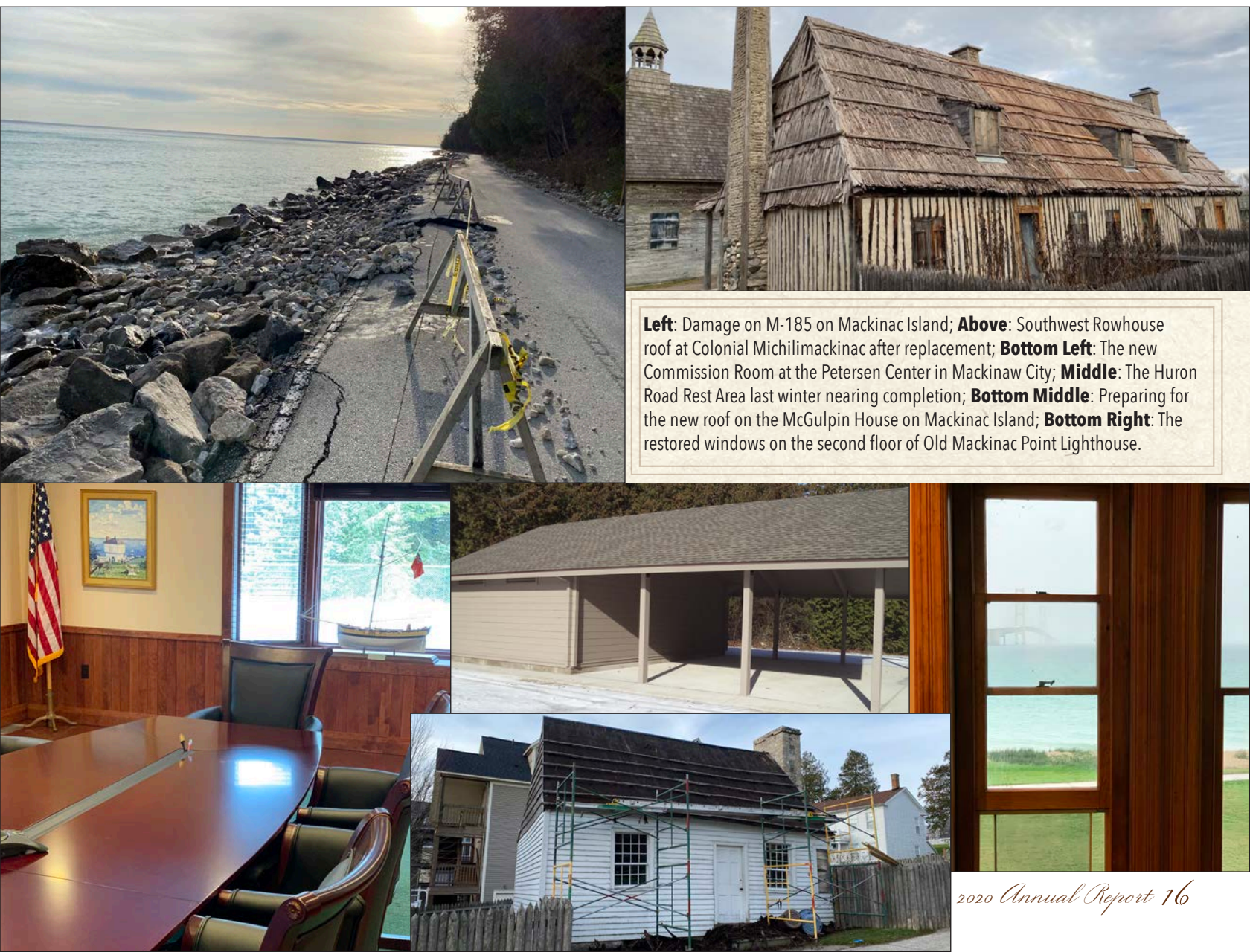




Mackinac State Historic Parks continued its uncompromising effort to care for and improve its park resources for travelers from around the world, even with the Covid-19 pandemic shutting down many projects for months at a time. Crews in Mackinaw City and on Mackinac Island continued repairs and painting of multiple structures, the addition of interpretive signs, combating invasive species, and other maintenance issues.

On Mackinac Island, led by Park Manager Myron Johnson, highlights for 2020 included the completion of work at the Biddle House, the construction and opening of the Huron Road Rest Area, assistance in the ongoing repair work to M-185, repair work to sewers within Fort Mackinac, a new roof on the McGulpin House, a new sidewalk at the Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, and the installation of a new wind cone and LED apron lighting at the Mackinac Island Airport.

In Mackinaw City, under the supervision of Park Manager Rob Strittmatter, crews completed sluiceway repairs on the mill at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, restored the lantern room, replaced fence sections, refinished the Fog Signal Building door and completed the second floor project at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, replaced roofing on two sections of the Southwest Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac, installed and ran network connections at the Colonial Michilimackinac Visitor's Center, and oversaw additions to the Petersen Center.



**Left:** Damage on M-185 on Mackinac Island; **Above:** Southwest Rowhouse roof at Colonial Michilimackinac after replacement; **Bottom Left:** The new Commission Room at the Petersen Center in Mackinaw City; **Middle:** The Huron Road Rest Area last winter nearing completion; **Bottom Middle:** Preparing for the new roof on the McGulpin House on Mackinac Island; **Bottom Right:** The restored windows on the second floor of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.



# *Preserve*



Since 1895, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission has steadfastly preserved the history of the Straits of Mackinac through a expansive collections program, an archaeology program in its seventh decade, and the continuous restoration and preservation of its historic and original buildings.





# There's Nothing Like Good Friends!



Mackinac Associates, the nonprofit friends group supporting Mackinac State Historic Parks, continued to provide support in a variety of ways during 2020. Special projects funded in 2020 totaled \$146,583. Larger projects included purchasing a more historically accurate cannon barrel for Fort Mackinac, a new roof for the Southwest Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac, publication of *Through an Officer's Eyes*, and support for expenses related to Covid-19 such as masks, hand sanitizer and signage for sites to create the safest environment possible for staff and guests. And of course, the largest project, funded through donations of over \$140,000, received in the prior year, was the completion of the Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House. While Covid-19 delayed this project, we look forward to it being fully open at the start of the 2021 season.



*Trustee Skip Young at "A History of Mackinac Through Costume," one of the events able to happen during the 2020 season.*

Because of restrictions in place, Mackinac State Historic Parks staff were not able to finish education outreach programs prior to the shutdown last March. The funding allocated for this program was instead used to create an explore at home section on the website and begin development of new virtual programs. We look forward to again providing scholarships to schools to support their visit to a Mackinac State Historic Parks site.

2020 events saw changes related to restrictions in place due to the pandemic. The Annual G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration and the 4th of July Red, White and Blue reception were cancelled. A smaller reception and a program, "A History of

Mackinac through Costume," was hosted for members to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Mackinac State Historic Parks. At the annual meeting in August we bid a fond farewell to Pete Pellerito and Ann Parrish for years of dedicated service to Mackinac Associates as they had served the maximum number of terms and welcomed Todd Callewaert and Natalia Wohletz as their replacements. We were fortunate to have Phil Porter share his thoughts and gratitude for Mackinac Associates in helping him accomplish several defining projects during his time as director. We are grateful the membership supported the changes in format and followed guidelines in place to allow us to hold a few smaller events this past season.



*Todd Callewaert*



*Natalia Wohletz*

## **Board of Trustees**

Harriet McGraw, President  
Jeb Burns, Vice President  
Nancy Porter, Secretary  
Tom Lockwood, Treasurer  
Jack Barnwell  
Todd Callewaert  
Kathy Lieder  
Wesley Maurer  
Stephen Murray  
Todd Petersen  
Sheldon Smith  
Natalia Wohletz  
Skip Young

January 2020 saw the release of a new, more coordinated corporate sponsorship program. Even with the challenging year we had a good response and look forward to updating and continuing the program in 2021. We want to again thank the over 500 members that responded to the membership survey this past spring which guided the Board of Trustees as they reviewed membership benefits and updated the strategic plan.

We always appreciate our members and their support through membership dues and contributions, but we feel especially grateful during a year such as this that the membership maintained its commitment to Mackinac Associates. It is through their generosity that we are able to fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing Mackinac's heritage.



# MACKINAC

STATE • HISTORIC • PARKS

