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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2022

Mackinac State Historic Parks Hosting Special Events to Help Celebrate Mackinac Island Lilac Festival

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks will host a number of activities at its sites on Mackinac Island in conjunction with the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival June 3–12.

To kick off the festivities for the week, the reigning Lilac Festival Queen, Brooke Dziobak, will fire the ceremonial opening cannon at Fort Mackinac on Friday morning, June 3.

“We are happy to join our partners on the island in kicking off our main season,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director. “We hope these special events and tours help highlight the great experiences found at Mackinac all summer.”

Starting Saturday, June 4 and running through June 12, admission to The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, located in beautiful Marquette Park in front of Fort Mackinac, will be complimentary to all guests on Mackinac Island. Visitors are encouraged to explore *Mackinac Journeys*, the juried exhibition located in the changing gallery on the second floor.

Also throughout the festival, inside Fort Mackinac, the interpretive staff will feature an exclusive tour. At 1:00 p.m. join the staff as they bring guests out onto the porch of the Wood Quarters for a discussion of the Soldier’s Garden, what is now Marquette Park. General fort admission is required for this tour.

Additionally, Mackinac State Historic Parks is teaming up with the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau to give a visitor the opportunity to fire the closing cannon of the day on Saturday, June 4, Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11. Visitors must be on the island to enter, and simply need to fill out a card at the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau booth on Main Street.

Other special events include:

- Saturday, June 4: a showing of *The Wizard of Oz* at dusk inside Fort Mackinac. This is a free event, open to all.
- Sunday, June 5: MSHP Park Naturalist Kyle Bagnall will host a Lilacs and Warblers Birding Adventure, starting at 6:30 p.m. Birders of all ages will enjoy this unique guided adventure. Meet at the Father Marquette Statue in Marquette Park. This is a free event, open to all.
- Tuesday, June 7: MSP Chief Curator Craig Wilson will host a Mackinac in the 1830s Walking Tour, which will allow guests a chance to discuss Mackinac Island in the 1830s and highlight the role of the Mackinac Indian Agency, Fort Mackinac, the American Fur Company, and more. Tour begins at The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum at 6:00 p.m. This is a free event, open to all.
- Thursday, June 9: Join Bagnall for a tour Exploring Mackinac's Natural Wonders. Meeting at the Fort Mackinac Avenue of Flags at 4:00 p.m., this tour will take guests to natural wonders such as Skull Cave, Point Lookout and Sugar Loaf. Wonders come in all sizes, so be prepared for large and small surprises. This will be about a 2.5-mile hike. This is a free event, open to all.

The world famous Lilac Festival Grand Parade concludes the celebration, on June 12. Fort Mackinac interpreters will be part of the parade, and a special cannon firing will kick it off.

More information can be found at mackinacparks.com or mackinacisland.org.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill

Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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