

CURIOSITIES

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'MACKINAC - OUR FAMOUS ISLAND' PREMIERE

Very early on in *Mackinac - Our Famous Island*, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter says that Mackinac has always been a famous place, and that the waves of history have continued to pass over it. This comment was especially true as *Mackinac - Our Famous Island* premiered on Detroit Public TV Thursday, February 28.

In the documentary, Detroit Public TV and Mackinac State Historic Parks took viewers along its many shores and trails to experience the natural beauty of the island, visited landmarks that reveal its earliest history and introduced the people who still work to preserve this special place. There is far more to this sacred island than horses and fudge, and DPTV cameras captured the landscape and beauty while connecting viewers to the diverse communities and people who have been stewards of Mackinac Island throughout its history.

"The commission and staff sincerely appreciate all that Dan Alpert (Senior Vice

President of Philanthropy for Detroit Public TV) and the Detroit Public Television staff did to make the premiere such a success," Porter said. "I've really enjoyed working with Detroit Public TV over the past several months and the premiere was a wonderful conclusion to our joint efforts. I've received many glowing compliments about the documentary."

The documentary achieved a 2.4 Nielsen, which translates to about 64,000 people watching in the metro Detroit area. Additionally, there were 2,238 unique views of the live stream, with people tuning in from 47 states and Washington D.C. along with 9 countries. Viewers pledged more than \$18,000 to the station during the broadcast.

"In every way, (the February 28th) broadcast premiere, screening, and stakeholder's reception was a total success thanks to so many people's work," Alpert said. "I am very grateful for everyone who pitched in so willingly to exceed expectations and make this documentary

premiere and event a real point of pride for what we do at Detroit Public TV."

The Detroit Public TV station became an impromptu theater for the event, as about 70 people attended a premiere reception. Included in the reception were all seven members of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, as well as Mackinac Associates board members Jeb Burns, Ann Parrish, Nancy Porter, Wesley Maurer and Mary Jane Barnwell. Mackinac Associates Membership and Grants Coordinator Michelle Walk also attended.

Mackinac Associates contributed \$25,000 to the making of the documentary. It will air throughout March and April on various PBS stations in Michigan and is being offered to stations throughout the Midwest. An additional premiere screening will take place at the Mission Point Resort theater on the island April 27. Copies of the DVD will be available for purchase at Mackinac State Historic Parks' Museum Stores.

NEW EXHIBITS

Opening day for Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites is just a few short weeks away, which means the debut of new exhibits, galleries, demonstrations and tours.

Fort Mackinac saw the most extensive work over the winter, with the complete renovation of two spaces, the North Blockhouse and Office. The *Redcoats on the Frontier* exhibit at Colonial Michilimackinac saw a complete overhaul of the kids' interactive space in the Soldiers' Barracks.

"All three of our new exhibits will hopefully help our visitors better understand the complexities and realities of life at Mackinac in the past," said Craig Wilson, Curator of History for Mackinac State Historic Parks. "These projects cover themes that range from the seemingly mundane, like administrative work at Fort Mackinac, to the dynamically dramatic, like the 1812 capture of Fort Mackinac in the North Blockhouse, but they all help us more fully tell the story of our sites."

The North Blockhouse will plunge visitors into an immersive, multimedia presentation allowing them to step back in time to the War of 1812 and experience the confusion, fear, and drama of the British capture of Fort Mackinac on July 17, 1812.

The Office, formerly known as the Post Headquarters, will feature two updated period settings and two completely new gallery spaces interpreting the training

and duties of Fort Mackinac's officers. New exhibit panels and interactive elements will help visitors explore officers' roles in the fort's daily operations as well as the administration of the Mackinac National Park.

The Soldiers' Barracks interactive space at Colonial Michilimackinac will allow visitors to step back in time to experience the lives of British soldiers in the 1770s. Guests are invited to try on uniforms of soldiers of the 8th Regiment, sit at a mess table, climb into a communal bunk (two soldiers per bed!), or help a military interpreter clean their equipment or cook a meal in the working fireplace.

"Two of our projects, the Michilimackinac barracks room and the North Blockhouse, will immerse our visitors in the past," Wilson said. "By touching, smelling, seeing and hearing a glimpse of the past, I hope our guests will come away with a better appreciation of what the people who lived here historically went through."

Mackinac Associates helped to fund these major projects at Colonial Michilimackinac and Fort Mackinac.

Every season, Colonial Michilimackinac interprets a new year of the American Revolution. This year, as you are walking through the site, you are stepping back in time to 1776, as the American Revolution spread. A new program, *Michilimackinac 1776: First Strike*, will take place throughout the 2019 season. Additionally, Colonial Michilimackinac will serve as host to several themed weekends, with topics ranging from gardens to trades to games. Visit mackinacparks.com for a complete list.

New and updated tours and demonstrations at Fort Mackinac for the 2019 season include a "People of

Fort Mackinac" walking tour, a "Women of the Fort" walking tour, and a Bayonet Drill Demonstration. The Tea Room at Fort Mackinac, operated by Grand Hotel, will feature new menu items for the 2019 season as well.

The exterior brickwork at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse received some much-needed restoration during the 2018 season, and work will continue in the second floor of the house throughout 2019. Over at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, a new guided nature hike will take place at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily.

Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites open for the 2019 season starting May 1. Visit mackinacparks.com for a complete listing of updates and new projects.



LEAVE A LEGACY

Mackinac evokes so many memories and images of a special place that has allowed individuals and families to create memories and unique experiences. In managing more than 80% of Mackinac Island and the properties at Michilimackinac and Mill Creek State Parks, Mackinac State Historic Parks has the unique ability to protect and preserve the Straits of Mackinac's most treasured natural and historical resources.

Through the Mackinac Associates Legacy Society, you can help preserve these wonderful resources for generations to come.

With a bequest, many of us will be able to make a larger gift than is possible in our lifetime. There are many ways to give to Mackinac Associates. Common considerations are remembering Mackinac Associates in your will or as a beneficiary to insurance policies, retirement assets or bank accounts. The Mackinac

Associates website has a more detailed list of options for consideration, suggested bequest language and forms to notify us of your plans if you choose to do so. Please also consider Mackinac Associates when naming recipients of memorial gifts.

We hope you will keep Mackinac Associates in mind as you meet with your tax advisors and estate planning attorneys. If you have already remembered us in your estate planning, please let us know so that we can enroll you in the Legacy Society and extend our gratitude and provide the recognition you deserve.

Legacy Society members will be recognized in *Curiosities* and on our website and receive a copy of a publication from Mackinac State Historic Parks. Inaugural members will also be invited to an appreciation luncheon this fall. Visit mackinacassociates.com/planned-giving.htm to learn more.



"My dear wife Annie and I have been members of Mackinac Associates for many years. We could not be more pleased at the enjoyment of our membership benefits. As we consider the fact that 'you cannot take it with you' we must consider possible alternatives. And so, as we pondered gift-giving, Mackinac Associates jumped to the forefront as a bequest candidate. Though not wealthy, it was an easy decision for us to plan a bequest that would have a positive impact on Mackinac Associates and Mackinac State Historic Parks, helping preserve it for generations to come. I encourage each of you to consider a bequest and the impact it will have." – Tom and Annie Lockwood

WISH LIST 2018–2019

If you enjoy the programs at Mackinac State Historic Parks and want to make a contribution, a wish list of needed items requested by staff is shown below. Your gift will fulfill a tangible and essential need.

- Pewter creamer for tea program: \$160
- Pewter sugar bowl for tea program: \$150
- Pewter teapot for tea program: \$465
- Tea caddy for tea program: \$100
- Female dress form for clothing construction: \$250
- Soldier's cocked hat: \$200 each (can use up to 4)
- Civilian men's hat: \$150 each (can use up to 4)
- Soldier's bayonet belt: \$150 each (can use up to 7)
- Glass bell jars for fort gardens: \$50 each (can use several)
- Men's linen shirts: \$80 each (can use several)
- Osnaburg sheets for period setting beds: \$80
- Woman's 18th century work gown: \$200
- Sponsor a library book – name of donor inscribed on bookplate of each title: \$100–\$500
- Sponsor oak chairs for library table: \$800
- Two picnic tables with two accompanying benches for new pavilion: \$3,375
- Photography equipment for in-house photography and video: \$5,500
- Underground utility locator: \$3,000

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Do you shop on Amazon? If so, consider shopping through Amazon Smile! Each time you shop the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% to Mackinac Associates.

Here's how to do it:

Go to smile.amazon.com and choose: "Mackinac Associates"

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Go directly to: smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2328863

Afterwards be sure to bookmark and shop from smile.amazon.com so that every time you shop a donation will be made to Mackinac Associates!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are a variety of opportunities to volunteer with Mackinac Associates throughout the year. Volunteers will receive complimentary ferry transportation if needed to reach volunteer site. Volunteers may receive other non-monetary items related to the event at the discretion of the membership and grants coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Michelle Walk at walkm1@michigan.gov or 231-436-4100.

Mackinac Associates Events

We can always use an extra hand at our events with several tasks. Volunteers assisting with registration and check-in make sure people are on the registration list, collect information from individuals that may not have registered ahead of time, assist with distribution of nametags. Greeters serve at entrance points to events and help direct the flow of traffic if needed. 2–4 volunteers needed per event.

Mackinac Associates Mailings

Mackinac Associates does several large mailings a year. Assisting with mailings will primarily entail folding letters, labeling and stuffing envelopes. Minimum of two hours requested, but up to 15–20 hours needed some months depending on the mailing. Number of volunteers needed varies depending on size of mailing and number of hours individuals are willing to volunteer.

Mackinac State Historic Park Events

Mackinac Island Fort2Fort 5 Mile Challenge – May 11, 2019
While this isn't a Mackinac Associates event this race is a fundraiser for Mackinac State Historic Parks and we are definitely in support of that. This race needs between 20 and 25 volunteers.

Fort Fright – October 4 & 5, 2019

Lanterns light your way through an 18th-century fort and fur trading village overrun by werewolves, witches, goblins and ghouls. Storytellers weave spooky folktales near bonfires and treats such as hot mulled cider, cookies and candy can be found throughout the site. There are plenty of opportunities to take on an alter ego and help us staff this spooky event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 1

- Colonial Michilimackinac, 9:00 a.m.

May 2

- Fort Mackinac, 9:00 a.m.
- The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, 10:00 a.m.

May 3

- Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, 9:00 a.m.
- Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, 9:00 a.m.

June 19

- Open House, Visions of Mackinac, Mackinac Art Museum, 6:30 p.m.

June 22

- G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, Young Cottage, 6 p.m.

July 4

- Red, White & Blue Celebration, behind Fort Mackinac, 5:30 p.m.

August 18

- Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, 6 p.m.



DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

The world has not many islands so beautiful as Mackinac," wrote William Cullen Bryant after an 1846 visit to the island. The beauty of Mackinac has inspired visitors for hundreds of years. Those of an artistic bent have endeavored to capture the island's beauty through a variety of media. Now, with the advent of the Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program, visiting artists will have the time to explore, the opportunity to reflect, and the space to create new Mackinac art.

On June 10 the first of seven artists selected to participate in the program's inaugural year will move into the facility on the second floor of the Mackinac Island Visitor's Center. The Artist-in-Residence program is designed to promote and encourage the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island. The program is an exciting new addition to Mackinac Island's flourishing art community.

The idea of an artist-in-residence program surfaced soon after the construction of the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum. The vacant second floor of the Visitor's Center, centrally located and across the street from the museum, offered ample space and an inspiring view of harbor. With passionate support from Park Manager Sue Topham, the island park operations crew skillfully remodeled the space creating an apartment, studio area, and a spacious meeting room. Architectural elements of the Coast Guard station bunk room that once occupied the building's second floor were preserved and display panels interpreting that chapter of the building's history will adorn the meeting room walls.

A call for artists generated 200 applications from across the country. A jury, consisting of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Arts Council, and the

Mackinac Island Community Foundation, reviewed the 34 finalists and selected seven talented winners. The list of successful applicants includes two painters, a poet, a sculptor, a playwright, a composer, and a graphic artist who will create a new typographic font inspired by Mackinac. Each artist will provide two public presentations and donate a piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks.

The Artist-in-Residence program joins a growing and impressive list of Mackinac Island arts resources and activities. The Mackinac Arts Council has taken the lead in providing workshops, concerts, in-classroom programs, and other arts opportunities for the island community. Along with Mackinac Associates, the Arts Council has sponsored the annual Contemporary Art Contest at the Manoogian Art Museum. The Mackinac Island Public Library has long supported artists by providing a venue to display their work and receptions



"THE BEAUTY OF MACKINAC HAS INSPIRED VISITORS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS."

— PHIL PORTER, DIRECTOR

to meet the artists. Grand Hotel hosts an annual exhibition of world-class art from the Manoogian Collection. And, finally, the island's commercial district boasts a number of attractive shops featuring the work of contemporary Mackinac artists.

Mackinac remains as beautiful and inspiring today as it was 173 years ago when William Cullen Bryant visited. Through the Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program we hope to provide an opportunity for artists from many disciplines to capture and share this beauty.



PHOTO ALBUM: COAST GUARD STATION, 1920s

The Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station was established in 1914, and closed in 1969. As it was built on park land, the property reverted back to the Park Commission and the 1915 building was converted into the present Visitor's Center in 1970. The living quarters of the crew were located on the second floor. These rare interior photos of the functioning station come from the photo albums of Carl Woolheiser, who served in the 1920s. Both the bunk room and the dining room are now part of the new art studio space on the second floor. Note the stacks of books and phonograph, examples of leisure activities of the men. Other photos in the album attest to the fact that the men also took full advantage of the island's numerous summer activities. The lockers, on the back wall of the bunk room, are still in place today. The albums were donated last year by Carl's son, Joseph.

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We thank our donors for their contributions to the Mackinac Island Native American Museum to be built at the Biddle House. With nearly 150 donations, this represents one of the most successful campaigns in Mackinac Associates' history, and a true testament to our members.

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