

CURIOSITIES

VOLUME XL



2021 ISSUE 2



G. MENNEN WILLIAMS MACKINAC CELEBRATION

The unofficial kick-off to summer is coming back for 2021!

The Inn at Stonecliffe will serve as host for the celebration on June 19 at 6:30 p.m. Stonecliffe was chosen for a few reasons: the lawn and tent on the grounds will allow for ample social distancing; the staff at Stonecliffe are able to provide a strolling dinner option for guests located throughout the grounds; the mansion at Stonecliffe was originally built as a summer cottage, keeping the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration tradition alive; and it's a beautiful setting for an event.

"We are so pleased that Stonecliffe was available to host the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration," said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. "It's one of the only public venues that preserves our quarter-century tradition of hosting this event at an historic summer cottage."

The event will be held under the tent and

out on the beautiful lawn on the property, which features stunning views of the Straits of Mackinac and Mackinac Bridge. Food stations and a bar will be placed under the tent, which will allow for easy strolling throughout the grounds.

"The staff at the Inn at Stonecliffe is very excited to host this prestigious and fun event for the state park and for friends of the state park," said Becky Miller, Director of Sales and Marketing for The Inn at Stonecliffe. "The mansion originally served as a summer cottage, so guests can expect the same ambiance as a typical G. Mennen Williams event, and paired with the stunning views that make Stonecliffe special, guests are sure to have a memorable evening."

For more information on the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, or to purchase tickets, visit mackinacassociates.com or call 231.436.4100.

EVENTS NOTICE

Dates have been set for 2021 Mackinac Associates events but please continue to monitor the website and e-news for updates as event dates near. As of publication, guidelines for outdoors non-residential events allow us to move forward with planning. We will follow whatever guidelines are in place at the time the event occurs from the state and the health department and make final decisions about or adjustments to events as needed to be in compliance. Members that have RSVP'd for an event will receive an email a few days prior to each event with any details about mask requirements, social distancing, or other COVID-19 related requirements.

BIDDLE HOUSE AND KIDS' QUARTERS

The start of the 2021 season meant a very exciting debut for Mackinac State Historic Parks: the Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, was finally able to have its doors swing open to the public.

Originally slated to open for the 2020 season, construction progress was derailed at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. While MSHP was able to open the site for a weekend last October, staff is thrilled to have it available fully to guests for 2021.

"We believe everyone will enjoy the reinvented Biddle House," said Steve Brisson, MSHP director. "Working with the various tribal partners to tell the continuing story of the Anishnaabek people has been very rewarding, and we're excited to have it open for the season."

The Biddle House allows guests to step into the home of Agatha and Edward Biddle, merchants who moved in around 1830. It was a time of change, and the 1830s were

critical to the Biddles for another reason: as an Anishnaabek woman, Agatha and other indigenous people witnessed their culture subjected to immense changes. The decade transformed the Anishnaabek, linking old ways with Michigan's modern indigenous culture.

The continuing story of the Anishnaabek of northern Michigan is not always a happy one. It is a story of battles won and lost, promises made and broken, and cultures repressed and resurgent. Most importantly, the story in which the Biddle family played a role is one that continues today. This new exhibit, created in conjunction with tribal partners, explores that story and how it still resonates on Mackinac Island and throughout northern Michigan.

Two exhibit galleries inside the house, as well as a parlor restored to its historical appearance, tell the story of Agatha and Edward Biddle, the Anishnaabek of northern Michigan, and the critical decade of the 1830s. The story continues

Continued on page 2



BIDDLE AND KIDS, Continued from page 1

outside, with a short interpretive trail focusing on Anishnaabek culture and their relationship to Mackinac Island. Live interpretation takes place daily in the kitchen, and programs take place at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. daily.

Up at Fort Mackinac, the beloved Kids' Quarters received an update, the third to the exhibit in its history, helping to fulfill MSHP's mission in presenting the history of the Straits of Mackinac. Housed in the oldest public building in Michigan, the Kids' Quarters will allow guests to experience how soldiers and civilians lived at Fort Mackinac in the 19th century. Here you'll be able to play various musical instruments used by the military, try on clothes,

or design your very own fort, among many other activities. Kids of all ages will see if they have what it takes to be a soldier in the 1880s!

"The Kids' Quarters has consistently been one of our most popular exhibits," Brisson said. "We're happy to unveil this expanded and reimagined version to our guests."

While the Biddle House and Kids' Quarters are two of the biggest new exhibits for the 2021 season, there are many other new programs, tours, exhibits and events happening this summer. Visit mackinacparks.com for further information.

The staff at Mackinac State Historic Parks thanks Mackinac Associates and its members for the generous support for both exhibits.



JURIED ART EXHIBITION

The Seasons of Mackinac" are on full display at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, as the 2021 juried art exhibition is open in the changing gallery on the second floor.

While Mackinac has always been known as a 'summer gathering place,' its beauty is unparalleled in all seasons. Artists working in all media were encouraged to share their artistic visions of Mackinac Island and the Straits of Mackinac through the seasons. Of the 80 pieces submitted, 22 were selected by juror Bill Murcko for display.

"The annual contemporary art contest continues to support the mission of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum by encouraging new artistic creations inspired by Mackinac Island," said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. "I invite residents and visitors alike to tour the exhibition and enjoy this show during the 2021 season."

Born and educated in Michigan, juror Murcko was the President and CFO of Communications Associates, an advertising agency in Troy, Michigan. He was a founding member of Franklin Bank NA, on its Board of Directors, and on the Executive Committee of Franklin Home Lending.

He has had a love of the arts his entire life, serving as a board member on community nonprofit organizations, such as Fan Club for the Arts, Bloomfield Birmingham Art Center, The Scarab Club of Detroit and the Mackinac Arts Council. He started his formal art training at the age of 48 with a special tutoring program with nationally known portrait painter John Howard Sanden. From there he continued his studies with the New York Academy Art of Arts, The Florence Academy of Arts, Florence, Italy and School of Realist Art, *Les Cerqueux-sous-*

Passavant, France.

Murcko has had various gallery shows throughout the United States, with shows at The Moore Gallery in Birmingham, Michigan and Atlanta, Georgia, Haynes Galleries in Nashville and Thomaston, Maine and a one man show at the Principle Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia. He has been juried into various art exhibitions, winning first place twice in the Birmingham Our Town Art Show, four Gold Medals and a Silver Medal from the Scarab Club in Detroit, and a Gold Medal from The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum exhibition. He has also been featured in art magazines – *Art Collector Magazine, The Artist's Magazine, Professional Artist Magazine* and various other publications.

Murcko was instrumental in implementing the debut juried exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Museum twelve years ago. He now splits his time between Arizona and Mackinac Island, where he has been a summer resident for 39 years.

Murcko will select a single Best of Show, second and third place, and three honorable mention awardees from the pieces displayed in the exhibition. Winners will be announced at the June 16, 2021 awards ceremony in front of the museum. The Best of Show winner will receive The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and \$2,500 cash prize. Their name will be added to the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed at the museum. The second and third place winners will receive cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and the three honorable mentions will receive cash prizes of \$250 each. All prizes are donated by the Mackinac Arts Council and Mackinac Associates.



LEAVE A LEGACY

"Recently, I went through a process to reevaluate my estate plan and increase charitable giving at my death. It was natural that Mackinac Associates topped the list of organizations that will receive gifts. As a member of one of the first Girl Scout troops to serve as the Governor's Honor Guard in 1974, I can say that Mackinac changed my life. I returned to work at the state park in college and met my late husband at the Avenue of the Flags behind Fort Mackinac. Mackinac's history, natural beauty, and rhythms of summer visits shaped our family. It is my pleasure to support the continuing preservation of Mackinac State Historic Parks."

– Ruth D. Fitzgerald



Visit mackinacassociates.com/planned-giving.htm to learn more



DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

In 1896 a subdivision on private land was in the works for the west side of Mackinac Island. To provide access to the development, the Village of Mackinac Island and the Park Commission authorized a new "Lakeshore Boulevard." While the subdivision was never completed, the shore road was. This was the beginning of what is now M-185. Over the next few years, a major project of the city and the state was the continuing construction of a shore road encircling Mackinac Island.

Once the western road was completed, the idea of one running along the eastern shore was considered. Construction here proved much more difficult, as the shore of Lake Huron lapped directly against the cliffs. Park Superintendent Samuel Poole and Commissioner William Perrin even had to survey the road route from a canoe. However, they recommended that the road be built, which was authorized by the commission in August 1900. At the northern tip, with an easement granted by John Early, it would later connect with the west shore road, completing the circuit. It was a massive project for the underfunded commission, eventually aided by a \$10,000 loan from the state legislature. But as the commission noted in its 1901 report to the governor, the road "will add greatly to the attractions on the Island for those enjoying driving or wheeling."

As the millions of visitors who have enjoyed the road over the last century could attest, the commission was right. The Lakeshore Boulevard opened new vistas and continues to provide our guests with lifetime memories of their island visit. In a cooperative agreement with the Michigan Highway Department (now the Michigan Department of Transportation), in 1933 the road became an official state highway, designated M-185. As often noted, it is the only highway in Michigan where cars are banned.

Over the decades we have continued to partner with MDOT to maintain and improve

the road. Major challenges have come in the 1960s, 1980s and last year when it was impacted by high water. Mitigation efforts completed thirty years ago proved inadequate and the road sustained unprecedented damage in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020. The work completed by MDOT last summer continued this May and will run through October. While there will be disappointment with having sections closed off throughout the season, we encourage guests to explore the over sixty miles of roads and trails throughout Mackinac Island State Park. As with many aspects of our current life, M-185 will be brought back to normal by the fall. Our hope is that the current work will last well into the future, allowing millions to enjoy this highlight of their Mackinac Island visit.

The shore road is symbolic of philosophies that are at the heart of what we do as an agency. It shows that from the very founding of the commission there was a keen desire to



"THE LAKESHORE BOULEVARD OPENED NEW VISTAS AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE OUR GUESTS WITH LIFETIME MEMORIES OF THEIR ISLAND VISIT." – STEVE BRISSON, DIRECTOR

make the park accessible to all and to invest in infrastructure. The need for regular support from Lansing to achieve that goal is shown by the 1901 loan from the legislature. Collaboration with the City of Mackinac Island was necessary to inaugurate the project, and we continue to work with the city on dozens of initiatives for the benefit of visitors and residents. When the

opportunity arose in the 1930s, we partnered with MDOT to have the shore designated a state highway. Today, we continue to work with them to provide routine maintenance of the road and ensure its safety for residents and visitors. We are pleased that the 125-year legacy of Lakeshore Boulevard, with its history of collaboration, will continue well into the future.

ADOPT-A-ROAD

The Adopt-A-Road program at Mackinac State Historic Parks encourages volunteers to assist park staff in maintaining Mackinac Island roadsides. This program provides valuable maintenance support while promoting citizen involvement in the care and beauty of the island's scenic roads. Thank you to the following who have adopted roads and trails and volunteered to keep Mackinac Island State Park the beautiful place that it is:

- Mackinac Associates
- MAMATEL
- Martha Cousino
- Barnwell Landscaping
- Solstice Sisters
- Joan Barch
- Trinity Church
- Grand Hotel
- Heather May
- Mission Point Resort
- Liz Ware and Family
- Cannonball
- Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau
- Schulte Family
- Mackinac Island Public School

Mackinac State Historic Parks has other roads and trails available to be adopted! Participating in the Adopt-A-Road program gives individuals and organizations the opportunity to be recognized for their contributions to the local community and the environment. Signage will be placed on the adopted road or trail indicating the Group Name on each road or road section. Members wishing to help maintain the Mackinac Associates adopted section contact Michelle Walk at walkm1@michigan.gov. To adopt your own section, please contact Cassandra Boothroyd, boothroydc@michigan.gov, if you are interested in participating in the program.

PHOTO ALBUM: STONECLIFFE

In 1897, Michael Cudahy sold his summer cottage in Hubbard's Annex to his brother Edward and moved to California. Upon his return, he purchased 150 acres on Mackinac Island's west side and constructed Stonecliffe. Completed in 1904 by Chicago architect Frederick Perkins, the cottage was designed in the Tudor Revival style with a steep pitched gabled roof and dormers, ornate chimneys, leaded glass casement windows and half-timbered

exterior walls with stucco siding. The Cudahy family owned the home until 1915 when Alvin and Sallie Hert purchased the property. In 1948, Sallie deeded the estate to the Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of Washington, D.C. The property was later sold to the Moral Re-Armament organization. Current use of the home as a hotel began in the late 1970s. This photograph was taken by island photographer William H. Gardiner.



MACKINAC ASSOCIATES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Harriet McGraw	President
Jeb Burns	Vice President
Nancy Porter	Secretary
Tom Lockwood	Treasurer
Steve Brisson	Administrative Agent
Michelle Walk	Membership Coordinator
Dominick Miller	Editor

- Jack Barnwell
- Todd Petersen
- Todd Callewaert
- Sheldon Smith
- Kathy Lieder
- Natalia Wohletz
- Wes Maurer
- Skip Young
- Stephen Murray

For membership information,
call 231-436-4100

Published by Mackinac Associates. Subscription is a membership benefit. Membership levels include Friend, \$75; Voyageur, \$100; Sentinel, \$225; Explorer, \$450; Commandant's Circle, \$750; Steward, \$1,000; Guardian, \$2,500; Patron, \$5,000; Benefactor, \$10,000. Other membership benefits include unlimited free admission to Colonial Michilimackinac, Fort Mackinac, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and the Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House; 15 percent merchandise and publications discount at the Mackinac State Historic Parks' museum stores; 15 percent discount on the Adventure Tour; invitation to Mackinac Associates special events; and discounted admission for member's guests. Heritage membership (\$85) is seasonal membership that only includes unlimited admission.

MackinacAssociates.com



Mackinac Associates
P.O. Box 567
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

NON-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 1176

– THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS DONORS WHO SUPPORTED US THIS WINTER AND SPRING –

2021 Spring Appeal

Anonymous
Grace Armour
Christopher and Gretchen Bachman
Kristen Baggott and Michael O'Brien
Jean Beardsley Allen
Betty BeDour and Duane Ordakowski
Peggy Bertok
Russell and Darlene Boice
Maria Bonus
Steve and Lisa Brisson
Susan Brochu-Hoshield
John and Sheryl Childs
Kevin Cranmer
Randy and Traci Darrow
Duane DeDene
Charles and Patricia Derry
Lynn and Marietta Devantier
Dennis and Diane Dombroski
Craig Druskins
Carole Erbel and Frank Shumway
David and Jan Esch
Jim and Lynn Evans
James and Michelle Farell
Brian and Christina Findley
Ruth D. Fitzgerald Fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Jeffrey and Melissa Gembis
George and Judith Goodman
Patricia Hageman
Dan and Kay Hare
Daniel and Brenda Harvey
William and Sarah Hathaway

Stephen and Susan Hoffius
Kathleen Hoppenrath
William and Elaine Horwath
Nina Huthwiate
Richard Jaeschke
Robert and Marian Jaeschke
Mary Kurzynowski
John and Lisa Lawitzke
Hal and Betsy Lawrence
Spencer and Debra Libby
John and Barbara Lloyd
Thom and Martha Lustik
Bruce and Jill Lynn
Don Maat
Michael and Dorothy Madden
Lisa and Gary Mandeville
Peter Marabell and Frances Barger
Walter and Renee Martin
Bill and Danna Marvin
David and Peggy McCormick
Vaughn and Harriet McGraw
Tim and Nancy McKay
Joyce McKnight
Blythe Metternich-Smith
Neil Michaels
David and Cynthia Monaghan
Diane Morand
Steven and Patti Ann Moskwa
Stephen and Anne Murray
Dan Musser and Marlee Brown
Nan and Patrick Patterson
Phil and Valerie Porter
Steven (Vic) Radecki and Lauren Walsh
Scott and Debbie Rausch
Douglas and Carol Rearick

Daniel and Joann Root
Joan Slater and Mary Wojcik
Sheldon and Sue Smith
Scott and Sandy Soronen
William and Joan Southwell
Gayle and Patricia Steele
Bart and Laurie Stupak
James Swan and Nancy Portice
Ed Trudeau
Michelle Walk
Susan L. Wilder
John and Tory Willoughby
David and Sharon Wills
Douglas and Jere Wilson
Michael and Wendy Young
Skip and Rachael Young
Matthew and Mary Ellen Zabik
Joannie Zelinski

2020 Fall Appeal

Craig and Ellen Bell
John and Sheryl Childs
Ruth Fitzgerald
Bill and Sharon Hahn
Douglas and Vera Humphries
Katherine Kunze
Bart and Laurie Stupak
Nancy Waldron
John and Tory Willoughby
In Memory of Stephen Harper
Bill and Camilla Liebold
Brad Simmons

Other Donations

Arthur and Rebecca Armour
George and Charlyn Bailey
George Blair
Doug and Beth Cox
Dwight Ebaugh and Peg Rosenkrands
David and Jan Esch
Linda Fleischer
Kirt and Tara Gillette
Kristin and Graham Hildebrandt
Douglas and Vera Humphries
James L. Hunt
Janet Hutchinson
John and Robyn Iacoangeli
David Koern
Linda Leach
Lawrence and Carol Ludwicki
Bill and Danna Marvin
David and Valerie Marvin
Steven and Christine Melnyk
Michael Michalski
Dominick and Becky Miller
David and Cynthia Monaghan
John and Cora Neyer
Samuel and Angela Payne
Dick and Vicki Riel
Daniel and Joann Root
Paul and Marge St. Amour
Joyce Taepke
Jim and Kathleen Tilson
Steve and Leslie Vondrell
Mary Warp
Matthew and Carolyn Wilson
Johanna M. Yahas and Dennis Kinchen

2021 MSHP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

4 | The King's Birth-day Celebration, Colonial Michilimackinac
5 | Historic Downtown Mackinac open for season
5 | Movie in the Fort, *Up*, Fort Mackinac, Dusk
8 | Historic Downtown Mackinac Walking Tour, 5:00 p.m.
12-13 | Gardens and Good Things to Eat Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac
12 | Movie by the Bridge, *The Avengers*, Michilimackinac State Park, Dusk
16 | "The Seasons of Mackinac" Open House, 6:00 p.m.
16 | Artist-in-Residence Workshop with Stippling artist Owen Wittekindt, Station 256 Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

19 | G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, The Inn at Stonecliffe
26 | Movie by the Bridge, *Back to the Future*, Michilimackinac State Park, Dusk
30 | Artist-in-Residence Workshop with Painter Kurt Anderson, Station 256 Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

July

4 | Red, White & Blue Celebration, Huron Road Pavilion, 5:30 p.m.
4 | A Star Spangled Fourth of July, Fort Mackinac, 7:00 p.m.
7 | Fire at Night at Michilimackinac, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9:00 p.m.
16 | Archaeology Site Tour, Colonial Michilimackinac, 7:30 p.m.

17 | Movie in the Fort, *Ghostbusters*, Fort Mackinac, Dusk
20 | Michilimackinac Unreconstructed, Colonial Michilimackinac, 7:30 p.m.
24 | Vintage Base Ball, Fort Mackinac, 6:30 p.m.

August

14 | Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, Mackinac Island

October

8-9 | Fort Fright, Colonial Michilimackinac, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

December

11 | A Colonial Christmas, Colonial Michilimackinac, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

White events are members-only events | Visit MackinacAssociates.com for updates