Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of almost 400 sites in the US that are considered so special they have been called national treasures and protected as part of the National Park System. Here Ranger Joanne highlights some significant features of the Lakeshore. Whether you have an hour, a day, or a week, you will be able to discover why these 72,000 acres of dunes, forests, and beaches were set aside for future generations to enjoy! Grab a Park map and let's get started!

Take in Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, a 75 mile loop which overlooks some of the Lakeshore’s most unique scenery. You’ll see rare perched dunes, spectacular landscapes carved by glaciers, a fascinating bar lake, the Manitou Passage and much more. You can stand atop a 490 foot bluff and look straight down at Lake Michigan, or glimpse the Sleeping Bear a mile north of you. You’ll sense the forces that sculpted the landscape long ago and constantly change it today. Plan to take at least an hour and a half to experience all there is to offer. Add at least another hour if you want to hike among the perched dunes on the self-guiding Cottonwood Trail, a 1.5 mile loop that begins at Stop #4. Who knew that wind and water could be so creative?

**Dare to do the Dune Climb!** Climb this imposing mountain of sand. Most people will be satisfied when they reach the top of this 200 foot dune where they can catch their breath and admire the view of Glen Lake and the surrounding hills. The more hardy will continue all the way to Lake Michigan, across a dune complex so vast it can be seen from space. Be sure to take water and good footwear and expect to spend a few hours, if you go. At the base of the Dune Climb you can also picnic in the shade, shop at the Dune Center or explore into the nearby woods along the interpretive, barrier-free Duneshire Accessible trail. Directions on page 4.

**Join an Interpretive Ranger** to explore significant features of the park. Discover wildlife or history or maybe a ranger’s favorite spot.

**Visit Glen Haven**, a turn-of-the-century steamship stop on Sleeping Bear Bay. Drop in on our working blacksmith and shop at the authentic General Store. At the Cannery boat museum, walk among boats included in the largest public exhibit of Great Lakes small craft. Look out over the Manitou Passage, a heavily used shipping lane. Complete your time travel with a visit to the Maritime Museum, the most fully restored Life Saving Service station in the US. Visit the boathouse to see equipment surfmen used a century ago. Discover these true heroes of our past.

**Discover North and South Manitou Islands.** These large fresh water islands are worlds within themselves, with their own history, ecology, and mystique. Ferry to South Manitou for a day trip, or stay and camp. Hike to white cedars of record size, view an old shipwreck, visit a lighthouse, or take a motor tour of historic farms. A visit to North Manitou requires you to stay overnight in the wilderness. Details on page 2.

**Feel a century slip away in Port Oneida**, the largest historic agricultural landscape in the US under government protection. Bike or drive the back roads to old farmsteads, a schoolhouse, cemeteries and stately sugar maples. A driving tour brochure with a map is available at the Visitor Center. Port Oneida Rural Historic District is about three miles north of Glen Arbor along M-22.

**Get in the water!** Canoe or kayak one of many rivers or inland lakes. Spend an hour or a day; paddle for exercise or drift with the current. Access the Platte River at Platte River Picnic Area on M-22, 10 miles south of Empire, and the Crystal River just north of Glen Arbor. Rent equipment near either launch site if you don’t have your own.

**Relax on a beach** or wander the shoreline to discover dune life and watch nature at work. You’ll have the privilege of being in the presence of two unique species: the threatened Pitchers thistle, a prickly plant that grows well in dunes, and the endangered Piping Plover, a tiny bird which nests on beaches and feeds at the water’s edge. There are 35 miles of shoreline on the mainland and 33 miles around the islands - talk about a long walk on the beach! Beaches listed on page 4. Plover info, page 7.

There are so many fun and interesting things to do at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore! These are just a few of my favorites. I hope you will take wonderful memories of your visit home with you after having discovered on your own why this special place is called a national treasure! Park Rangers are available to assist you and are ready to answer your questions at the Visitor Center (231-326-9800), campgrounds and entrance stations. More information is also available on the park website at www.nps.gov/slbe.
A Park Entrance Pass is required whenever and wherever you venture into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Show your pass to rangers at entrance stations at the Dune Climb and Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, and place it on your vehicle dashboard when parked within the Lakeshore. When parking outside the Lakeshore boundary and entering on foot or bicycle, carry your pass with you. Purchase yours at campground offices, Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, or the Dune Climb during regular hours of operation; or between 8:30 and 10 am at Leland Harbor. Passes may be purchased 24 hours a day at the Visitor Center and Platte Point fee machines.

Free Admission for Children 15 and Under.

$10 Seven-day Pass for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Non-transferable and valid for 1-7 days.

$20 Annual Pass for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Valid at this park only for one year from month of purchase.

Access Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
Lifelong pass, free to US citizens age 62 or over, and permanent residents. Provides access to Federal recreation sites. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Can only be obtained in person at the park. The Senior Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some fees such as camping, and is non-transferable.

$80 Annual Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
Provides access to all Federal recreation sites for a year, from month of purchase. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Can be obtained in person at the park; or by calling 1-888-ASK USGS, Ext. 1, or at http://store.usgs.gov/pass.

$5 Individual Seven-day Pass for Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
Admits one individual on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or noncommercial bus. There is no charge for children 15 and under.

Commercial Vehicle Fees
Vehicle Capacity Fee
Van 7-15 $40
Mini-bus 16-25 $40
Motorcoach 26+ $100

Island Day Trips and Camping

Camping

D.H. Day Campground
A rustic campground with 88 wooded campsites; each a short walk to the Lake Michigan beach, all campsites at D.H. Day are first come, first served (no reservations). Each site has tent pad, picnic table, fire ring and parking area. Accessible vault toilets and water spigots are placed throughout, and an RV dump station is located at the campground entrance. Generator use is permitted in sites 1 thru 31 from 9 am to 6 pm. Firewood is for sale each evening.

Campsite
$12 / night

Open April 1 to November 26
8000 W. Harbor Hwy. Glen Arbor, MI 49636.
231-334-4634.
On M-109, 2 miles west of Glen Arbor; 6 miles north of Empire.

D.H. Day Group Campground
Check-in at D.H. Day Campground (see above). Four campsites for groups of 7 to 25 campers, each tent only, located in a clearing with a few large trees. Each vehicle in the parking area must display a park pass. Each campsite has picnic tables, a fire ring, and a numbered post for your camping permit. Vault toilets and water spigots are nearby.

Campsite $30 / night
$33 reserved
Open all year: advance reservations only from May 25 to October 1. During the off-season it’s first come, first served. Once water is turned off, camping fees are reduced to half price. Note: Harwood Road is not plowed during the winter. Location: From Glen Arbor four miles west on M-109, turn right on Harwood Road and proceed to its end.

Platte River Campground
A modern campground with RV and tent camping, pull-through and back-in sites with electricity and without, there are beautifully wooded tent campsites, walk-in tent sites, and group campsites for 7 to 25 people. Two mile drive to Lake Michigan Beach. Nearby canoe launch. Each site has a tent pad, picnic table, fire ring and parking pad. Accessible flush toilets and showers are located in each loop. Shower tokens must be purchased at the Ranger Station at $1 for two minute tokens. An RV dump station is located at the entrance to the campground. Firewood is for sale each evening. All reservable campsites are available May 25 to September 3, 2007. Five reservable group campsites are available May 5 to October 1, 2007. Campsite fees are as follows:

Non-Electric Campsite* $18 / night
Electric Campsite* includes electricity $21 / night
Walk-in Campsite* $12 / night
Group Campsite $40 / night

Open All Year ** 3 / site fees for electricity are collected in the campground check in. 231-325-5881. 5853 Lake Michigan Road, Honor, MI 49640. Located ten miles south of Empire on Lake Michigan Road, off M-22.

Backcountry Camping
For White Pine and Valley View Campgrounds, and on North and South Manitou Islands, a Backcountry Camping Permit is required in addition to a Park Entrance Pass. Backcountry campsites are limited to four people and two tents per site. (See this page for groups.) Pets and bicycles are prohibited. Fires are permitted only in established fire rings. Gather only dead and down wood. Treat all water obtained from backcountry sources.

Backcountry Camping Permit* 4 people & 2 tents $5 / night

White Pine
This popular mainland backcountry campground is 2.5 miles north of the Platte River Campground. There are six campsites, one fire ring, and an outhouse. Passes and permits may be obtained at the Platte River Campground (winter only) at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire.

Valley View
A 1.5 mile trail winds uphill from the trail head for this quiet backcountry campground, and a four mile drive north of D.H. Day Campground. There are five campsites and two fire rings and all water must be packed in. Passes and permits may be obtained at the D.H. Day Campground (summer only) and at the Visitor Center in Empire. Take M-22 two miles north of Glen Arbor, right on Westman, left on Hyland to trailhead.

** To make reservations visit http://www.recreation.gov, or the Park website at www.nps.gov/be at phone 1-877-444-6777. Reservations for individual campsites from Memo- rial Day through Labor Day are accepted six months in advance. For group sites from May through September, reservations are accepted one year in advance. For reserved sites, a $3 per night reservation fee is added by the reservation contractor.
Don't miss Dreams of the Sleeping Bear, a free entry FM wireless listening system now available for your use in the Lakeshore. The equipment amplifies the sound of the ranger’s voice, which you hear through a headset, neck loop or earbuds. Use the wireless system during hike or evening program, or at the Visitor Center in Empire, the campground offices, or the General Store in Glen Haven. A hard wired listening system is also in place at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center front desk.

Sleeping Bear Dunes hopes to awaken your senses through this user-friendly, fee-free technology. Visitors wishing to use the equipment are encouraged to call ahead and arrive early. Just ask at the Visitor Center in Empire, Platte River and D.H. Day Campgrounds or at the General Store in Glen Haven. The Visitor Center also has a portable FM wireless listening system available for use with the pay telephone.

Don’t miss Dreams of the Sleeping Bear, a free entry 15-minute multimedia program featuring music and beautiful photographs! Check out the exhibit area! Museum exhibits explore the geology, natural history and human stories of the park. This is also the main information center where an interactive touch-screen kiosk and relief map provide general park information. Buy your National Park Pass, pick up a free brochure, and check out the schedule of ranger-led interpretive walks, and other special activities. Support the Lakeshore when you purchase any of the numerous history, nature and park related books, games, posters, postcards, shirts, hats and patches for sale in the Eastern National sales outlet. Summer: Open daily 8-6 (Memorial Day thru Labor Day). Fall, Winter, Spring: daily 8:30-4 (Labor Day to Memorial Day). Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s days. Phone: 231-326-5735, ext. 308. Accessible restrooms, water fountain, pay phone, accessible listening devices and portable TTY device are available for the orientation slide show. Location: On M-22, just east of M-42 in Empire.

Welcome! Let me take this opportunity to greet you and thank you for your interest in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Whether you’re planning a first-time trip here, or have visited many times, you’ll find lots to see and do. You’ll explore a world of wonder as you experience what the mainland and two remote Lake Michigan islands have to offer. Whether it’s the high perch dunes and miles ofisolated beaches, numerous hidden lakes in beautiful hardwood forests, or the stories of our heritage told by the Life Saving stations and historic farmsteads, Sleeping Bear Dunes has something for everyone.

Each year people from all over the world visit the Lakeshore. Many troll up to the slopes of the massive Dune Climb to marvel at the glorious views of the Glen Lakes, then run back down. Nearby, you can motor along the Pier Stocking Scenic Drive, a former logging road that winds through beech-maple forests and provides breathtaking views of Lake Michigan from atop 450-foot-high sand dunes. And the beaches! The fine sands and impossible blues of Lake Michigan rival anything the Caribbean has to offer. Jump in - it’s not as cold as you might think!

For a trip back in time, behold the rolling countryside and imagine what life on the farm was like in the early 1900s as you take a slow drive through the Port Onedia Rural Historic District. Travel from Port Onedia to the historic village of Glen Haven, just as the farmers would do on occasion. There’s plenty to do in the village, like watching pieces of iron being heated and hammered into useful items at the Blacksmith Shop. Imagine a Great Lakes vessel being repaired while the crew of a Chicago-bound steamer waits impatiently at the Cannery for its management over the next 20 years. See page 6 for details about the plan and ways you can help shape the park’s future.

I wish you a safe, rewarding, and memorable experience, and hope that you will visit Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore again soon. Enjoy!

Dusty Shultz
Superintendent
Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive
Take in the views along this beautiful 25 mile drive to the top of the Sleeping Bear Dunes Plataeu. Stops include several short walks to overlooks featuring the Manistee Islands, Pyramid Point, the Glen Lakes, and North Bar Lake. This “top of the dunes” road has two picnic areas with outstanding views. Hikers may traverse this unique environment on the Cottonwood trail, a moderate 1½ mile loop on the high dune plateau. Feast on the view of Empire Bluffs at the shady North Bar Lake Overlook and await sunset. The boardwalk and decks at the Lake Michigan Overlook also offer spectacular sunset views 450 feet above the lake. This drive is uniquely accessible: you can enjoy many wonderful forest, dune, and lake views without leaving your car.

Mainland Lake Michigan Beaches

Let your bare feet be your guide to the Park's miles of sandy beach! Enjoy the beaches year round and experience Lake Michigan’s different moods. Display your park pass on the dash and head out to enjoy the cool Lake Michigan waters and sandy shoreline. Take a picnic and your sunscreen as there are no concessions at park beaches. These designated beaches have vaulted toilets unless noted. A park entrance pass is required the National Lakeshore and is available at the Visitor Center (See page 2).

Platte River Point Beach
at the end of Lake Michigan Road, is very popular with campers and day visitors to the Lakeshore. This beach features the outlet to the Platte River where warmer water enters Lake Michigan. Benches, accessible flush toilets, and a picnic area with grills are provided. Please note that a section of shoreline is sometimes closed to protect nesting Piping Plovers. Display your Park Entrance Pass on the dash to park in the National Park section of the parking lot (Park Pass vending machine is available) or pay the township fee for their lot. Take M-22 ten miles south of Empire, turn right on Lake Michigan Road, and go two miles to parking area.

Esch Beach, also called Otter Creek Beach, is another popular swimming area. The shore to the south is divided by the shallow outlet of Otter Creek. Located at the west end of Esch Road, off M-22, three miles south of Glen Arbor.

Glen Haven Beach is on Sleeping Bear Bay. Look west past the Life Saving Station to Sleeping Bear Point, north to the Manistee Islands, and east to Pyramid Point. Convenient parking at the Cannery makes Glen Haven one of the more accessible beaches. (Please note that a section of the shoreline is sometimes closed in order to protect the nesting Piping Plovers.) Adjacent picnic area with grills, and nearby flush toilets are provided. Two miles west of Glen Arbor on M-109/M-209.

North Bar Lake is about two miles north of Empire. Because this lake is warm and connects to Lake Michigan and its beaches, it is a very popular spot. Located at the end of Bar Road. Take 22 north from Empire. Off Bar Road, right on Bar Lake, left on Bar.

County Road 651 Beach
features wonderful sunset views on Good Harbor Bay. This is a beautiful long crescent of sandy shoreline. To the west you can see Pyramid Point, to the north, the Whaleback. North Manistee and the Fox Islands may be visible on a clear day. 12 miles North of Glen Arbor, through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District and turn left off M-22, a mile on Good Harbor Trail/CR 651.

Peterson Beach has a boardwalk crossing the dunes from the parking lot to the lake. It's great for those who want to get away from it all on a quiet stretch of sand. Peterson has a very long beach and a wide vista of Empire Bluffs to the north and the Platte River Point to the south. Eight miles south of Empire, take Peterson Road at M-22.

Dune Climb
Climb the Dune, a favorite since long before the National Lakeshore was created in 1970! In the summer, thousands of visitors flock here and the mountain of sand is covered with happy people. Off-season days with cold, wind, rain and snow often attract at least one hardy soul on the dune, as well. When you make it to the top of the dune, have a look around at the view, and then run, jump or roll back down! There is nothing to compare to the feeling of taking giant leaps, while the soft sand cushions each step. What fun! If, at the top, you look toward where you know Lake Michigan should be, all you will see ahead of you is more sand dunes. You may be tempted to continue over the next ridge, or the next. Keep in mind it is a 3 to 4 hour strenuous hike to the big lake and back, with no shade and no drinking water. So, fight the temptation unless you came prepared with shoes, extra water, snacks, sunscreen and a hat. Picnic under the shade trees. Water fountains, vending machines, and restrooms are accessible nearby. Open year round, 24 hours. Located on M-109 about 3 miles north of Empire and 9 miles south of Glen Arbor.

Duneside Accessible Trail
There are other things to do at the Dune Climb, too. Use a simple measuring device on the Duneside Accessible Trail to calculate the speed and distance the dune has moved. Identify local trees from exhibits along the trail. Benches line the hardened surface trail. Begins at north end of the parking lot.

Dune Center Store
Dock into the air-conditioned Dune Center for nature guides, compasses, pins, T-shirts, hats, hiking sticks and water bottles. A sand-accessible wheelchair may be borrowed from the Dune Center. Open daily noon to 6:30 PM until sunset March 29 - September 7, 2007. July 29 - June 28, Sat & Sun only. Phone: 231-378-0222. Located at the base of the Dune Climb.

Special Events
Participate in a special event! Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has something special happening almost every month of the year. Pick up a hammer and saw at the Barn Preservation Workshop every June. Bring a lawn chair and a picnic basket to join music fans at the popular Dune Climb Concert in July. Travel back in time and watch oxen and horse teams cut and stack hay as it was done at the turn of the 20th century, when you attend the Port Oneida Fair, a two-day event in August. Experience old-time rural skills and crafts including timber framing, blacksmithing, and quilting, as volunteers demonstrate tools, equipment and farm tools typical of the era. On National Public Lands Day in September, join other volunteers to help clean up a park beach or plant dune grass, or just celebrate America's public lands on this “fee free” day. Artist presentations, historic beach patrols, snowshoe hikes, and antique tree pruning workshops are also scheduled. See the Special Events listing page 8 or on our website at www.nps.gov/slbe.

Junior Ranger Program
Discover secrets of the park and earn your Junior Ranger Badge as you seek out answers for your Junior Ranger Workbook ($1.95 at park stores). Children of all ages will enjoy learning about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and its inhabitants through these fun and challenging activities.

When you have followed the steps to earning a Junior Ranger badge you will have engaged in meaningful activities and been introduced to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. You will have learned why the park was established, what it protects, and how to enjoy it. Best of all you will have gained valuable knowledge in the stewardship of our national parks, and begun a lifelong relationship with this national treasure.

County Road 669 Beach
Many people enjoy beautiful Good Harbor Bay where Bohemian Road (CR 669) ends at Lake Michigan. Parking is close by and it's a short walk down a small slope to the sand. Lake Michigan Road parallels the bay for several miles here. Follow it east to a pleasant shoreline picnic area and trailhead. Follow M-22 nine miles north of Glen Arbor through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District and turn left on Bohemian Road (CR 669).

Serious bicyclists and runners also love the challenge of the hilly drive's great workout, though caution is required on the steep grades. Open daily to vehicles, 9 am to half an hour after sunset from mid-April to mid-November. The Scenic Drive is located three miles north of Empire on M-109.

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Port Oneida Rural Historic District
Imagine the farming life in Leelanau County circa 1880. Pick up a brochure for the self guided tour throughout the year or see the farms come alive at the 2007 Port Oneida Fair on August 10 and 11. About three miles north of Glen Arbor on M-22.

Cannery Boat Museum
In what was once a cherry and apple cannery there now exists a collection of historic Great Lakes boats, including boats, motors, and equipment. Friendly volunteers are on hand for impromptu interpretive talks or to answer your questions throughout the day. Outside, pilings which supported Glen Haven’s long dock can still be seen stretching about a hundred yards out from shore. Open 11-5 daily, May 26 to September 3.

Sleeping Bear Inn
Imagine kitchen smells from the Sleeping Bear Inn, built in 1863 to house woodcutters and lumberjacks. For many years trees were cut on the surrounding hills, the logs rolled into Glen Lake and floated to the sawmill located near the current site of Glen Lake Picnic Area. Horse drawn rail cars carried the wood to the dock in Glen Haven. Workers were often immigrants working 12 hour days, six days a week, saving to bring their families to join them.

Satrurdays at the Lakeshore
Ranger Peg invites you to join Ranger-led hikes and programs every Saturday January through October. During January and February, explore the winter woods on snowshoes (loaned free with instructions). In early spring, hike to a historic maple syrup house and taste some sap direct from the trees, or be on hand to see eagles migrating back to their summer homes. Visit a beaver lodge in the summer to witness the work of their impressive teeth, or hike to spooky Devil’s Hole during Halloween week.

Heroes Of The Storm 3 pm Daily
Each afternoon at 3 pm throughout the summer, participate in a reenactment of a shipwreck rescue utilizing US Life Saving Service rescue techniques. Children and adults alike are “recruited” to help with the exciting breeches buoy rescue and learn about the surfmen who did this for a living. A Park Ranger will demonstrate use of equipment and instruct you to roll out the beach cart for a rescue drill. The role of the Lyle Gun will be explained. In the late 1800s the US Life Saving Service sent a line out to a ship in distress in order to pull victims ashore.

Lyle Gun Firing 3:30 pm Thursdays
Fire! In another ranger-led activity, a Lyle Gun firing demonstration occurs once a week on the beach throughout the summer. This small cannon (the only one ever built to save lives) was used by the US Life Saving Service to send a line out to a ship in distress in order to pull victims ashore.

Tour the crew quarters and boathouse at the Life Saving Station Maritime Museum at Sleeping Bear Point. Exhibits highlight the US Life Saving Service and Great Lakes shipping history. One room is outfitted as a steamer wheelhouse and another is the surfmen’s quarters. The boathouse holds an unsinkable rescue boat, cork flotation vests, a set of signal flags and other period rescue equipment. Impromptu interpretive talks are given throughout the day. A sand-accessible wheelchair and accessible public restrooms are on site. Open daily 11 am to 5 pm May 19 to September 3. September 4-30 daily, noon to 5 pm. October 1-14 weekends only, noon to 5 pm.

Tour the crew quarters and boathouse at the Life Saving Station Maritime Museum at Sleeping Bear Point. Exhibits highlight the US Life Saving Service and Great Lakes shipping history. One room is outfitted as a steamer wheelhouse and another is the surfmen’s quarters. The boathouse holds an unsinkable rescue boat, cork flotation vests, a set of signal flags and other period rescue equipment. Impromptu interpretive talks are given throughout the day. A sand-accessible wheelchair and accessible public restrooms are on site. Open daily 11 am to 5 pm May 19 to September 3. September 4-30 daily, noon to 5 pm. October 1-14 weekends only, noon to 5 pm.

Volunteers in the fully restored 1920s General Store. Blacksmiths were important craftsmen who fashioned tools, hardware, and kitchen implements, and also repaired wagons, saws, anchors, pulleys and even steam engines which powered the sawmill. Volunteers in the fully restored 1920s Blacksmith Shop provide demonstrations for all ages. Open daily 11 am to 5 pm, May 26 to September 3, 2007.

Blacksmith Shop
Hear the ring of a hammer and anvil as the blacksmith stokes up a fire, heats iron until it’s red hot, and forges a tool before your eyes. The Blacksmith Shop is in the red barn just up the street from the Glen Haven General Store. Blacksmiths were important craftsmen who fashioned tools, hardware, and kitchen implements, and also repaired wagons, saws, anchors, pulleys and even steam engines which powered the sawmill.

Visit the crew quarters and boathouse at the Life Saving Station Maritime Museum at Sleeping Bear Point. Exhibits highlight the US Life Saving Service and Great Lakes shipping history. One room is outfitted as a steamer wheelhouse and another is the surfmen’s quarters. The boathouse holds an unsinkable rescue boat, cork flotation vests, a set of signal flags and other period rescue equipment. Impromptu interpretive talks are given throughout the day. A sand-accessible wheelchair and accessible public restrooms are on site. Open daily 11 am to 5 pm May 19 to September 3, 2007.
Thank You!

Thank you for the entrance and camping fees you pay when you come to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Eighty percent of those dollars finance much needed projects that contribute to a more enjoyable and safe visit for all.

Fee dollars have been used to upgrade trails on North Manitou Island, dredge the dock areas on North and South Manitou Islands, improve trailhead parking lots, and provide ranger-led programs. This year, your fees will contribute to updating our orientation slide show in the Visitor Center and converting it to digital format; upgrading other audio-visual programs to make them more accessible to the hearing and sight impaired; and for various exhibit repairs. Thank you!

Join Us in Mapping the Future

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is preparing a General Management Plan (GMP) and Wilderness Study (WS) and we would very much like to hear from you - the public and park users! The GMP is intended to guide park management decisions over the next 20 years. Our current plan was adopted in 1979 and since then, a number of issues and conditions have changed. And through a Wilderness Study, we will take a fresh look at wilderness potential in the park.

From the hundreds of responses we have already received at open houses, planning workshops, in the mail, and via the internet, a set of Preliminary Alternatives for future workshops, in the mail, and via the internet, park.

User participates in a set of Preliminary Alternatives for future workshops, in the mail, and via the internet, park.

A fresh look at wilderness potential in the park.

Through a Wilderness Study, we will take a fresh look at wilderness potential in the park.

To guide park management decisions over the next 20 years. Our current plan was adopted in 1979 and since then, a number of issues and conditions have changed. And through a Wilderness Study, we will take a fresh look at wilderness potential in the park.

Fee dollars have been used to upgrade trails on North Manitou Island, dredge the dock areas on North and South Manitou Islands, improve trailhead parking lots, and provide ranger-led programs. This year, your fees will contribute to updating our orientation slide show in the Visitor Center and converting it to digital format; upgrading other audio-visual programs to make them more accessible to the hearing and sight impaired; and for various exhibit repairs. Thank you!

More will be accomplished with this funding every year. Thank you, again, for your continued support. Look for improvements to visitor facilities and services at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on each and every visit and take pride in the fact that your fee dollars are making a difference!

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Since 1988, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (PHSB) has been a park partner dedicated to sponsoring volunteer restoration projects and raising money to save the historic buildings and landscapes of the Lakeshore. Preserves itself is now the adaptive-use partner for the Charles and Hattie Olsen house in Port Oneida Rural Historic District which is open to the public three days a week. At the Port Oneida Fair every year, this farmstead comes alive with activities inside and outside of the house and big red barn! If you would enjoy gaining an appreciation of the area's history, exploring the trails to other historic farmsteads, or perhaps, supporting Preserve's efforts through funding or volunteer assistance, visit at the Olsen farm. For information about PHSB, its membership, projects and programs, call 231-334-6050 or visit them at www.phsb.org.

Student Conservation Association

Every summer, students from high schools and colleges across the country join the Student Conservation Association (SCA), work in Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, and become valuable park partners who really get their hands dirty. The young women and men of the SCA comprise the nation's largest volunteer force in conservation today. Two crews of high school SCA interns each spend six weeks here maintaining trails so that visitors have safer and more enjoyable visits to the park. Several university level SCA interns work 12 weeks each summer removing invasive, non-native plant species, planting native species, and conducting surveys of the same within the Lakeshore. In the past some volunteers monitored daily behavior of nesting Piping Plovers. Without these energetic, responsible and eager-to-learn young folks, much needed work would go unfinished. Many SCA interns are hired as park staff for subsequent summers which may even lead to life-long careers with the National Park Service. For more information visit www.theysca.org.
What’s Killing Our Birds?

In August 2006, visitors and Lakeshore staff began finding dead gulls and cormorants along the beaches north and south of the Platte River mouth. Carcasses were collected and sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Laboratory at Michigan State University. The lab determined Type E Botulism bacteria caused the die-off.

In late September a second, much larger die-off began and continued into late November. Again, several different species of waterfowl which feed on fish in the lake began washing up on shore and soon could be found on all of the Lakeshore’s southern beaches. Loons, gulls, grebes, cormorants, mergansers, scoters and several fish all fell prey to the bacteria’s highly potent toxins.

The DNR lab verified that Type E Botulism was the culprit, again! Approximately 3,000 birds had died by the end of 2006, and 580 were Common Loons. What a terrible loss, especially for this bird which is not common in Michigan any more, but is actually listed as threatened! Lakeshore biologists quickly conducted research on what might have lead to such an event. Research from other Great Lakes, which have been experiencing similar die-offs off the lake, indicates that a host of non-native species are promoting these toxic conditions and that the die-offs may become annual events. First, it appears that zebra mussels, nourtious invaders, have filtered and cleared up the lake water which results in widespread and heavier than usual growth of Cladophora algae. This thick green algae dries back and decays in mats on the lake bottom, serving as a perfect place for the botulism bacteria spores to grow. Then, whenever Lake Michigan waters turn over, the botulism bacteria gets mixed up in the water. The zebra mussels then filter the botulism out of the water and it becomes concentrated in their systems. They in turn are eaten by round gobbies, a relatively new invasive fish species, which becomes sick from the bacteria’s toxin. As large numbers of sick gobbies float to the lake surface the fish-eating birds congregate for an easy meal. Within a few days, they too succumb to the toxins. Visitors may walk outside closed nesting areas, which are cordoned off and posted. Contact a ranger or plover volunteer for more information about, or a chance to watch this endangered species.

A Tribal Gift

When a biologist from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians called and asked if Sleeping Bear Dunes was interested in releasing a few young Trumpeter Swans within the Lakeshore, we could not believe our good fortune! Imagine our delight when we released eight young swans back into their historical environment from which they had been hunted to extinction by the 1930’s. After spending the later summer months within some preferred wetlands, the swans, North America’s largest waterfowl, moved out onto Lake Michigan and delighted beach goers and bird enthusiasts. They overwintered here and have been seen swimming and feeding on local inland lakes. It is hoped that they will eventually breed and nest again here. Mute Swans, their smaller, non-native cousins, are identified by an orange beak with a large black bump. Trumpeter’s beaks are completely black. Photo courtesy of Alice Van Zoeren.

In the Spotting Scope: Piping Plover

The Piping Plover in the Great Lakes area is an endangered species. To protect Piping Plover nesting areas, portions of Glen Haven, Tiesma and Platte Point beaches, and beaches on North Manitou Island, are closed each spring through mid-summer while the birds nest and raise chicks. Visitors may walk outside closed areas, which are cordoned off and posted. Contact a ranger or plover volunteer for more information about, or a chance to watch this endangered species.

Scientific Name - Charadrius melodus
- Appearance - Small, stocky shorebirds have sand-colored upper body, white underside, and orange legs. During breeding season, adults have black fore head, black breast band, and orange bill.
- Habitat - Wide, flat, open, sandy beaches with very little grass or other vegetation. Nesting territories often include small creeks or wetlands.
- Reproduction - The female lays four eggs in its small, shallow nest lined with pebbles or broken shells. Both parents care for the eggs and chicks. Chicks are able to run about and feed themselves within hours.
- Feeding Habits - Insects, spiders, and crustaceans.
- Range - Migratory; spring/summer breed in northern United States and Canada. 1) Shorelines of the Great Lakes 2) Shores of rivers and lakes in the Northern Great Plains, 3) along the Atlantic Coast. Their nesting range has become smaller over the years, especially in the Great Lakes area. In the fall, plovers migrate south and winter along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico or other southern locations. Biologists are still studying winter ranges.

Why is the Piping Plover Endangered?

- Habitat Loss or Degradation - Many coastal beaches traditionally used for nesting have been lost to development.
- Nest Disturbance and Predation - Piping plovers are very sensitive to the presence of humans. Too much disturbance causes the parent birds to abandon their nest. People using the beaches where the birds nest sometimes accidentally crush eggs or young birds. Undeveloped beaches have many conflicting users. Beach goers (on foot and off road vehicles) disturb the small birds, while pets, coyotes, raccoons, seagulls, merlins and other wildlife prey upon nests and chicks.

Little Birds Make Big Strides

Once again, Sleeping Bear Dunes had a highly successful Piping Plover breeding season last summer. Twenty nesting pairs were protected along the shoreline and raised 44 chicks: a 70% fledging success rate! Current recovery goals for the endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover are set at 150 breeding pairs throughout the Great Lakes, with at least 100 of those pairs from Michigan, for at least five consecutive years. In 2006, there were 53 breeding pairs throughout the Great Lakes with 49 from Michigan. As the population increases, pairs expand into new nesting locations. Keep in mind these birds and their young, which cannot fly, share the beach with you. Be sure to keep your pets on a leash at all times to protect these vulnerable birds. If you happen to spot a plover outside of an area posted for their protection, please observe it from a distance and report your sighting to the Park Headquarters. Photos courtesy of Alice Van Zoeren.

Wildflowers

Wildflowers are abundant in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore from early spring through late fall. To find out the names of those you’ve spotted, check out the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes website at www.friendsofsleepingbear.org. Park Volunteer and Friends group chair, Kerry Kelly has created an on-line wildflower reference tool categorized by color and season of bloom. Reference books are also available for purchase at Lakeshore bookstores.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Bears in the Park?

Dear Ranger Ken,

Are there bears in the Park?

Sincerely,

Jr. Ranger

Dear Jr. Ranger,

It is rare to have evidence of bears in our Park, although they have been seen. Because this park is long and narrow, any bear stopping in soon wanders back out. In the photo below I am holding plaster casts of black bear foot prints. The tracks were made in the wet sand as the bear went to get a drink from Lake Michigan.

While you probably won’t see a bear, you may be able to spot other wildlife in the park. Some commonly seen residents include deer, beaver, coyotes, porcupine, skunk, opossum, and fox.

As you hike the trails, also look for these interesting birds: turkeys, eagles, loons, heron, cranes, Trumpeter Swans, Turkey Vultures, a variety of ducks, Red-tailed Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, and orioles, in addition to the plovers, an endangered species that calls the Lakeshore home.

Make sure to let a Park Ranger know if you do see a bear. Have fun and be safe watching wildlife from a distance.

Sincerely,

Ranger Ken, Park Biologist

2007 Visitor Guide
www.nps.gov/sble

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Lakeshore News
Special Events*

June 23 & 24, 2007 9 am to 5 pm
Saturdays at the Lakeshore
Meet a Ranger at the Phillip Hart Visitor Center in Empire. Weekly interpretive programs with topics and trails varying throughout the year. Learn something different about the natural wonders and historic importance of the National Lakeshore. (Near-round every November and December.)

July 15, 2007 7 pm to 9 pm
Dune Climb Concert, Annual
At the base of the Dune Climb on M-109. A free open-air concert brought to you by the Glen Arbor Art Association (GAAA). For details, visit the GAAA website at www.glenabarort.org (click on Manitou Music Festival). A free open-air concert brought to you by the Glen Arbor Art Association (GAAA). For details, visit the GAAA website at www.glenabarort.org (click on Manitou Music Festival).

August 10 & 11, 2007 10 am to 5 pm
Port Omeida Fair, Annual
Port Omeida Rural Historic District. Arts and crafts, rural life skills demonstrations at a variety of farmsteads in the Port Omeida Rural Historic District. Visit the fair website at www.portomeida.com/fair.

August 23, 2007 10 am to 5 pm
US Life Saving Service/Coast Guard Festival, Annual
Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Celebrate the heroes who patrolled the beaches and saved lives from shipwrecks. www.nps.gov/slbe

September 29, 2007
National Public Lands Day & Volunteer Event, Annual
Enjoy the park on this annual “fee-free” day and/or participate in a Take in Prince in America’s Coastal Cleanup event.

October 20, 2007 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Artist-in-Residence, Annual
Each month, a visiting artist will share his or her work at a public program and by donating a piece of their art to the park.

October to November 2007
Various Dates / Dates
North Manitou Island Deer Hunt, Annual
On North Manitou Island. Apply to Park for permit.

Saturdays in Winter
Snowshoe Hikes with a Ranger
Meet at the Visitor Center at 1 pm for orientation and instructions. Then drive to hike location. Snowshoes loaned free of charge.

April, 2008
Time to be announced
Arctic Apple Tree Pruning Workshop, Annual
Learn how to maintain neglected apple trees, how to bring them back into production, and keep them healthy.

April, 2008
Time to be announced
National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day, Annual
Events to be announced.

June, 2008
Friday, Saturday
Glen Haven Days, NEW!
This 2.7 mile loop from the Glen Haven Bay View trailhead location. Has a corresponding number showing the trailhead location. It is mostly flat, easy walking with woods, open meadows and lakeshore to enjoy. Also a ski trail.

*For more details and information call 231-326-5134, or go to www.nps.gov/slbe.

Support The Park With Your Purchases

Look for future sales items coming soon with original Sleeping Bear Dunes artwork. The America’s National Parks Collector’s Series consists of collectible pins, patches, magnets, and decals featuring original designs by illustrator, Frank McShane. This unique, colorful style has helped create a new illustrative standard for America’s most important resource: our national parks. Check out the rest of the series at www.eparks.com store.

Eastern National is a private, non-profit organization which operates the sales outlets at the General Store, Dune Center, and Visitor Center. A portion of the proceeds is donated to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational programs, including the printing of this publication.

Hike a Trail

Ranger Marie suggests you investigate the Lakeshore’s significant features by following a trail on foot, snowshoes, or cross country skis. She outlines some highlights of the 15 mainland trails. A trail guide with maps is available at Park bookstores for three dollars. Take the Park map with you. Each developed trail has a corresponding number showing the trailhead location.

1
Old Indian Trail: Two easy loops of about 1/2 mile each begin in the woods and take you to low dunes along the Lake Michigan shore. Also a ski trail.

2
Platte Plains Trail System: Loops around Otter Lake and Otter Creek for five miles. It is mostly flat, easy walking with woods, open meadows and lakeshore to enjoy. Also a ski trail.

3
Empire Bluff Trail: One of the Park’s most popular trails. It is short, quite hilly, leads through magnificent old woods and out to a spectacular lookout on Empire Bluff.

4
Windor Moraine Trail: A quiet trail with one big hill. Also a ski trail.

5
Shauger Hill Trail: A 2 1/2 mile loop through the woods near the Scenic Drive. Also a cross country ski trail.

6
Cottonwood Trail: A 1/2 mile trail starts at stop 4 on the Stocking Drive and takes you across the top of the perched dunes. It’s not too hilly, but all sand, and there’s no shade.

7
Dunes Trail: Only for hardy folk, the four mile round-trip hike to Lake Michigan starts at the Dune Climb. Crossing nine hills, hikers may be exposed to temperature extremes, blowing sand, lightning, and sunburn. Take plenty of water and wear protective clothing!

8
Duneside Accessible Trail: A great trail for everyone. It runs along at the base of the dune at the Dune Climb. There are benches along the way and a quiet viewing deck at the end. Be sure to inspect the giant yard stick stuck in the side of the dune which measures the speed at which the dune is advancing.

9
Sleeping Bear Point Trail: A three mile loop from the Glen Haven Maritime Museum, out over the dunes to the Sleeping Bear Point. (A spur trail takes you to the beach.) Be prepared on any dune trail, take water, compass, good walking shoes, and adequate clothing for rapidly changing weather conditions.

10
Alligator Hill Trail: Three strenuous forested loops, the easiest is a 2 1/2 mile hike up a long hill. The views from the lookouts at the top are always worth it. Also a ski trail.

11
Bay View Trail: The shortest loop is only about a mile long. The view from the top of the knob is 360 degrees of breathtaking beauty. More loops, different lengths. Also a ski trail.

12
Pyramid Point Trail: This 2.7 mile trail is a challenge as it climbs a steep hill to the top of Pyramid Point. Outstanding view of the Islands.

13
Good Harbor Bay Trail: A flat, quiet 2.8 trail that circles through woods and wetlands. Also a ski trail.

Photo copyright Joanne Rettke.

Pets are Welcome

Pets controlled on a six-foot leash may accompany visitors for many activities in the park. Pet owners need to know the rules, and remember that they are enforced to protect wildlife, and to provide an enjoyable experience for all visitors. Please plan ahead. Carry extra water for your pet. Protect your pet from temperature extremes: sand can burn their feet.

No-Pet Zones: Areas in the park have been closed to pets for the protection of wildlife and to ensure the enjoyment of all visitors. These areas include the Dune Climb, Platte River Point, Glen Lake Picnic Area, North Bar Lake, and North and South Manitou Islands. In addition, sections of some beaches and designated cross country ski trails are posted “No Pets” part of the year.

Pet Rules
• Pets must be controlled on a six-foot leash at all times.
• Pets may not be left unattended or tied to an object.
• Do not allow your pet to make unreasonable noise.
• Clean up after your pet and dispose of waste in trash receptacles.
• Keep your pet from interacting with wildlife or disturbing park visitors.
• Be familiar with No-Pet Zones and heed “No Pets” signs posted throughout the park.

www.nps.gov/slbe