

CURIOSITIES

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Mackinac Associates turned 40 in 2022, and the parties and events throughout the 2022 summer were certainly worthy of a milestone birthday.

To kick the season off, Mackinac Associates held a donor reception and dedication for the renovated Dr. Beaumont Museum. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the McGulpin House lawn, a tour of the new exhibit, and remarks from Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Steve Brisson and Mackinac Associates President Harriet McGraw.

For Mackinac Associates' biggest event, what better location than the Michigan Governor's Summer Residence for the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration? More than 200 guests were treated to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the lawn and porch of the residence, while Brad DeRoche provided music and the Mackinac views provided a stunning backdrop. As dinner approached, the group made the short trek along Huron Road to the lawn of the Officer's Quarters next to Fort Mackinac. Enjoying a strolling

dinner catered by Island House Hotel, guests heard remarks from Brisson and McGraw.

On July 4 the annual Red, White & Blue event was held at the Huron Road Pavilion. This patriotic event continues to bring members from across the island together for a short but fun afternoon of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and friendship. Island House Hotel also catered the event.

The Annual Meeting was held August 20, also at the Huron Road Pavilion. See the related story in this issue.

Mackinac Associates served as sponsor for a September 13 Business After Hours, hosted by the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. The St. Ignace and Indian River Chambers of Commerce also participated. Chamber members enjoyed an evening of networking while touring the lighthouse grounds and hearing remarks from Brisson.

Dates for 2023 events appear elsewhere in this issue of Curiosities, and are also online at mackinacassociates.com.



Current Mackinac Associates board member Todd Callewaert with former Mackinac Island State Park Commissioner Mary Callewaert, current Mackinac Island State Park Commissioner Marlee Brown, and Dan Musser III at the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration.

ANNUAL MEETING ROUND-UP

Nicole Doud and Heather Martin were unanimously voted to the Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees at its annual meeting August 20. In addition, David Levy was introduced to the membership after being appointed to fill a vacant seat at the July 8 board meeting.

Doud fell in love with Mackinac during her college years and has been on Mackinac Island since 2006. She is married to Andrew Doud, owner of Doud's Market, who has a rich family history on Mackinac Island. They have three young boys and Nicole owns a gift shop on Main Street called Little Luxuries of Mackinac Island.

"I am excited and honored to be appointed to the Mackinac Associates board," Doud said. "I have always enjoyed learning about the history

on Mackinac Island and what the State Park has to offer for tourists and the community. I believe it is important to teach not only the youth, but all ages. I am excited to be involved on this wonderful board!"

Heather (Huthwaite) Martin has been coming to Mackinac Island for more than 35 years since her parents purchased a cottage on the island. She and her family are active members of the Mackinac Island Yacht Club and Wawashkamo Golf Club.

Martin is a former trial attorney and has three children – Caroline (23), Aidan (21), and Avery (17). Since retiring from practicing law, she has been active on a variety of philanthropic boards and civic organizations, including the Joffrey Ballet Woman's Board, Rush University Medical

Center, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, Northwestern Settlement House, Junior League, the American Cancer Society, and numerous school boards.

"I am very excited to join the Mackinac Associates board," Martin said. "I have a deep love for history and am excited to promote the history and treasures of the island with the next generation of residents and visitors."

David Levy and his wife, Ann, restored and now reside at Craig Mawr Cottage on the East Bluff, of Mackinac Island, with their horses and dogs. The restoration of the home, barn and gardens occurred between 2000 and 2004.

"We share a tremendous love of all things Mackinac," Levy said.

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Outgoing board members Harriet McGraw and Tom Lockwood.



Former Mackinac Island State Park Commission Chairman and Club 200 member Dennis Cawthorne providing remarks at the annual meeting.

2023 EVENT DATES

June 21st
A Mackinac Day Grand Opening Reception

June 24th
G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration

July 4th
Red, White and Blue

August 12th
Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

Continued from page 1

Levy serves as the Vice Chair of CATCH, as well as being on the Mackinac Island Library Board. Currently he is CEO and Founding Partner of Classic Roots Farm, as well as the Co-founder and CEO of Utica Leaseco, LLC. Previously he worked as Director of Mergers & Acquisitions for a major automotive supplier (MNP Corporation) and was the Executive Vice President and co-owner of a multi-national auction and appraisal firm (Norman Levy Associates). He is an avid golfer, loves fishing and boating on the Great Lakes, and is also a

Michigan football fan who loves to cook for his family and friends.

Doud and Martin replace Harriet McGraw and Tom Lockwood, who were term-limited off the board. Levy fills the seat of Todd Petersen, who resigned from the board this past summer.

“Nicole, Heather, and David will make excellent additions to the Mackinac Associates board,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director. “All have deep connections to Mackinac Island and the Straits of Mackinac area and bring unique skills and backgrounds to the board.”

“We thank Harriet, Tom, and Todd for their dedication to the Mackinac Associates board,” Brisson continued. “We look forward to their continued involvement with Mackinac Associates in the future.”

At the meeting, members heard from Dennis Cawthorne, former Mackinac Island State Park Commission Chairman and Club 200 member, co-founder of the Kelley-Cawthorne Law Firm, and six term state legislator. McGraw highlighted the summer events and the generous support of members over the past year, including funding the education outreach programs and the Dr. Beaumont Museum. McGraw, Lockwood, and Petersen were presented plaques for their service on the board.

At the regular board meeting August 26, the board elected the following officers: Jeb Burns, president; Todd Callewaert, vice president; Brian Bailey, treasurer; and Nancy Porter, secretary. Other members of the Board of Trustees include Kathy Lieder, Stephen Murray, Joan Slater, Sheldon Smith, Natalia Wohletz, and Skip Young.

EXPLORE HISTORIC TRADITIONS AT A COLONIAL CHRISTMAS

Mackinac State Historic Parks doesn't stop interpreting the history of the Straits of Mackinac just because it's winter! Join us for A Colonial Christmas, taking place at Colonial Michilimackinac on Saturday, December 10, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Colonial Christmas will immerse guests into the holiday traditions of Michilimackinac in the 17th and 18th centuries. Visitors will be able to tour the site at their own pace, heading into buildings that will feature interpreters describing various Christmas traditions and try era-appropriate snacks and drinks throughout their visit.

Upon entering the site, lanterns will light a path to the South Southwest Rowhouse, where guests can purchase tickets and receive their first goodies. Dedicated photo spots will also dot the entry into the fort, allowing for that perfect winter photo opportunity.

Once inside the fort, guests can head to the Southwest Rowhouse, where they'll learn about French-Canadian traditions; the Guardhouse, where British civilian and military traditions will be discussed; the Barracks, where German military traditions will be presented; the Northwest Rowhouse, where crafts will be available, allowing guests to take home a piece of their visit; Northwest Rowhouse Unit A, where they'll learn about French New Year's celebrations, including a chance to cut into the King's cake to find a prize; the Priest's House, where wassail will be distributed; and Ste. Anne's Church, where the church will be set up for holiday mass. Finally, out on the parade ground, a fire will be set up and stories of the first Christmas at Mackinac (1675) will be told, and games like Trap Ball will be available for guests to play.

This event is free for Mackinac Associates, excluding the Heritage-level season pass.



It's A Colonial Christmas, December 10 at Colonial Michilimackinac.

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In Memory of Emily Kaye
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DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

The 2022 season has nearly ended, proving to be another successful year. We fully emerged from pandemic restrictions and were able to open all venues and programs for the first time since 2019. This included McGulpin House, the Adventure Tour at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, and the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp. We were still plagued by staff shortages, like everyone, resulting in some late openings and the early closure of Mill Creek. Senior career staff occasionally stepped into front-line roles and our dedicated seasonals put in extra effort. All was done with smiles all around and our guests were none the wiser. In fact, based on our weekly review of visitor comments, we continue to offer enriching and entertaining programs and build lifelong memories. Attendance, apart from groups, was at pre-pandemic levels.

Our newest offerings, already lauded in recent Curiosities, included the new exhibits at the Beaumont Museum and the Fort Mackinac Reading Room. Both were sponsored by Mackinac Associates. They have been well received by our guests and will be the subject of audience evaluation next season. That is when we will hopefully confirm that the exhibits have met their goals. For decades, we have evaluated all our exhibits through both tracking how long visitors spend in each gallery and by having them complete a survey. The program was on pandemic hiatus the last two years but relaunched this season.

Data gathered from audience evaluations helps guide future exhibits and inform our strategic planning. A major project this year was the development of our new three-year plan, approved by the Park Commission in May. Charting our course is critical as we continue to move Mackinac State Historic Parks forward, and we have been guided by a strategic plan since the late 1980s.

The plan began with a survey of all our stakeholders, including the Mackinac Associates board, and was then crafted by staff teams. This newest plan includes a mechanism for annual evaluation, and we are excited by our long list of projects.

Less than a month after the plan was approved, we were delighted by the news that the state budget includes a \$35 million appropriation for Mackinac State Historic Parks infrastructure projects. We had been working with key members of the legislature and the governor for a year to secure this funding. Three million dollars are specifically for the Milliken Nature Center at Arch Rock, two million for renovations to the Mackinac Island Scout Barracks, with the remainder to cover a variety of general infrastructure projects. This will include road paving in Mackinac Island State Park, painting of numerous buildings, rehabilitation of all our visitor's centers, a new park field office, and many others. Combined with our admissions revenue, stellar museum stores, annual state funds, and, of course, the ongoing support of Mackinac Associates, we will have the resources to implement our strategic plan. As we wrap up this season we have already begun planning for next year and beyond.



“BASED ON OUR WEEKLY REVIEW OF VISITOR COMMENTS, WE CONTINUE TO OFFER ENRICHING AND ENTERTAINING PROGRAMS”

– STEVE BRISSON, DIRECTOR

PHOTO ALBUM: MINIATURE GOLF COURSE, 1925

The sport of golf has been popular on Mackinac Island for many years. Large courses like Wawashkamo, built in 1898, and a nine-hole course at Grand Hotel, built in 1917, have drawn people from all over the world for a round of golf. Miniature golf was first documented in 1912 by the Illustrated London News and played similarly to croquet, only with obstacles. Recently acquired by the park is a photograph ca. 1925 showing a miniature golf course located across Hoban Street from the Lake View Hotel. It is unclear who owned the course and how long it was in operation but it occupied a prime location downtown. Grand Hotel may have had a course on the lower lawn as shown in a 1920s era postcard but this course is also not well documented. Currently, the island has two minigolf courses, The Greens of Mackinac at Mission Point Resort and The Gem, opened by Grand Hotel this summer.



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For membership information,
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