



Sleeping Bear Dunes

National Lakeshore



Your National Park: Explore It!



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of almost 400 sites in the U.S. that are considered so special they are considered national treasures and protected as part of the National Park System. Here Ranger Peg highlights some significant features of the Lakeshore. Whether you have an hour, a day, or a week, you can 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 7.5 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 450 foot bluff and look straight down at Lake Michigan, or glimpse the Sleeping Bear Dune a mile north of you. You'll sense the forces that sculpted the landscape long ago and constantly change it today. The Sleeping Bear Dune and the Manitou Islands are visible from the overlooks at stops #3, 9 and 10. 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. In mid-November the drive closes to vehicles and is used as a cross-country ski trail. *Located 3 miles north of Empire off M-109.*



Visit Glen Haven, a turn-of-the-century steamship stop on Sleeping Bear Bay. Drop in on our working blacksmith or 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 U.S. Visit the boathouse to see equipment surfmen used a century ago. Discover these true heroes of our past. *Details on page 5. Glen Haven is located on M-109/M-209, two miles west of Glen Arbor.*

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 31 miles of shoreline on the mainland and 34 miles around the islands - talk about a long walk on the beach! *Beaches listed on page 4. Plover info, page 7.*

Feel a century slip away in Port Oneida, the largest historic agricultural landscape in the U.S. 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 or on the website. Port Oneida Rural Historic District is about three miles north of Glen Arbor along M-22.*

Spend Saturdays at the Lakeshore Ranger Peg invites you to join other Rangers and her for programs every Saturday, January through October. Saturday activities begin at the Lakeshore Visitor Center in Empire. In early spring, hunt for mushrooms and wildflowers or watch eagles and other birds migrating back to their



summer homes. Visit a beaver lodge in the summer to witness the work of an ambitious animal, or hike to spooky Devil's Hole around Halloween. During January and February, explore the winter woods on snowshoes (loaned free on Ranger-guided walks). After a brief introduction everyone travels a short distance by car to the trailhead. Hikers will be out about an hour and

a half and the activity will be concluded by 3 pm. The hikes are no more than moderately strenuous and are suitable for folks of all ages. Parents are encouraged to bring children along. Reservations are not required, but are suggested if you are bringing a group or need snowshoes. If you are in the area on any Saturday, (except November and December) explore the park with a Ranger. During the summer months numerous programs are offered on a daily basis. *Check the website or call 231-326-5134 for details.*

Dare to do the Dune Climb! Climb this imposing mountain of sand. Most people will be satisfied when they reach the top of this 100 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 Duneside Accessible trail.

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. *Links to more information are available on the park website.*



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 (231-326-5134), campgrounds and entrance stations. More information is also available on the park website at www.nps.gov/slbe.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
9922 Front Street
Empire, MI 49630



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National Park Entrance Passes

A Park Entrance Pass is required whenever and wherever you venture into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and must be displayed on your vehicle windshield or dashboard on the driver's side. When parking outside the Lakeshore boundary and entering on foot or bicycle, carry your pass with you. Purchase yours at the Visitor Center, 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, as well as the self-pay fee canisters located at Peterson Beach, Esch Beach and North Bar Lake. Self-pay fee canisters will also be available early summer at CR 669 Beach and CR 651 Beach.

\$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. *Only valid at this park for one year from month of purchase.*

Access Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Documentation is required. Provides access to Federal recreation sites and admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. *Provides a 50 percent discount on some fees such as camping, can only be obtained in person and is non-transferable. Acceptable documentation includes: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by Veteran's Administration, Social Security Administration, or a State agency.*

School Groups

An Educational Fee Waiver is available for bona fide groups applying prior to their visit. *Call 231-326-5134 or see website.*

Free Admission for Children 15 and Under

\$10 Senior Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. One-time fee 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. 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 National Lakeshore

Admits one individual (age 16 and up) on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or non commercial bus.

Commercial Vehicle Fees

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



Island Day Trips and Camping

South Manitou Island



Catch a passenger ferry for a day trip or camping excursion on South Manitou Island! The island offers beaches, giant cedars, hiking, shipwrecks, and tours of historic farms. Climb the lighthouse stairs for grand views across Lake Michigan. Take a lunch and everything you need as no services are available on the island. Supplies are available in Leland. The ferry *Mishe-Mokwa* begins boarding for South Manitou Island, in summer, daily at 9:15 am, leaving at 10 am, and lays over for four and a half hours at the island. The ferry departs the island at 4 pm and arrives back at Leland at 5:30 pm.

A National Park Entrance Pass is required for any use of the islands, and a backcountry camping permit is also required for campers. Passes and permits are available at Leland Harbor office before boarding, as well as at the Visitor Center. From May to September, Manitou Island Transit operates passenger ferry service from the Leland Fishtown Dock to the Manitou Islands. Call 231-256-9061 for ferry schedules, tickets and reservations. Plan to arrive at the Fishtown Dock at least 45 minutes prior to departure for check-in. Leland is 27 miles north of Empire on M-22.

North Manitou Island



Backpack on North Manitou: a true wilderness experience! Visitors to North Manitou pass through the historic Coast Guard village before having nearly 15,000 acres of forests, fields and beaches for backpacking. Plan well. Bring everything you need to camp as you must stay overnight and no services are available. Check-in at 9:15 am at the passenger ferry *Manitou Isle* in Leland. Upon arrival at North Manitou Island, the ferry remains at the dock just long enough to exchange passengers before returning to Leland Harbor. There is no service to North Manitou on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Camping

D.H. Day Campground



A popular 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 located throughout, and an RV dump station is near the campground entrance. There is no electricity and generator use is permitted only in sites 1-31 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, tents only, located in a clearing with a few 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 spigot are nearby.

Campsite \$30 / night \$33 reserved

Open all year: advance reservations only from May 23 to October 1, 2008. 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. From Glen Arbor go four miles west on M-109, turn right on Harwood Road to road end.

Group Camping

Group camping is offered at Platte River Campground, D.H. Day Group Campground, and in the backcountry on North and South Manitou Islands, all by reservation only throughout the summer season, except North Manitou. No pets.

South Manitou Backcountry Group Camping Permit

5-20 people \$23 reserved**

North Manitou Backcountry Group Camping Permit

5-10 people \$10 / night

D.H. Day Group Campsite \$30 / night

7-25 people \$33 reserved**

Platte River Group Campsite \$40 / night

7-25 people \$43 reserved**

Please Note

**Senior and Access Pass holders with ID pay half price for selected campsites. Discount does not apply for group campsites, electricity, or the \$3 reservation fee.*

Reservations

****To make reservations** visit <http://www.recreation.gov>, or the Park website at www.nps.gov/slbe or phone 1-877-444-6777. Reservations for individual campsites from Memorial Day through Labor Day are accepted six months in advance. For group sites from May through October, reservations are accepted one year in advance. For reserved sites, a \$3 per night reservation fee is added by the reservation contractor. Reserve early!

Platte River Campground



A modern campground with RV and tent camping, pull-through and back-in sites with electricity and without, this campground has beautifully wooded tent campsites, walk-in tent sites, and group campsites for 7 to 25 people. This very popular campground is a two mile drive from a Lake Michigan beach and has a 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 three-minute tokens. An RV dump station is located at the entrance to the campground. Firewood is for sale each evening. 43 reservable campsites are available May 23 to September 1. Five reservable group campsites are available May 2 to October 1. Campsite fees are as follows:

Non-Electric Campsite*

\$16 / night \$19 / night reserved**

Electric Campsite* includes electricity

\$21 / night \$24 / night reserved**

Walk-in Campsite*

\$12 / night \$15 / night reserved**

Group Campsite

\$40 / night \$43 / night reserved**

Open All Year \$5 / night fees for electricity are collected in the campground at check in. 231-325-5881. 5685 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. Carry in drinking water or 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 close to Lake Michigan. There are six campsites, one fire ring, and an outhouse. *Passes and permits may be obtained at the Platte River Campground or (winter only) at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire.*

Valley View



A 1.5 mile trail winds uphill from the trailhead for this quiet backcountry campground, 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 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.*

Philip Hart Visitor Center



Don't miss *Dreams of the Sleeping Bear*, a free, 15-minute multimedia program. Learn about the geology, natural history and human stories of the park, and review the schedule of ranger-led programs and walks. Support the Lakeshore when you purchase books, games, posters, postcards, shirts, hats and patches in the bookstore. Buy your park pass here, and pick up a free park guide. *Open daily 8-6 Memorial Day thru Labor Day. From Labor Day to Memorial Day hours 8:15-4. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years days. Accessible restrooms, water fountain, pay phone, assistive listening devices and portable TTY available. Closed captioning is available for the orientation slide show. Call 231-326-5134, ext. 328. Located on M-72, just east of M-22 in Empire.*



National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Park Headquarters: 9922 Front Street
Empire, MI 49630
Visitor Center: 231-326-5134 ext. 328
Web site: www.nps.gov/slbe
E-mail: SLBE_Interpretation@nps.gov
Fax: 231-326-5382

Authorized by Congress on October 21, 1970, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore encompasses a 31 mile stretch of Lake Michigan's eastern shoreline, as well as North and South Manitou Islands. The Park was established to preserve the "outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dune formations, and ancient glacial phenomena... for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreation, and enjoyment of the public." The Lakeshore also contains many cultural features including an 1871 lighthouse, three former U.S. Life Saving Service / Coast Guard Stations and an extensive rural historic district.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Guide is published annually by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Division of Interpretation & Visitor Services. Contributors include Terry Phipps, Kerry Kelly, Jane Greiner, Alice Van Zoeren and park staff. Edited by Joy Blair. Funding is donated by Eastern National, 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.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Greetings from the Superintendent

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 perched dunes and miles of isolated beaches, numerous hidden lakes in beautiful beech/maple 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 make their way up the Dune Climb for a bird's eye view of the Glen Lakes. Nearby, the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, a former logging road, winds through beech-maple forests and provides breathtaking views of Lake Michigan from atop the 450-foot-high bluff. And the beaches! The fine sands and impossible blues of Lake Michigan beckon! Jump on in!

Take a slow drive through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District and pause to imagine life on these farmsteads in the early 1900s. Travel from Port Oneida to the historic village of Glen Haven. There's plenty to do in the village, like watching the blacksmith heat iron in the forge, and hammer it into useful items. Imagine a Great Lakes vessel being repaired while the crew of a Chicago-bound steamer waits impatiently at the Cannery dock down the road. Shop at the 1920s General Store and tour the Cannery which houses the largest collection of Great Lakes small watercraft. You can go inside the restored Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station in Glen Haven; one of three located here at the Lakeshore. Our dedicated Park Rangers and Volunteers are on hand to help you find your own connections to the history of the people who settled this area.

With a little planning, you can hop a ferry from Leland to North or South Manitou Island to see the lighthouse and Life Saving Service Stations, or explore the islands' interiors. Peace and solitude abound throughout the Lakeshore, making it an ideal destination for a wide range of outdoor recreation.

If you care about the future of this special place, your timing is especially good, as the Lakeshore is currently developing a new General Management Plan/Wilderness Study 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

Hot or Cold?

Monthly Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High Temp (F°)	26	28	37	53	66	76	81	78	70	58	44	32
Low Temp (F°)	13	11	19	32	41	51	57	56	49	40	30	19
Precipitation (in)	2	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	2
Snowfall (in)	23	19	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	19

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

231-326-5134 ext. 328

www.nps.gov/slbe

Benzie County Chamber of Commerce
Empire Chamber of Commerce
Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce
Leelanau Chamber of Commerce
Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau
Traverse City Chamber of Commerce
Traverse City Visitors Bureau

231-882-5801
231-334-3238
231-271-9895
888-334-8499
231-947-5075
231-947-1120

www.benzie.org
www.empirechamber.com
www.visitglenarbor.com
www.leelanau.chamber.com
www.sleepingbeardunes.com
www.tcchamber.org
www.tcvisitor.com

Ranger Dianne's Reminders

Learn something new every time you visit!
Display your National Park Entrance Pass on the windshield or dashboard of your vehicle.



Camp only in designated campgrounds.
For your safety, glass containers are prohibited on beaches, waterways, and dune areas.

Please leave all plants, rocks and other natural objects undisturbed for other visitors to enjoy. Do not collect ghost-forest wood, any wood on the dunes, or wildflowers. Ask the rangers about what fruits, berries, and mushrooms can be picked!

Bicycles are allowed on the same established roads that vehicles travel, but not on any park trails.

Be aware that some hunting is allowed in the National Lakeshore. Wear bright colors during hunting seasons.

Fires are permitted in campground fire rings, picnic area grills, and mainland Lake Michigan beaches. On the mainland beaches, keep fire between the water's edge and the first dune, away from any vegetation. Put out fires with water. No beach fires on the Manitou Islands.

Run up and down the Dune Climb; it's accessible year round. Help us protect other sand dunes from erosion by staying on established trails.

Drive on established roads only and be careful not to park your vehicle on any vegetation.

Have a safe and pleasant visit!

Don't Miss a Word!

Do you miss some information at Ranger programs due to competing sounds?

Park visitor Leah suggests trying out the 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 for a ranger-led 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 TTY device for use with the pay telephone.

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. There are no concessions so pack a picnic and your sunscreen. Display your park pass on the dash and head out to enjoy the cool Lake Michigan waters and sandy shoreline. *The following beaches have vault toilets unless noted. A park entrance pass is required for any use of the National Lakeshore and is available at locations throughout the park (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. *No Pets. Take M-22 ten miles south of Empire, turn right on Lake Michigan Road, and go two miles to parking area. Note: Regardless of which lot you park in, a Park Entrance Pass is required to use the National Lakeshore and a separate Township fee is required to use the township park.*

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. *Leashed pets allowed only to the right of Esch Road when facing the water. Located at the end of Esch Road, off M-22, three miles south of Empire.*



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. *Leashed pets allowed only to the left of CR 669 when facing the water. Follow M-22 nine miles north of Glen Arbor through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District and turn left on Bohemian Road /CR 669.*

The Piping Plover in the Great Lakes area is an endangered species. To protect Piping Plover nesting areas, portions of several mainland beaches, and beaches on North Manitou Island, are closed each spring through mid-summer while the birds nest and raise their 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.

Dune Center Store

Duck into the air-conditioned Dune Center for nature guides, compasses, pins, T-shirts, hats, hiking sticks and more. A sand-accessible wheelchair may be borrowed from the Dune Center. *Open noon to 5, Fri, Sat, Sun only in June. Open noon to 5 daily July 1 thru Sept 1. 231-334-2010. Located at the base of the Dune Climb.*

Glen Haven Beach is on Sleeping Bear Bay. Look west past the Life Saving Station to Sleeping Bear Point, north to the Manitou Islands, and east to Pyramid Point. (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. *Leashed pets allowed to the right of the Maritime Museum/Life Saving Station when facing the water, including the Cannery Beach. Located 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. *No Pets. Located at the end of Bar Road. Take 22 north out of Empire, left on Voice Road, right on Bar Lake, left on Bar Road.*

County Road 651 Beach

This 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 Manitou and the Fox Islands may be visible on a clear day. *Leashed pets allowed only to the right of CR 651 when facing the water. Located 12 miles north of Glen Arbor, through the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, turn left off M-22 a mile on Good Harbor Trail/CR 651.*

Peterson Beach has a boardwalk crossing the low dunes from the parking lot to the beach. 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. *Leashed pets allowed only to the left of Peterson Road when facing the water. Eight miles south of Empire, take Peterson Road off M-22.*



Follow a Trail

Ranger Marie suggests you investigate the Lakeshore's significant features by following a trail on foot, snowshoes, or cross country skis.



Here she outlines some highlights of the mainland trails. Note that directional arrows and difficulty levels on maps are for use by cross country skiers.

1 Old Indian Hiking & Ski Trail

Two fairly flat loops of about 2 1/2 miles each begin in a mixed evergreen and hardwood forest and take you through low dunes to the Lake Michigan shore. When skiing, the Green Arrow trail is a little easier than the Black Arrow trail, which has some steeper hills and sharp turns.

2 Platte Plains Hiking & Ski Trail

This is a wonderful 4.6 mile loop, the Otter Creek Loop, which takes you completely around Otter Lake and along a section of Otter Creek. It is mostly flat, easy walking with pine-oak-aspen forests, open meadows and lakeshore to enjoy. The 3 1/2 mile Bass Lake Loop winds around Bass and Deer lakes. It is not as flat and has some sections on a two-track road, but it is still an easy trail. The 6.6 mile Lasso Loop includes some intermediate and advanced skiing. The network of trails for the Bass Lake and Lasso Loops can be confusing, so allow plenty of time and watch for junction points along the way.

3 Empire Bluff Hiking Trail

One of the park's most popular trails is short, only 1 1/2 miles round trip, quite hilly, and leads through a magnificent old beech-maple forest to a spectacular lookout on top of Empire Bluff. The trail has helpful steps in the steeper sections, a bench halfway, and a deck with benches at the bluff. Wildflowers and woodland plants are abundant. For your safety and to prevent erosion, please do not descend the bluff. The trail ends at post #6 in winter because of hazardous ice and snow conditions on the boardwalk and bluff. If you were going to hike just one trail in the park, this would be a good choice. Don't miss it!

4 Windy Moraine Hiking & Ski Trail

A quiet 1 1/2 mile trail with one big hill. It starts out with a walk through a meadow and into the beech-maple forest to a very large sugar maple tree. A bench is provided for a peaceful moment before tackling the steep hill to follow. At the top you'll find a very old apple tree and a nice view of Glen Lake, then it's all downhill to the trailhead.

5 Shauger Hill Hiking & Ski Trail

You will enjoy a 2.4 mile loop through the same woods you see from your car when touring the Scenic Drive. The trail, which starts at the Scenic Drive parking lot, includes some steep hills and crosses the Scenic Drive twice, so watch for traffic at the crosswalks. In winter, the Scenic Drive is closed to vehicles for use as a cross country ski and snowshoe trail, which connects to the Shauger Hill Trail. Eight additional miles of hilly terrain challenge

winter visitors. Beech-maple forest opens to provide views of Lake Michigan and the dunes. For your safety, stay back from the edges of the steep bluffs. Watch for snowmobiles where the trail crosses Shauger Hill Road.

6 Cottonwood Hiking Trail

This 1 1/2 mile trail starts at stop #4 on the Scenic Drive and takes you out onto the perched dunes where you'll see native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. It's somewhat hilly, all sand, and there's no shade. A bench allows a fine view from above the Dune Climb, D. H. Day farm, and Glen Lake.

7 Dunes Hiking Trail

This four mile round-trip hike to Lake Michigan starts at the Dune Climb. A view of Glen Lake awaits you at the top, with a strenuous workout to follow. The blue-tipped posts lead you over nine hills through the high dunes plateau, and eventually to the Lake Michigan shore. It can be a hot, exhausting three to four hour trip. Plan ahead if you hike this Dunes Trail. Take extra water and a hat, shirt, shoes, sunscreen, and snack. Make sure those in your care are also able and prepared.

8 Duneside Accessible Trail

This is a fun trail for everyone. It runs about a half mile along the base of the dune by the Dune Climb. There are benches along the way and a quiet viewing deck at the end. Be sure to visit the giant yard stick at the side of the dune which measures the speed at which the dune is traveling. The trail is accessible to those with wheelchairs and the visually impaired. There are a number of stops along the way with tree and habitat identification. It's fun to find well labeled examples of basswood, ironwood, hemlock and birch trees, and then try to pick more out along the way. Mosquitos can be a problem along the wooded half of the trail on warm days.



9 Sleeping Bear Point Hiking Trail

This 2.8 mile loop begins at the trailhead near the Maritime Museum and goes out onto the dunes. The trail is marked with blue-tipped posts and you'll see dune grasses, shrubs and wildflowers along the way, in addition to a ghost forest. You can also take a short spur to Sleeping Bear Point and return on the beach. Either way, be prepared for strenuous walking in loose sand on this beautiful, windy trail with great views of Lake Michigan. Past the point you may be able to see planks from an old shipwreck in the sand at the waterline. Piping Plovers nest along here, so pets are not allowed on the beach to the left of the Maritime Museum as you face the water.

10 Alligator Hill Hiking, Bridle & Ski Trail

All three loops on this eight mile trail lead to a bench which

overlooks Lake Michigan and the Manitou Islands. On a clear day you can also see the Fox Islands. A spur takes you along the ridge to another bench at the Glen Lake overlook, another spectacular view. Each loop climbs the steep hill while taking you through the shady beech-maple forest, and each is a bit of a challenge. The easy, intermediate, and advanced designations, and the directional arrows on the trail map, are for use by skiers. Horses are also allowed on this trail. *The trailhead is off Stocking Road near its intersection with Day Farm Road.*

11 Bay View Hiking & Ski Trail

Everyone loves the view from Lookout Point. A half mile up the trail, is a gentle climb with a short steep hill at the summit. The view from the top of the knoll is 360 degrees of breathtaking beauty. Experience Bay View once and you will want to return again and again. There are a total of 7 ½ miles of scenic trail available at Bay View. The loop near the trailhead includes a long walk along the top of the hill with an expansive view of Lake Michigan. *To reach the trailhead follow M-22 to Thoreson Road. The parking area is less than a half mile from the northern intersection of M-22 and Thoreson.*

12 Pyramid Point Hiking Trail

This 2.7 mile loop is a challenge as you will climb a steep hill to the top of the bluff. The beech-maple forest is full of birds and wildflowers, and the view of the Manitou islands and Lake Michigan is unforgettable. If you want to keep it really short, you can hike up and return on the same half-mile section of trail. Be aware that the face of Pyramid Point is extremely steep and subject to landslides. Please do not climb down the bluff! *Trailhead is off Port Oneida Road.*

13 Good Harbor Bay Hiking & Ski Trail

A quiet 2.8 mile trail that turns inland from the shore of Lake Michigan and circles through woods and wetlands. It is quite flat and makes an excellent easy ski trail. *To reach the trailhead take CR 669 north from M-22 to Lake Michigan Rd. Follow it one half mile east.*

Will You Need Rescue?

Lake Michigan Overlook

Every year visitors are lured off the boardwalk at this popular location on the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. Despite posted warnings, people descend the 450' high rock and sand bluff to the water. The sight of others doing so may give the impression that it is a safe activity. It is not. Rangers routinely respond to visitors who have become injured on their way down, dangerously exhausted or overheated on their climb up, or who have become separated and lost as alternate routes to the top are sought.

Please do not climb at this location. The Dune Climb is recommended as a safer location for climbing.

Please heed all park signs, look out for the safety of those in your care, and stay within the limits of your abilities. Enjoy the park and avoid becoming the next visitor who needs to be rescued!

Glen Haven Historic Village



Step into the past with Ranger Bill in this one-time bustling port. Glen Haven was a company owned steamboat stop from 1865 until 1931. Sleeping Bearville, as it was originally called, was a natural harbor sought out by steamships sailing between Chicago and Buffalo. Learn more about the rich history of this area when you visit some of the restored buildings in Glen Haven. *Check the schedule of Ranger-led walks through town at the Visitor Center and campground offices. Please note that a section of the shoreline is sometimes closed to protect the nesting Piping Plovers. Picnic area with grills and nearby flush toilets available. Glen Haven is located on M-209, two miles west of Glen Arbor, just off M-109.*



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. Blacksmiths were important craftsmen who fashioned tools, hardware, and kitchen implements, and also repaired wagons, saws, anchors, pulleys and even the steam engines that powered the sawmill. Volunteers in the fully restored Blacksmith Shop provide demonstrations for all ages. *Open daily 11 am to 5 pm, June through September 1.*



Glen Haven General Store

Treat someone to old-fashioned candy at lumber baron D.H. Day's General Store, restored to appear as it did in the 1920s. It was built in 1867 as a company store to provide goods for workers. David Henry Day came to Glen Haven as a young man in 1878 to manage the cord wood operation. By 1881, Day was able to buy the town and his office can be seen in the back of the store. He built a fine farm (*privately owned*) not far from Glen Haven and walked there every day to supervise the care of his prize dairy herd. He and his family lived above the store amid the activity of this once bustling town.



Today, the historic store carries typical general store merchandise and items related to the history of the Glen Haven area including kitchenware, foods, toys, maritime items and books. *Open noon to 5 pm Memorial Day weekend thru June, Fri, Sat, & Sun only. Open daily noon to 5 pm July 1-September 1.*

Maritime Museum

Tour the crew quarters and boathouse at the Life Saving Station Maritime Museum at Sleeping Bear Point. Exhibits highlight the U.S. 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 thru September. Open weekends October 1-19, noon to 5 pm.*



Heroes Of The Storm 3 pm Daily

Each afternoon at 3 pm throughout the summer, participate in a reenactment of a shipwreck rescue utilizing U.S. 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 U.S. Life Saving Service crews risked their own lives in the worst weather conditions to rescue passengers from shipwrecks. These men lived at the Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station and patrolled the beaches day and night looking for ships in distress. *Daily June 23-Sept. 1.*



Lyle Gun Firing 3:30 pm Thursdays

Fire! In another ranger-led activity, a Lyle Gun firing demonstration occurs every Thursday on the beach throughout the summer. This small cannon (the only one ever built to save lives) was used by the U.S. Life Saving Service to send a line out to a ship in distress in order to pull victims ashore. *On the beach at 3:30 pm Thursdays, July 3 to Aug 28 following the Heroes of the Storm, at the Life Saving Station Maritime Museum.*

Historic Beach Patrols

Patrol the beach for shipwrecks with a surfman from the U.S. Life Saving Service. A realistic night-time reenactment is scheduled during the fall shipwreck season. The worse the weather, the more realistic, so dress appropriately! *7:30-9:30 pm Saturdays October 11 and October 18.*



Cannery Boat Museum

In what was once a cherry and apple cannery there now exists a collection of historic Great Lakes vessels, 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 24 to September 1.*

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. Ranger Vern recounts some of these projects which are essential to the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage, as mandated by the legislation that created the National Park Service.



Fee money has enabled resource management staff to monitor and protect the Piping Plover, whose numbers in this country were dwindling fast as beaches everywhere were being developed. Plover patrols have been so successful here, that in the last few years, there were more Plovers and hatchlings at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore than any other area on the Great Lakes!

In Glen Haven the Cannery Boat Museum was re-roofed, modern rest rooms were installed, and the historic General Store and Blacksmith Shop were both completely renovated.

Funding from fee revenue has been used to upgrade trails on North Manitou Island, for continued improvement of mainland trailhead parking lots, and has provided additional uniformed staff to assist you in making the most of your visit to the park.

This year, fee dollars are also covering the costs of our Invasive Plant Team in an effort to systematically remove invasive weeds throughout the Lakeshore.

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!

Meanwhile, come to a Special Event, join a partner organization, and check out the park news on these pages!

Special Events

Saturdays

Saturdays at the Lakeshore

Rangers offer 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. (Year-round except November and December.)

June 2, 3, 4 2008

General Management Plan Meetings

June 28 & 29, 2008

9 am to 5 pm

Michigan Barn Preservation Network Workshop

Lawr Farmstead in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. An opportunity to learn new skills and help restore historic buildings. Call for information or to sign up.

July 5, 2008

11 am to 1 pm

Book Signing - 10th Anniversary Edition of *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* by author Kathy-jo Wargin.

July 13, 2008

7 pm to 9 pm

Dune Climb Concert

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.glenarborart.org (click on Manitou Music Festival).

August 8 & 9, 2008

10 am to 4 pm

Port Oneida Fair

Port Oneida Rural Historic District. Arts and crafts, rural life skills demonstrations at a variety of farmsteads in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. Visit the fair website at www.leelanau.com/fair.

August 21, 2008

10 am to 5 pm

US Life Saving Service/Coast Guard Festival

Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Celebrate the heroes who patrolled the beaches and saved lives from shipwrecks.

September 27, 2008

National Public Lands Day

Enjoy the park on this annual "fee-free" day and/or participate in a Take Pride in America/Coastal Cleanup event.

September, October 2008

Artist-in-Residence

A visiting artist will share his or her work at a public program and will donate a piece of their art to the park.

October 11 & 18, 2008

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Historic Beach Patrol

Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Dress for the weather and walk the beach with a surfer from the US Life Saving Service in search of a shipwreck.

October 1-24, 2008

October 25-Nov 2, 2008

North Manitou Island Deer Hunt (Bow)

North Manitou Island Deer Hunt (Firearm)

On North Manitou Island. Apply to Park for permit.

January and February

1 pm to 3 pm

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 2009

Date TBA

Antique Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

Learn skills and practice maintaining an heirloom apple orchard.

April 18-25, 2009

TBA

National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day

Events to be announced.

May 28 & 29 2009

Thursday, Friday

Glen Haven Days

School groups and visitors learn about lumbering, shipping, and U.S. Life Saving Service through hands-on activities.

Most of these events happen each year at about the same time. For more details and information call the Visitor Center at 231-326-5134, or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/slbe.

Partners

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes was founded in 1994 and is a volunteer, non-profit organization that works for Park goals, helping whenever needed. Many Friends members are also Volunteers-in-Park (VIPs). One of the chief services the Friends offer is obtaining and administering grants and funds which individuals, companies and other organizations provide to the park. With tax-exempt 501(c)(3)



status, donations of cash or property may be claimed as tax deductions. The Friends has provided the park with donations such as Automatic External Defibrillators, Global Positioning System equipment, funds to enhance education and interpretive programs and exhibits, and fencing materials to protect Piping Plovers. This group is an integral player in the annual Port Oneida Fair, too. Look for their newest publications, available in Park bookstores. Visit www.friendsofsleepingbear.org for more information and a wildflower field guide.



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

The mission of the Manitou Islands Memorial Society (MIMS) is to preserve and interpret the history and cultural traditions of North and South Manitou Islands. Members are involved in research, fund raising, hands-on maintenance and restoration projects, and interpretation initiatives. Current projects include the restoration of South Manitou's historic one-room schoolhouse; co-sponsoring the annual Port Oneida Fair; and assembling islanders' oral histories. Each year the last Saturday of July, there is an annual reunion. Everyone is welcome. The next day is an excursion to South Manitou Island for a picnic and a special memorial service at the island's cemetery. The islands have a special way of getting into visitors' hearts. When that happens to you, the Memorial Society is the place to nurture that enchantment. Visit www.manitouislands.org for more information.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Since 1998, 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. Preserve 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 when staff is available. 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 membership, projects and programs, call 231 334-6103 or visit www.phsb.org.

Join Us in Mapping the Future

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is preparing a General Management Plan (GMP) and Wilderness Study (WS) and we need to hear from you, the public and park users! GMPs are intended to guide park management decisions for about twenty years or so. Our existing GMP was adopted in 1979 and since then, a number of issues and conditions have changed. Through the Wilderness Study, we will also take a fresh look at wilderness potential in the park.

The GMP process began in early 2006 and we have received hundreds of responses at open houses, planning workshops, public meetings, in the mail, and via the internet. A variety of alternatives for future park management have been crafted. A draft GMP/WS has been developed and is available for review and comment until June 13, 2008. After the public comments are read and analyzed, the plan will be finalized. You are urged to participate and have your voice heard!

The planning process is somewhat lengthy, but is scheduled to be completed by December, 2008. This is the last round of public comment, so please visit our website (www.nps.gov/slbe) to review the draft GMP/WS and other documents, or stop in at local libraries (Traverse City, Beulah, Frankfort and Leelanau County) where the draft plan is available as well. If you are able, you may also wish to attend one of the public meetings scheduled for June 3, 4, and 5, 2008.

During summer and fall of 2008, we will analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise the draft document, and prepare the final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement, and distribute it to the public. Winter 2008-2009 and beyond, we will prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement the approved plan as funding allows.

Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan. Let the park know what you think.

Invaders!

Check for Ticks!

Searching for ticks soon after a visit to the woods is always a good idea. Since researchers found Black-legged ticks on National Lakeshore lands in 2007, checking is recommended. These ticks are a non-native invader species that has been making its way north in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. They are also a major carrier of Lyme disease which has infected many humans in surrounding states. Just in case medical problems develop later, note the date and time when any imbedded tick is removed.

Use Certified Bait

A new fish disease which has impacted other Great Lakes is now in Lake Michigan. It is called Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) and is a disease that causes hemorrhaging in the internal organs and muscles of many species of fish. Though not a threat to human health, VHS is devastating to fish. The result is fish carcasses on the beach and fewer fish for fisherman. Staff at the National Lakeshore is reviewing recommendations for slowing the spread of this disease and keeping it out of the many inland lakes. In the meantime, to help prevent spreading disease anglers should use only certified VHS-free bait minnows and avoid transportation of fish or fish parts between water bodies.

Botulism Die-Off Continues

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

encompasses nearly all of the Piping Plover's critical nesting habitat within the Great Lakes. Nearly 9,000 birds along Lake Michigan's shoreline have been lost. Lakes Erie, Ontario, and Huron also continued to have die-offs, which began in the late 1990s. NPS staff and visiting scientists continue to conduct numerous research projects to identify possible management actions.

Leave Firewood at Home

Bringing firewood into Sleeping Bear Dunes from other areas may spread non-native pest insects and diseases that threaten the health of our forests. To help protect the forests, do not bring firewood into the National Lakeshore.

Forest pest insects and diseases of immediate concern include Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Beech Bark Disease, Oak Wilt, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

If You Brought Firewood

- Please place the wood directly from your vehicle into a fire so that any insects cannot spread along the ground.
- Please DO NOT UNLOAD the firewood to the ground at your campsite or take it to a beach for a beach fire.
- Burn your wood completely. Do NOT leave unburned firewood at your campsite.

Safe firewood can be bought at the campgrounds from approved vendors. Down and dead wood can be collected for use in park campsite fire rings and beach fires. Wood found in all dune and ghost forest areas is to be left undisturbed. *For more information on state Emerald Ash Borer quarantines visit the DNR website: www.michigan.gov/eab.*

Invasive Plants

Nature Conservancy volunteers, seasonal park staff, and other volunteers have joined together to eliminate the park's most threatening alien plant species. Baby's Breath has already impacted over 1,200 acres of dune



bacteria caused the die-off. The die-off resumed in June of 2007 and continued until late November. A total of 1,135 birds were counted, collected, or buried along all of the mainland beaches and North Manitou Island in 2007. Seventeen different species of birds were effected including killdeer, long-tailed ducks, and mergansers. The saddest loss continues to be the many adult loons, and in 2007, the loss of four endangered Piping Plovers. Eight species of fish were also effected. The 2007 die-off area expanded greatly and now includes most of northern Lake Michigan. This

habitat. Black locust is impacting nearly 250 acres and promotes the invasion of other herbaceous weeds like garlic mustard. In 2007, these, and a host of other invasive species, were treated, and inventories of new infestations were conducted.

Purple Loosestrife and Leafy Spurge continue to have a small foothold in the Lakeshore and staff work diligently on them year after year. Plans for 2008 include continued effort toward eradication of these invasive non-native plants.

In the Spotting Scope: Piping Plover



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is host to one of the most endangered birds in the Great Lakes region -- The Piping Plover. Piping Plovers are small, sand-colored shorebirds with

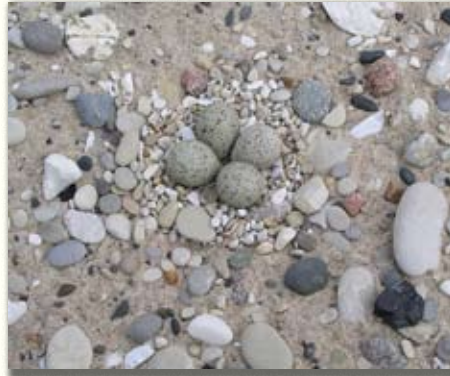
single black bands on their foreheads and necks. They have orange legs and an orange bill with a black tip. Piping Plovers divide into three separate breeding populations during the summer: one on the Atlantic coast, one in the Great Plains, and the one here around the Great Lakes. Our population is by far the smallest of the three -- 63 pairs in 2007, compared with about 2,000 pairs in each of the other two populations. Sleeping Bear Dunes is by far the most important breeding area for Piping Plovers, with 24 of the Great Lakes nests.



2007

Great Lakes Piping Plovers had a very successful year in 2007. Though 63 pairs seems like a small number, there were only 18 in 1986 when Piping Plovers were given protection under the Endangered Species Act. The population has been increasing since that time. This success is due in large part to the many organizations, agencies and individuals watching over them. Two very successful strategies are the closing of nesting areas to prevent disturbance, and surrounding each nest with a wire fence to protect the eggs from predation. In 2007 at Sleeping Bear Dunes there were nests at Platte Point, Platte Bay, the end of the Old Indian Trail, Sleeping Bear Point, and on Dimmick's Point on North Manitou Island. In all those locations except Dimmick's Point, park visitors can walk along the shore outside the rope fencing and observe Piping Plover breeding behavior.

Piping Plovers begin to return in mid-April from their wintering areas along the southern Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. They immediately set up territories, find mates, and choose nest sites. Park employees protect them by hiking the shoreline to determine where nesting will take place, and put up rope fences to protect those areas from disturbance. Once territories and nest sites are established, egg-laying and



incubation take place. Plover monitors fence in the nests with wire mesh that adult plovers can pass through, but gulls, crows and other predators cannot. If you look carefully you may be able to see a parent on the nest within each wire enclosure. They are well camouflaged and can be hard to spot.

Chicks begin hatching in June, and from then until August you can see them out feeding in the dune grass and along the water's edge. Within hours of hatching they begin to run around and feed themselves. If they are outside the rope fencing, give them some space and you will be rewarded by being able to watch their undisturbed behavior.

You Can Help

- Keep pets on leashes and out of "No Pets" areas.
- Tell NPS staff if you see any pets off-leash or in restricted areas.
- Clean up any garbage left on the beach so it won't attract predators.
- Don't feed gulls, crows or other wild animals.
- Report sightings of Piping Plovers in area where no fencing is present.

BORX 1994-2006

Sleeping Bear's oldest Piping Plover didn't return last spring. BORX (known for the colored bands he wore on his legs--Blue, Orange, Red, and "X"-metal) was hatched on North Manitou Island in 1994, and began nesting at Platte Point in 1997. His territory was in the same location each summer until 2006. Each fall he flew all the way to southwestern Texas (South Padre Island) for the winter.



BORX was known as a very good dad. From 1997 to 2000 he raised 3 out of 4 chicks each year, and from 2001 to 2005 he never lost a chick. In 2006 he lost his mate to a predator, and seemed to lose heart after that. He didn't begin advertising for a new mate, although there was enough time left in the summer for a second nest. Plovers who lose a mate are seldom able to incubate and raise a brood of chicks alone, so his eggs were collected and the chicks were captive-raised. One of them returned to nest near his father's old territory, although he had never been there since he was in an egg.

Something seemed to be missing last summer without BORX in his usual spot. However, he has another son with a territory a few miles to the east who has inherited his good fathering instincts. A daughter has been nesting successfully out on North Manitou Island. In fact it appears that about 20% of the Great Lakes population is related to BORX. He may be gone, but his good genetics live on.

For more detailed information about Piping Plovers and their behaviors, ask for a brochure at the Visitor Center in Empire or find one online at <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/upload/Piping%20Plover.pdf>. To volunteer to assist with the Plover recovery effort or to report observations contact the Visitor Center.

