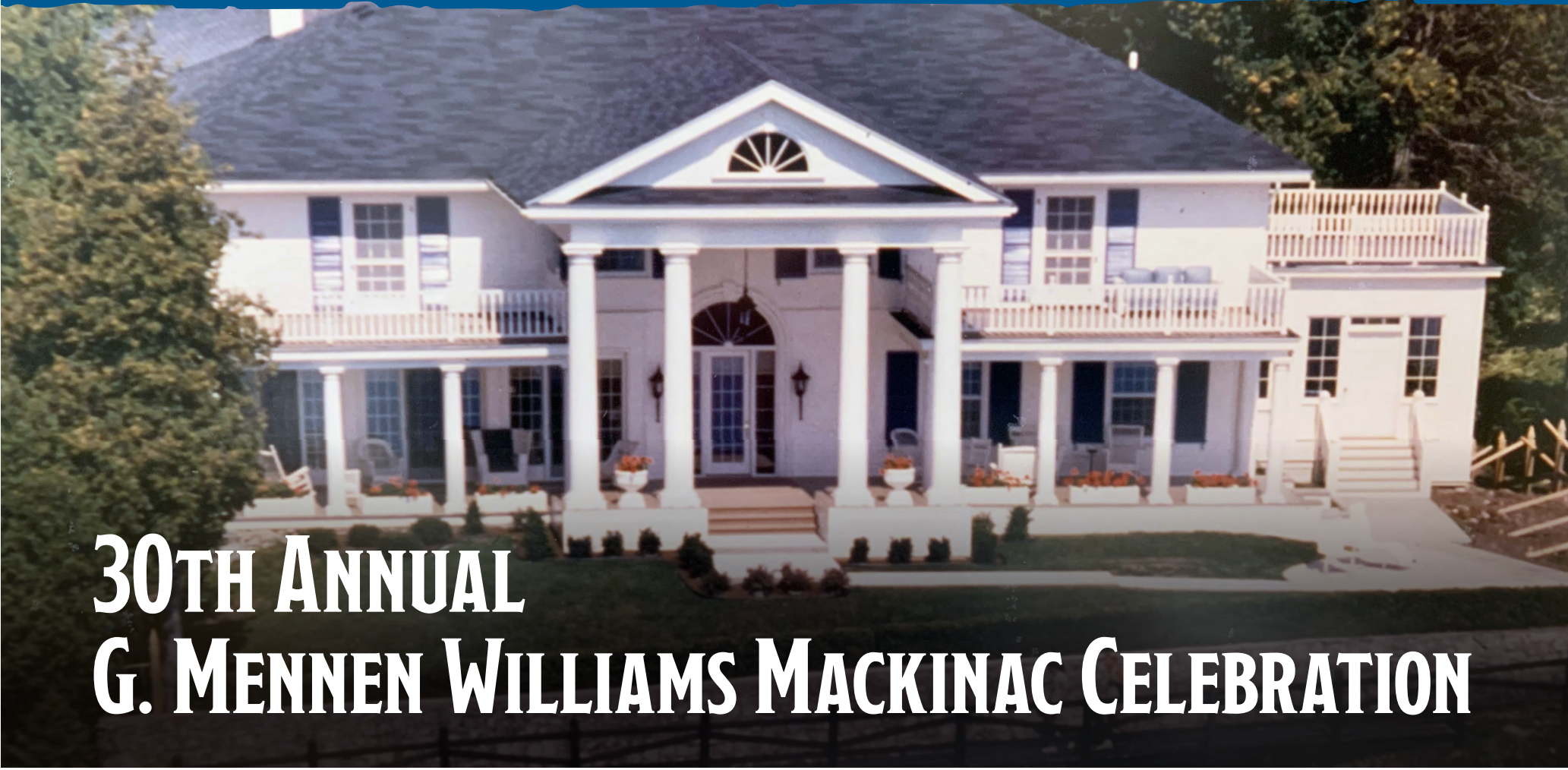


CURIOSITIES

VOLUME XXXVIII



2019 ISSUE 2



30TH ANNUAL G. MENNEN WILLIAMS MACKINAC CELEBRATION



Mackinac Associates is proud to celebrate the 30th annual G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration in 2019, and there may be no better location to host the event than at the cottage of Mike and Wendy Young on the West Bluff.

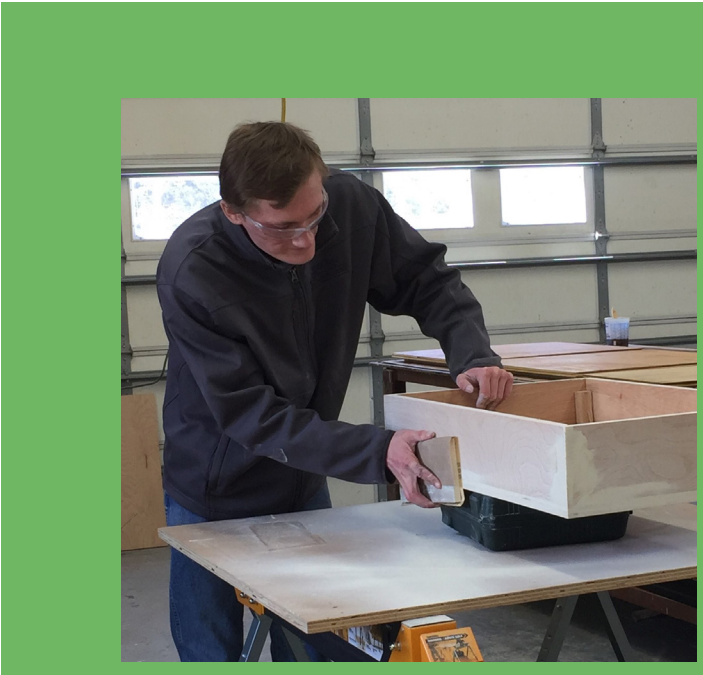
The Mackinac Celebration serves as the unofficial kick-off to summer. Island House Hotel will once again be catering the event, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cottage will be available to tour during the cocktail hour. Dinner will be served two houses down at Wonder View, the Hamady family cottage, under tents on the lawn.

"This will be an outstanding opportunity to tour one of Mackinac's magnificent cottages

that features a stunning view of the Straits of Mackinac," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director. "We appreciate long-time Mackinac Associates members Mike and Wendy Young for opening their cottage for the event and are equally appreciative of the Hamady family for allowing us space to host dinner."

The Young family, as Porter mentioned, are long-standing Mackinac Associates members and this is not the first time they have opened their house for the Mackinac Celebration, as it was held at their cottage in 2001.

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



SPRING APPEAL

We are excited that the 2019 season for the Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites is finally here! This means it is also time for our spring appeal. There are a variety of new things to see and experience this season at park sites. The many completed projects completed are made possible by support from you as a loyal member of Mackinac Associates.

Your thoughtful unrestricted donations are critical for Mackinac Associates to continue supporting a variety of projects, exhibits and park improvements throughout Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Mackinac State Historic Parks is finishing up

the 2020-2022 strategic plan that will outline a new and exciting set of projects for the coming years. We hope you will help us to continue to fund upgrades and programs through this 2019 spring appeal. We appreciate all you have done over the years in supporting Mackinac Associates and Mackinac State Historic Parks.

We hope you will visit Mackinac State Historic Parks often this season, enjoy our programs and see for yourself how your contributions have helped. Thank you for your support as it makes history come alive for all of us.

To donate visit our website at: mackinacassociates.com/donate.htm

'VISIONS OF MACKINAC' ART CONTEST



Mackinac Art Museum

Join fellow Mackinac Associates and the finalists of the juried exhibition as we celebrate the "Visions of Mackinac" as captured in art. This special event will feature short comments and light refreshments just outside The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum in beautiful Marquette Park on June 19 at 6:30 p.m.

For the 10th anniversary exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Mackinac State Historic Parks encouraged artists working in all media to share their artistic visions of Mackinac Island. Subjects may be people, places, gardens, buildings, landscapes, water views, or whatever subject best captures the artist's creative vision of Mackinac Island.

"We are pleased to be hosting the 10th

annual open house and presentation of awards and prizes for this juried exhibition," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. "We are excited to have Emily Lancot of Northern Michigan University's DeVos Art Museum to select the award winners.

"This annual contest helps fulfill the mission of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum to encourage the creation and display of art inspired by Mackinac Island," Porter said.

Juror for the contest is Emily Lancot. Lancot's work explores themes of identity, the archive, the collection, memory, and institutional politics. Lancot's work moves between media to examine cultural rituals and everyday practices.

Lancot received a B.F.A. in Drawing and Painting from Northern Michigan University in 2008, and an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Studio Arts from Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2010. She lives and works in Marquette, where she is the Curator of Collections and Outreach at NMU's DeVos Art Museum, and teaches in the Foundations program at the School of Art and Design.

"I am thrilled to be selected to jury Visions of Mackinac," Lancot said. "As someone who works at an Upper Peninsula art museum that collects local and regional art, I understand that the support and celebration of arts in our region are terrifically important. There is a rich legacy of arts in our region, and I look forward to seeing the range of artwork submitted. This exhibition is an excellent opportunity for those near and far to appreciate and reflect on the beauty of Mackinac Island and the surrounding area."

There will be a single Best of Show award which will be chosen by the juror. The winner will receive The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and a \$2,500 cash prize. Their name will be on the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed in the museum. In addition, there will be second and third place cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and three honorable mention awards with cash prizes of \$250 each.

All prizes are donated by Mackinac Associates and the Mackinac Arts Council. "We are very grateful and appreciative to Mackinac Associates and the Mackinac Arts Council for their generous financial support," Porter said.



2018 Art Contest - The annual art contest open house takes place under the tent in front of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum in Marquette Park.



The Mackinac Arts Council, Mackinac State Historic Parks and Mackinac Associates are proud to work together throughout the season to provide exciting programs to the public, including Music in the Park, Workshops at the Museum, and the juried exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.



LEAVE A LEGACY

"Our family has a long history on Mackinac Island as business owners and residents and understand the importance of preserving the historical structures and natural features of Mackinac Island. We can't think of a better way to help ensure the future preservation of this special place for our children and the community than with a planned gift to Mackinac Associates."

— Les Parrish and Ann Callewaert Parrish

UPCOMING EVENTS

Put on your finest patriotic clothing and make your way behind Fort Mackinac and join fellow members for the annual Red, White & Blue Celebration at 5:30 p.m. on July 4. This annual event brings members together for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and fellowship prior to the Fort Mackinac picnic festivities.

The Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 18 at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. The meeting portion will take place inside the Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park auditorium, with dinner immediately following under the pavilion. The park will be available to tour, and be sure to experience the Adventure Tour!

See the events calendar on the back page for details on these and all of the special events happening throughout Mackinac State Historic Parks this season.





DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the Mackinac Associates G. Mennen Williams Annual Celebration. Named for former Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams who helped initiate the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's modern-day museum program, this summer gathering honors Williams' legacy of preservation through lectures, presentations, and historic house tours.

G. Mennen Williams, nicknamed "Soapy" in reference to the Mennen brand of men's personal care products founded by his father, began his quest to preserve Mackinac history in the 1950s. In November of 1955 he convened a blue-ribbon group of Michigan historians, preservationists, and island officials to discuss a process for restoring Mackinac's crumbling historic buildings, as well as opportunities for reconstructing Fort Michilimackinac and sites in St. Ignace. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was slow to respond to the governor's prodding, leading Williams to appoint Grand Hotel owner W. Stewart Woodfill to the commission and give him the leadership role of chairman. The politician and the hotelier combined their considerable leadership and planning skills to undertake the daunting task of preserving Mackinac's many historic treasures. The question was how to pay for it.

After failing to get a \$500,000 appropriation from the Michigan legislature, the Woodfill-led commission decided to borrow money through revenue bonds, like the recently-completed Mackinac Bridge. The move soon received legislative approval and Governor Williams cheerfully signed the bill into law in early 1958. Pledging the income from gate receipts to retire the bonds, the commission borrowed \$50,000 and installed new exhibits in the soldiers' barracks at Fort Mackinac. This was the beginning of today's Mackinac State Historic Parks museum program which has now served over 23,000,000 guests at its historic sites.

Williams continued in office through 1960 and, having fallen in love with Mackinac Island while living in the Governor's Residence, purchased a cottage on the West Bluff two years later. Soapy and his family spent the next 23 years as summer residents enjoying the island and watching the historic preservation program expand and flourish.

In 1989, just four years after he sold the island cottage and one year after his death, Mackinac Associates launched the G. Mennen Williams Celebration. A joint effort with Mackinac State Historic Parks, the event initially featured distinguished speakers, including pollster Lou Harris, Michigan State University President John DiBiaggio, and Detroit Institute of Arts Director Sam Sachs, followed by dinner at Grand Hotel. In 1997 Hope Goodwin hosted the first G. Mennen Williams Celebration



"THE G. MENNEN WILLIAMS CELEBRATION HONORS WILLIAMS' LEGACY OF PRESERVATION THROUGH LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS."

– PHIL PORTER, DIRECTOR

cottage tour at her West Bluff home. The pattern of home tours followed by dinner has continued since that time and the number of participants reflects the continued and growing popularity of the gathering. Last year's event at Captain's and Major's Quarters drew 180 guests, a far cry from the early years which saw crowds of less than 70.

For the 30th anniversary, we have been invited to tour the Mike and Wendy Young Cottage on the West Bluff. This magnificent and beautifully restored cottage will be a delightful venue in which to celebrate Mackinac history and commemorate the vision and commitment of Governor G. Mennen Williams.



PHOTO ALBUM: EAGLE SCOUTS, 1938

This photo from 1938 shows the arrival of the second contingent of Eagle Scouts for the season at the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp. They are being greeted by the program director Burwell Palm of Lansing and his assistant Edwin Decker of Kalamazoo. This remains a familiar sight on Mackinac Island today, as every Saturday between Memorial Day and Labor Day a new troop arrives. First established in 1929, the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp celebrates its 90th anniversary this season. Originally the Mackinac State Historic Parks sponsored program was for Eagle Scouts only but was opened to all Boy Scouts after 1938. In 1974 the program was further broadened to include Girl Scouts. The scout barracks was completed in 1935.

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MackinacAssociates.com



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2019 MSHP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

27 | Memorial Day Observance, Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, 8:30 a.m.

June

4 | The King's Birth-day Celebration, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
5 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
8 | Historic Downtown Mackinac open for 2019 season, 11 a.m.
9–15 | Lilac Festival Events, Fort Mackinac
12 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
12 | Botanical Trail Dedication and Ribbon Cutting, Mackinac Island State Park, 6:00 p.m.
16 | Lilac Festival Grand Parade, Mackinac Island, 4 p.m.
19 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
19 | **Open House, Visions of Mackinac, Mackinac Art Museum, 6:30 p.m.**
22 | **G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, Young Cottage, 6 p.m.**
22–23 | Civil War Weekend, Fort Mackinac, 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

26 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

29–30 | Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

July

3 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
4 | Star Spangled 4th of July, Fort Mackinac, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
4 | **Red, White & Blue Celebration, behind Fort Mackinac, 5:30 p.m.**
4 | An American Picnic presented by Grand Hotel, Fort Mackinac, 6:30 p.m.
6–7 | 1812 Encampment at Forts Holmes and Mackinac, Mackinac Island, 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
13–14 | Pastimes in Times Past: Fun and Games Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
17 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
20 | Vintage Base Ball, Fort Mackinac Ballfield, 6:30 p.m.
24 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
31 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

August

7 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
10–11 | Gardens and Good Things to Eat Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
14 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
18 | **Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, 5 p.m.**
21 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
28 | Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

September

14–15 | Michilimackinac at Work: Labor and Trades Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

October

4–5 | Fort Fright, Colonial Michilimackinac, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Visit MackinacAssociates.com for updates.