

## MALLARD ISLAND IN RAINY LAKE



HAWK ISLAND FORESTRY PROJECT, SEPTEMBER 8-15, 2013

PHOTO BY MARLENE EHRESMAN

Organization incorporated in 1964, a 501(c)3 organization and a private operating foundation

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**“Dedicated to the preservation of Ober’s north woods legacy  
as a source of inspiration, renewal, and connection to the natural world.”**

## Dear Friends of Mallard Island and the Oberholtzer Foundation,



Some anniversaries are noticed with aplomb and activity, such as the centennial of Ober's and Billy Magee's Hudson Bay canoe journey celebrated in 2012. Some anniversaries come and go a little more quietly yet are still very much worth a round of applause. Fifty years ago, Oberholtzer secured this Foundation in his name; our IRS letter is dated August 7, 1964. Thirty years ago, or thereabouts, Jean Sanford Replinger began designing program weeks for Mallard Island. And fifty years ago, come September 4, Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, written by many of Ober's friends. That is a lot of big, round, numbers this year!

In 2013, the organization began to take a closer look at the forest health of the islands surrounding Mallard Island. Steve and Elaine Thrune coordinated a group of intrepid sawyers, including Tim Youngquist and Bruce Ehresman, pictured on the cover of this report. Hawk Island is in far better shape now (see the article in this report), and the group was so enthusiastic that many will be working on Crow Island this coming fall. Meanwhile, we watch, trim, and nurture every tree, bush and perennial flower on Mallard Island.

Mallard also had a fine 2013 summer, enjoying the heat (cooler than most of Minnesota) and missing the biggest of winds. Last summer, 135 individuals enjoyed a week on Mallard, each coming for one of thirteen program weeks. We enjoyed the newly renovated glacial stone fireplace, and we got the drum room completely back to order and cleaner than it's been for decades. I was glad to get to some archival projects, such as the transcription of Ober's 1956 journal, and we learned a lot about the maps. Two maintenance highlights of the summer of 2013 were the completion of Front House porch and watching a brand new chimney go up on Bird House. It's always a treat to watch newcomers see the place for the first time, either in a week's stay or on one of our daytime tours. And it was good to conduct a few such tours again in September.

Our fall gathering, held again in Minneapolis in October, gave us one of those impromptu talent shows to die for. We heard voices in song and poetry, and even a solo tuba playing as if from the island shore.



The long 2013/14 winter brought committee and board meetings, fundraising, the care and restoration of books, setting and scheduling next summer on the island, new educational projects, as well as maintaining communication with you all—our friends and volunteers.

I'm proud to be working with this board of directors. Note this new photo of us all, taken in February. Our winter board meeting brought

this group together from two countries and four states with 100% attendance. Now *there's* a group of dedicated leaders. See anyone you know?

*Beth Waterhouse* ~ Executive Director

E.C. Oberholtzer Foundation

[ Note new email: [beth@eober.org](mailto:beth@eober.org) ]

Annual Report, 2013

## Accomplished by Everyone during 2013

- ❖ Completed the MN Historical Society Legacy Grant for the fireplace and chimney renovation. This extended to a brand-new brick chimney for the Bird House.
- ❖ Cleaned and “settled in” around the new glacial stone fireplace, including new gutters.
- ❖ Improved fill and landscaping around the top of the root cellar, a perennial garden.
- ❖ June through October: Exhibit at the German American Heritage Ctr, Davenport, Iowa.
- ❖ Donation of Ober’s photography to the MN Museum of American Art by John Roth.
- ❖ Nomination and orientation of two new board members: Dennis Jones and Peggy Smith.
- ❖ Final distribution of 78 rpm records of Oberholtzer’s, brought to us by Thomas Hall.
- ❖ Re-discovered and began to think systematically about more of Ober’s map collection.
- ❖ Completed the transcription of Ober’s 1956 journal -- a year living on Mallard.
- ❖ Installed new pump and pressure tank on Mallard Island.
- ❖ Completed Front House porch and much renovation to the Pump House interior.
- ❖ With the skills of David Jackson, improved the circle of stones around our fire ring.
- ❖ New wood stove donated by the Thrunes and installed into Artists’ Room.
- ❖ A new wooden “fuel shed” brought the boat gas closer to the back dock and off the trail.
- ❖ We returned to the 1930’s aesthetic on the island in several small ways.
- ❖ Installed a dock on Gull Island for boat access to the hiking trail, and blueberries!

## A Word from our Treasurer, Tim Heinle

The positive attitude that exists at the Oberholtzer Foundation is the backbone of our progress. In 2013, our program reached new heights and excellence. Our summer participants left our islands refreshed and enthused to meet their everyday challenges. We learned a great deal more about Ober’s maps and books, and, of course, we got Ober’s drum room back in shape, and then folks again filled it with song or ceremony or laughter.

This positive attitude continues with our many volunteers who come forward and support us in so many ways: island maintenance, book care, archival work, gardening... Yes, that upbeat feeling does seem to permeate our organization.

I learned along the way that accomplishment is when you use extra strength to help someone else, rather than to get to the top first. A Hopi friend reminds me to “take the breath of the new dawn and make it part of you. It will give you strength.”

So many of you supported or assisted our mission this past year. We could not do it alone—your giving and your time and encouragement are part of the positive attitude that propels us forward. Thanks so much.

This spring, once you have heard the white throat sparrow, or once you’ve caught the scent of a favorite wild flower, peace cannot escape you.

*~ Tim Heinle*



**Statement of Operating (Full) Revenue and Expenses - Unaudited**  
**Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation - for Calendar Year 2013**

<b>REVENUE</b> (rounded to nearest dollar)		<u>% of total</u>
Funds from Previous Fund Campaigns (spent this year)	5,059	5%
Grants from Foundations (incl. final MNHS for rock work)	6,482	6%
Dividends and Interest from Investments	11,073	11%
Revenue from Oil & Gas Royalties	35,000	34%
Donations from Individuals this year	24,685	24%
Program Fees for Island Use in 2013	16,600	16%
Sales of photos, prints, and books	<u>3,871</u>	4%
Total for Year.....	\$ 102,770	
<b>EXPENSES</b> (rounded to nearest dollar)		
Staff Salary and benefits	41,938	
Island Utilities / Organizational Storage	2,422	
Administration and Fundraising (Insurance here)	11,440	
Board Meeting Expenses and Travel	7,739	
Outreach and Education (Manitoba Tour here)	4,618	
Archives and Collections Management	874	
Direct Summer Program Expenses	5,133	
Capital Improvements & Repairs (on Mallard Island)	1,892	
Legacy Rock Work (Bird House chimney + project completion)	8,149	
Forestry Work (greatly multiplied by volunteer energy)	2,059	
Conservation Easement (final year of this commitment)	1,500	
Book and Archival Projects within the Legacy	1,250	
Designation to Emergency Fund*	5,000 *	
Contingency / misc. costs and excise taxes	<u>1,088</u>	
Total for Year.....	\$ 95,102	
Excess	7,668	

After 2012, this was a quiet year, expense-wise. We were unable to secure cedar-slab siding for the Big House, and thus some repairs were delayed. Administration and summer costs were right on budget. We completed chimneys on Mallard and supported forestry work on Hawk Island.

\* Note: Each year, the board designates \$5,000 to a self-insurance/emergency fund. The total by year-end 2013 in that fund, co-mingled in our assets, was \$40,000. ~ We were able to use this year's operating excess plus the notable estate/endowment gift to increase our investments for the future.

**Portfolio of Investments—held with Robert W. Baird & Co., Chicago, Illinois**

*With the assistance of Ms. Rosa Ebling at R.W. Baird & Co, the Foundation manages a diverse portfolio of investments. This portfolio of investments as of 12-31-13 was valued at \$386,327 (increase of 16.7% this year), and this figure now includes \$193,926 as a board-designated endowment. We raise our operating budget afresh each year. Special thanks are extended to Rebecca Wallenfelz and Antoinette Hickey of Chapman & Cutler LLP, Chicago, for their assistance with legal and tax compliance over many years.*

## Recognition of Volunteers & More

### Work Week Volunteers

Colleen Jackson  
David Jackson  
Nance Kunkel  
Rud Wasson  
Timmy Wasson  
Melinda Larsen  
Mairi Doerr  
Don Maronde  
Tom Balcom  
Barb Balcom  
Richard Paper  
Sue Carver  
Peggy Anne Smith  
Mary Alice Smith  
Jennie Ross  
Clay Gustafson  
Tim Heinle

### Readers / Book Week Volunteers

David Duggan  
Judith Niemi  
Stephanie and Jim Hoxmeier  
Elizabeth Hutchins  
Sonja Kosler  
Benjamin Johnson  
Tom McCann (maps)  
and Jerry Cox (carpentry)

### Special Thanks to Nancy Paddock, News- letter Layout Editor for the past eight years!

### ... And thanks to our new Layout Editor, Nance Kunkel

### Mallard Island Caretakers during 2013

Don Maronde  
Mairi Doerr  
Jim Fitzpatrick  
Mary Casanova  
Mary Swalla Holmes  
Stephanie Humphrey  
Elaine Thrune (forestry)  
Steve Thrune (forestry)  
Prudence Johnson  
Mary Elder  
Jane Lund  
Mark Granlund  
Brian Klawiter  
Danielle Sosin

### Steadfast Island Openers and Closers

Pam and Darrell Rundell  
& the Rundell family  
David & Karla Markwardt  
Tim Heinle  
Jennie Ross  
Don Maronde  
Bill Beckstrand - pianos

### Incoming Caretakers Trained this Summer

Julie Ristau  
Kim Knutson  
Prudence Johnson  
Lori Williams

### Special Thanks to Forestry Volunteers on Hawk Island

Robin Monahan- coordinator  
John Glazier  
Silas Glazier  
William Glazier  
Steve Hedman  
Tim Heinle

Oren Kosek  
Becky Lucas  
Bob Monahan  
Lucas Monahan  
Sarah Monahan  
William Monahan  
George Simmons  
Doug Skrief  
Lee Sonko  
Betsy Ward  
Mike Ward  
Libby Ward

*See article, next page, about  
the September foresters.*

### Estate Gift Initiates Frances Andrews Build- ing Endowment Fund

Huge thanks this year, from all who foster the legacy of Ernest Oberholtzer, for a year-end estate gift with a grand intent. This donor's gift of \$20,000 becomes the initial principal figure in a newly established endowment fund. Called the "Frances E. Andrews Building Endowment Fund," its interest each year is restricted to the building repair or restoration needs on Mallard Island. (This donor wishes to remain anonymous.)

### Thanks again to Iowans Harry and Shane

Thank you, Harry Hytrek and Shane Pasche, for returning for two spring work weeks in 2013 and for your skills with our rock and brick chimneys. You both have made *such* a difference on Mallard Island.

## Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation Board of Directors:

- **Jim Davis** Pensacola, Florida
- **Jim Fitzpatrick** Hastings, Minnesota
- **Tim Heinle** Scottsdale, AZ and Ranier, MN
- **Bob Hilke** International Falls, Minnesota
- **Mary Swalla Holmes** Madrid, Iowa
- **Pebaamibines**  
(Dennis) Jones Minneapolis, Minnesota
- **Charles A. Kelly** St. Paul and Ranier, MN
- **Robin Monahan** Shoreview, Minnesota
- **Michael Reid** St. Paul, Minnesota
- **Jean Sanford Replinger** Marshall, Minnesota
- **John Roth** Minneapolis, Minnesota
- **Margaret Anne**  
(Peggy) Smith Thunder Bay, Ontario
- **Harry Sweatt** Wayzata and Ranier, MN
- **Diane Tessari** Excelsior, Minnesota
- **Elaine Thrune** Sartell, Minnesota

## The Year of the Hawk Island Forestry Project (see cover photo)

*What constitutes a healthy forest?* Cornell biologists say, “By thinning the forest, we can provide adequate light for the trees that remain. Thinning also encourages healthy crowns.” These points underly the goals of two groups of volunteers and workers who have together spent nearly 200 hours on Hawk Island this summer.

Hawk Island protects Mallard. But it is also protected *by* Mallard and Gull Islands, thus less wind and natural thinning. Its forest had grown tight with a thick and bushy understory.

Robin Monahan plus Elaine and Steve Thrune headed up two different forestry efforts on Hawk Island in 2013. During several Saturday afternoons, Robin corralled volunteers to come for about two hours each week to thin the ground juniper and remove dead trees. Elaine and Steve followed that good beginning and brought together a full week of well-trained tree workers during the second week in September. Bruce and Marlene Ehresman, Tim Youngquist, Mairi Doerr, and of course Elaine and Steve all worked hard for a week on Hawk.

According to Elaine Thrune, the work went very well. (a bit of brush to remove, and the island will look good.) According to Robin, so did his summer Saturdays. “I’m not sure my fourteen year old felt the same way, but *I* think it was more fun than work!” declared Robin Monahan.

The project will continue next year. Tim Youngquist, sawyer from Des Moines, Iowa, will head up a crew in September 2014 to accomplish similar forest-thinning goals on Crow Island.

## Gratitude to Each Individual Donor in the past year, 2013

Arnold Alanen & Lynn Bjorkman  
 Michael L. Anderson  
 Rolf Anderson  
 James & Judy Arnold  
 Backus Community Center  
 Baduik Equipment, Int'l Falls  
 Sheldon & Brenda Baker  
 Tom and Barb Balcom  
 Tom Bell  
 Ashley & Emmanuel Benites  
 Janet Bilden  
 Mike Breckenridge  
 Janet Brown  
 James Bruggeman  
 Bruna Bucciarelli  
 Dale Callaghan  
 Susan Carver  
 Mary and Charles Casanova  
 Ann Cathcart  
 Joseph Conrad  
 Lynn & Jerry Cox  
 James Davis  
 Thomas Dean  
 Mairi C. Doerr  
 Dennis Donath  
 David & Alice Duggan  
 Timothy Eaton  
 Bruce & Marlene Ehresman  
 Katherine & Jeff Eisele  
 Larry & Nancy Eisinger  
 Dan Emmel  
 Charlene Erickson  
 Tim & Marva Fairchild  
 Kathryn Fernholz  
 David & Barbara Fisher  
 James Fitzpatrick  
 Bill Forsyth & Karla McGray  
 George & Sue Fraik  
 Joe & April Gauss  
 Tim & Lisa Gerlach  
 Connie Ghinazzi  
 Nancy Gibbs  
 Vicki Glasgow  
 Francine Goodfriend  
 John & Tonia Grate  
 Janet Green  
 Richard & Jan Green  
 John R. Gregg  
 David & Cynthia Gruber  
 Sarah Gruner  
 Carl & Carol Haag  
 Lois Hackbarth  
 Lois Jean Hall  
 The Head Family Foundation  
 Tim & Joan Heinle  
 Jack & Mary Hickerson

Robin & Randy Hilfer  
 Bob Hilke  
 Ron Hilke  
 Mary Swalla Holmes  
 Claudia Christiansen Horne  
 William Howard  
 Ron Hunt  
 Elizabeth Hutchins  
 Harold Hytrek  
 Colleen & David Jackson  
 Philip Jemielita  
 William & Alicia Jennings  
 Dave Jensen & Jen Kellen  
 Pam & Brad Joern  
 Alicia & Jim Johnson  
 Benjamin Johnson  
 Eric Johnson  
 William Johnson  
 Campbell Jolly  
 Mary E. Juers (Trust)  
 Larry & Jo Kallemeyn  
 Jim & Patricia Kallsen  
 Nancy & Gregg Kasten  
 Brenda Kaysar  
 Martin & Esther Kellogg  
 Charles A. & JeanE Kelly  
 Charlotte Kerelko  
 Charlotte Klesman  
 Roberta Knutson  
 Sonja Kosler  
 Nance Kunkel  
 Paul & Kay Larsen  
 Jane Lund  
 Connie Marsh  
 Carol Marshall  
 Lin Max  
 Edwarde R. May  
 Gladys Meade  
 Ward & Linda Merrill  
 Ken Meter  
 Minnesota Historical & Cultural  
 Heritage Grants Program  
 Robin Monahan  
 Tunie Munson-Benson  
 Richard Niemi  
 Dean & Jeri Nordaune  
 Loretta Ojala  
 Eric & Heidimarie Olson  
 Richard Paper  
 Laura Pawlacyk & Dennis Jones  
 Roger & Connie Powell  
 Charley & Julie Ray  
 Roger & Karen Reede  
 Michael & Anne Reid  
 Eric Replinger  
 Julie Ristau  
 Marilyn & Frederick Rohlffing III  
 David Rolloff  
 J. Arlene Ronda  
 Tony Rongstad  
 Jennie Ross  
 John & Julie Roth  
 Sandra Rufer

Joyce Rupp  
 Catherine Sandell  
 William Sargent  
 Bill & Diane Schaefer  
 Diana & Stewart Sheldon, Jr.  
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 Gloria Stapp  
 Samuel Stenson  
 Barton Sutter  
 Harry & Virginia Sweatt  
 Janice Templin  
 Diane Crawford Tessari  
 Deborah Tester  
 Elaine & Steve Thrune  
 Dan & Janet Tiffany  
 Paul Van Gorp  
 Joe & Eileen Van Wie  
 Jean Velleu  
 John Spencer Wadsworth, Jr  
 Larry & Patricia Wahl  
 Rud & Timmy Wasson  
 Ann Marie Waterhouse  
 Beth Waterhouse  
 Bob & Elaine Waterhouse  
 Carole Wendt  
 Lois & Robert Whitcomb  
 Jerry Williams  
 The Winston Family Trust  
 Jerry & Barb Young  
 Carol Zapfel  
 Marianne (Joy) Zarzana

### *Thank you!*

- \* *Special memorial gift given this year by the Roth's and by Nancy & Gregg Kasten in memory of Julie Roth's mother, Virginia Jerslid.*
- \* *A gift in memory / honor of Bill Holm and Don Olsen.*
- \* *Gift given in honor of John and Edie Rylander.*
- \* *Gifts in memory of Mary Hilke and \* in memory of Wendy Gerlach Blais.*
- \* *Mairi Doerr donated new life-jackets and a cedar chair.*
- \* *Thanks to Mike Breckenridge for the beautiful clay pots.*
- \* *Gratitude for the estate gift establishing the Frances E. Andrews Endowment Fund.*