



# MALLARD ISLAND

Oberholtzer Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2011

## Gene Ritchie Monahan: *creative, courageous, resilient, loving, and practical*

*Gene's son, Robin Monahan, now an Oberholtzer Board member, recently wrote a reflection about his mother that will be lavishly quoted here. —Compiled by the Editor*

Up on a huge lake on a tiny island, perches a tiny room built by a woman with huge artistic talents who once lived in a tiny town. The room is the Artists' House; the island is Mallard Island. The woman is Gene Ritchie Monahan, known for her sketches and portraits. The town is Ranier, Minnesota.

"Gene Monahan was introduced to Ober when her husband, George Monahan, brought her to Rainy Lake during their courtship in the summer of 1931. Gene and George met while students at the University of Minnesota in the autumn of 1930. While at the U, Gene had to pay her own way; she taught art classes and sketched and painted portraits. That fall, George dropped in to have his portrait sketched as a gift to his mother, Dr. Elizabeth S. Monahan. Mom said when George's portrait was finished he just kept coming back," Robin said.

The Monahan family was well known in the early years of the Rainy Lake community, beginning with Dr. Robert Hugh Monahan and Dr. Elizabeth Reid Stevens, both physicians in the area. Ober was a frequent guest in their home. Their son, George, grew up on the lake and traveled on "many lengthy canoe trips with Ober." In his recent reflection, Robin Monahan relates, "When in 1930 my father (George) found in Gene Ritchie a good companion with similar interests, he wanted Ober to meet this special woman."

And indeed, Gene was special in many ways—born in 1908; she was recognized as an artist by the eighth grade. She summered north of Duluth where recreation included "hiking, berry picking, swimming, rowing, canoeing, and fishing, and the cabin amenities were a hand pump for water, kerosene lamp for light, and the outhouse biffy for a toilet. All this later prepared Gene to blend seamlessly into Ober's Mallard Island environment," says Robin. "Gene's comfort in nature, her appreciation for the arts and literature, her skill as an artist, conversationalist, cook, and canoeist, all worked together to later win Ober's respect, admiration and affection."

### A Nest Builder

Gene's husband, George Monahan, was in the military, and the family lived all over the country, including Fort Richardson, near Anchorage, Alaska,

*See Monahan, page 6*

### From Ernest C. Oberholtzer

"The minute you launch your canoe in any of these lakes, you are conscious that you are living in the past. The very air you breathe seems not to belong to the modern world; it is too full of the fragrance of forest and lake.

"The Rainy Lake watershed itself has neither farms nor cities. It spreads its web of wooded lakes among the granite ridges like a huge open fan, 14,500 square miles in extent, one-third in Minnesota, two-thirds in Ontario. In its isolation it has become a natural repository for the past. To its rich history of explorers, fur traders and Indian warriors is added all that was once America—the forests, the game, and the Indians themselves."

*—From "A Voice for Conservation," the back page of the pamphlet describing the "Oberholtzer Trail" in Voyageurs National Park.*



*Photo courtesy of Jean Replinger's collection.*

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## Another Grand Summer on the Mallard...

### **Week 1: Work Week / Mallard and Gull Islands – May 22-28**      **no fees**

Thankfully, there are a number of Mallard Island-goers who enjoy giving back with their time, labor, muscles and skills to help set up the Island for summer use.

### **Week 2: Work Week / Gardening – May 29 to June 4**      **no fees**

This second week of the summer continues and completes some of the projects begun in Week 1 and also focuses on the garden spaces, now hopefully thawed enough to work!

### **Week 3: Readers' Book Inventory / Work Week – June 5-11**      **no fees**

Ernest Oberholtzer's book collection is the focus for this week of hard work, careful inventory and care for the books, sharing great finds, new friends and conversation.

### **Week 4: Bird Banding and Photography – June 12-18**      **\$200/week**

Feathered island residents are the focus for this week of banding, study, and photography. It should be a week of activity among the sparrows, warblers, vireos, ducks, mergansers, loons... Jim Fitzpatrick (bander) and David Astin (photographer) co-hosts. **FULL**

### **Week 5: Individual Artists' Week – June 19-25**      **\$200/week**

This is the annual "individual" artists' week when each person comes to Mallard with his or her own goals about an art or writing project at any stage of completion. Imagination is the word! *As of this publication date, THREE spots remain in this artists' week.*

### **Week 6: Healer Evolving – June 26 - July 2**      **(Hosted)**

Being a healer is an ongoing journey, always with new vistas. This week retreat will use the inherent life-enhancing energy of Mallard Island to reinvigorate and inspire healers in silence, in community, soul-talk, wilderness and ceremony—as each one brings personal skills and wisdom. Co-organizers of the week include physicians and graduates of the University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine Fellowship Program. Dr. David Moss, host. **NEW**

### **Week 8: Special Projects On Mallard – July 10-16**      **\$200/week**

This week on Mallard offers a few distinct focus areas all using the setting and the archives. One focus is a writing project centering on Ober's 1909 canoe journeys. Others include a children's book project, and a library project focused on naturalists. **One spot open.**

### **Week 9: Children's Writers and Illustrators – July 17-23**      **(Hosted)**

As a group of published authors and illustrators of children's books, this group, hosted by writer Mary Casanova of Ranier, MN, "has not found a location that better nurtures them as artists and that binds them together as a community dedicated to their craft."

### **Week 10: Composers and Creative Sources – July 24 to July 30**      **(Hosted)**

The chain of creativity from composer to performer to audience member can be deepened through the addition of other artists and other venues of art. This group of jazz composers/teachers hailing from across the country will join poets and other composers and may also dig into Oberholtzer's books, records, or archives for sources of inspiration. **NEW**

### **Week 11: Jon Romer Flute Workshop – July 31 to August 6**      **\$335 w/ flute**

Jon Romer, from Cass Lake, will come for a second year to teach traditional native wooden flute, beginning level. The group purchases hand-made Spanish cedar flutes so that all can be "on the same note" and learn together. Learn and perform all in one week. **OPENINGS.**

### **Week 12: Ojibwe Language Group – August 7-13**      **(Hosted)**

Dennis Jones descends from a family who lived on upper Rainy Lake and who knew Oberholtzer. Dennis and family members and others who keep alive and expand the Ojibwe language will both strengthen and benefit from the Oberholtzer legacy on Mallard Island.

## Dear Readers,

How is it that we humans are so good at holding hope in our bones over a long and snow-packed winter? The buildings on Mallard Island are buried under drifts this year, yet in our minds we can see the blue and green, we can hear the lapping water or the song of our beloved, returning white throat sparrows.

Enjoy these pages as you dream about open water. With this issue, we also send special thanks to the vision of Gene Ritchie Monahan—a woman who helped advance many of the ideas that we now represent:

- art created in nature
- history staying alive
- the importance of preserving a place such as this.

I wish I could have known her.

—Beth Waterhouse



## MALLARD ISLAND

**The Oberholtzer Foundation**  
—dedicated to the preservation of Ober's North Woods legacy as a source of inspiration, renewal, and connection to the natural world.

This newsletter is published twice per year (approximately February and October) by volunteers. Cover sketch of Mallard Island credited to Gene Ritchie Manahan. Send poems, stories or articles to Beth Waterhouse at [beth@bethwaterhouse.com](mailto:beth@bethwaterhouse.com).

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For more information, visit  
[www.eober.org](http://www.eober.org)

**Week 14: Songwriters – Aug. 21 – 27**

**(Hosted)**

L.J. Booth, guitarist and songwriter, will again host this week of music writing and collaboration, enjoying the beauty and privacy of Mallard as “incredible catalysts for finding inspiration, and having the freedom of schedule to do the work at hand.” This week will culminate in a concert at the Backus Center on Saturday, August 27 at 7 PM, Internat’l Falls.

**Week 15: Ikwewag Maawanjizwag / Women Gather –**

**Aug. 28 – Sept. 3**

**(Hosted)**

This group of women will gather to read, study, write, sing, and create across the experiences of their lives and cultures. This is a collection of Anishinabeg Scholars interested in the history of the BWCA from an Anishinabeg perspective. Included will be a look at island plants, art, music or books plus invited guests from the Rainy Lake Ojibwe—all grounded in the heart of Ojibwe country. Host – Winona LaDuke and Friends. *NEW*

**Week 16: Ober Island Tours – Sept. 6 & 7 & 8**

**(Tues, Wed, or Thurs)**

Dedicated to Voyageurs Park staff and employees this year. Mallard Island will be open for daytime tours these last days of our summer. Must call to reserve a spot, if space allows.

*Note: Weeks 7 & 13, not listed above, are Island Rest Weeks. No programs planned.*



*photo by a flute student*

**Can you hear the flute sounds wafting out of this photo? Here is last summer’s group, acting a bit crazy after their first performance together in the Big House. Jon Romer will once again be teaching beginning level wooden flute to nine students on Mallard Island. The dates for this workshop: July 31 to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Please consider applying for this grand music-in-nature experience. The cost (which includes your own Spanish cedar flute) is \$335, plus your food and transportation.**

## Island Wish List

Thanks to those of you who responded last summer with a double mattress, bedding, rag rugs, dishes, and especially the micro-film reader that lets us dive more deeply into Ober’s correspondence.

This summer, here is a short list of what we are wishing for:

- a canoe and paddles to be used on Gull Island
- twin mattress and box spring, good condition
- 25 HP motor to be used on the *Frances Andrews* boat
- floating docks of any size
- 1 gal or 2 gal drinking-water jugs with #1 PET resin code, not #2 milk jugs.

Call Beth Waterhouse at (952) 401-0591 to respond as you are able. Thank you!

## Dreams of Time

Our first morning on the island, a book offers itself: *Days Without Time* by the naturalist Edwin Way Teale. Dear Ober, we welcome this emissary of your library, taste a good-hearted bittersweetness in stories of a cat taught to swim on Long Island, a beloved long-lived mud turtle, a hurt merganser nursed back to health in a bathtub.

Books are also dreams of having time to read them.

You were a busy man, thanks to whose efforts this island is not under water. Did you do more than skim this volume among your thousands? Browsing it, we too become keepers of your happiness, that dream of endless time you must have knowingly unpacked with each crate of books, fulfilled, if not in days, in spirit.

—Thomas R. Smith  
*written in a Poet and Song group,  
Summer 2009*

## Ober's Legacy Extends to Houseboat

The *Frigate Friday* was named for a sea bird, yes, but not for a day of the week. "Friday" is in honor of Charlie Friday who was one of several Ojibwe who helped Ernest Oberholtzer enlarge this 1930s houseboat and move it onto land in 1956/57. Charlie Friday also built a stone fireplace in the houseboat-house when it was on land. He loved his stonework and thought it would be a good place for his spirit some day. Later, a round stone from that fireplace was ceremonially transferred—with Charlie's spirit in it—onto the base of Ober's fireplace in the Big House. Last summer, Beth Waterhouse was honored to meet Dorothy Friday, Charlie's granddaughter. His spirit lives on.

Mallard Island is all about history. Each building, sometimes each rock, carries a little story with it. And some of them are fun to tell; some of them are fun to find out about after years of knowing Mallard Island for your own reasons. Now Gull Island is starting to tell some of its stories as well.

**T**ed Hall—friend of Ober and local writer and editor—moved the *Frigate Friday* from near Bancroft Bay back onto the water in 1979. He summered there for many years, and some of us can recall hearing the *pluuuht, pluuuht* of Ted's lobster boat as it graced the waters of Rainy Lake. Ted died in 2002 and in 2009, his son, Thomas, decided to donate the houseboat to the Oberholtzer Foundation. It has been with great care and a whole lot of discussion that the board of directors accepted this donation.

This summer, the *Frigate Friday* is quietly open for business. Last summer was a summer of renovation, and 2011 will bring roof work and window repair once again. But folks can now also stay there and begin to enjoy the beautiful cove in which the houseboat is moored or the hen Mallard with a dozen ducklings who might come 'round again in July. If you want to spend some time there, please call one of the Oberholtzer Board members to

learn more about the place, and come in with their referral. We want to be very careful that the houseboat mirrors the mission of the Foundation and that it brings in folks who are dedicated to advancing some part of that mission. We also want to be careful not to alter



*Frigate Friday, photo by Gail Murton*

the excellent programs on Mallard nor overburden caretaking staff and volunteers. We will expect an application process, much like the one used for Mallard Island. There will be a fee, hopefully affordable, for the use of the *Frigate Friday*. Caretakers will live on Mallard and thus any who use the Frigate will need to be very comfortable with boats and with living on a houseboat. All that said, the board's recent vote agrees that, "it is a part of Ober's history and thus provides a nice connecting path to an island he did not own," but that is part of the Review Islands we now enjoy.



*Photo by David Austin*

### A Volunteer Story

August 2010 was a warm afternoon, and Bob Hilke brought out two friends to see the island. Jean Velleu and Jim Law sat with Bob and me in Ober's living room, after we walked the island. Jean was sitting in one of the overstuffed chairs in that room, and I found myself apologizing for the dirty, ripped up chair cover. (Turns out that cover went back some 25-30 years.) Well, Jean Velleu was not deterred. She spoke right up, "I do that," meaning she knows how to sew in such a way as to create slipcovers. Fast forward to the fall when I finally got around to buying the fabric, and by Thanksgiving, Jean had a new chair cover sewn in nearly the same style as the old cover. Hers will be better, as it goes under the cushion and covers the cushion separately. I chose an earth-tone fabric with a printed weave on it. Our sincere thanks to Jean Velleu, St. Paul, MN, for this volunteer sewing work. I so look forward to putting it on the chair and making the cushion cover. We could not EVER have done that without you!

— Beth Waterhouse

PS: If you have another good Mallard Island "Volunteer Story," send it!

# Ober and His Rainy Lake World:

## Scans from the *Rainy Lake Chronicle* 1973 - 1982

*Jean Replinger, editor of this book, dedicates it to Charlene Erickson. Together with Barbara Garner, Jean began the project about eight years ago.*

These three women were well aware that the *Rainy Lake Chronicle*, a local weekly newspaper published in Ranier by editor, Ted Hall, was a trove of historical information. They also knew, with 30 years experience after the *Chronicle* quit hitting mailboxes, that the newsprint format—oversized and by now somewhat brittle—made it hard for folks to retrieve the treasures buried within.

The project began with a table of contents, and then focused on all the articles, art, and selections that had to do with Ernest Oberholtzer and his world on Rainy Lake—the community and the place that supported him. Whole pages were scanned, because sometimes the fun of it was the juxtaposition of ads and copy, photos and headings, sketches next to articles.

This book, spiral bound and in 8x11 format, is now available for your purchase at \$20, priced to cover the printing costs. Please send a note or email if you'd like a copy.

Jean's special dedication to Charlene Erickson reminds us of Charlene's role in managing our "main gateway" to and from Mallard Island each summer: *Bald Rock Dock*. This place was great support to Oberholtzer for decades, and now, fittingly, supports the legacy he left. Back in the *Chronicle* days, Charlene provided not only bookkeeping and subscription management, but "a warm morning kitchen for her former boss, editor Ted Hall, in his lonely autumn years." (*quote from the dedication*)

This book will surprise you. Just try reading one story, and you'll get caught on the next page and the next poem and then some series that might take you through a dozen issues. In the series called "A Clash of Giants," that starts in the June 1977 issue, when Ober died, Ted retells the epic story of Ober and Backus in 20 parts. You'll also find: "Atisokan: His Rainy Lake" for four issues and "Adventures with Atisokan" in 13 parts. In this one, Maurice Perrault tells the stories of his many camping/canoeing trips with Oberholtzer. Details take us back and back in time, back to Ober and his Rainy Lake world.



Oberholtzer Archives - photo taken in 1938

### Soul Island

You read Joe's book  
And you just have to see.  
Go to Mallard for a look  
Else at peace you'll not be.

A letter to Mary,  
A thousand-word tune,  
She said not to tarry,  
Be here in June.

So Ober's Bird House  
Became my perch.  
The Soul—in and out,  
Became my search.

This island is Living,  
I don't mean trees.  
This island keeps giving  
More than Birds, more than Bees.

The little boy was right,  
This is where Ober is.  
Come to this rock here at night;  
The soul you feel—is his.

For a while you feel *his*—  
he no longer roams,  
Then *your* soul is split  
And only some you take home.  
A piece remains where you sit.

For this island is Master.  
You only think you are.  
Tonight you sleep faster,  
In the morning—to the car.

Down the highway we go,  
Our soul back in its box—  
A goodly piece of it, though,  
Remains in that Rock.

That rock where we light,  
Silly paper in hand,  
To capture outright  
The soul (and life) of this land.

But it truly remains here  
For this island is living,  
And your soul-sliver stays near  
To Ober, who is still giving.

For that little man is still here.  
The little boy told us so.  
Their magnetism so severe  
I can do nothing... but go.

—*Bird House Journal*, 6/9/06  
"The Neon Vagabond"

after WWII. There, her son recalls, “Gene’s energies were mostly directed toward what she would later describe as ‘nest building.’ Our first nest in Anchorage was in a remodeled 12’ x 20’ chicken coop. Mom designed and helped build a living room, which doubled the size of our quarters. In 1948, Gene designed and helped build a second nest—a regular three-bedroom house. I’ve described this house as ‘regular,’ but when you consider that its outside dimensions were 24’ x 24’, in this 21st century, it would be considered a small two car garage.” By the 1950s, Gene was building nests in Colorado Springs, where the first one was an 8’x28’ trailer house. “By 1952, Gene designed another regular house, this time 24’ x 36’. We were all old enough to help build this house while enjoying a stunning view of Pike’s Peak out the front window.”

Robin thinks back: “My father retired from the Army in 1953 and moved the family to New York City. On the way to New York, we spent several weeks at Rainy Lake where lasting memories were formed in my mind, including days and nights on Ober’s Island where, through the eyes of a ten-year-old, the entire environment, structures and contents were beyond measurable excitement.”

In the 1950s in New York City, George was a technical writer, and “Gene flourished as an artist. She exhibited her work and was awarded a full scholarship to the National Academy School of Fine Arts becoming a *Teaching Fellow* from 1956-59. Opening her own studio and gallery in Greenwich Village, Gene had a place to paint and have exhibits of her own work as well as other artists’ work.”

By 1960, her older children, Jean E. and Laird, were on their own and Gene’s husband George was ready to help Ober write a book. Gene, George, and Robin moved back to Rainy Lake. “Ober invited us to stay on Mallard Island where we became summer caretakers and island hosts to the many guests that visited Ober. (After 1958, Ober lived in the *Frigate Friday*, a houseboat that had been moved up on shore in Bancroft Bay, adjacent to the home of Frances Andrews, a conservation philanthropist, champion of the Audubon Society, and longtime friend of Ober.)”

“On the Mallard, Ober and George would walk the paths and identify various building maintenance and repair projects that needed attention. Then, like now, there was always work that needed to be done. George would also engage Ober in conversations about his life and work, often recording the conversations for a book project. Gene was a gracious host to everyone who stopped by the Mallard. The coffee pot was always hot and a plate of cookies was served to all.”

“Missing a dedicated place to paint, Gene talked to Ober about creating a small studio on the Mallard. With sketches and construction drawings, Gene showed Ober what she had

in mind, and Ober gave his enthusiastic permission to build what we now know as the Artist’s House.”

After her husband’s death from cancer in 1965 and until and beyond Ober’s death in 1977, Gene continued to live in Ranier, MN, and continued teaching art including, for two summers, in remote villages in Canada. Gene Ritchie Monahan’s portraits were always a thing to treasure and, from 1973 to 1983, her pen and ink sketches graced the pages of the *Rainy Lake Chronicle*, published in Ranier.

In a *Chronicle* interview, we learn that Gene was a moving force behind the creation of the MN State Arts Board. She loved to teach others and helped to build an artists-in-residency program, saying, “If children don’t begin with art early, they are inhibited about it by the time they get to junior high.” Bob Hilke, board member and friend of Ober, recalls, “I always remember how gracious Gene was and eager to share with young artists her knowledge and skill.”

Gene Ritchie Monahan was also a driving force behind the preservation of Mallard Island. Says Robin, “If numbers help tell a story, Gene and Jean E. were recipients of about one third of Ober’s estate distributed by Ober’s will. Does this relate to the admiration and affection Ober felt toward the Monahans, and toward Gene and Jean E. in particular? Perhaps. Gene and Jean E. returned most of their inheritance to preserve the Review Islands intact, and to help get the Oberholtzer Foundation started. Does this relate to the affection Gene and Jean E. felt toward Ober? Probably.”

In August 1980, it was Gene who climbed onto the Wannigan roof and raised the flag over the kitchen boat when the Oberholtzer Foundation accepted care of the islands. It was Gene who worked tirelessly to sort Ober’s correspondence. She would almost forget to eat as she spent hours in Lower Bird House sorting papers into boxes by person or by year, bound for the MN Historical Society. A couple of years later, it was also Gene Monahan who brought Jean Replinger (founding program director) out to Mallard the day Jean first set foot on the island.

“Gene Ritchie Monahan continued to paint and to teach until she was into her eighties. Her work was exhibited nationally and internationally, including an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, and received many honors. She died in 1994, age 85, at her son’s home in Shoreview, MN.”

— from a brochure printed for an exhibit of “Minnesota Masters; A Northland Legacy of Women Artists from the Region.”

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## Letter from the Treasurer:

# Oberholtzer Foundation Flourishes in 2010

Our wonderful organization had a very positive 2010. We are sound, physically, emotionally, and financially. The Oberholtzer Foundation is blessed with outstanding people—yes, people are our real strength and good people really do make the difference.

We continue to stay ahead of the multitude of island maintenance projects. In 2010, we completed four roofs: the library, Frigate Friday houseboat, Wannigan, and an upper roof on Front House. We also completed stonework on the east end of Mallard Island and rebuilt most of our main dock. Most of this work was accomplished by volunteers. In fact in 2010, we had over 60 volunteers contributing over 1900 hours of labor on the Oberholtzer Islands. We are extremely fortunate to have so many friends.

In 2010, we also opened up new program participation. In August, we hosted about 55 Ojibwe elders and leaders over a two-day period as they discussed flood control issues on Rainy Lake. A Native American wooden flute workshop was also a huge success—this will continue in 2011.

As we look ahead to the coming summer, one of the main focuses of attention will again be Ober's Big House. We want to replace a lot of its cedar bark siding, section by section. As we spend time on this building, as on all the others, we try to maintain the integrity of the original work on buildings over 70 years old. (Ober's Island is on the National Historical Register.) Summer 2011 will also bring: tree work, trail maintenance, upgrading our water pump, and finishing the foundation on Cook's House. Plus — a folk concert at the Backus Center on August 27<sup>th</sup> in International Falls, and hosting the Voyageurs National Park staff in our September tour days. It's another busy summer ahead!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support. We could not keep up these historical pieces of property without your help. Thanks so much



Photo by Diane Tessari

for all you do. We have an ambitious season ahead of us, and please support us as we walk the trail to preserve this fine place. Your giving will make it happen.

Stay well, my friends. As we all make plans for the outdoor months ahead ... seek the joy of being alive.

All the best,

Tim Heinle,

*Oberholtzer Foundation Treasurer*

## To Contact Us:



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Four brand new island summer programs are featured this year. Most 2011 weeks are now full, but the flute workshop and artist week are still open. You can inquire by contacting the director, Beth Waterhouse, at the numbers above.

*The Ernest Oberholtzer Foundation Board of Directors includes:* Elaine Thrune, president; Jim Fitzpatrick, vice president; Tim Heinle, treasurer; Jean Sanford Replinger, secretary. *Members At Large:* Jim Davis, Bob Hilke, Mary Swalla Holmes, Charles A. Kelly (also asst. treasurer), Robin Monahan, Michael Reid, John Roth, Harry Sweatt, and Diane Tessari. *Emeritus Members:* Marnee Monahan d., Gene Ritchie Monahan d., Ted Hall d., Delores De Laittre d., Doug Wood and Joe Paddock. Honorary member: Ray Anderson d.

Donations to the Oberholtzer Foundation—including capital gifts, operating support, or gifts to underwrite the cost of this newsletter—may be mailed to the address above. You can also donate from our web site, using PayPal. Thank you!! We accept stock donations. Please remember this long-standing organization in your will or estate.

Visit us on the web at [www.eober.org](http://www.eober.org).

To learn more about Oberholtzer's papers at the MN Historical Society, go to [www.mnhs.org/library/fndaids/00353/xml](http://www.mnhs.org/library/fndaids/00353/xml)



Ann Marie Waterhouse

## Island Tour Days: Sept. 6, 7, 8 Dedicated to Voyageurs Park

Our early fall one-day tours of Ober's Island continue in 2011. This September, we will repeat these tours and dedicate them to re-connecting with the Voyageurs National Park employees and staff.

Voyageurs National Park, the only national park in Minnesota, was created in the spring of 1975 and now welcomes over 250,000 visitors annually. The park has over 218,000 acres, of which more than one third are water. Ernest Oberholtzer's full dream of a Quetico-Superior international peace memorial was never fully realized, but Ober's vision for the region set the stage for the creation of Voyageurs Park two years before his death. We will be excited to "re-introduce" Mallard Island and more of Ober's history to many of the Park staff this September.

### Designations Deserving Special Mention

One hundred forty-one donors (!) supported Ober's legacy with cash gifts this year. Our annual report (available in a month) will list each and every one of those gifts. However, there were fourteen *designated* gifts given in honor of the following:

Cheryl McChesney in honor of Jean S. Replinger; David Siebert, Bob Hilke, Kurt & Mary Lysne, and Frank S. Lockwood in memory of Sam White; Carol & Hugh Barclay in memory of John Breckenridge; Carol Weiler in memory of Marjorie Kowalski Cole; Eric L. Olson, honoring work of Joe & Nancy Paddock; Mark Mallander & Patricia Erickson, James & Patricia Johnson, Judy & John Windorsk, Lynn Naeckel, Confrerie Chev du Tastevin, and Jean S. Replinger in memory of Marnee Monahan.

### Do you love paper newsletters?

...Or would you just as soon read these articles on your screen in a 'pdf' format? Many of us love the feel of paper and the ease of reading at a location such as the kitchen table. But if you're really just as happy with the screen, this *Mallard Island Newsletter* can easily be sent to you in pdf format. What you'll see is exactly the same copy and photos, still in black and white. So—If you would like to save paper and read future newsletters on screen, please send your email address to [beth@bethwaterhouse.com](mailto:beth@bethwaterhouse.com). We will not share your address.

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