

Mallard Island

Living Lightly



Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation

Mallard Island

Living Lightly, Second Edition

by

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The Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation maintains Ober's legacy and north woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits, and the natural world.

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Introduction

Mallard Island is a thin and sinuous spine of Canadian Shield bedrock. The ancient rock rearranged by glaciers now cradles Rainy Lake. It has seen floods and droughts, fires and logging, storms and serenity, native peoples and explorers. The island lies a few miles east of International Falls, Minnesota, and Fort Frances, Ontario. To the east and southeast is Voyageurs National Park, named for the voyageurs who followed canoe routes of the native people.

Mallard is one of five islands that make up the archipelago known as the Review Islands. Protected by the four other islands, Mallard offers seclusion and privacy not often found in today's world. At the same time, the vast expanse of water and sky to the east offers a sweeping vista where one can sense the curvature of the earth and be filled with the power and beauty of the universe.



Review Islands - Aerial View circa 1983

Geology

The islands have been forming for 2½ billion years. Mallard Island reveals Canadian Shield bedrock, glacial boulders and striations, white quartz veins and basalt flows. “Crow and Gull Islands are mixed geology. Mallard is mostly an igneous rock called *Tonalite*, closely related to granite.” * Erosion by wind and water, freezing and thawing, and glacial scouring and plucking shaped the islands. Lichens colonize the bare rock and begin the process of soil building.

All that lives on the island eventually dies and decomposes, giving back nutrients to the ground. This litter, or duff, is home to fungi, bacteria and insects. These “recyclers” assure the continuity of all life. The building of soil is a slow process, about one thousand years to the inch. All life depends on soil—plants, animals and us!

*Geologic review by Brian Klawiter, 2013



Flora

Photos of Mallard Island from the early 1900s show an island different in many ways from what today's visitors experience. No big pine trees are seen, and far more glacier-scoured bedrock is visible. One can imagine that most plants at the time were native to the North Country.



Native wildflowers still found by observant visitors today include tiny sweet-scented twin flowers trailing in green mosses, delicate corydalis growing improbably from thin cracks in the bedrock, blue harebells nodding in the breeze. Blueberries must have been long present, and they continue to yield their delicious fruit.

Today, mature pines soar into the sky, white cedars screen a deck and young oaks produce diminutive acorns. Planted in Ober's day, a crab apple tree still blossoms and sets fruit, and spring lilacs waft their fragrance along the trails. Native flowers mix delightfully with those that Ober introduced into 28 planned gardens—an exploration into creating a balance of cultivation and wildness. Gardeners have been working for the last several years to increase native plants, which may not be quite so tempting to visiting whitetail deer.

Fauna

Quiet observation may lead to magical encounters with wildlife. Songbirds serenade you from trees and bushes. The white-throated sparrow song is a favorite of many and is heard all of June through early August. Loons call their wild haunting notes. Bald eagles often perch in tall pines and fledglings might be heard squawking for food. A cormorant's snaky neck may emerge unexpectedly from dark waters just offshore.

Meanwhile, a merganser “baby-sitter” may drift by, tending to a nursery of a dozen and more bobbing ducklings, or white pelicans may spiral gracefully overhead.



Frogs, toads or turtles might cross your path. Mice, voles and bats live here too. Red squirrels will steal your sandwich if left unattended! Fresh deer tracks may be found in the soft soil of morning, near yesterday’s petunias now nibbled away. Muskrats and mink forage in the shallows. Beavers have active lodges nearby, and one sometimes finds fresh-cut branches floating in the water. A startled beaver will break the silence with the sharp sound of his tail slapping water. A playful family of otters may chatter and cavort along the nearby shoreline. Bear, fox, hares and pine martens occasionally visit the islands. Be alert for signs—you never know who might be around!

Human Habitation

There have long been humans on and around the islands of Rainy Lake. The first people lived, hunted and fished this area as early as 9,000 years ago. Since the 1600s, the Anishinaabe have traveled the waterways and harvested its bounty. They may have had homes or camps on these

islands during that time. The Review Islands are a spiritual place to Indigenous Peoples.

Ernest Oberholtzer (Ober) acquired Mallard Island around 1922 from William Hapgood who had purchased it from the United States government after it was logged. Ober called Mallard Island his home for nearly 40 years. In 1950, he also purchased Crow and Hawk Islands from Hapgood. The buildings, gardens, stone paths and rock walls on Mallard reflect the styles or values that became apparent during his college years studying landscape architecture with Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. at Harvard University. In a college paper, Ober described his development philosophy, considering “what would be necessary for both practical utilization and enjoyment, while at the same time maintaining or even increasing the height of wilderness charm.” Years later, he put that philosophy into practice on the place he called *The Mallard*. The island buildings are constructed using native materials and conforming to the natural landscape.

Today, time on Mallard Island teaches us to live lightly, respectfully and in harmony with wildness. Rewards include lullabies of lapping waves, loon’s song, northern lights and the gentle sighs of the breeze through white pines.

“Individuals who in their youth built a tree house or a fort in the woods and found it to be a magical place, a place in which they felt connected to the deep source of things, will rediscover old emotions when they step onto The Mallard. In many, an archetype is awakened that releases an ancient joy at finding human shelter so in continuum with nature. There are, of course, others who snort that the island’s dwellings are worn and impractical. This is an arguable point, but, in any case, those in whom the archetype awakens become playful, expansive, and creative on The Mallard. They regain connection with soul.”

- *Keeper of the Wild* (2001) by Joe Paddock, p.243.

Island Dwellings

Front House

The core of Front House (historically called Sunrise Cabin, Honeymoon Cabin and Front Cabin) was moved from nearby Deer (or Grassy) Island sometime in the mid-1920s. A simple one-story cabin was moved to a position near the eastern tip of The Mallard. Additions later were made to the east and west sides. In 1933, it was moved back a bit from its original position and a second story was added.

Visitors often wonder why the south part of the main floor is raised a step above the front part of the structure. This was done to adapt the building to a rise in the level of the exposed bedrock. Unlike many modern building projects that would have called for dynamiting the rock that was “in the way of the building,” construction on The Mallard called for altering buildings to fit the lay of the land. Frances Andrews, a wilderness advocate and lifelong friend to Ober frequently rented Front House for her summer home in the 1950s. Visitors continue to delight in discovering the porches, trap doors and ladders that add charm to Front House.



Cedarbark House

Cedarbark is a houseboat that provided shelter early on. Like many Mallard Island structures, it was covered initially with cedar bark siding—an example of the extensive and intentional use of natural and native materials. That siding was replaced in recent years by cedar clapboard, yet the Cedarbark name lives on. This boat once provided floating services on the lake; it is said to have been a gambling parlor and brothel.

Ober acquired the houseboat and moored it at The Mallard as a cabin space. By 1926, it was permanently situated on stringers and pilings over the water at its present location. Ober's mother, Rosa, a concert pianist from Davenport, Iowa, lived here for several summers in the 1920s (and one winter?). Her piano is still played by visiting musicians.

Waves lap beneath Cedarbark's floor when the winds ruffle the surface of the lake. A stone fireplace was added, providing warmth and comfort on chilly days. Yes, this structure has flooded. Major floor repairs were accomplished by Brian and Ken Klawiter after the flood of 2014.



Cook's House



Cook's House perches atop the Pump Room and presumably took its name from the duties of its prior occupants. It was probably built by Oscar Gilbertson, who acted as handyman and island caretaker for Ober and lived here or in its lower level in the 1940s and 1950s.

Today, Cook's House serves as a one-room dwelling, often used by one of the island caretakers. Guests are typically charmed by its cozy sleeping space and a screened porch that provides a spectacular view of Crow Island and its white pines across the narrow channel. Sunrises in June brighten its yellow room!

Artist's House

Artist's House was built onto the west side of Ice House as a studio for artist Gene Ritchie Monahan. In fact, she and her sons built it in the 1960s, with Ober's permission, and the room features a skylight and large windows that face the channel. Gene served as a founding board member and a caretaker and hostess to island visitors especially in the period immediately following Ober's death in 1977.

The room was completely re-built in 2001 and 2002 by Don Maronde and Dean Nordaune who re-installed most of its original features. The 'new' floor was laid by Don, Steve Holmes, and Thomas Hall and it was repaired in 2014 by Gary Olsen. Large old cedar trees frame lake views and nearby stone steps invite a quick swim.



Winter House

Winter House is the only insulated building on The Mallard and was built by Charlie Friday in the early 1950s as a possible winter residence for Ober. It was the last dwelling built on the island. Ober originally called it the *Flood Control House*.

The rectangular room has corner windows opening onto the channel with a view of Crow Island.



Although near the main path, this house is quiet and often feels secluded. It can be a little cooler on hot days and with a wood stove, a little warmer on chilly nights.

Bird House

Bird House is an intriguing example of adapting architecture to place in a way that minimizes impact on the natural landscape. It was built in 1926 with a very small footprint--three rooms stacked one on top of the other, soaring into the treetops! When carpenter Emil Johnson was shown the design for this towering building, he exclaimed that it simply would not stand. Ober directed him to make it stand, thus you'll see the buttress poles and innovative cabling that hold it steady in the winds.

When the house was finished, Tay-tah-pah-swe-wi-tang or Billy Magee, local Anishinaabe friend, canoeing partner and guide to Ober, gave "Bird House" its name.



The lowest level was used by Ober as an office. Now, it houses publications, papers, news clippings and most of Ober's maps. The upper two levels are summer dwelling places.

The wind in the pines and bird song right outside the windows make inhabitants feel as though they *are* living in a bird house!

Ober's Big House

The building of this structure began in 1936. Then called the Main House, it served as Ober's year-round residence for the remainder of his time on The Mallard. It is built on a steep rocky slope along the highest ridge of the island's spine and offers entries at each of three levels. It has breathtaking views in all directions, especially of the channel between Mallard and neighboring Fawn Island.

Big House (once called Old Man River House or now Ober's House) began as three rooms stacked one atop the other—Ober's coal room, an office, and the living space above. By 1940, the Drum Room was added as a gathering space with a beautiful fieldstone fireplace. The winter kitchen below was a warm winter space for cooking and eating.



A number of screened and open porches on various levels still provide spaces for relaxation and inspiration.

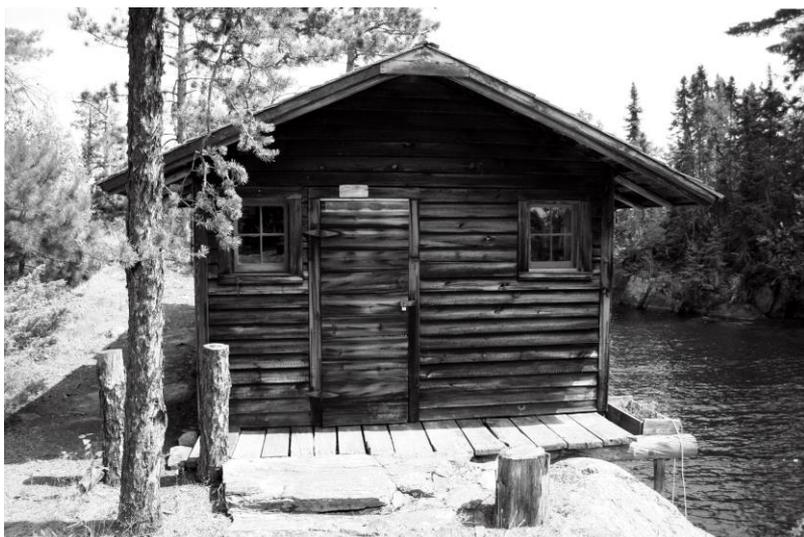
The Big House is a stunning example of principles similar to Frank Lloyd Wright architecture—a structure that is built *into* the environment, not *on* it. It was built by Emil Johnson, a local craftsman.

Common Spaces

During each week of the summer months, up to twelve individuals have the opportunity to live together as a group on Mallard Island. Living in close community, sharing meals and spaces requires awareness, sensitivity and respect for others. Cooperation develops as everyone works together to cook, clean, turn compost and carry water during the week. Time can be spent together paddling canoes or sharing conversations and evenings of Scrabble and dominoes.

Book House or Library

Book House, built in the mid-1920s as a boat-house, storage and tool shed, is now a library and common space. Catalogs compiled by volunteers are used to locate Ober's books anywhere on the island by author or title. A portion of that collection is arranged on the Book House shelves lining all four walls. A birch bark canoe rests in its rafters.



Wannigan

The Wannigan or Kitchen Boat was originally built to serve as a floating kitchen following the log booms. It is a rare survivor of the logging era in the U.S. and was later used as a gambling boat on Rainy Lake. During Ober's time, the Wannigan served as the main kitchen and dining room on The Mallard during the warm seasons, often accommodating ten to twelve diners just as it does today.

During its earliest days on The Mallard, the Wannigan served as Rosa's kitchen. For years it was simply afloat and moored to the shore, but it nearly sank more than once! By 1929 or so, the boat had been placed in its present location and secured by timber and rock cribs. Its lights, refrigerator, and stove—all fueled by gas in 1955—are now electric. In 2014, the kitchen got a new floor, and in 2015, volunteers raised this building 14" to protect it from flooding.



The Wannigan is a hub of activity on Mallard Island. Meals are prepared and shared here. Camaraderie abounds and the Wannigan invites lively conversations, an exploration of values and an open sharing of ideas that often lead to new ways of seeing the world.

Drum Room

If people knew Ernest Oberholtzer in the 1940s and 1950s, they usually speak about visiting this room. As the living room in Ober's main house, the Drum Room reflects a great deal of excellent community energy once brought by his friends and now renewed by those who come for a week on Mallard Island. This room with its huge glacial stone fireplace offers comfort, a warm place to talk around a fire in the cool of an evening, and a quiet place to read or listen to music on a summer afternoon.



Sometimes the drum room rocks with music or laughter that just might be heard all the way to Canada.

Japanese House

Around 1922, the Japanese House was actually the first building constructed on the island. A wooden bridge spanned the narrow channel that separates the western tip from the main island. That wooden bridge was later replaced by the current arched stone bridge.

Japanese House was originally a single, small room built as an office with two porches. It was rebuilt in the mid-1990s by Michael Reid and David Donisch who carefully screened in a new porch that wraps entirely around the original space. A Japanese-style arch called a “torii” stands over the trail at the east end of the stone bridge. (Electricity has never reached the seclusion of Japanese House.)



Today Japanese House serves not as a dwelling, but as a retreat for individual meditation or writing and small group contemplation and creativity. It is also a wonderful spot to observe beavers or loons, view sunsets and, if the timing is right, moonrises!

Facilities

Pump House

This small cement room supports Cook's House and adjoins Ice House—all in one structure. It was once referred to as "Oscar's Room" because in the late 1940s and early 1950s it served as a dwelling place for the island caretaker, carpenter and stone-mason Oscar Gilbertson.

Today, it echoes the function of the old Ice House by housing a freezer and the island's largest refrigerator. It also serves as a hand washing station convenient for anyone heading to meal preparations or before dining in the Wannigan just a few steps away.

This house has its name because it houses the main pump, water filters and treatment system that uses Rainy Lake water for island use. (Water is filtered by reverse osmosis and treated with ultraviolet light.)

All water for cooking, washing dishes and drinking is carried by island visitors from the Pump House to the Wannigan or to their dwelling spaces.



Ice House

Ice House was originally used for the purpose its name implies. Its large door opens onto the channel from which ice was cut during late winter. Blocks of ice were hauled up into the building and stored in sawdust to provide cooling in the warm season. When electric refrigeration became available on The Mallard, Ice House became a workshop and a space for certain tools and larger item storage. Today, wood shavings for the composting outhouses are kept here.

Tool Shed



A small cedarbark-sided tool shed near the center of the island dates to the 1920s, and it still stores tools: shovels, paint, hand tools and garden tools. Everything has its place, and it's also a fun spot to browse if you like century-old hinges, knobs and bolts. See the bird house on its roof?

Composting Outhouses



In the mid 1980s, two composting outhouses were built near Front House and Winter House by Mallard Island friends and volunteers John and Edie Rylander.

In the early 1990s, Michael Reid built an additional composting outhouse on the path east of Big House.

Once a week, an “outhouse user” opens access panels and shovels material from the “active” chamber under the

hole to the “passive” chamber where evaporation of liquid continues and the remaining material breaks down into compost. The compost is removed annually and used a year later to nourish Mallard Island flower gardens.

The Swedish-designed Clivus Multrum composter was installed at the southwest corner of Winter House in 2003 by Don Maronde (replacing the original composter near that location). See photo page 20. This facility uses electricity for a fan and pump/spray system that automates some of the biological material processing. It does require occasional addition of wood shavings but not with each use as is true with the other two composters. There are written directions!

The Clivus Multrum's weekly maintenance is typically handled by island caretakers rather than island guests, but all should learn this appropriate technology. Enjoy the wonderful views from the throne in this room!



Thomas Hall designed and installed the unique ramp and railings. Kent Scheer designed the canoe-paddle gate. Gate down means “in use,” so please lift it up when you leave!

Wood Sheds

The big central Wood Shed near Winter House was built in 2006 by Darrell Rundell and David Markwardt (and their families) for dry storage of firewood needed for the wood stoves in every dwelling. The small wood shed behind Front House is made out of the frame of an old composting outhouse, yet another example of re-use on Mallard Island.

Shower House

In August 2008, Don Maronde and Beth Waterhouse built a rustic shower house using recycled wood from the island. It is located on the flats east of the Book House in an area once called the cornfield. That area has two unique hackberry trees, rare in this part of the country. The shower house, under the shade of one of those hackberries, has a pulley for a sun shower, or it's a great private spot for bathing with a bucket of warm water.

The shower house was finished during a week that happened to be an Ojibwe language week and the builders asked Pebaamibines (Dennis) Jones (a descendant of Billy Magee) for a name. He helped name it the “Giizibiigazhe Wigamig,” which means wash (giizi) whole body (biigazhe) little house (wigamig).

Utilities

Today, electricity provides energy for lighting, cooking and refrigeration through underground cables from a transformer on Half Mile Island. It also powers the water pump and filtration system. Be conscious of how you use electricity—although it is available, it is limited and costly.

Though there is abundant water, it is important to be careful with it because proper drainage is scarce on a granite island. Whether bathing, cooking, painting or doing dishes, make sure your wastewater drains into the proper places—essentially filtering any soap through nearby soils, never allowing it to run directly into Rainy Lake.

Food composting, just down the trail from the Wannigan, helps create new soil for the gardens and reduces waste. The composting toilets provide additional ways for all of us to actually “become” part of Mallard Island!

Collections

Books

Numerous shelves in the Big House have an amazing variety of books collected by Ernest Oberholtzer between the 1920s and the late 1950s. He had standing relationships with many book houses, including some in Europe, and he watched for specific contents or graphic quality.



At the time of Ober's death in 1977, some of his books were still in their shipping boxes and others were in Ober's houseboat home on the mainland. All were brought together here in the early 1980s by Jean and Randy Replinger, Don and Sandy Maronde, and Bob and Mary Lou Norbie (and others) who catalogued them all in the unique wall-by-wall system used today. Now, for one work week each summer, volunteers inventory, clean and repair this unique collection. Visitors can peruse the indices in the Book House to learn more about the topics that interested Ober and to find books that are more intriguing every year.

In the Upper Wannigan, one can find books and documents about Ober's life in the Rainy Lake region plus a collection of books written on or about Mallard Island by dozens of well-known authors.

Photographs

Ernest Oberholtzer was a photographer known in his day for capturing images of the Indigenous Peoples in the far north as well as wildlife. He was particularly interested in moose. His canoeing partners, especially Tay-tah-pah-swe-wi-tang (Billy Magee) would paddle Ober very close to moose, allowing for amazing images with his Graflex camera even without today's modern zoom lenses.



After Ober's death, Ray Anderson of International Falls took it upon himself to organize all of Ober's negatives and to print them for our use and enjoyment.

Ober's photographs from his 1912 canoe journey to Hudson Bay with Billy Magee have been compiled in a book called *Toward Magnetic North*. Many of the photos and others are housed in the office in Ober's Big House. You will also find other favorites that are framed and hung in various buildings around the island.

All of Oberholtzer's known images have been digitized and are archived by the Foundation. Some are also held by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Music and Art Prints

An eclectic mix of long-playing records, sheet music and art prints are located in Ober's Big House and can inspire long hours of browsing. All should be handled gingerly and respectfully.

There is an index of sheet music and a turntable is available for the enjoyment of a collection of vocal and instrumental music—Ober's companionship on many a dark winter's evening.

Maps

As an avid canoeist and explorer, Oberholtzer was also a lover of maps. His maps can mostly be found in the lower Bird House office and an inventory of them is still in process. Ten maps are also available in digital format. Current maps of Rainy Lake and Voyageurs National Park can be found in the upper Wannigan or in Winter House.

Gull Island Caboose



Paddle over to neighboring Gull Island and find a 1907 Burlington Northern caboose, # BN 10911, sitting on rails near a cove on the south side of the beautiful island. How did it get there? This is part of Ted Hall's legacy on Gull.

Views from Mallard Island

The beauty and grace of Mallard Island reward those who take the time to look and listen. Unexpected surprises await those who explore at Nature's pace.



Cedarbark House catches the evening sun as Rainy Lake laps underneath.

Vistas to the east engage the imagination. The horizon in this long view is Canada.



Mallard Island Summer Programs

Each summer, about ten weeks on Mallard are dedicated to the environment and the arts, with special priority for groups of people whose lives touch our mission or who will make good use of the archives, books and unique natural environment (including opportunities for solitude) that Mallard Island offers.

The Executive Director organizes programs all winter through an application process. We request a modest participant fee and carefully adhere to an island carrying capacity of twelve people for any given week (or less if circumstances require). In order to allow the island to regenerate, two weeks each summer are also devoted to resting the land, trails and compost systems.



***“We come weary
and leave rested and renewed,
with new friends, new ideas, and new insights.”***

(Mary Swalla Holmes, 2006)

Often, week-long groups are hosted by individuals who have applied with a specific ready-made group in mind (such as a national group of architects or a local-writers group). The Foundation’s Program Committee also often designs new opportunities that meet the mission of the organization and may be open to the public. Most weeks fill by February.

Jean Sanford Replinger founded the island programs in the mid-1980s and her vision is woven into the continuing tradition of today's fine offerings.

Mary Swalla Holmes succeeded Jean as Program Director, (2005-2007) adding her lively perspective to the program design.

Beth Waterhouse became the Executive Director in 2008. In 2015, summer program directors Mairi Doerr and Prudence Johnson were hired to help manage the summer weeks.



In 2021, Rebecca Otto succeeded Beth Waterhouse as Executive Director.

Each summer at least one week is scheduled for individual painters, writers, photographers, musicians, naturalists or researchers to come with their own independent projects. They can glean the best from the unique resources and a quiet week among the sounds and rhythms of nature.

Three summer “work weeks” bring invaluable volunteers who work hard to get the island in shape and to maintain the buildings, gardens, and archival collections.

Each fall, the Foundation sponsors a gathering (often in Minneapolis) as a reunion of all summer program participants and friends of the organization. Folks share inspiration from or enjoyment of some particular aspect of songs or art created on or about Mallard. Semi-annual newsletters, a Facebook page and a website maintain connections with friends and donors.

Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation

The Oberholtzer Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Minnesota with an active and dedicated volunteer board of directors, one Executive Director, two part-time summer program directors and an extensive and loyal volunteer base. Financial support is derived primarily from individual donations, foundation grants, royalties, summer program fees and a growing endowment. Your financial donations are important!

“The Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation maintains Ober’s legacy and north woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits, and the natural world.”

The Board of Directors and staff are guided by this mission and by the values and philosophies infused throughout Mallard Island and Ober’s wilderness advocacy work. A cross-cultural Board meets three-times per year to oversee Foundation business, finances and Mallard Island programs and to implement various projects inspired by Ober’s multi-faceted legacy left in his archives and islands.

The Foundation proudly protects the historic and conservation values of three Rainy Lake islands with their listing (approved in 2000) in the National Register of Historic Places. It also holds a four-island conservation easement (approved in 2008) with the Minnesota Land Trust.

In 2015, the organization’s mission was strengthened, putting “Indigenous Peoples” back into its center. That intention is guided by the Anishinaabe Inaakonigewin Committee while the organization learns to be more intentionally cross-cultural. Our summer schedule begins with a week of fasting, reflection and ceremony where we listen to the drum and the spirits who have guarded these sacred islands for centuries.

Philosophy and Longevity

Ernest Oberholtzer bequeathed a remarkable richness in place and in values. His ideas and words were powerful enough to persuade Congress to set aside lands and avoid rampant industrialization of a northland so rich in beauty and animal life. His Anishinaabe friendships not only taught Ober about life, but helped him build the island's rock walls and unique structures. He learned the Ojibwe language, asked for the local stories, and earned the name Atisokan, which means storyteller.

Many others have added their own life legacies in the form of work with this organization—not just to honor the life of Ober, but so that something solid lives beyond them as well. It is a rare opportunity.

Ober created a life on The Mallard that “was a rich blend of natural simplicity and cultural sophistication,” helping to dissolve and transcend western civilization’s “sad heritage” of a “nature-culture division.” (*Keeper of the Wild* by Joe Paddock, p. 266)

“On the island, I discovered as well something for which I, and I think most of us, had long yearned: an integration of nature and culture through which we are able to experience something of our fullness.”

(Keeper of the Wild by Joe Paddock, p. xiii)

Mallard Island is a teacher—each week, each morning a new lesson, if one can learn to listen and live within its natural habitat. Many have tried to capture in words what is unique about Mallard Island. It is some combination of the power of solitude within community, something about creative experience over theory, something about nature’s beauty—certainly—and how we all need it in our lives.

People who have never been to Mallard Island and perhaps will never sleep on the island, love and support it just because it exists. It is testament to something much larger than any of us and it depends upon all of us.

Mallard Island is a gift of the watchful spirits as well as the hundreds of people dedicated to its longevity. It is a heritage to be taken very seriously, yet enjoyed in each moonlit canoe ride or bone-shaking thunderstorm along the way.



**Ernest C. Oberholtzer
1884–1977**

**Explorer, Conservationist, Landscape Architect,
Classical Violinist, Photographer, Book Collector,
Scholar and Reader, Friend of the Ojibwe,
Master Storyteller...Atisokan**

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Donations are always welcome and much appreciated.