

WRITINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SETH PETERSON COTTAGE CONSERVANCY, INC.
FOR THE COTTAGE BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT IN MIRROR LAKE STATE PARK

Volume XVI

Issue I

Have You Heard?

By Claire Barnett

More than a hint of spring is in the air. It is a warm and sunny day outside, while I sit inside writing to the sound of favorite Debussy piano music in the background. But I am consoled for being indoors, knowing that winter keeps returning, with snow forecast for southern Wisconsin tomorrow. Last year, we had the largest snowfall of the season at the beginning of our April work week. Will that happen this year? Feel free to volunteer, and then you won't have to wait to read about it in the summer newsletter! Details are elsewhere in this issue.

Winter at the Cottage, like the other seasons, is a special time. Our guests used lots of firewood and birdseed, and there were stories in the guest book of

snowfalls, cozy fires, winter sunsets, and special times. One thing I haven't mentioned about the guest book is that there are frequent expressions of thanks to Frank Lloyd Wright for designing the Cottage, to Seth Peterson for commissioning it, and to all of us in the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy for rescuing it and making it available. Almost everyone who stays there loves it. As a Board member from the very beginning, I breathe a sigh of relief and happiness when I read entries like that. There were times when our restoration plans seemed only a dream, and our hard work seemed endless. It is very rewarding now to read through the guest book and know that our efforts were appreciated, and that we have made special getaways possible for so many. "From the Guest Book" will always be a regular part of this newsletter, so that we all can share the enjoyment and wonder that our guests share with each other. Perhaps someday we should publish a *Best of the Guest Book* volume.

I had another nostalgic feeling of time passing when I attended our January Board meeting. We met at the Tuscany Mediterranean Grill, a new Fitchburg restaurant just south of Madison, where we received very royal treatment from the owner, plus a wonderful full menu selection of special dishes. But the location was on Fish Hatchery Road, very near the Southern District DNR Headquarters. Back in the beginning days of the Conservancy, we often used to meet there and bring brown bag meals to eat while we met—quite a contrast to

January's dinner meeting! I couldn't help but feel the absence of friends from those days—special Board members who were instrumental in bringing the Conservancy and the Cottage to where it is today. Kris Visser worked there and used to assemble this newsletter, and then after the meeting we would put address labels on the photocopied editions of those days. Audrey Laatsch and Jill Vladick were two other enthusiastic regulars whose energy kept us all going. Sitting in the Tuscany Grill, it was sad for me to realize that all of them are gone, now, as are those early days of doubt and struggle to realize our dream of a restored Cottage. I am grateful to our absent friends, as well as to those still living Board members who have contributed so much.

There are other Frank Lloyd Wright activities taking place this summer and fall, and there are articles about them in this edition. You can also read about some new lighting planned for the Cottage, and there are some pictures to look at.

We usually have enough news for our three editions of the newsletter, but I would welcome your suggestions, too. For example, there are lots of stories about the restoration and the people who made it happen that could be told. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions at my email address of crmrogan@yahoo.com, or at our regular address: The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Box 334, Lake Delton, WI 53940. Write "Attention: Newsletter" on your envelope.

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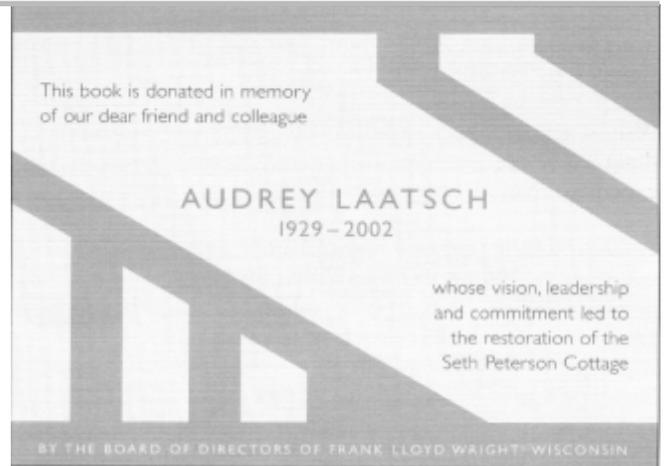
The Audrey Laatsch Memorial

The following is part of an article from the Wright in Wisconsin newsletter, reprinted with permission:

A gift of approximately 290 copies of *Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson Cottage: Restoring a Lost Master Work*, by John Eifler and Kristin Visser, has been donated by Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin to public libraries throughout the state.

As a memorial to our colleague and friend, Audrey Laatsch, each book has been personalized with a handsome bookplate in her memory. The bookplate's graphic design was created by Scott Templeton in a medium green color.

The books should be available in most libraries throughout the state by the end of February.



The Audrey Laatsch Memorial bookplate designed by Scott Templeton.

New Board Appointment

The SPCC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Hagen to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors. He replaces Jay Jensen, whose growing work commitments made it necessary for him to resign from the board.

Jeff has been a volunteer and tour guide at the Cottage for a couple of years now. He is the author and illustrator of many popular books about places in the Upper Midwest. His most recent book about where to find the best hamburgers, *Searching for the Holy Grill*, is delightful and available now at local bookstores and also from some major bookstore chains. Jeff also donated his painting, *Audrey's Star*, as a memorial and fundraiser. (See order form- Pg. 3)

Cottage Receives Donation

The Cottage recently received a donation from Ed Council of Massachusetts in memory of his friend, the late Harry R. Cullins. Mr. Cullins was one of our returning guests, who would have stayed at the Cottage for the third time this March. Mr. and Mrs. Council will stay there in his place.

After much discussion between the Board and Mr. Council, it was decided that the gift would be used for lighting along the driveway to the cottage. The light fixtures will be identical to the ones already in use at the front gate and at the cottage. Installation is expected to take place during the April work week. One of the fixtures will have a small plaque commemorating the gift.

From the Guest Book

Our winter guests have been busy celebrating three wedding anniversaries, several birthdays, and an engagement proposal in front of the fireplace! (It was accepted.) In addition to the usual birds and many, many squirrels, there were numerous sightings of wild turkey. Here are some entries from the guest book:

“This place is magical... so beautiful and peaceful. We communed with Nature, our inner selves and each other. The snow-covered woods and brilliant full-moon sky, the roaring fires and magnificent views made our stay one of our most memorable and cherished moments....”

The Gormans

“ Snow
white, cold
covering, sculpting, caressing
embracing, warm
Fire”

The Hatfields

“Without a doubt the most splendid cabin in the woods. . . Life is in the details and they abound here. Hope I do as good work at the twilight of my career.”

The Jones and Murphy party

April Work Week

The annual work week will be held from Sunday, April 11, through Saturday, April 17.

There are no major projects scheduled for this year, but as usual, cleanup of the grounds and the Cottage, spreading bark on the trails, and other chores will be tackled. Also, the new lights on the driveway might be installed at this time.

To volunteer to help out during work week, call Bill Martinelli at 608-238-8355.

Membership Renewal and Merchandise Order Form

The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Inc. for the Cottage by Frank Lloyd Wright in Mirror Lake State Park

<i>Item</i>	<i>Choices</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Individual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$15.00		
Household Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$25.00		
Preserver Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$100.00		
Life Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$250.00		
Membership subtotal					
Members receive 10% discount on merchandise.					
"Audrey's Star" unframed print, 6" x 8".			\$35.00		
"Audrey's Star" unframed print, with tri-color mat.			\$80.00		
"Audrey's Star" print, matted and framed.			\$100.00		
Unframed limited edition rendering print of the Cottage by Frank Lloyd Wright.			\$65.00		
Official SPCC visor cap. Cream w/bright red logo. One size fits all.			\$15.00		
100% cotton pique polo shirt w/Cottage logo and name in red. <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Green <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Mark color & size. <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			\$32.00		
Beige and rust T-shirt w/Cottage perspective by John Eifler. Mark size. <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			\$15.00		
Sweatshirt w/red logo. Mark color & size. <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Tan <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			\$35.00		
Elegant silk tie. Black design based on the design in the clerestory panels. Mark background color. <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Beige <input type="checkbox"/> Blue			\$25.00		
Cottage Jewelry of black, white and silver, based on design in the clerestory panels.					
Letter Opener			\$25.00		
Long Earrings			\$30.00		
Short Earrings			\$20.00		
Cuff Links			\$29.00		
Bar Pin			\$20.00		
Cottage Pin, red logo/black background			\$5.00		
Book: <i>Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson Cottage: Rescuing a Lost Masterwork</i> by John Eifler, AIA and Kristin Visser.					
Special Edition (signed & numbered)			\$90.00		
Softcover Edition			\$15.00		
Merchandise subtotal					
Member discount 10%					-
Shipping & handling					
Under \$10			\$2.00		
\$10-\$30			\$3.00		
\$30-\$100			\$6.00		
Over \$100 -- free shipping					
Total (membership + merchandise - discount + shipping)					

Make Check payable to: Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Inc.
Send to: c/o Wegner LLP, Box 150, Baraboo, WI 53913

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Writings

Jazz on the Vine at Taliesin

On Saturday, May 29, 2004, Friends of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture will host a wine-tasting reception, gourmet dinner, and jazz entertainment at Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin. The event will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. The public is invited, and seating is limited.

Tours of the school and nearby structures such as the Romeo and Juliet Windmill will be offered. Guests may also tour the School of Architecture, including the drafting studio, where students will be on hand to demonstrate their work.

Wollersheim Winery will conduct a wine-tasting reception, and Chez Vous will cater a gourmet picnic dinner. The Jan Wheaton Quintet will provide the music, while the spirit of Frank Lloyd Wright will be invoked by actor Craig Jacobsen, master of ceremonies.

This benefit event will support the ongoing renovation of the School of Architecture. Tickets for the event are \$75 per person, \$60 of which is tax-deductible. Make your reservation by calling 877-588-7900.

Wright and Like Tour

The Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin's **Wright and Like Tour** will be held in Racine, June 5. Sites will include Wingspread, the Johnson Administration Building, the Robert Albert house designed by Edgar Tafel, and many others.

On Friday evening, there will be a reception at Wingspread and a slide presentation by Mark Hertzberg about his upcoming book, *Wright in Racine*. There will also be a special presentation by Edgar Tafel the morning of the tour at the S.C. Johnson Golden Rondelle Theatre. Mr. Tafel will share stories of his days as an apprentice, supervising the construction of the Johnson Administration building and Wingspread, as well as his first commission.

You may call 608 287 0339 or visit www.wrightinwisconsin.org on the web for more details.

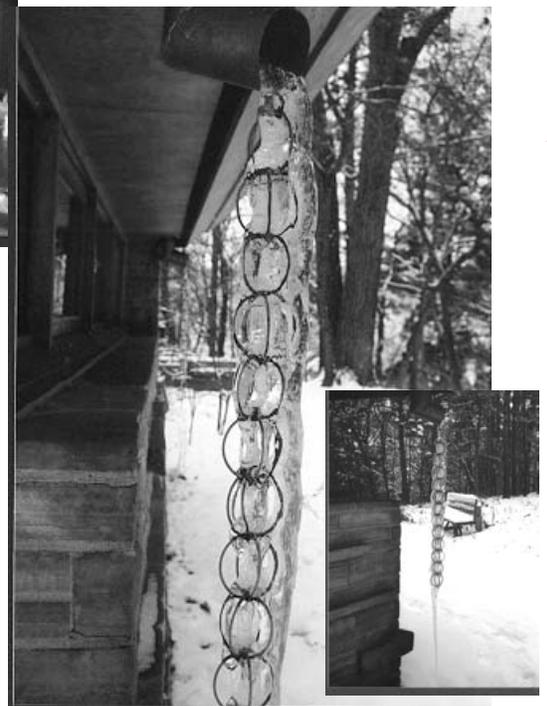


Board members, spouses, and volunteers pose in front of the Christmas tree.

Christmas Party at the Cottage!

Our annual Cottage Christmas Party was held as usual after the December open house tours. We had wine and food and trimmed a Christmas tree with little lights, red bows, and special birch bark miniature birdhouses. The tree then remained to brighten the Cottage until the January open house.

The Christmas party is also an occasion to honor our many dedicated volunteers who show up month after month to give tours. They are given gifts of our SPCC merchandise or a gift certificate for the Del Bar, a Lake Delton restaurant designed by James Dresser, a former Wright apprentice. This year we were fortunate to have our dinner catered by Beth Traska, whose food presentations are always special and delicious! Beth is the spouse of Kermit Traska, our former DNR liaison while the Cottage was being restored, and who is now a member of our Board of Directors.



Icicles on the decorative drain spout chain.

Tour and Guide News

We recently welcomed three new tour guides. One is Jay Jensen. The other two are a mother-and-daughter team, Adeline Berlin and Diana Trendt. Adeline is from LaValle, Diana from Platteville, and they will work the monthly open houses together as guides and/or greeters.

You, too, can volunteer as a tour guide or greeter, and we will even train you! Guide training was scheduled for the April open house until the discovery that April 11 is Easter Sunday! We have our extra State Park Open House in June, and a program with a guest speaker in July. Guide training has been tentatively rescheduled to before the August 8 open house.



Veteran guide Carolyn Kotchi briefs Adeline Berlin and Diana Trendt.
To volunteer, contact Raymond Matlosz at 608-524-6502 or RMATLOSZ@AOL.COM

FLW Conservancy Conference

The 2004 Annual Conference of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, October 13 & 17, 2004. The group is currently receiving proposals for programs and presentations, which will be announced in a brochure in summer.

The conference theme will be *Frank Lloyd Wright: On Home Ground*. There will be pre- and post-conference activities and tours. Most of the meetings will be held at Monona Terrace, but their website also states that "considerable time will be spent at Taliesin in nearby Spring Green." It is possible that one of the tours will be of the Seth Peterson Cottage.

The SPCC has representatives who go to FLW Conservancy meetings and, because they are meeting in our home state this year, we and other Wisconsin-based Wright organizations have donated toward their meeting expenses.

For more information, contact the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy at 773-324-5600, or email to preservation@savewright.org, or go online at www.savewright.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS

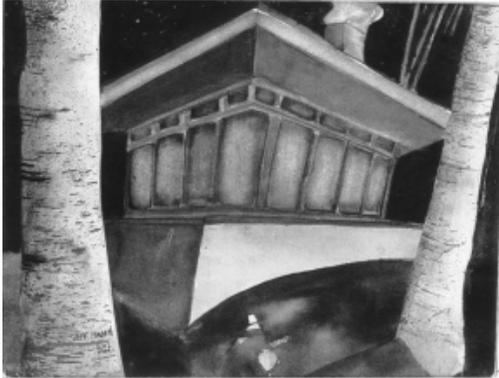
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|---------------------------------|---|
| Sun., Apr. 11 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2. |
| Sun., Apr. 11-
Sat., Apr. 17 | Annual Cottage Work Week |
| Sun., May 9 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. guided tours \$2.
Mother's Day gift drawing. |
| Sun., June 6 | Annual Mirror Lake State Park Open House, 1-4 p.m.
Guided tours, free admittance. |
| Sun., June 13 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2. |
| Sun., July 11 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2. |
| Sun., Aug. 8 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2.
Tour guide training. |
| Sun., Sept. 11 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2. |
| Sun., Oct. 11 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2.
Fall Color Boat Tour & Reception, 4-7 p.m. \$20. |
| Sun., Nov. 14 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2.
Board of Directors/Members Annual Mtg., 11-12:30. |
| Sun., Dec. 12 | Monthly Open House, 1-4 p.m. Guided tours \$2. |

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The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Inc.
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“Audrey’s Star” by Jeff Hagen

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