



## THE START OF A TREND

At one time, you had to know someone who owned a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home and hope that they might invite you for an overnight stay. That changed in 1992 with the first rental of the Seth Peterson Cottage. At the time, ours was the only Wright home that could be rented by the public. The rental was established by the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy in order to raise funds to care for the Cottage in perpetuity. Other ideas were considered, such as depending on open house visitors for revenue. None of the other options, however, were deemed capable of raising sufficient funds for the maintenance of the Cottage.

Our idea began a trend. As other non-profit operators of Wright-designed homes sought to find ways to raise adequate funds to support their operation, they adopted our idea, and now there are several other Frank Lloyd Wright-designed homes that can be rented for overnight stays. One has even been converted into a bed and breakfast. Of course, we want people to stay at the Seth Peterson Cottage, but you should have the opportunity to enjoy other Frank Lloyd Wright homes as well. We won't list those homes here, but with a quick Google search you can quickly locate them. 

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kermit Traska

What's on Your Bucket List? Last fall while helping at one of the Open Houses, Board member Raymond Matlosz was conducting a survey of guests as they arrived for a tour. Some of the questions included how they found out about the Cottage and the tours, whether they had stayed at the Cottage, and did they plan to visit other Frank Lloyd Wright buildings. Many of the visitors are Wright enthusiasts and search out the many opportunities to visit Wright sites. The internet, including [www.sethpeterson.org](http://www.sethpeterson.org), is the favorite place to search. For 34 of the 36 guests, it was their first visit at the Cottage and three had actually stayed overnight in the Cottage.

One couple arrived on a motorcycle and said they were from the state of Maine. While going through the survey, Matlosz asked them 'why' they came to visit the Seth Peterson Cottage. They stated that the Cottage was on their "bucket list" and they were going to be sure to visit while they had an opportunity on their nationwide tour.

Recalling the movie, the *Bucket List*, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, a thought came to mind inspiring the 2015 Cottage coffee mug design.

A souvenir coffee mug is provided for each overnight guest—the only way to get current year mugs. Left-over mugs, if any, go on sale at the open houses the following year.

Reserve your night at the Cottage, get a coffee mug, and check a stay at the Seth Peterson Cottage off your personal bucket list.

So, what's on your bucket list? 



## FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT RECIPROCAL SITES MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Seth Peterson Cottage is now a member of the Frank Lloyd Wright Reciprocal Sites Program. All Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy members who join at the \$100 or above category become members at 29 other Wright sites throughout the country. You will receive one free admission at the participating sites. A program brochure will be mailed out along with membership renewal letters later this year listing the 30 sites that are participating in the program. Your membership card will have a special notation showing that you are a reciprocal member at all the member sites. If you enjoy traveling around the country visiting other Wright sites, this is a great way to help support the Seth Peterson Cottage and receive the added benefit of free admission to the other sites. Visit [FLWRIGHT.org](http://FLWRIGHT.org) and click on membership to download a PDF of participating sites and benefits. 

## MIRROR LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mark Blakeslee, President

Winter is finally getting over and there is nothing better than spring at Mirror Lake! The plants all start to come out of the ground and pretty soon the gray browns of the woods will be a multitude of greens.

Spring is also the time that the Mirror Lake Association starts to gear up and get ready for another busy season. Spring cleaning time is upon us and we give the lake and the surrounding area a good going over by picking up trash that has found its way along the roadsides.

Spring also means that we start testing the lake water. For many years, Mirror Lake volunteers have tested the quality of the lake water. We test for clarity and different chemicals to make sure the water is a good habitat for the animals that live and swim there, including humans! Mirror Lake water has traditionally been very clear and chemical free.

This summer we will also start our second year of doing "Clean Boats, Clean Water" boat checks at the boat ramps to make sure invasive species do not enter the lake. We have a group of volunteers and hire some college-age students to inspect and educate boaters as to the importance of not bringing live plants or animals into Mirror Lake. Many affect the natural plants and animals that live there. Much of our funds to support this program come from a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

We will also continue to look at other ways to maintain and improve the quality of the lake and surrounding area so that it will remain a natural area for all people and animals to enjoy.

Visit our web site at [mirrorlakeassociation.com](http://mirrorlakeassociation.com) to get more information about the Mirror Lake Association. We have a section with information on lake habitats and what you can do to help protect this fragile environment. We are a membership organization. Go online and check out our newsletter and we'd be happy to have you as a member. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call at 608-575-4652 or e-mail at [mirrorlakeassocwidells@gmail.com](mailto:mirrorlakeassocwidells@gmail.com). 

## CONTROLLING WEEDS IN MIRROR LAKE

**T**he Mirror Lake Association, with donations from the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, recently purchased several pieces of equipment at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention that can be used by Association members to remove shoreline weeds from Mirror Lake.

The Weed Razor™ is attached to a 25-foot rope which is thrown out and over the area to be cleaned. It is then pulled back using short hard-jerking motions. The cut weeds are raked up with the 11 foot long 37 inch wide Weed Raker™ and composted away from the shoreline.



The Swifter Sifter, a perforated aluminum basket which is attached to

three 25-foot ropes, is thrown out over the area to be cleaned and allowed to sink to the bottom. Then the basket is pulled back to clean debris from the lake bottom. It can also be used with two floats to skim weeds and algae from the lake's surface.

The equipment owned by the Mirror Lake Association may only be used on Mirror Lake thereby preventing the spread of invasive species between lakes. Specific rules about removing weeds are outlined in Wisconsin NR 109.

The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy is pleased to support the Association's efforts to keep Mirror Lake's shoreline attractive to residents and guests while maintaining healthy native aquatic plant communities throughout the lake. This information was excerpted from an article by Cathy Sperl. For the complete article visit [www.mirrorlakeassociation.com](http://www.mirrorlakeassociation.com) and select their newsletter Vol 28, No 3 Summer (2014). 

## MIRROR LAKE STATE PARK REPORT

*Ryder Will, Park Superintendent*

**W**e have made it through another long, cold winter, and once again look forward to springtime's great increase of activity in the park. We spend a great deal of time in the fall and winter working on equipment and maintaining and grooming the park's 19 miles of cross-country ski trails. While this year was not one for the record books in terms of snow accumulation, we did see good numbers of skiers when there was snow on the ground. With the end of winter we see the end of our ski season, but also the promise of spring and all the excitement that season holds.

To make grooming the trails easier, we upgraded some of our equipment this year. We purchased and installed a track system for our John Deere Gator utility vehicle and added a cab to allow for a little more operator comfort and protection from the elements. This vehicle combines the tracks and snow travel capabilities of a snowmobile with the ease of use and maneuverability of a utility vehicle. It can also be used year-round versus sitting in the shed for the winter. While we have kept our "new" snowmobile (2002 model) we will use the Gator as our primary piece of equipment for winter trail grooming. We are excited to discover all of its capabilities. Having a vehicle that is easier to operate should allow staff to pay more attention to the grooming details making a better ski experience for our park visitors.

Some of you may have noticed a great number of trees blown down and limbs broken off throughout the park. A very strong and localized storm hit the park near the end of the summer. We had significant damage across the park and lost hundreds of trees. Every trail was closed, with many trees lying across them, and there were dozens of sites covered with broken branches and toppled trees. We were extraordinarily fortunate that no one was injured, and only one vault toilet received minor damage. Even nestled in the woods, the Cottage received no significant impact from the storm beyond a few trees which fell in the area and across the driveway. Our crew and staff from Forestry and other parks in the area spent weeks getting trails and campsites reopened. Several homes and private businesses in the area were affected as well. We will continue to see tree mortality from damage received in this storm for several years. It is a good opportunity to note that many areas of the park are managed in a passive way, allowed to stay in as natural a state as possible. Many people see all the downed trees and wonder why we do not harvest them or cut them up for firewood. While both of these management tools are used at the park, we primarily use them in areas that are managed for more intensive recreation. So, if you see many downed trees in the more remote locations of the park, it

is likely they will remain as habitat for wildlife, decomposing and returning their nutrients to the soil.

Spring and summer will see some exciting programs at our new amphitheater, and we will provide some interesting programming for our park visitors to the Cottage. It is our hope to not only provide an engaging educational program for park visitors, but also to expose many new people to the Cottage by encouraging them to visit during the open house days. We can build a stronger partnership between the Conservancy and the park while providing more opportunities for our visitors.

As always, the seasons change and we keep up with Mother Nature as best we can. Spring will see our staff getting trails, campsites and buildings ready for the summer. Every year we have a few surprises, but the staff always rises to the challenges. We are excited to see the park come to life and await the increase of visitors. □

## SUCCESS COMES FROM VOLUNTEERS

**V**olunteers make up the core of the success of the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy. There are fifteen volunteers that make up the Board of Directors that determine policies and practices for the Conservancy. The president of the Mirror Lake Association and the Mirror Lake State Park Superintendent are ex-officio members of the Board. Many of the Board members serve as tour guides for the monthly open houses at the Cottage.



Bill Martinelli, SPCC Facility Manager

Annually, there are another four to six volunteers who serve as tour guides for the open houses. In 2014, there were approximately 1,000 volunteer hours provided to make things work at the Seth Peterson Cottage.

Board member, Bill Martinelli, has been with the Conservancy since its beginning in the late 1980s. Bill, in his role as Facility Manager, plans the annual spring cleanup work week in April. He is on call and makes emergency runs to the Cottage when needed.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Seth Peterson Cottage, please stop in at one of the open houses or send an e-mail to [sethpetersoncottage@gmail.com](mailto:sethpetersoncottage@gmail.com). □

## 2015 COTTAGE WORK WEEK

**T**his year's Cottage work week was Sunday, April 12 to Friday, April 17.

One major project was the replacement of the buried electrical supply cable that runs from the main breaker panel in the storage shed to the breaker panel in the cottage. The original cable was direct buried in 1992; was replaced with PVC conduit and new cable.

During a major wind storm last August we lost a handful of beautiful large oak and maple trees around the Cottage property. We cleaned up as much of the downed trees as we could during the week and added the wood to our supply of firewood for next winter. Experienced chainsaw help is always necessary for this task!

Also during the week the glass cooktop in the kitchen, which was damaged when something was dropped on it by one of our guests, was replaced.

Other annual work week projects include cleaning up the landscaping, cleaning the flagstone floor in the cottage, shampooing the upholstery, cleaning and inventorying the kitchen cabinets and many small cleaning and repair projects.

Bill Martinelli (608-238-8355) once again headed up the volunteer efforts during this flurry of activity. □

## SAND COUNTY SERVICE COMPANY

**W**e received the following e-mail from some satisfied overnight guests at the Cottage:

*"Dear Conservancy,  
Thank you for the gift of a one-year membership in the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy. My wife and I visited for two nights in January and after reading "Rescuing A Lost Masterwork" it's clear to us that, in spite of such a long haul in obtaining entitlements, you kept your eye on the ball and haven't stopped considering the scrupulous upkeep by your property management firm to ensure the enjoyment of your visitors."*

The Cottage has been open for overnight stays since 1992 and is in good condition because of the care it receives. It is important that we provide a high level of professionalism and maintenance. The Sand County Service Company provides this high level of service, taking reservations and cleaning between Cottage guest visits. You can find a link to the Sand County Service Company on our website—[sethpeterson.org](http://sethpeterson.org)—and click on "reservations." There, also, you will find a link to view future open dates at the Cottage. You can also contact the service company at 800-822-7768. We thank the Sand County Service Company and staff for taking such good care of the Seth Peterson Cottage. □

## FROM THE GUEST BOOK

“What a wonderful way to spend these days of our lives. Does it get any better than a beautiful FLW cottage nestled in the woods above Mirror Lake? For those of us that have shared the joy of this experience I would say not.” Newton & Melisa

“Thank you Seth & Frank. What a perfect place to stop, to see, to simplify, to remember on our journey together. While all else changes, pure beauty stays the same.” Craig & Karen, Toronto, Canada

“A truly magical place, and a legacy not only for FLW, but for poor Seth as well. There are precious few places where Art and Nature co-exist so wonderfully.” Steve & Judy

“This was our 15<sup>th</sup> trip to Seth! I won’t rehash what has been said, I’ll just say that this is my favorite spot on Earth, and I’m not sure I could bare leaving if I didn’t already know I will be back.”

Tim & Trish, Georgetown, KY

“. . . Seth left quite a legacy for such a short life, too bad he couldn’t have enjoyed it a bit more. We raise a glass to FLW, Seth and the SPCC.” Laurie & Dave, Mt. Horeb, WI

“What a perfect few days in paradise! The cottage is ideal for these lazy summer days. And we were lucky enough to experience evening thunderstorms through that amazing expanse of glass. Couldn’t ask for anything more! We’ve stayed in several FLW homes, and this is one of the best.”

Nathan & Julie, Glen Ridge, NJ

“What a wonderful way to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>. We loved experiencing this beautiful place with our 11 & 13 year olds. . . . Thank you for making this place available for anyone to enjoy!”

The Shoops, St. Croix Falls, WI

### 2015 FALL COLOR BOAT TOUR & RECEPTION

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2015 Fall Color Boat Tour and Reception, to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:15 pm, after the Sunday Cottage open house tours. A \$30 per person fare includes a pontoon boat tour of Mirror Lake and hors d’oeuvres shared around the Cottage fireplace.

Applications for reservations may be placed beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. To apply for a reservation, call the toll-free Cottage voice mailbox at 877-466-2358 and leave your name and phone number along with a request for a reservation for the Fall Boat Tour. Your call will be returned. Reservations are limited to a maximum of four per caller and total attendance is limited to the first 24 paid reservations.

The boat tour and festivities in the Cottage take place rain or shine. However, adverse weather conditions on the lake may preclude the boat tour. The path down to the lake and boat dock is steep and is not handicapped accessible. 



What better way to tour Mirror Lake and enjoy magnificent fall colors than on a pontoon boat with other Cottage visitors!

## Membership Renewal and Merchandise Order Form

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

Item	Choices	Quantity	Unit Price	Subtotal	Total
Individual/Household Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$25.00		
Friend Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift		\$50.00		
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		
<b>Membership subtotal</b>					
<b>Members receive 10% discount on merchandise.</b>					
"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.			\$70.00		
Official SPCC Visor. Tan w/bright red logo. One size fits all.			\$15.00		
Official SPCC Cap with bright red logo. One size fits all. <b>Circle color.</b> Forest Green or Tan			\$15.00		
100% cotton pique polo shirt w/Cottage logo and name in red. <b>Circle color &amp; size.</b> Forest Green or Natural M L XL XXL			\$32.00		
Beige & Rust <b>or</b> Brown & Tan T-shirt w/Cottage perspective. <b>Circle color &amp; size.</b> L XL XXL			\$15.00		
<b>NEW!</b> Women's V-neck Brown & Tan T-shirt w/Cottage perspective. <b>Circle size.</b> S M L XL			\$15.00		
Sweatshirt w/red logo. <b>Circle color &amp; size.</b> Black Tan Red Natural M L XL XXL			\$35.00		
Elegant Blue Silk Tie. Black design based on clerestory panel design.			\$25.00		
	<b>NEW ITEM! PUZZLES OF THE COTTAGE IN A DRAWSTRING CLOTH BAG</b>				
	Large		\$12.00		
	Medium		\$10.00		
	Small (Magnetic)		\$8.00		
Cottage Jewelry of black, white and silver, based on design in the clerestory panels.					
Short Earrings			\$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. <b>Softcover Edition</b>			\$15.00		
Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly Magazine with Seth Peterson Cottage articles <input type="checkbox"/> Summer 1993 B & W <input type="checkbox"/> Winter 2007 Color <input type="checkbox"/> Summer 2011 Color			\$5.00		
			\$5.00		
			\$5.00		
<b>Merchandise subtotal</b>					
<b>Member discount 10%</b>				-	
<b>Shipping &amp; Handling, U.S. and Canada. Double these rates for other countries.</b>					
Under \$30			\$6.00		
\$30-\$50			\$8.00		
\$50-\$100			\$10.00		
Over \$100			\$12.00		
<b>Total (membership + merchandise - discount + shipping)</b>					

Please make check or money order payable in U.S. funds to: SPCC Send to: **SPCC, 400 Viking Drive, Reedsburg, WI 53959**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

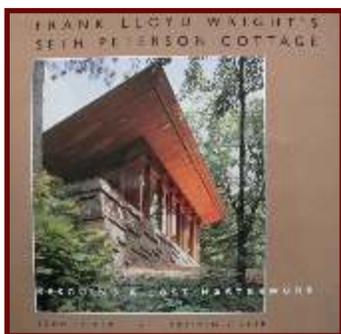
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESCUING A LOST MASTERWORK

### Interior Finishes and Furnishings

This is the seventeenth in a series of excerpts from the book, Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson Cottage: Rescuing a Lost Masterwork, by John Eifler, AIA, and Kristin Visser. It is the definitive story of the Cottage. The previous excerpt described mechanical, electrical, and plumbing features.



Most preservation projects have a goal of restoring the structure to a specific time in history. Unfortunately the cottage was not complete at the time of Wright's and Peterson's deaths, so the rehabilitation aimed to represent "what might have been." Although the approach is unusual, the SPCC thought it appropriate, in that the cottage would ultimately stand as a tribute to both Wright and Seth Peterson.

In 1989, the cottage interior was completely in ruins. Although wooden elements such as ceiling boards, trim, and cabinetry were damaged beyond repair, enough remained to determine the original dimensions and material used. Careful measurement and documentation of the ruined pieces, combined with the original detailed drawings, enabled exact duplicates to be made. John was particularly pleased to find a coral-colored laminate that matched the original countertops.

Wright usually designed individual furniture pieces for Usonian homes. He believed "... every chair must eventually be designed for the building it is to be used in. Organic architecture calls for this chair which will not look like an apparatus but instead be seen as a gracious feature of its environment, which can only be the building itself." (*The Natural House*)

Wright's furniture designs for the cottage include tables, chairs, hassocks, a bed, side table, and built-in settle seating, none of which were ever built. Replica furniture was constructed in accordance with the original plans and specifications. The lack of historic furnishings proved to be an asset, in that the replicas now in the cottage are of little intrinsic value.

Unfortunately, the original drawings did not include designs for dining chairs. Bert Goderstad, a close friend of Peterson, believes that Seth instructed Wright not to design these components as he had built some of his own. Many preservation architects believe that "new" components such as furniture should be clearly different from historical pieces, so that the building can be properly interpreted. However, others believe the contrast between original and new furniture can disrupt the aesthetics of the project. John agreed with the latter approach and recommended that new chairs be designed to be sympathetic with the other Wright furniture. He

spent considerable time researching furniture designed by Wright in the 1950s, and designed two chair types consistent with Wright's designs of this period and the other furniture in the cottage. Upholstery fabric of texture and color similar to that which Wright often used was chosen for the chairs and settle seating. □

Next time: Site work



A "magical" night-time view of the cottage.

## WRITINGS

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

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Seth-Peterson-Cottage-Conservancy-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Seth-Peterson-Cottage-Conservancy-Inc)

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**For Cottage reservations call the Sand County Service Company, Lake Delton, Wisconsin: 608 254-6551.**

# WRITINGS

THE SETH PETERSON COTTAGE CONSERVANCY, INC.  
400 VIKING DRIVE  
REEDSBURG, WI 53959

## Address Service Requested



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, **May 10**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Sunday, **June 7**, Statewide State Park Open House – Includes Free Admission at the Seth Peterson Cottage and all State Parks, Forests, and Trails.

Sunday, **June 14**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Sunday, **July 12**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Sunday, **August 9**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Sunday, **Sept. 13**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Sunday, **October 11**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

Fall Color Boat Tour at 4:15

\$30 fare includes boat tour and hors d'oeuvres

See details inside

**Join us at one of our monthly Open Houses.**

**SPCC Members receive free admission.**



Volunteer Larry LaMar leading an Open House Tour of the Cottage.

The Seth Peterson Cottage is located at  
E9982 Fern Dell Road  
Lake Delton, Wisconsin

To Wisconsin Dells,  
Lake Delton

Visitors find touring the Cottage to be a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Take a scenic drive and experience first hand this restored Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Cottage during the Cottage Open House tours.

Mirror Lake State Park  
Headquarters  
Latitude/Longitude:  
43.5613° N 89.8170° W



[www.sethpeterson.org](http://www.sethpeterson.org)