

A once-in-a-century tour of a Michigan arts institution

SAUGATUCK, MI— The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's 2010 Heritage Festival will feature a "once-in-a-century" tour of the private Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists Residency on Saturday, September 18, between 11am and 4pm. The tour is titled "Inspired by place: exploring Ox-Bow's 100-year legacy as an artists' retreat."

Founded on the shores of Lake Michigan in 1910, Ox-Bow encompasses 115-acres of pristine natural forests, dunes, a lagoon, and historic buildings. Affiliated with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ox-Bow's unique landscape and curriculum attracts students and artists-in-residence from around the world.

The Ox-Bow campus is normally closed to the public but in honor of the institution's 100th anniversary, Heritage Festival Tour ticket holders will be allowed inside selected historic and contemporary buildings including the Tallmadge, the Ox-Bow Inn, and the guest quarters of the Metternich Lodge.

The tour will begin at the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum (735 Park St., Saugatuck, MI 49453). Tickets may be purchased there on the day of the tour for \$25 or in advance for \$20. The last group entering the site will leave the museum at 2 pm.

The tour will include pocket-sized event field guide, a hospitality break inside the Metternich Lodge, observation of artists painting *plein air* in the Ox-Bow Meadow, and an optional guided hike through Tallmadge Woods to the Crow's Nest for views of the pristine Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area and Lake Michigan.

Also available that day will be raffle tickets for a Dinner for Eight at the Historic Park House Inn in Saugatuck. Tickets are \$5, or 5 for \$20. Proceeds to benefit the Old School House in Douglas.

Tickets for the tour will be available for \$20 from September 1 to September 17 at:

- Goodgoods, 106 Mason Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453, 1-888-857-6501 (open 10-10 daily)
- The Button-Petter Gallery, 161 Blue Star Highway, Douglas, MI 49406, 269-857-2175 (open 11-5 daily)
- The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum, 735 Park St., Saugatuck, MI 49453, 269-857-7900 (open noon-4, Saturday and Sunday).

On the day of the event, 9/18, tickets will \$25, and will only be available at the museum.

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's 2010 Heritage Festival will also include the "A Place Called Ox-Bow: 100 Years of Connecting Art, Nature and People" exhibit at the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum; the "Passion for Painting: Rediscovering a Century of Art in Saugatuck/Douglas" exhibit at the Saugauck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street in Saugatuck, 2pm-10pm; an Open House at the Old School House History Center at 130 Center Street in Douglas, MI and the Saugatuck-Douglas Art Club's Clothesline Art Show at Wicks Park in Saugatuck from 10-2

For more information, visit <http://sdhistoricalsociety.org> or email swinthers@verizon.net

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's 2010 Heritage Festival is sponsored by Button-Petter Gallery, Water Street Gallery, Bill Underdown of Shoreline Realtors, Vander Veen's Dutch Store, Hidden Garden Cottages & Suites, Janie and Jim Flemming, International Home, Sweetwater Sailing, Serendipity Bed and Breakfast, and Janet and Fred Schmidt.

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