



WRITINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SETH PETERSON COTTAGE CONSERVANCY

Vol. XVIII, Issue I



COTTAGE COMMENTS BY CLAIRE

It was after 7 am when I put my kayak into Mirror Lake at the county boat landing, across the lake from the cottage and a bit further west. I had come here a couple of weeks ago at midday and paddled up Dell Creek for the first time in over ten years, and now I was here with the rising sun at my back, to get pictures for the newsletter.

Cottage guests from late autumn through late spring speak of cozy times spent in the cottage by the fire, and of renewal, but in the other half of the year, there is also a lake waiting to be explored. The cottage has a good location, right at the west end of the Narrows—a half-mile long canyon between the two halves of the lake, with tan colored sandstone cliffs towering overhead. But there is another lesser known choice for guests using the cottage canoe. Instead of going to the right into the Narrows, if you paddle to the left along the lakeshore, eventually you will come to where the lake stretches into incoming Dell Creek. Many guests never find it because it is around a corner and out of sight, but it is well worth the search.

The July morning that I was there, I saw blue herons, sandhill cranes, turtles, and ducks. As I came to the new Highway 23 bridge, I was greeted by dozens of swallows, flying their morning patrols.

For many years, the Conservancy has donated funds to The Mirror Lake Association, and some of that helped pay for the dredging study of the west end of the lake and the planning

of a sediment trap to catch the erosion carried into the lake from agricultural runoff into Dell Creek. I could really see the difference as I got to the west end of the lake.

The lake itself has more weeds this year, because the Town of Delton is not doing weed harvesting as usual, due to budget constraints. But as the lake narrows into the stream, the water is clearer and weed free, and it is obvious that the sediment basin has allowed lots of sand and sediment to come downstream, making Dell Creek deeper and easier to navigate. On my previous trips over a decade ago, the stream was more shallow, weedy, and much narrower. The difference now is truly amazing and well worth a paddle to experience. Even if you are not a cottage guest, you can put in a canoe or kayak at the county boat landing where I did, and access either the Narrows, or go up the lake to find the incoming stream.

Inside this issue, you will find other pictures from my early morning paddle. There are pictures of the recipients of the Kristin Visser and Jill Vladick awards, as well as from the April Work Week. The repairs to the Mirror Lake dam were successfully completed, allowing us to schedule our Fall Color Boat Tour once again, and I resisted using a cover photo picture of the dam for the third time, (but you will find one inside).

I hope to meet you on the water soon, or perhaps at a cottage tour day.

Claire Barnett
President, Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy

MIRROR LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mark Blakeslee

This is a big year for the Mirror Lake Association; we are celebrating our 25th year! At our June annual meeting we honored founding and past board members who made our organization a success. We are proud of our accomplishments to improve and to keep Mirror Lake a great natural area that can be enjoyed by everyone.

We are currently engaged in a long-term strategic planning process to continue our success. Since February, a group has been meeting to assess the needs of the Mirror Lake watershed, including lake association members and other related Mirror Lake support groups, but also governmental leaders and a specialist from the Department of Natural Resources. The plan includes writing a comprehensive lake management plan, with separate plans on aquatic vegetation control, fishery management, controlling shoreline erosion, and working to maintain the natural beauty of the area. Work on these issues has begun and will keep us busy for many years to come.

Last fall and this spring, Sauk County completed repairs and improvements to the Mirror Lake dam that will keep it strong for many years. The dam, first built 154 years ago, has had many improvements over the years, and thanks to the work this time, we can now more easily control the water level of the lake. Many aesthetic improvements to the dam and the park around it were also made. We thank the county for their commitment to the future of the lake.

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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The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee

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Paul Zajackowski, Superintendent, Mirror Lake State Park

Conservancy Staff

Office Manager: Ron Dakter
Marketing Coordinator: Gail Kohl

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

When you come to visit the cottage, I encourage you to bring along your canoe or kayak and tour the lake. If you don't have a canoe, you can rent one at the state park. You won't be disappointed! If you have any questions about the Mirror Lake Association or would like membership information, please contact me at mblakeslee@uwalumni.com. ■

MIRROR LAKE STATE PARK REPORT

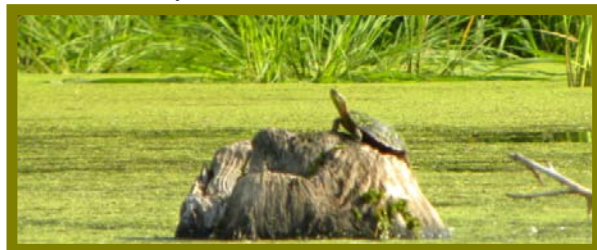
Paul Zajackowski

Visitors returning to Mirror Lake State Park will notice something new at the boat landing and beach areas. In June of this year, construction was completed on two open air shelters. A hexagon-shaped shelter measuring twenty feet in diameter was constructed at the boat landing, and a rectangular shelter measuring sixteen by twenty-eight feet was added at the beach area. These two shelters, along with our larger shelter located in the Blue Water Bay Campground, offer an excellent opportunity for those wishing to hold a small to medium get-together, enjoy a picnic, or just relax and read a book. All three of these shelters offer electricity, and the larger shelters located at the Blue Water Bay Campground and the beach area can soon be reserved. For more information, contact the Mirror Lake State Park office at 608-254-2333.

In 2008 a number of scenes from the motion picture "Public Enemies" were filmed within Mirror Lake State Park. This past June the quiet little lake with its towering white pines proved to be a perfect setting for the filming of a Nature Valley Granola Bar commercial. The filming was completed in less than a day and will be aired in the near future. The location was chosen for its wooded and undeveloped shoreline.

The May and June camping season started as cold and rainy, but with July came warmer temperatures, and visitation for camping and day use has picked up. Many visitors are enjoying our nature programs that range from guided canoe/kayak tours to night hikes or informational presentations on bats, timber wolves, or birds of prey. These programs are presented by our seasonal Naturalist Marty Heidke, and would not be possible without the support and funding of the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy and Friends of Mirror Lake State Park. For more information on upcoming programs, contact the park office or stop at the office and pick up a listing.

For those wishing to hike, Turtleville Trail located just across the road from the Seth Peterson Cottage meanders through a variety of habitats including native prairie, mature oak stands to thick pockets of jack pine trees. This is an excellent time to view some of the native wild flowers in the area; such as wild bergamot, cone flower, black-eyed susan, goldenrod, asters, butterfly weed, dotted mint, and others. ■





Dakotah Apostolou, Jill Vladick Award winner, with Chelsea Clark

JILL VLADICK AWARD

This year's Jill Vladick Award of two night's stay at the cottage and dinner at Ishnala was presented to Dakotah Apostolou. Dakotah was always interested in architecture, and at age thirteen, attended The Frank Lloyd Wright Youth Camp at Taliesin West. He later attended Arizona State University for three years, and then transferred to the Taliesin School of Architecture, receiving a Bachelors Degree. He worked for a time with the youth program at Taliesin West, teaching classes, and is now in his first year of studies for his Masters Degree.

Dakotah commented in the guest book that he had a "blissful stay," took the cottage canoe to Ishnala, and did not want to leave. ■



Henry St. Maurice & Mary Arnold (left) accept the Visser Award from Jerry Minnich

KRISTIN VISSER PRESERVATION AWARD

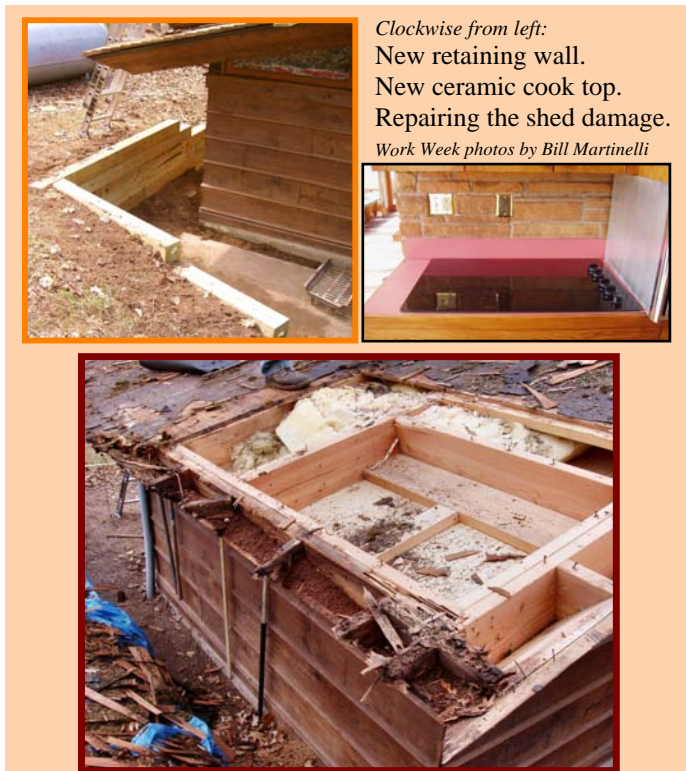
The 2011 recipients of the Kristin Visser Historical Preservation Award are Mary Arnold and Henry St. Maurice for their work in restoring the E. Clarke Arnold Residence at 954

Dix Street, in Columbus, Wisconsin. The award of \$5,000 was presented to the couple on Sunday, June 12th, at the Seth Peterson Cottage. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the house for Attorney E. Clarke Arnold and his wife in 1954, although Mr. Wright did not live to see its completion in 1959. The low, one-story home of limestone, and redwood board and batten, sits on a concrete pad, in which is embedded the home's radiant heating system.

The Visser Award is presented every other year to a person, persons, or an organization for work in restoring a Frank Lloyd Wright or Prairie School structure in the Upper Midwest. The next award will be presented in 2013, for preservation work done during 2011 and 2012. Applicants may receive more detailed information by contacting the Visser Award Committee Chairman, Jerry Minnich, at jminnich7@att.net. ■

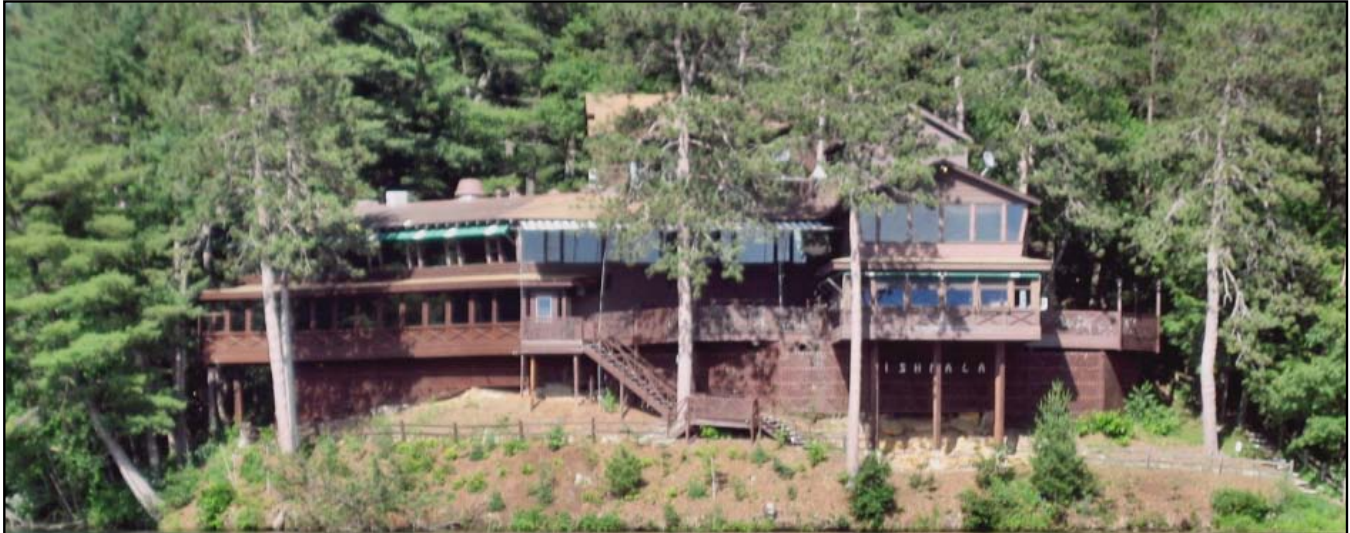
APRIL WORK WEEK

Bill Martinelli directed the April work week as usual. He and Patrick Cleary replaced the wood retaining wall behind the storage building, and then Long Life Roofing began working on removing and replacing that building's wood shingle roof. Some structural and roof decking damage was discovered and repaired as well. Mirror Lake State Park provided wood chips and cut some problem trees. Fearing Appliance replaced the cottage cook top with a new ceramic type, and the bedroom and fold-out mattresses were also replaced. Kelly Tree Service came to see about removal of a large Norway pine tree that was leaning over the cottage, and that work was carried out three weeks later during an open time at the cottage. ■



Clockwise from left:
New retaining wall.
New ceramic cook top.
Repairing the shed damage.

Work Week photos by Bill Martinelli



“The highlight besides lovely meals on the terrace was a late afternoon canoe trip to Ishnala.” *Leif and Monica, MN*



Sand H



Adventu



New shed roof and retaining wall.



Ready for Summer



New shed roof.

FROM THE

“We loved our stay. Loved the design. Loved that someone cared enough to condition. We love FLW. A 2 hour plane trip and 3 hour drive, worth it.”

“It was so nice to be able to touch the essence of FLW through corners of glass, felt the sandstone—just let FLW who connected wood, glass, stone and nature.”

“The last day of our 12th visit and we enjoy it up until the minute we leave so much “stuff” but can’t wait to come here and be without it! When we would want to hang out here all day with no TV and no internet or cell phone distractions and feel guilty if not accomplishing something. Here you can get a restaurant in 5-10 minutes. Another wonderful stay— already looking forward to the next.”

“After reading all the architecture books about this building, it is a masterpiece and seems to have a profound effect on all who visit. The outside becomes apparent. Let’s hope this building can be a masterpiece for many years to come.”

“What a marvelous experience! We settled in to the warmth and peace of this beautiful home. Amazing! I have been waiting for a few years to stay at the cottage and it did not disappoint. Incredible evenings, bird watching and wine and cheese and listening to jazz music! Can’t wait to come back.” *Kevin and Stacy*

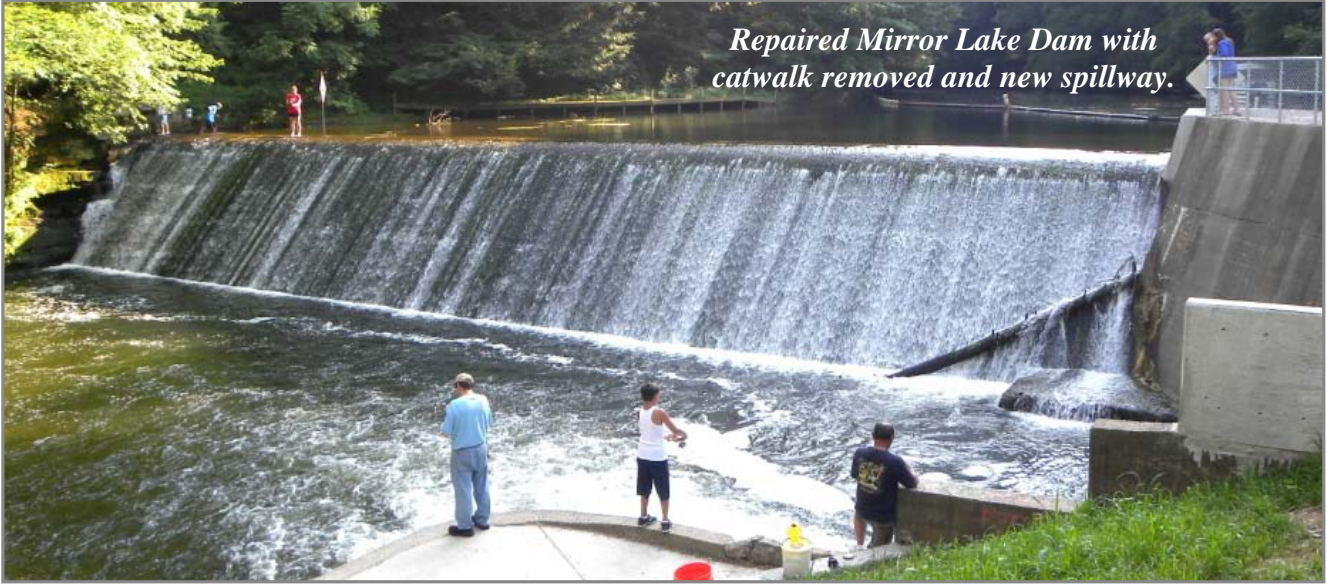
SUMMER



Will Crane



ure awaits.



Repaired Mirror Lake Dam with catwalk removed and new spillway.



Dell Creek Cottage



Inviting Terrace

QUEST BOOK

ough to restore it. Loved the Guggenheim dishes. Loved the air with every bit of effort for a 2 day stay.” *Jill and Joseph, Canada*

V as we walked the grounds, stepped on stone, looked at it penetrate our senses and hearts. Our applause to e into a livable whole.” *Vic and Debbie, MN*

ave to leave. It is amazing that we work so hard at home to have we try to explain to other people, they don’t understand why we ell phone source. We could relax at home but have all these dis- n feel like you are in the middle of nowhere, but can be at a nice ooking forward to next time.” *Tim and Trish, Kentucky*

t has been a joy to at last experience the SP cottage. It truly ho visited us here. It is so quiet here that the slightest noise e maintained long into the future.” *Mary and Bob*

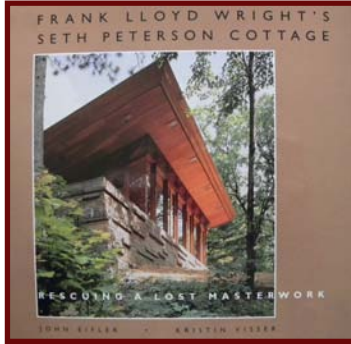


West end of lake.

“What a precious treasure—both the place and the stay. There are no words to describe the gift of being here—an immeasurable blessing to keep in our hearts for the rest of our days.” *Dave and Cynthia*

RESCUING A LOST MASTERWORK: THE REHABILITATION

This is the tenth 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 a fundraising breakthrough when the Jeffris Family Foundation donated \$80,000 for rehabilitation.



The first rehabilitation work began in fall of 1989 when John Eifler, Audrey Laatsch, and a group of volunteers removed the boards from the cottage windows and began to search for materials that could be salvaged. Aside from assessing the state of the cottage and removing some of the wood trim for later use, volunteers could do little because the building was so seriously deteriorated that hard hats and special equipment were needed. Fortunately, the Conservancy was able to obtain the services of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), a state program that provides training and work experience for young people. Two six-person WCC crews spent four weeks each at the cottage during April and May 1990 doing the Phase 1 deconstruction.

The term “deconstruction” is used instead of “demolition” because it better defines the process of removing material from a building that is undergoing preservation work. A separate set of drawings showed the WCC crews which items were to be removed and what was to be done with them. Three categories of building components were defined. The first category was material to be removed and discarded. This included the roof framing and plywood ceiling finishes. Samples were saved for duplication. The second category included building components such as kitchen cabinets, operable sash, and light fixtures which were removed and set aside for measuring and replicating. Finally, components to be reused in the project, such as the plywood clerestory panels and the stone flooring, were carefully numbered and stored either on site or in a nearby barn.

The WCC crews removed the roof and all the remaining woodwork, the flagstone floor, and the concrete pad under the flagstones. Finally, they removed all the heating ducts and the old electrical system. The crews cut down a number of trees in the new cottage parking area at the head of the driveway. They also removed some trees on the hillside below the cottage to open up the view to Mirror Lake. They sliced the larger tree trunks into foot-thick chunks and used them as steps on a newly created path to the lakeshore.

When crews were finished, only the sandstone walls, window frames, and fireplace remained. The cottage was ready to be put back together. ■

Next time: Reconstructing Frank Lloyd Wright's roof.




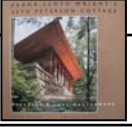
A worker from Kelly Tree Service prepares to top the leaning pine tree after removing most of its branches.



SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Membership Renewal and Merchandise Order Form 2011

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 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		
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		
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.			\$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. Circle color. Forest Green or Tan			\$15.00		
100% cotton pique polo shirt w/Cottage logo and name in red. Circle color & size. Forest Green or Natural M L XL XXL			\$32.00		
Beige & Rust <u>or</u> Brown & Tan T-shirt w/Cottage perspective. Circle color & size. L XL XXL			\$15.00		
NEW! Women's V-neck Brown & Tan T-shirt w/Cottage perspective. Circle size. S M L XL			\$15.00		
Sweatshirt w/red logo. Circle color & size. Black Tan Red Natural M L XL XXL			\$35.00		
Elegant Blue Silk Tie. Black design based on clerestory panel design.			\$25.00		
Cottage Jewelry of black, white and silver, based on design in the clerestory panels.					
Letter Opener			Reduced ! \$17.50		
Long Earrings			Reduced ! \$20.00		
Short Earrings			\$20.00		
Cuff Links			Reduced ! \$20.00		
Bar Pin			Reduced ! \$14.00		
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. Softcover Edition			 \$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			\$5.00 \$5.00		
Merchandise subtotal					
Member discount 10%				-	
Shipping & Handling, U.S. and Canada. Double these rates for other countries.					
Under \$30			\$6.00		
\$30-\$50			\$8.00		
\$50-\$100			\$10.00		
Over \$100			\$12.00		
Total (membership + merchandise - discount + shipping)					

Please make check or money order payable in U.S. funds to: SPCC

Send to: **SPCC, 400 Viking Drive, Reedsburg, WI 53959**

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WRITINGS

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

Address Service Requested



What's Inside...

- Cottage Comments by Claire*
- Mirror Lake Association News*
- Mirror Lake State Park Report*
- Vladick Award Recipient*
- Visser Preservation Award Recipients*
- April Work Week*
- Centerfold:**
 - Spring and Summer*
 - Comments from the Guest Book*
 - Rescuing a Lost Masterwork Excerpt*
 - Membership Renewal &*
 - Merchandise Order Form*
 - Annual Meeting Notice in Upcoming*
 - Events below*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, **September 11**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
- Sunday, **October 9**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
4:30-7:30 pm, Fall Color Boat Tour & Reception, \$25
- Sunday, **November 13**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
- Sunday, **December 11**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
Directors/Members Annual Meeting 4:30-5:30 pm
- Sunday, **January 8**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
- Sunday, **February 12**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
- Sunday, **March 11**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4
- Sunday, **April 8**, 1-3:30 pm, Open House, Guided Tours, \$4

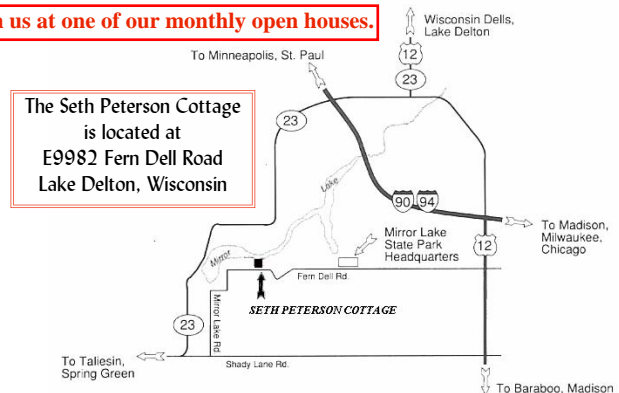
ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy will be held on Sunday December 11th at 4:30 pm. It will include annual and financial reports, and the election of Board Members. Any member of the Conservancy whose annual dues have been paid may attend and vote on any motions made at the meeting. The meeting will be approximately an hour long, and will be followed by a private party for cottage volunteers. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should send an email to crmrogan@yahoo.com, with Annual Meeting as the subject.

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. (See schedule at left).



Join us at one of our monthly open houses.



www.sethpeterson.org