

## Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation



ERNEST C. OBERHOLTZER FOUNDATION

MALLARD ISLAND

RAINY LAKE, MINNESOTA

sketch by Gene Ritchie Monahan

*“Dedicated to the preservation of Ober’s North Woods legacy  
as a source of inspiration, renewal, and  
connection to the natural world.”*

### Mallard Island on Rainy Lake

E. C. Oberholtzer Foundation  
off season: 818 Third Avenue #305  
Excelsior, Minnesota 55331



Oberholtzer’s Big House ~ Photo by Tony Rongstad, 2010

Beth Waterhouse, Executive Director  
Phone: (952) 401-0591= home and office / (952) 607-6879 = summer cell #  
Email: < beth@bethwaterhouse.com > (no e-mail in the summertime)

Employer ID # 41-6042619  
Donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.



This is a great photo new to our archives. Of Ernest Oberholtzer, and taken in 1938, it came to us in 2009 via Ted Hall's files and from his son, Thomas Hall, of Ranier, MN.

### \* Our Guiding Values – Mallard Island

When Ernest Oberholtzer wrote about a “university of the wilderness,” it seems he believed that living life in the wilderness and experiencing it to the fullest was the best way to learn about and appreciate it. Our programs on Mallard Island help to foster these values and to teach them on Rainy Lake each summer.

We are careful to retain and maintain a good portion of what Oberholtzer brought to his island home. To remove items for historical “safe keeping,” would not fit with the values by which Ober lived. Our caretaking works within a model of access for island program participants. Mallard Island is maintained and enjoyed as *a living legacy*.

In the Mallard Island experience, the island is a destination, and we preserve it as a place of tranquility. Great care is taken to “unclutter” the experience of those who sojourn there so that each person can enter into a relationship with time that allows him or her to connect with Nature’s rhythms and thereby find their own natural way.

We strive to be an organization that enhances human potential—one that provides opportunities for individual growth through shared access to a place of natural beauty and through the many facets of Ernest Oberholtzer’s wilderness legacy.

We model simplicity through our principles of island life and through the functioning of our organization. Our budget is modest, our staff is part-time, and thus we greatly depend on invaluable volunteers acting together to foster Ober’s legacy. In summer 2010, we benefited from over 1,900 hours of volunteer assistance in the form of repair carpentry, cleaning and opening work, caretaking, and board of directors’ time.

### \* Summer Program Overview

We preserve four of the Review Islands in Rainy Lake as places of history and wild beauty, but Mallard Island also becomes, week by summer week, a small community. Over

the years, Mallard has welcomed (by application) naturalists, painters and photographers, scientists and book lovers, Ojibwe language students and local first nation peoples, writers, storytellers, and musicians. From ice-out to ice-up, Mallard Island on Rainy Lake is our organizational center of activity.

There are three ways that individuals can spend a week on Mallard Island: first, they may join a volunteer work crew to repair and maintain the buildings and archival holdings. Second, individuals can apply each November to “host” a week in the coming year with a specific idea or artistic discipline, such as songwriting or bird banding. Third, the Foundation’s Program Committee occasionally designs programs that fit within or balance categories of Ober’s interests (thus his legacy) such as Ojibwe language and culture, biology, environmental awareness, and natural history.

Programs are designed in awareness of safety of individuals yet with significant focus on the stewardship of the tiny and rocky islands. We compost, reuse resources, and are careful with the use of water. The responsibility for Ober’s legacy in buildings, books, gardens, and archives is shared every week by every group member.

### **\* On Mallard Island in 2010**

The summer of 2010 began, as usual, with three busy work weeks. The gardens, buildings, and book collection had a good going over, four new roofs (!) went into place, a new vegetable garden and repairs to Cook’s House and the drainage system under Bird House were begun. Special renewal focus began on the *Frigate Friday* houseboat, and over the summer many windows and two roofs there were refurbished by volunteers.

We have a steady cadre of about a dozen trained caretakers for Mallard Island. During 2010, no new caretakers were added, but many are now ready to be “head caretakers” –could be paired together and in charge of the island and archives.

Program weeks during 2010 brought writers, birders, photographers, storytellers, poets, teachers, songwriters, and nine flute students for the first native wooden flute workshop, taught by Jon Romer of Cass Lake. A total of 134 week-long participants or caretakers stayed on Mallard Island, 24% of whom were newcomers last summer.

The summer of 2010 included a special three-day August gathering of the Mitaanjigaming first nations reserve and friends from upper Rainy Lake. Headed by Chief Janice Henderson, about 50 individuals came for two days of meetings focused on the flood history of the region. Many knew or worked for Ober restoring Mallard Island decades ago.

The 2010 summer ended with 3 days of “Ober Island Tours.” This year, the intent of these daytime tours was for individuals specially invited from the Rainy Lake area. Twenty-eight individuals attended across three days. In spite of some big autumn weather canceling half of the first day, we enjoyed a slide show by Bob Hilke of his many trips with Ober and a slide show by Tim Heinle of his Arctic canoe journey as a young man.

### **\* Everybody’s Accomplishments in 2010 (to name just a few!)**

- a new rose garden and four new roofs on Mallard and Gull Island buildings
- completion of the Mallard Island “Living Lightly” booklets, now for sale
- a presentation to the MN Canoeing Association about Ober’s canoe journeys
- completion of “Ober and His Rainy Lake World” scans fr the Rainy Lk Chronicle
- four new program options approved and planned for summer 2011
- a generous capital grant from the Quetico-Superior Foundation
- hard work editing Ober’s journals of the Hudson Bay journey (Publ date TBD.)
- another good fall gathering in October showcasing art cards- paintings fr Mallard.

**\* Statement of Operating Revenue and Expenses - Unaudited**

<b>Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation</b> <b>January through December, 2010</b>
--

REVENUE *(rounded to nearest dollar)*

Funds fr Previous Yr Capital Campaigns (brought forward)	4,000
Quetico-Superior Foundation	7,500
Grants from Family Foundations	1,500
Dividends and Interest from Investments	9,456
Revenue from Mineral Rights	24,149
Donations from Individuals (gifts this year)	22,092
Program Fees for Island Use	12,078
Sales of Books, Notecards, Art (plus misc rev 117)	<u>4,115</u>
Total for Year.....	\$ 84,890

EXPENSES *(rounded to nearest dollar)*

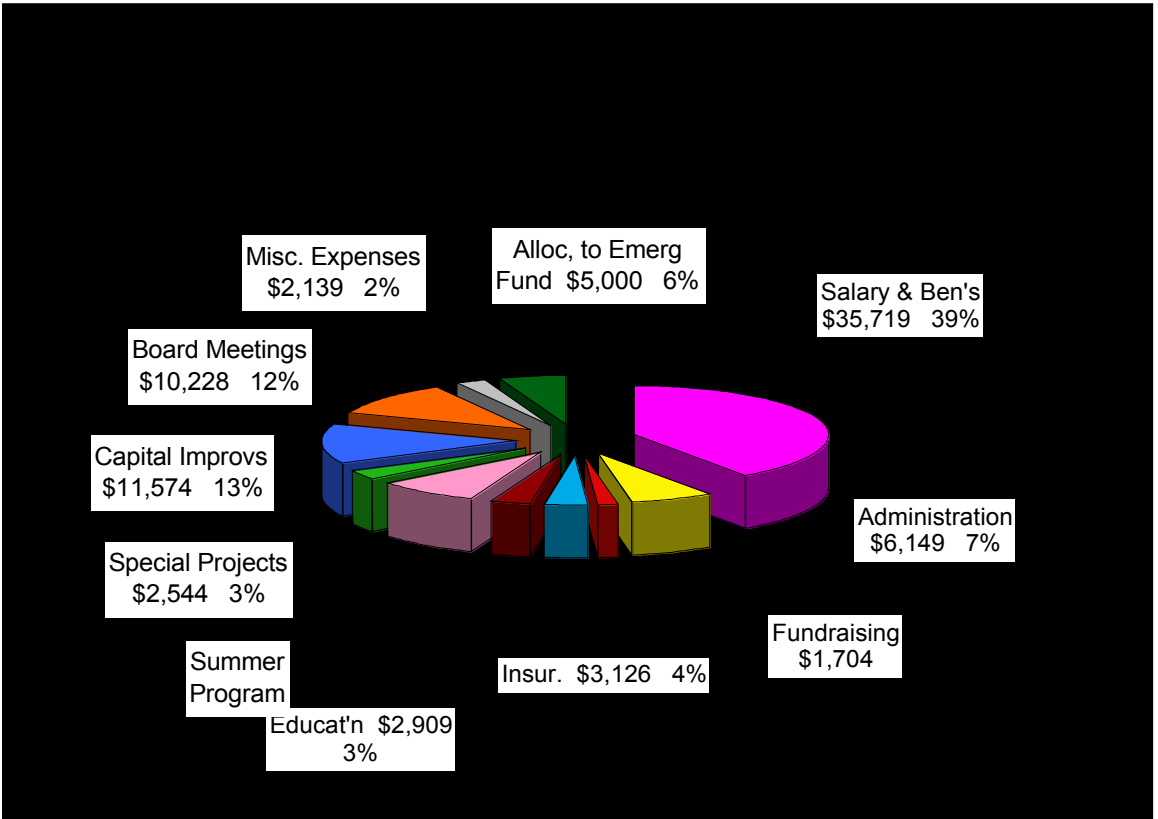
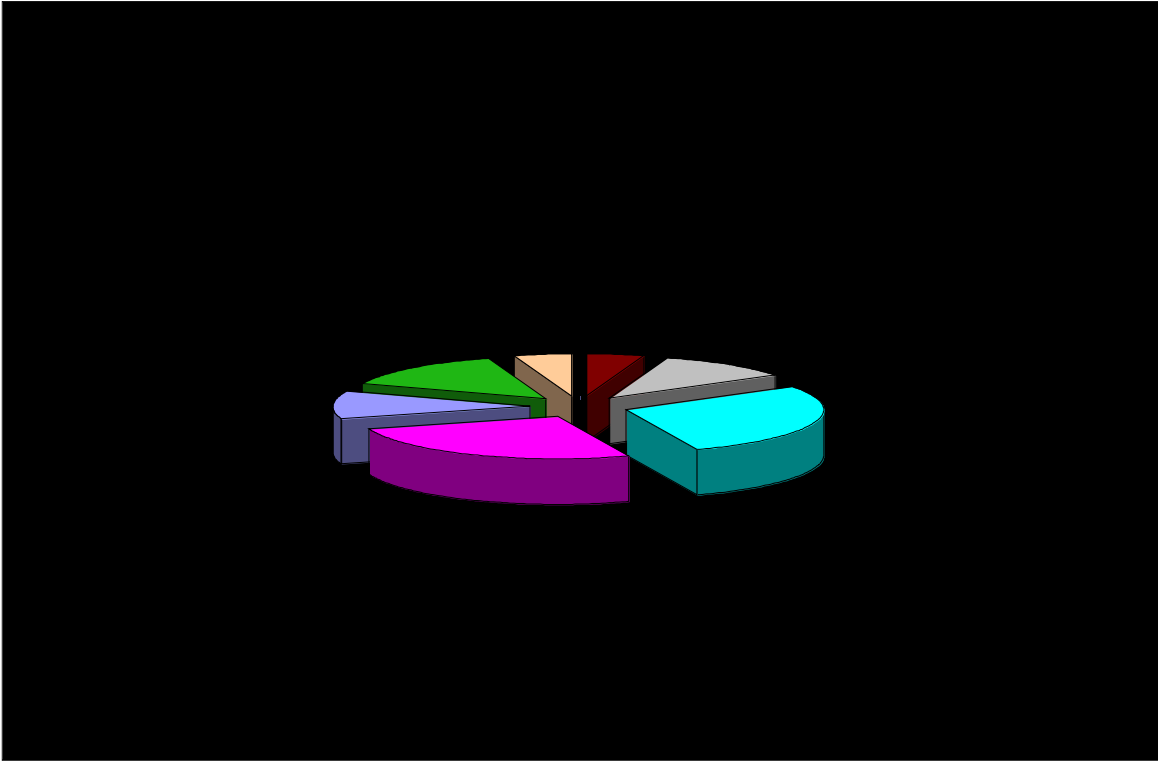
Staff Salary and benefits	35,719
Island Utilities / Organizational Storage	1,776
Administration and Fundraising (Insurance here)	10,379
Board Meeting Expenses and Travel	10,228
Outreach and Education	2,909
Assets and Archive Management	500
Direct Summer Program Expenses	4,078
Direct costs, Jon Romer Flute Workshop	2,550
Capital Improvements (on Mallard)	11,574
Conservation Easement (multi-year commitment)	1,500
Book and Film Projects within the Legacy	2,044
Designation to Emergency Fund*	5,000
Contingency	<u>639</u>
Total for Year.....	\$ 88,896 *

\* Note: Our annual designation of assets to a self-insurance / emergency fund is \$5,000. The total at year-end 2010 in that self-allocated fund was \$25,000. This figure is included in the above expenses, but it is only a restriction of assets.

**See page -5- for another look at the 2010 revenue and expenses in two pie charts.**

Portfolio of Investments—held with R. W. Baird & Co., Chicago, Illinois
---

With the assistance of Rosa Ebling at RW Baird & Co, the Foundation manages a diverse portfolio of investments, as well as inherited rights on oil/gas-producing lands. The portfolio of investments as of 12-31-10 was valued at just over \$242,000. At year-end, the portfolio was 28% bonds, 71% stocks and 1% cash alternatives. We saw a 2010 annual increase of 10.9%, showing overall good performance.



**\* Heartfelt thanks  
to all of these 2010  
Individual Donors:**

Ellsworth Anderson  
James and Judith Arnold  
David & Sue Rodli Astin  
Tom and Barb Balcom  
Carol & Hugh Barclay  
Marge Barrett  
Tom Bell  
Lois Berg  
Janet Bilden  
Stewart & Anna V Brandborg  
Jim Bruggeman  
Bruna Bucciarelli  
Dale & Phyllis Calaghan  
Virginia Carney  
Ann Cathcart  
Joanne Church  
George N. Cochran  
Joseph Conrad  
Bill Covello  
Jerry and Lynn Cox  
James Davis  
Mairi Doerr  
Dennis Donath  
Kim Doss-Smith  
Susan and Larry Dow  
James and Janet Edlund  
Bruce / Marlene Ehresman  
Jeffrey Eisele  
Charlene Erickson  
Kathryn Fernholz  
Barbara Fisher  
Richard & Marcia Fisher  
August and Susan  
    Ganzenmuller  
Connie Ghinazzi  
Brent and Gayle Gish  
Pam Gjertson  
Rose Marie & Andre Gouin  
Katharine Grant  
Toni and John Grate  
Mary Graves  
Dick and Jan Green  
Janet Green (Duluth)  
John Gregg  
Sarah Gruner  
Lois Hackbarth  
Thomas Hall  
Howard B. Hanson  
John and Sandra Happe  
Tim and Joan Heinle  
Glen Helgeson  
PJ (Jack) Hickerson

Bob and Mary Hilke \*  
Ron and Georgia Hilke  
Mary Swalla Holmes  
Claudia Christiansen Horne  
William C. Howard  
F. B. Hubachek  
David & Colleen Jackson  
Virginia Jersild  
Pamela Joern  
Karen Johns  
Kathleen Johnsen  
James & Patricia Johnson \*  
Prudence Johnson  
Allan and Mary Juers  
Jo and Larry Kallemeyn  
Jim and Patricia Kallsen  
Martin and Esther Kellogg  
Charlotte Kerelko  
Ellie Kingsbury  
Charlotte Klesman  
Cliff Knapp  
Nance Kunkel  
Carolyn Laine  
Eddie Lehman  
Patrick / Geraldine Lindsey  
Frank S. Lockwood \*  
Arnold and Maxine Long  
Myron Lowe  
Kurt & Mary Lysne \*  
Mark Mallander and  
    Patricia Ericson \*  
Don Maronde  
Carol Marshall \*  
Gordon Martin  
Barbara McAfee  
Cheryl McChesney \*  
Karla McGray & Bill Forsyth  
William & Sally B Meadows  
Ward and Linda Merrill  
Ken Meter  
M. Patricia Monaghan  
Margaret Moris  
David Moss  
Lisa Nabbefeld  
Lynn Naeckel \*  
Dean and Jeri Nordaune  
Laurie Oberholtzer and  
    Liz Magee (!!)  
Robert O'Loughlin  
Gary Olsen  
Eric L. Olson \*  
Joe and Nancy Paddock  
Richard Paper  
Thomas J. Paper  
Roger and Karen Reede  
Michael Reid  
Erin Reinhard

Jean S. Replinger \*  
Marilyn & Frederick Rohlfing  
Donald or J.Arlene Ronda  
Tony Rongstad  
John Roth  
Sandra Rufer  
William "Sarge" Sargant  
Stewart & Diana Sheldon  
Steven Shermoen  
Elizabeth Shippee  
David Siebert \*  
Sierra Club Land Trust  
Jeffrey Sieve  
George & Ruthie Simmons  
Steve Simmons  
Wally and Rose Simpson  
Rosalie Sundin  
Harry and Ginny Sweatt  
Confriere Chev du Tastevin \*  
Janice Templin  
Diane Tessari  
Elaine and Steve Thrune  
Joe and Eileen Van Wie  
John S Wadsworth, Jr.  
Larry and Pat Wahl  
Rud & Timmy Wasson  
Beth Waterhouse  
Bob & Elaine Waterhouse  
Peter Weil  
Carol Weiler \*  
Carole Wendt  
Kate Weyrens  
Cleo & Dennis White  
Judy & John Windorski \*  
Fred & Eleanor Winston

**Thank  
you!**

.....

**\* Special gifts were given  
this year in memory of:**

\*\* Sam White

\*\* Marjorie Kowalski Cole

\*\* Marnee Monahan and

\*\* John Breckenridge.

**Gifts were also made  
honoring the work of:**

\*\* Jean S. Replinger and

\*\* Joe and Nancy Paddock.

## \* Words of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Words can never express our full gratitude to all of you (page six) for supporting the E. C. Oberholtzer Foundation in 2010. The only way we can keep up is by receiving such generous gifts. All these gifts help us keep the islands safe, clean, and environmentally friendly. So many of our buildings need attention year after year—your kindness and your gifts make their restoration possible.

Have a wonderful year. Please stay in touch. We'd love to hear more about your personal connections to this place.

Stay well,

Tim Heinle Treasurer

## \* The 2010 Oberholtzer Foundation Board of Directors

- Jim Davis, Pensacola, Florida
- Jim Fitzpatrick, **Vice President**, Hastings, Minnesota
- Tim Heinle, **Treasurer**, Ranier, Minnesota and Scottsdale, Arizona
- Bob Hilke, International Falls, Minnesota
- Mary Swalla Holmes, Madrid, Iowa
- Robin Monahan, Shoreview, Minnesota
- Joe Paddock, Litchfield, Minnesota (resigned in the fall)
- Michael Reid, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Jean Sanford Replinger, **Secretary**, Marshall, Minnesota
- John Roth, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Harry Sweatt, Ranier and Wayzata, Minnesota
- Diane Tessari, Excelsior, Minnesota
- Elaine Thrune, **President**, Sartell, Minnesota

Note: Though on the Board in 2010, Beth Waterhouse, **Executive Director**, Excelsior, Minnesota, resigned from the Board of Directors in January 2011. This was done to clarify the role of staff and board and to remove any perceived conflict of interest. Beth is 60% time as executive director.

Emeritus Board Member, Charles A. Kelly of Chicago, Illinois, served as **Assistant Treasurer** in 2010 (and then was re-elected to the board in January 2011). We also wish to name other *Emeritus Board Members*: Marnee Monahan d., Gene Ritchie Monahan d., Ted Hall d., Delores De Laittre d., immediate past-president Douglas Wood and immediate past vice-president Joe Paddock (new in fall 2010). Honorary member: Ray Anderson (deceased).

The Board of Directors meets three times each year: typically in January, June & September. Committees of the Board include: Executive, Finance & Fundraising, Nominating, Program, Assets & Archives (inactive), and Facilities Restoration and

Maintenance, plus a Gull Island Task Force initiated in fall 2010.

**\* 2010 Key Volunteers:**

Mallard's "invisible economy" of volunteer energy includes Nancy Paddock, layout editor and Don Maronde, loyal carpenter on the Mallard. We wish to recognize the Pam and Darrell Rundell family as well as Pam's parents and their hard-working friends, Dave and Stephen Markwardt. We also note the Michael and Anne Reid and Dave and Karla Donisch families who accomplished a major roof renovation on the Frigate houseboat. Thanks to Tim Heinle, Elaine & Steve Thrune, Thomas Hall and Don Maronde for installing the new Library roof.

**Island Caretakers in 2010: (other than program director, Beth Waterhouse)**

In order of "appearance" during the summer: • Don Maronde • Mark Granlund • Jim Fitzpatrick • Jane Lund • Elaine Thrune • Danielle Sosin • Mary Swalla Holmes • Mairi Doerr • Stephanie Humphrey • Barbara McAfee • Michael Quick & Beth Lindner, and • Mary Casanova (caretaking her week). Special assistance on the Tour Days: Diane Tessari, Elaine Thrune and Nance Kunkel and talks by Bob Hilke and Tim Heinle.

**\* Status of the Organization from our Board President**

Greetings!

I hope you enjoyed reading this Annual Report. In addition to all the happenings throughout the year, it shows how your interest and support makes it all possible. Special dedication and energy is required to maintain the programs and properties in our care, and it takes all of us working together, each in our own way, for the Oberholtzer Foundation to thrive.

I am pleased to report that the Foundation is strong and healthy. Our dedicated board of directors and executive director are leading efforts to maintain mission-related high quality programs along with responsible and productive financial management. Loyal energetic volunteers contribute hundreds of hours of skilled and loving labor in a variety of venues. One only needs to look around on the islands, in our newsletter, and on the website to see the results.

As we all know, it is a continuing challenge to maintain a living historical legacy where visitors can live in community, absorb the natural wonders, and be part of this extraordinary history and heritage. What we do is different than most other organizations and places, and we take pride in creatively managing toward our unique mission and goals.

Thank you for your interest, and especially for your support, in whatever way you wish to contribute.

**Elaine Thrune** President, E.C. Oberholtzer Foundation