

Park to Host Antique Apple and Pear Tree Pruning Workshop for 2022

The park will again be hosting its popular pruning workshop on **May 6th** in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. The workshop will be held at the Dechow Farm 4 miles north of Glen Arbor on M-22. Look for the sign along M-22.

The workshop will focus on maintenance of neglected apple and pear trees and how to bring them back into production and maintain their health. The course will include 1) how to identify and properly remove dead materials from abandoned trees 2) proper pruning of the canopy for optimum maintenance and fruit production, 3) maintaining tree health, 4) how to maintain ground cover under the tree, 5) watering and care of the tree, and 6) equipment safety. A grafting demonstration will also occur in the orchard along with the planting of new trees from the park's apple nursery. We will be demonstrating how to add new stock back into your old orchard.

The park is pairing with the Leelanau Conservation District and the County Extension Master Gardener Program to offer this hands-on training workshop. Experts from the County offices will provide the technical information and the park will serve as the host for this annual event. This marks the **fifteenth** year that these organizations have come together to participate in this event.

The course is set up so participants receive "hands on" training of all techniques. The Pruning workshop hours are 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Those who would like to participate in the planting of the orchard should arrive at 10:00 a.m. Participants should meet at the Dechow farmstead where an orientation and introduction will begin the process for each.

There is no cost to participants. Tools and materials will be provided. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and dress according to the weather forecasted. Handouts will be provided. If you plan on participating for the entire day bring a sack lunch.

Workers are not required to be skilled. The purpose of the workshop is to teach the techniques and train homeowners and the interested public how to restore to health and maintain antique apple and pear trees.

Interested parties should contact the park historical architect, Kimberly Mann (231)326-4771, to sign up for the workshop. Late registration is always accepted. Call to notify your intent to attend. To sign up by email: kimberly_mann@nps.gov

Clip and Return to: Kimberly Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L., 9922 Front St., Empire, MI 49630

Name of Attendee: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Check here if you plan on coming at 10:00 am to plant nursery stock in the orchard: _____

RETURN FORM BY April 30th, 2022 so organizers can assemble the correct number of tools. Drop-ins, observers, and late registration always accepted.