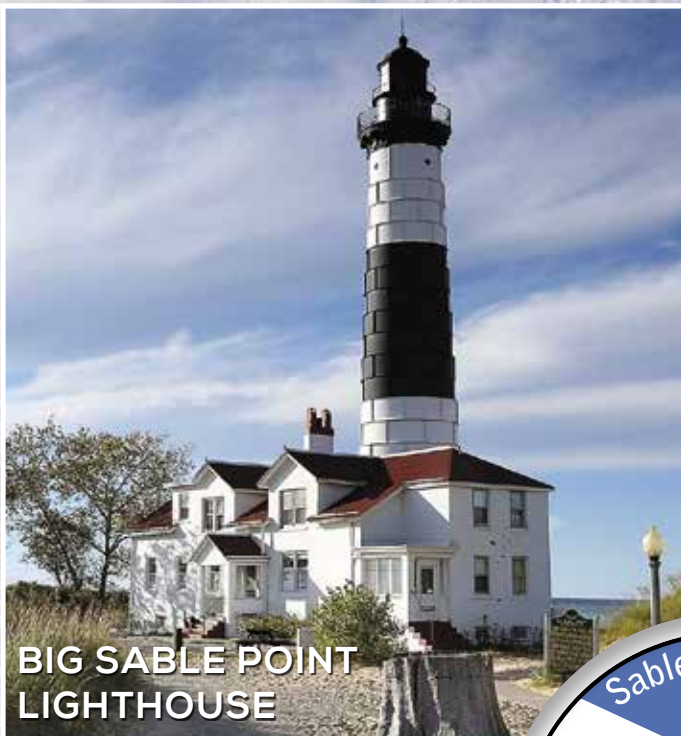
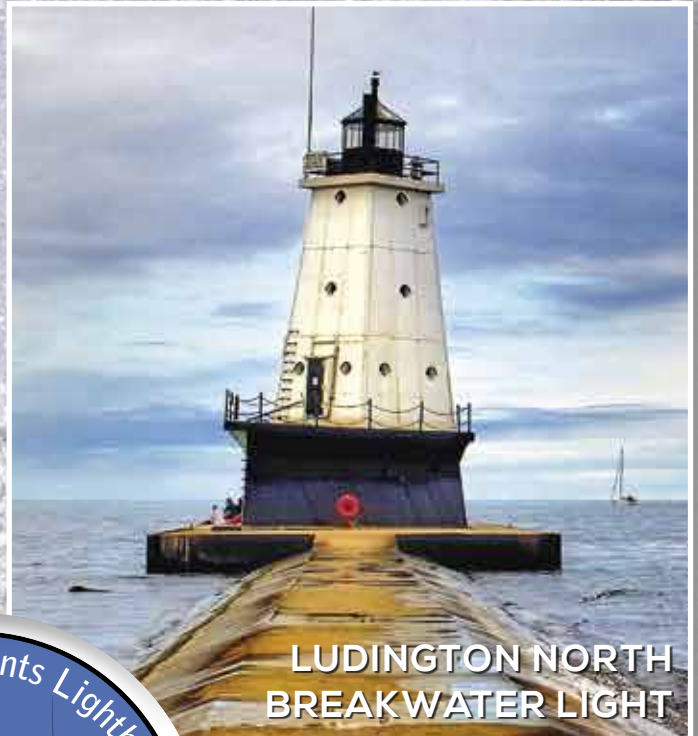


Sable Points BEACON

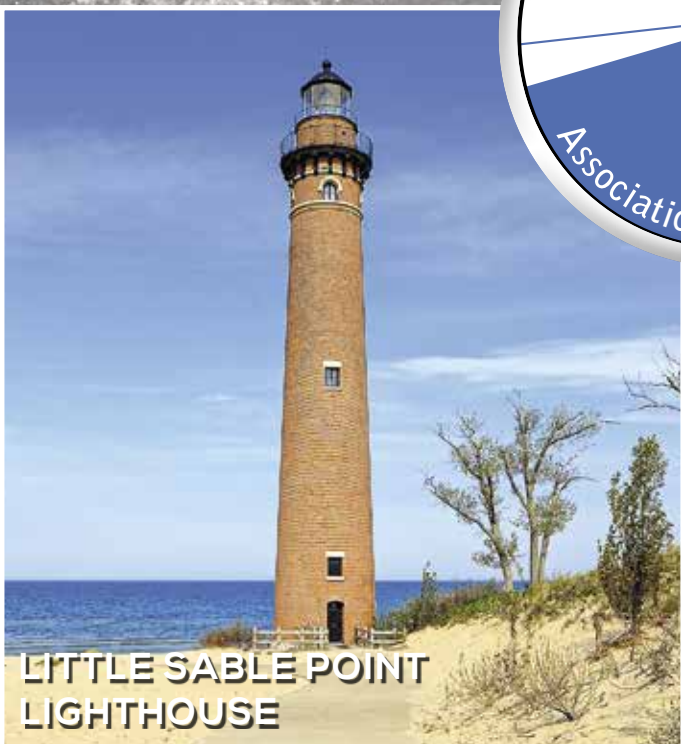
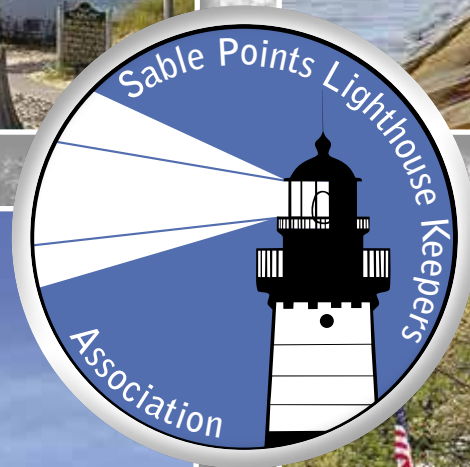
NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2021



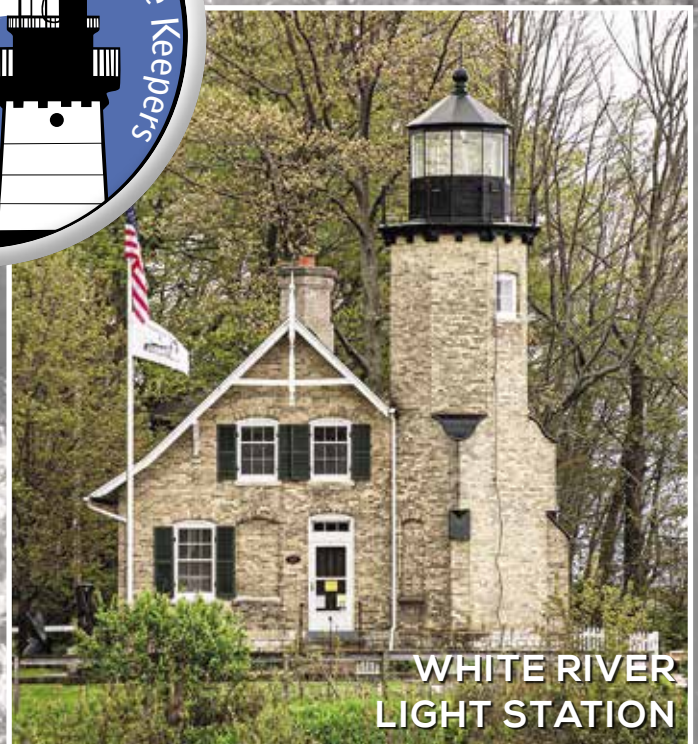
**BIG SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



**LUDINGTON NORTH
BREAKWATER LIGHT**



**LITTLE SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



**WHITE RIVER
LIGHT STATION**

LEAVE A PRINT IN THE SAND

"HOPE ANCHORS THE SOUL"
"THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE"
"ALL WHO WANDER ARE NOT LOST"
"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"
"MY BELOVED IS MINE AND I AM HIS"

These are some of the inspirational inscriptions on the new walkway boards around the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The Leave a Print in the Sand campaign helps SPLKA raise funds for capital preservation projects identified by the SPLKA Board of Directors at all four of our lighthouses. Since SPLKA started offering customized walkway boards in July 2014 at the Big Sable Lighthouse, proceeds from the project have added \$50,000 to the SPLKA Capital Campaign Fund. Since then, boards have been made available at the Little Sable Lighthouse and the White River Light Station. A total of 674 boards at Big Sable, 87 at Little Sable and 23 at the White River Light Station have been sold and installed around the lights.

Purchasing a personalized walkway board is a special way to help SPLKA preserve our lighthouses. These boards are becoming the new walkway around Big Sable, a connecting walkway to the gift trailer at Little Sable, and part of the wheel chair ramp to the keeper's workshop at the White River Light Station. The cost of an engraved board is \$100. Each board can be engraved with up to 25 characters per line, including commas and spaces, with a two-line maximum.

Memorialize your adventure:

"FUN FAMILY MEMORIES XOXO,"
"SURVIVED THE DEATH MARCH,"
"COVID CAN'T KEEP US AWAY."

Document time spent at one of the lights:

"BEST OF TIMES AT BIG SABLE, VEE BJORNSON."

Remember that certain someone or event:

"BETTY'S FAVORITE PLACE,"
"INANNA, YOU WILL FOREVER BE OUR GUIDING LIGHT,"
"50 GOLDEN YEARS OF LOVE."

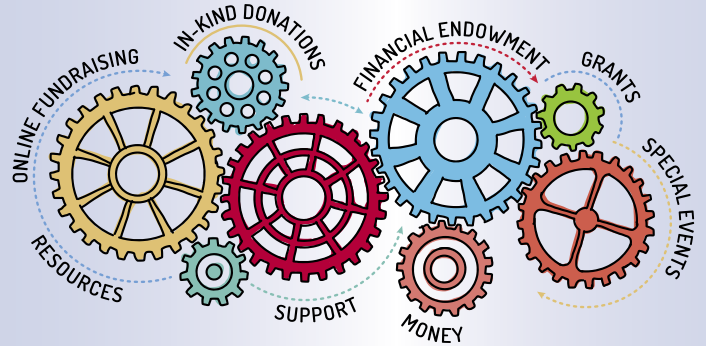
A walkway board is a lasting memory and a very personal way to insure the preservation of four of Lake Michigan's iconic lighthouses. Brochures for ordering walkway boards are available for downloading and printing on our web site at: (www.splka.org) or by calling the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Purchasing a board helps SPLKA continue to fulfill its mission to preserve our magnificent lighthouses for generations to come.

Link to
downloadable
brochure for
"Leave a Print
in the Sand"



Help us preserve all of SPLKA's Lighthouses and
Towers by purchasing a Trex® board.
These boards are available to be placed at
Big Sable, Little Sable or the White River Lighthouses.

Capital Campaign Update June 2021:



In the mist of the COVID-19 pandemic, the planning for the preservation of our castles lining the shore of Lake Michigan continues. We continue to work to raise funds for Phase 1 of the Capital Campaign.

Phase 1 includes repairing the 139 holes in the steel cladding on the Big Sable Lighthouse tower. When the cladding has been repaired, the tower will need to be painted.

Phase 1 also includes funding a Historic Structures Report for the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. A historic structure report provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property's history and existing condition. Broadly recognized as an effective component of preservation planning, a historic structure report also addresses management and goals for the use or re-use of the property. It provides a thoughtfully considered argument for selecting the most appropriate approach to treatment, prior to the commencement of any renovations, and outlines the scope of recommended work. The report serves as an important guide for all changes made to a historic property (repair, rehabilitation, or restoration) and can also provide information for maintenance procedures. Finally, it records the findings of research and investigation, as well as the processes of physical work, for future researchers.

In the January 2021 newsletter, it was reported that the fund balance for the Capital Campaign Fund on deposit at the Mason County Community Foundation was \$155,622. Today the fund stands at \$162,094. That amount represents 72% of our goal of \$225,000 to fund Phase 1. The SPLKA board and staff want to thank everyone who is continuing to step up to help meet the goal. SPLKA is actively looking for grants and financial gifts to complete the fund raising. The Restoration and Maintenance Committee members are working on documents that will be required to solicit bids as soon as funds become available. Our mission continues to be the preservation of our iconic lighthouses. Funds can be donated to Phase 1 on our web site www.splka.org or can be sent to SPLKA, P.O. Box 673, Ludington, MI 49431.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends, It's been an interesting year. The good news is that the weather is warming up and life is slowly returning, somewhat, to normal. The bad news is – well, let's not look too hard. It seems that the pandemic and current events have put people on edge. I'd like to get past that, and I see positive thinking as a way to do it. Let's explore that a bit more.

A really big positive is that the State of Michigan is more or less open. Depending on how one defines "more or less," SPLKA gets to open up for visitors and volunteers. A related positive: the state parks report that Ludington and Silver Lake campgrounds are sold out. OK – here's a negative: if you wanted a campsite and haven't reserved one yet, you're probably out of luck. But from our perspective, full campgrounds mean lots of visitors. What's not to like? Please be assured that we have taken many precautions to ensure the safety of our volunteers and that of our visitors. Rachel has published information on that already.

Here's another positive: the lake is down 11 inches. To put that in perspective, it means you can walk from the beach house (think ice cream) to BSP via the beach without getting your feet wet. Another perspective: you can walk on the lower portion of the Ludington breakwater out to the light!

Here's another positive: our Education Committee has more offerings targeted towards schools AND YOU. Find more on this topic in "Notes from the Director" in this newsletter.

The positives keep coming! Our staff is really good at positives: Rachel has some really exciting items in the gift shops. Even if you are not volunteering this year, you should visit one of the shops and check out her selections. You will be impressed. Cherie continually finds outstanding photos and articles for the weekly update. Matt is visiting community groups and presenting history and other information on WRLS. Jim has had considerable success painting "historical" brick (which has been historically problematic). Carol keeps everybody in line, at least financially, but I think overall, too. And Peter – well he just keeps writing and winning grants. Thank you, Peter!

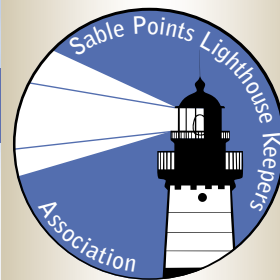
The bottom line is, if you look for the positives, you will always find something to celebrate. We need to stay focused on the "good" and put the "bad" out of our minds. People who look for the positive will always be happier and healthier, and that's what we're all seeking. The people who visit our lighthouses, our guests, are all on vacation or tourists. They're having fun. So, we should be doing the same! All we need to do is smile. Whether you wear a mask or not, people can tell when you're smiling and having fun. Let's do that.

One last topic: you may have heard mention of our estate planning initiatives over the past months. Your board is actively working on this, and more information is coming. Susan Land has some exciting ideas and developments to share in the near future.

Please know that our members are always front of mind for the entire board. We couldn't deliver the guest experiences we do without you. Thank you!

I'm thankful for our staff, my fellow board members, and the outstanding work they do to support you, our volunteers and members. Please feel welcome to call or email me or any of the board members. We love to hear from you. Until next time, stay positive and smile.

Regards, *Al Cocconi*
President, SPLKA



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Cocconi
PRESIDENT

Mark Hallenbeck
VICE PRESIDENT

Ted Robinson
TREASURER

Roger Pashby
SECRETARY

Sara Anne Hook
DIRECTOR

Susan Land
DIRECTOR

Larry Stulz
DIRECTOR

STAFF

Peter Manting
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cherie Hockenberger
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Matt Varnum
WRLS CURATOR

Rachel Bendele
OPERATIONS/ GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Jim Hardie
RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Carol Cooper
BOOKKEEPER

Letter from *Vice President*



by **Mark Hallenbeck**



Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

ENGINEERING MARVELS

Fifteen years ago, while my wife and I were delighting in our very first year as volunteer keepers at Big Sable, I happened to have the final shift at the top of the tower on a gorgeous, cloudless day. Everybody else in western Michigan must have been at the beach, because I had the entire tower to myself for the last 45 minutes or so of my shift. As I reluctantly prepared to head downstairs, a voice came over the intercom announcing that one final visitor was on his way up the steps. A minute or so later, a young man popped up through the hatch, and I followed him out onto the gallery deck.

Learning that this was his first visit to Big Sable, I was prepared to see him stand mesmerized by the breathtaking view of endless sand dunes and

sunlight glinting off the rippling waves far below. After taking a quick look at these natural wonders, however, he began working his way around the tower, closely examining the structure itself as he went. As we struck up a conversation, I learned that he was an engineer. Before long, he alerted me to something I had failed to notice in my time on the gallery deck – a series of barely visible Roman numerals that had been etched into the top and bottom of each railing segment and corresponding spot on the deck itself. He explained that these markings had been etched into the iron when the lighthouse was under construction at the Milwaukee Lighthouse Depot. Of course, the etchings were covered with numerous coats of black paint, but they were clearly visible once I knew they were there.

Thoroughly fascinated by this revelation, I followed the young engineer around the railing as he explained that the Roman numerals on the top of the railing, the bottom of the railing, and the floor of the gallery deck were intended to ensure that the sections of railing and decking would be assembled in proper alignment on site. As we continued examining the etchings, suddenly he quietly exclaimed, “Uh oh.” Concerned that he had unearthed some potentially deadly engineering flaw, I backed up to the tower wall and froze in my tracks. He pointed to a set of Roman numerals that did not match up. Seeing my wide-eyed concern, he chuckled and said, “No

worries. The sections are all identical; they would fit in any combination.”

He continued examining the outside and inside of the lantern room, and eventually it was time to descend. However, before we headed down the steps I took advantage of the opportunity to ask him a question that I had pondered for several days but was too embarrassed to ask my fellow keepers: How did they get the stairs into the middle of the tower when they assembled it here? He explained that the tower would have been built and assembled at the lighthouse depot to ensure that everything fit properly. Then it was disassembled and shipped in pieces to Big Sable Point for reassembly. The tower would have been assembled in sections, with a section of stairs contained inside each section. Then, the segments of the center pole were attached as the tower sections were installed one by one. He went on to explain that once the tower was fully assembled, the stairs actually would have spun around the center pole until the sections were bolted to the inside wall of the tower.

I’ve always thanked my lucky stars that I was at the top of the tower when the young engineer ventured up at the end of that day. Every keeper relishes the little-known historical factoids they’re able to pick up along the way and share with visitors. The Roman numerals and the stairway assembly remain two of my favorite “secrets” to pass along.



U.S. Lighthouse Society's Passport Program

SPLKA sells official Lighthouse passports in our gift shops for \$15.00 each or you can order yours today by calling the office at 231-845-7417.

We have the stamps at each of our lights to get you started in the passport program.



The Lighthouse Passport Program provides enthusiasts the opportunity to help preserve lighthouse as well as a wonderful way to keep a pictorial history of their lighthouse adventures. Small donations made by Passport holders generates thousands of dollars for lighthouse restoration and preservation projects. By joining the **FREE** Passport Club you become part of a large group of individuals and families seeking unique Lighthouse Passport Stamps as a fun and educational activity.

JOIN THE PASSPORT CLUB!

Find more information online by visiting:
<https://uslhs.org/fun/passport-club>



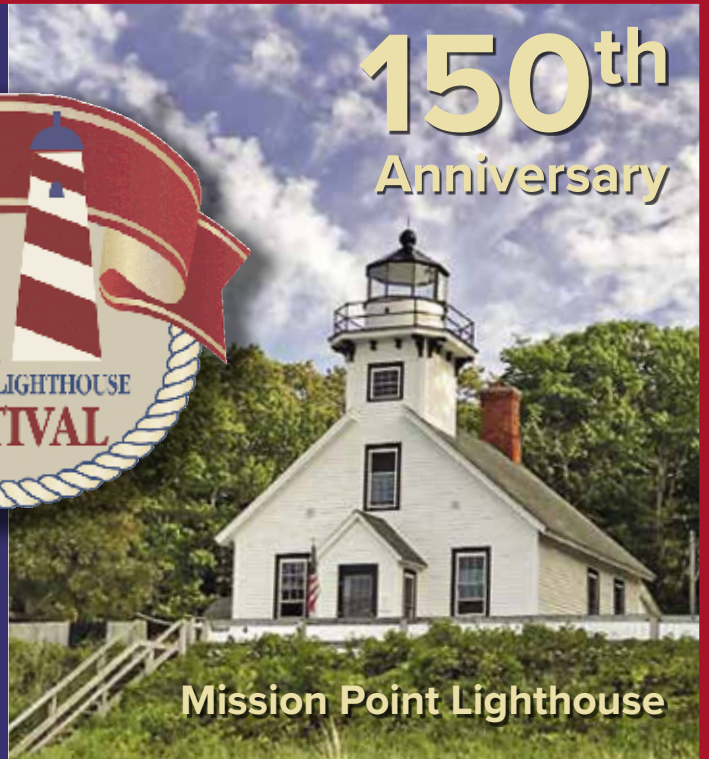
michiganlighthousefestival.com

Celebrating
**Mission
Point
Lighthouse**
150th Anniversary

August 6 & 7, 2021
Traverse City, MI



150th
Anniversary



Mission Point Lighthouse

Sponsored by:

TRAVERSEcity
TOURISM



BAYMILLS
RESORT & CASINOS



Notes FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



by Peter Manting
SPLKA Executive Director



Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

As I write this, the sun is out, our first keepers have arrived at Big Sable, and they are getting ready to open for the season on May 11. White River will open Friday, May 21. Little Sable and the Ludington North Breakwater lights are opening May 28. The water levels in Lake Michigan are down 11 inches from last year, and we are ready to go. Warmer weather has been ordered, along with my Thursday supply of muffins.

I was asked the other day what I like most about my job as executive director. I didn't even have to think about it before I responded. The thing I enjoy most is interacting with our members and volunteers. Next is telling others about our organization and, finally, re-telling the history of the lights, highlighting the keeper stories and remembrances of those who have come before us.

That being said, the pandemic of last year was a disappointment to me as I didn't get to see, greet and visit with our members or volunteers. That is what I missed the most. When I am able to attend in-person conferences, I am consistently telling others about our steadfast members and volunteers.

In 2020, most of you were not able to come to volunteer, yet you opened your pocketbooks and gave sacrificially to make sure that our organization was sustainable and that SPLKA was able to meet the

financial obligations which come with managing four of Michigan's iconic lighthouses. Thanks to all of you for stepping up to help SPLKA forge ahead and be ready to open to the public in 2021. Your financial support was and is so important to enabling SPLKA to continue to fulfill its mission.

Other support that we received for general operations throughout this past year has come from the Michigan Council for the Arts, the National Humanities Foundation, the Mason County Community Foundation Match Day and other generous donors.

Donors also continued to fund projects to keep us operational throughout the 2020 season. The Great Lakes People's Fund along with the Oceana Community Foundation provided funds to help SPLKA repaint the interior of the Little Sable tower. The Mason County Community Foundation supported our Capital Campaign Fund and helped us purchase a new refrigerator for the Big Sable Point Keepers' quarters. Smaller grants from the Mason County Community Foundation fund are purchasing a new tent for our summer performers at Big Sable and a new history video for the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse. The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation has also contributed to the success of the Capital Campaign Phase 1.

Wow, what a year we all have gone through! Thanks to all of you who have signed up for tours and day keeping opportunities at our lighthouses for 2021. We are ready to open for the season!

BUS DAYS at Big Sable will be on June 26, July 8, July 22, August 5, August 19 and September 11. New to bus days this season will be Gordy the Grinder. The kids will love to meet Gordy and his monkey on July 22. New musical artists performing on bus days include Joe Irelan, Chris Kennedy and Eric Michaels. Bus day



favorites Asparagrass with Ruthie Eilers, the Rough and Tumble, and Ruthie Eilers with Frank Galante will also be performing.

NIGHT AT THE LIGHTS is back



at Little Sable for season number six. We have some great music planned for those Wednesday evening concerts in July. The Rough and Tumble are back with new music and stories of life on the road. Beach favorite, the Steel Doin' It Steel Drum Band, brings Jamaica right here to Western Michigan. Olivia Manville and the Aquatic Troupe will be returning. Her eclectic duo has influences from 30s jazz and swing as well as Parisian café, spaghetti, and 60s pop. New to our venue this year is Mustard's Retreat. Dave Tamulevich and Libby Glover are witty, insightful, fun and profound, as well as accomplished songwriters and musicians. You will enjoy not only their music but also their story, about which you will laugh for days to come and remember for years. Night at the Lights would not be complete without an evening with Ark Harbor. Jim Novak and Paul Cerny will once again reunite and bring Old Time Chicago to the shores of Little Sable.

WHITE RIVER this year is home to many Friday evening concerts and other events. The Rough and Tumble will open that concert series on Friday, July 9. Local artists Chris Kennedy

and Eric Michaels will join us for an evening on the lawn as well as local guitarist Joe Irelan. Ark Harbor will grace the grounds of the light station, and Catfish and the Man will play for our beer tasting event on August 13. Come out and enjoy a Fetch brewery beer or a glass of wine while you listen to one of our favorite bands. The Western Michigan Dulcimer Friends will also once again gather on the lawn on Saturday, July 24. Bring your lawn chair for an enjoyable afternoon concert.

THE MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL

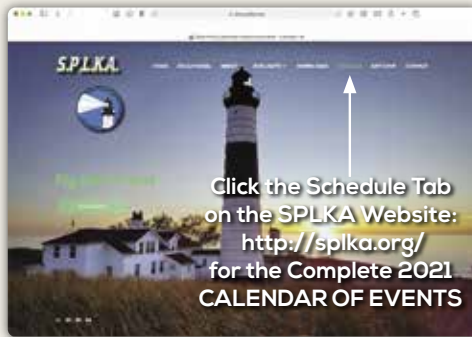


that was canceled last year is back on for 2021. This is a traveling festival which supports all of Michigan's 129 lighthouses. This year the *Great Lakes Energy People's Fund* is one of the main sponsors. The festival will take place in Traverse City on August 6-8, 2021, featuring Mission Point Light in Traverse City, MI. SPLKA lights will be represented with a booth on the grounds of the lighthouse staffed by SPLKA personnel. An evening dinner and many other activities are planned for the weekend. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

BLESSING OF THE BOATS

is a local Ludington organization which sponsors the yearly blessing of boaters and their boats. This event is scheduled for June 26 from noon until 7:00 pm. Canceled last season due to COVID, the blessing normally takes place at the end of May but was moved to later in the year. It will be a time to gather to watch the boats parade through the harbor, hear local bands play all afternoon, sample food from food trucks on site, and enjoy adult beverages (beer and wine) and soft drinks. This year SPLKA has been named the non-profit to benefit from the fund-raising efforts, the beverage sales and the raffle. We are hoping that

many of our members will be able to attend this first-rate outdoor event. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate to the Blessing of the Boats' efforts, all donations will go directly to SPLKA. You can find the donate tab on our website.



SPLKA board committees are in full gear for the 2021 season. The committees are charged with supporting the goals set out in SPLKA's strategic plan. The first goal committee is the Finance and Fund-Raising Committee. Projects they are working on include establishing a program for end-of-life giving, hosting fund-raising events, securing both State and Federal legislative support, prospecting for additional donors, increasing media coverage, and encouraging our membership to promote our lights to their friends and families.

Goal committee #2 is Restoration and Maintenance. They are overseeing current projects and planning for secure storage of SPLKA's archives. In addition, they are preparing to implement the recommendations of the Big Sable Historic Structures Report to be funded by the Capital Campaign Fund, beginning with the repair and painting of the tower.

Goal committee #3 is the Education Committee which has been operating very productively over the last two years. On our website, visitors will find updated lesson plans for teaching about the Fresnel lens and our lighthouses. Updated videos of a behind-the-scenes tour of Big

Sable, a virtual tour of Big Sable accompanied by an escape-from-the-lighthouse game, and author Pamela Cameron reading her book *Sport: Great Lakes Ship Dog* were additions to the website in 2020. The committee is working on new nautical lesson plans for the website, a history video for the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse, and monthly Facebook/e-blast lighthouse quizzes.

The SPLKA board is looking for members-at-large to serve on the Finance Committee and the Restoration and Maintenance Committee. These committees meet once a month on Zoom. If you had ever thought you might like to be a board member, here is an opportunity without a three-year commitment to help with projects and to see if you would enjoy being part of the governing board. If you are interested, please contact me or board president Al Cocconi.

To all our members and volunteers, both seasoned and new, you continue to amaze me and the thousands of guests who visit our lights and who will return next year to visit them again. Your support, knowledge and love for our four lighthouses is unparalleled. You graciously welcome and help transport our visitors back to a time when our lights were homes to the lighthouse keepers and their families. Thank you for all of the hours that you have put into building SPLKA and furthering our mission.

2020 changed all of our lives. SPLKA has adapted to the changes and will make sure that our 2021 guests and volunteers will have a welcoming and safe place to visit. I am so proud to be part of the SPLKA family and to continue my role in keeping the Great Lakes maritime history alive by preserving and promoting the towers lining our lakeshore.

*~ Keeping the Lights Shining,
Peter Manting, SPLKA Executive Director*

Keeper's Notes

THE WHITE RIVER CURATOR REPORT/SPRING-SUMMER 2021



by Matt Varnum
CURATOR
White River
Light Station & Museum



Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

HELLO EVERYONE!

As I am writing this in the beginning of April, the weather has warmed up, the birds are chirping, and all the little critters are running around on the grounds of the light station. Soon the museum will be opening and bustling with visitors. I am looking forward to the 2021 season and no doubt you all are too after the long winter of COVID.

Since the end of the 2020 season,

there have been a few things that I have been working on here at the White River Light Station & Museum. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to unveil the new hands-on activity located in the Middleton Room in the museum last year. But this year the new display will be revealed, and I believe it will be a nice addition to the visitor experience. Want to know what it is? Then you need to stop on down to visit the museum as I plan to keep it a surprise.

In the Colby Memorial Room, some new information will be on display that has been found on who the keeper was between keepers Leo Wuori and Frances Johnson. That keeper was Guy L. Gordon, a name that is familiar at one of our other lights as he was also an assistant keeper and head keeper at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The only information we have is about his service with the U.S. Lighthouse Service. If you or anyone else you know has any additional information about Guy L. Gordon, please let us know.

The keeper's workshop has two additions to the displays, a sounding board from the Liberty Ship the *Frank Norris* and a dorade vent. A dorade vent (also called a dorade box, collector box,

or simply a "ventilator") is a type of vent that permits the passage of air in and out of the cabin or engine room of a boat while keeping rain, spray, and sea wash out.

Like last year, I will be giving presentations within the White Lake community to discuss why lighthouses look different from one another along with the differences in characteristics of their signal. As I am writing, there is one presentation scheduled to be conducted over Zoom, and I am working on getting more scheduled. The presentation will be recorded so that it can be available on SPLKA's website and on other websites or social media platforms.

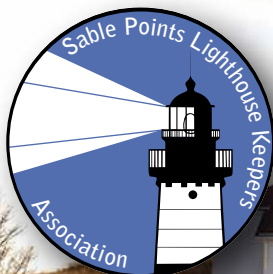
During the 2021 season, concerts will take place on the grounds along with our Beer & Wine fundraising event scheduled for Friday, August 13.

The White River Light Station & Museum, like our other lighthouses, is always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the light station this year or have questions, please contact me at **231-894-8265** or **whiteriverlight@gmail.com**.

I hope to see you all here during the 2021 season!
~ Respectfully, Matt

Just in time for the season, SPLKA is announcing the "All Access Pass". These passes offer visitors a reduced rate to climb all four towers. Passes can be purchased by contacting the SPLKA office by phone at **231-845-7417**, email at **splkaofficemanager@gmail.com** or at any of our four SPLKA lights. Passes are priced at \$15.00 for students (17 and under) and \$25.00 for adults (18 and over). Students save \$5.00 and adults save \$7.00 over the cost of individual tower climbs. Passes are good for the entire 2021 season.

SPLKA invites you and your family to come climb a lighthouse and create priceless memories!



Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association invites you to

go climb a Lighthouse!

Purchase an ALL ACCESS PASS for 2021

Rachel's Corner

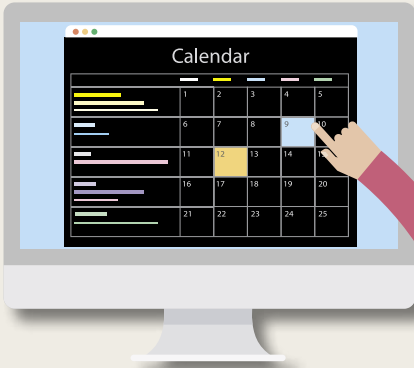


by Rachel Bendele
SPLKA Operations
Gift Shop Manager



Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

SPLKA office, but I am happy to say it's all coming together. This edition of the newsletter always falls at a busy time of year. Merchandise is rolling in. We are finalizing the schedule for the season, interviewing potential volunteers, preparing to welcome the first volunteers of the season, and interviewing, hiring and training summer help.



to all of you who have contributed financially for operational costs as well as preservation. The notes included with your generous gifts, indicating the need to keep the

staff on board, were a huge compliment. Thank you!

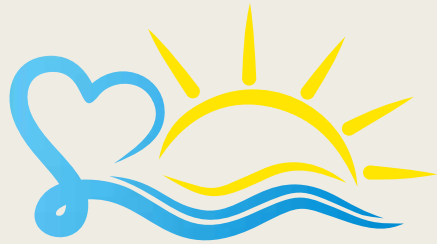
There is no doubt that we've hit some choppy waters, and there have been times that we weren't sure if we were going to hit the sandbar. You all helped guide us to calmer waters. With your support and encouragement, we can see the shore ahead.

We have been through a very uncertain and crazy time during the past year. I must admit I was nervous going into this new season. However, you all have simply amazed me! The schedules are filling up, and keepers are reaching out to fill in the gaps. I am fielding calls and emails several times a week from others who are interested in learning more about the program, and volunteers are recruiting friends and relatives to join.

Coordinating the week and two-week schedules for three lighthouses, the two-day keeper schedules and schedules for two or three summer staffers, along with managing five gift shops and an online store can be challenging. There are moments of panic when there are unfilled openings on upcoming tours or emergency cancellations. Many times, while I work into the evening trying to come up with a creative plan to pull something together, out of nowhere I get a call or an email and someone says, "I can help." This season is no different, and the forecast for success looks brighter every day.

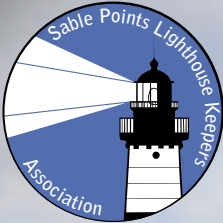
There is *lots* going on here at the

We are humbled with appreciation



*Keep shining friends.
You are the light of this organization!*

~ Rachel



Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association
Is on Facebook!

Search "Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association" and **LIKE US!**
Or, scan the QR code with your smartphone!

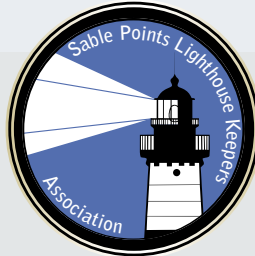


<https://www.facebook.com/SPLKA.org/>



Need reminders of our Bus Days or other special events? Keep up to date with all the SPLKA happenings by visiting our Facebook page.

Help further our mission with the **IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**



Congress has now extended the IRA charitable rollover, and made it permanent. This could be an easy way for you to support the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. The charitable IRA rollover, or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is a special provision allowing taxpayers aged

70-½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a non-profit organization, including the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association, without having to recognize the distribution as income.

Lighthouse Maintenance News

SPRING /SUMMER 2021



by Jim Hardie
Restoration and
Maintenance Supervisor



*Our Mission is to preserve, promote
and educate the public and make
our lighthouses accessible to all.*

.....

Welcome 2021 and goodbye 2020. What a difference a year can make. An optimist at heart, I am filled with hope for the new year and all the opportunities it holds for us. I look forward to seeing the best in people come through and rise stronger and better than ever. I am focusing on the future and all the wonderful things that it holds in store. With this spring will come many new beginnings.

At Big Sable Point, here's what's happening from a maintenance perspective. Lake Michigan has finally dropped about a foot from the high water records set almost every month last year. The basement at Big Sable is relatively dry, and the sump pump doesn't need to run constantly anymore. That truly is great news. I fabricated and installed a new cabinet for over the stove in the keepers' kitchen, and there is now a working built-in microwave. I have also added a cabinet for the new larger refrigerator which will be arriving soon. It should be easier to prepare and store food in the refrigerator this year.

On the exterior, for the first time, the paint over the bricks on the south wall of the residence has pretty much stayed in place over the winter. Woo hoo. I have hopefully found the correct

combination and brand of products to use so it doesn't peel off every winter during the numerous freeze/thaw cycles.

Projects for the remainder of the spring and summer include rebuilding the south wall of the outhouse, which is decaying, putting out the walkways and moving a lot of sand around. As always, there is plenty of painting to do as well.

At the Breakwater Light, I hope to install new batteries and tweak the solar system to make it more reliable. I plan to build new shelves and storage units for the solar components as soon as I can get out to the lighthouse. With the lower lake levels, I am hopeful that we all will be able to get out there this year. The residence is pretty much completed and ready for volunteers to enjoy the remodeled spaces. If I do say so myself, I think it turned out great.

The continuation of the interior tower painting at Little Sable will have to wait until the end of the season as weather and sand have not cooperated this spring. We did have some excitement out at the lighthouse last fall. I was out there one rainy morning getting ready to paint the stairway when I noticed an excessive amount of water dripping on my head. That shouldn't happen inside the tower. I climbed to the top and found that a plexiglass window in the lantern room had blown out.



The 30 mph winds were whipping the rain around and into the lighthouse. I contacted Mike Mulac, who has helped me on other projects, and told him we had an emergency. I hurried home, picked up Mike and some supplies, and we proceeded back out to the lighthouse to fabricate a temporary closure for the missing pane. We got it secured, and I contacted some suppliers to see about a replacement. Thanks to Matt Ewing and his crew from Ludington Paint and Glass, within a week we had a new pane installed and weathertight. Thank you, Matt. There weren't 30 mph winds the day we went back to put the new pane in, but it was still a wild time. The new pane has survived the winter intact and with no leaks.



Our curator Matt Varnum has been hard at work getting White River ready for the season. We have a new display to debut down there and enhancements to the existing displays. If you haven't been to White River in a while, it's worth the trip. Matt is always looking for volunteers to help, so contact him and make a day of it.

Maintenance News, CONT.

Early this spring while walking down the pier at White River I noticed that the wreck of the Contest had emerged from its resting place under the sand. It was quite a sight. Almost all of what remains of that ship could be seen and touched. The sand has now decided to cover this once mighty ship one more time, although some of it is still visible. Check it out at the intersection of the south pier and the beach. It's an easy walk and a truly unique sight.



I do have a few people and businesses to send a shout out to this spring. I want to thank Dean Collingwood who came up last year and helped with some painting projects at Big Sable. As always, Chuck Jameson has been a voice of encouragement and hope. Thank you, Chuck. Mike Mulac of Industrial Project and Machine is always there to lend a hand and provide his extensive expertise on difficult projects. We appreciate you for all you do. In addition to replacing the plexiglass pane at Little Sable, Ludington Paint and Glass has proven to be extremely knowledgeable about paint. Matt, Denise and their entire crew have helped me to discover the correct combination of primer and paint to use on our lighthouses. If you're in need of paint or glass repair, stop by their store. Prices are good and the expertise is priceless.



Thanks again for all who support our lighthouses both financially and with the greatest gift of all: time. You are appreciated and everyone benefits from your generosity and support. I hope to have nothing but good news to report to everyone in the fall newsletter. For now, it's back to work.
~ Jim Hardie

Renew Your 2021 SPLKA Membership Today!

Your support of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association means a great deal to S.P.L.K.A. and to the lakeshore communities. We would like to remind you that now is a great time to renew your membership for the 2021 season. Your membership, along with hundreds of others, makes it possible for us to fulfill our important mission to preserve, promote, educate and make accessible Michigan's Maritime History to all through our lighthouses.

Advantages of being a member included being eligible to be a day keeper, (associate membership) or resident keepers, (all other membership level categories) at three of our lights, voting privileges at the annual membership dinner meeting, membership card, window decal, semiannual newsletters, unlimited free admission to all four lighthouses for one year and for memberships head keeper level and above merchandise discount at all of SPLKA gift shops.

2021 membership rates are as follows: Associate member \$30.00, Individual member \$60.00, Couple/Family \$100.00, Head Keeper \$175.00, Business Sponsor \$250.00, Individual Life Time membership \$750.00, Couple/ Family Life Time membership \$1,000.00. The levels and amounts are all the same as the last four seasons.

Your partnership is sincerely appreciated, and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2021 membership please consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause to restoring, promoting and educating the public and making our castles along the lakeshore accessible to all.

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021

associate membership.	\$30
individual membership.	\$60
couple/family membership.	\$100
head keeper.	\$175
business/corporate sponsor.	\$250
lifetime individual membership.	\$750
couple/family lifetime membership.	\$1,000

Thank you for your continued commitment to our historic structures and our communities' Maritime History.

Summer at the Lights 2021



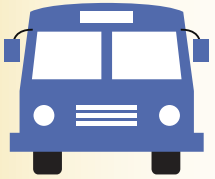
BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Open May 10 - Oct. 24

Adults: \$8, Students 17 & under: \$5 • ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!

*For a small fee, transportation is available out to Big Sable from the State Park.



BUS DAYS
at BIG SABLE
LIGHTHOUSE 2021

**JUNE 26, JULY 8 and 22,
AUG. 5 and 19, SEPT. 11**
from: 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation, from 12 pm to 5pm, is offered from the building next to the park office to the Big Sable Lighthouse. *An additional charge of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 12 and under will be collected on these days from visitors who take advantage of the bus transportation.

June 26th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
ASPARAGRASS
with **RUTHIE EILERS**

Back for bus day by visitor request is AsparaGrass. Local bluegrass/folk band complete with guitars, fiddle, mandolin, upright bass and a truly fine blend of vocal harmonies.

July 7th • 1:00pm



Afternoon Concert:
ROUGH and TUMBLE

Prolific song writers, performers and born travelers; Pennsylvania-born Mallory Graham and

California-born Scott Tyler have lived in their 16' camper since 2015, making tire tracks nationwide since 2011 as a traveling Folk-Americana duo. Their history goes back as far as New England in the fall of 2007 and as close as going from friends to bandmates to married bandmates. The story is as linear and circular as any. This Americana duo is excited to be back and part of our lighthouse concert series.

<http://www.theroughandtumble.com>

July 22nd • 1:00pm



Afternoon Concert:
GORDIE the GRINDER

Grinder Gordie's street instruments provide for unique entertainment. Since 1993 Gordie has entertained in and around the Greater Kansas City Area. This is a family friendly event as Gordie encourages active participation from spectators of all ages.

August 5th • 1:00pm



Afternoon Concert:
CHRIS KENNEDY and ERIC MICHAELS

In the acoustic tradition, Eric and Chris perform a diverse repertoire of pop, folk, and country tunes. Whether singing in harmony or playing instrumentally, Eric and Chris are an engaging and dynamic duo."

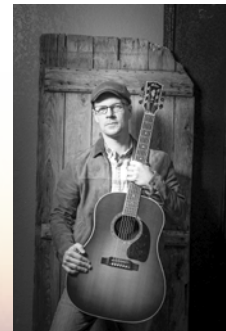
Aug. 19th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
FRANK and RUTHIE

West Michigan duo known for its rockin' blues, country and original tunes. The group features musicians Ruthie Eilers on vocals, bass and mandolin and Frank Galante on vocals and guitar.

Sept. 11th • 1:00pm



Afternoon Concert:
JOE IRELAN

Come and enjoy the mellow sounds of local guitarist Joe Irelan as he plays popular cover songs and some originals as well. Well known in the area for his many performances at the Fetch Brewery.



Summer at the Lights 2021

LITTLE SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Open May 28 - Sept. 19, 2021

Adults: \$8, Students 17 & under \$5 • ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE.

Tower is open for climbing until 8PM on the nights of the concerts. Standard admissions apply.

July 7th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: ROUGH AND TUMBLE

Prolific song writers, performers and born travelers; Pennsylvania-born Mallory

Graham and California-born Scott Tyler have lived in their 16' camper since 2015, making tire tracks nationwide since 2011 as a traveling Folk-Americana duo. Their history goes back as far as New England in the fall of 2007 and as close as going from friends to bandmates to married bandmates. The story is as linear and circular as any. This Americana duo is excited to be back and part of our lighthouse concert series once again.

<http://www.theroughandtumble.com>

July 21st • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: MUSTARD'S RETREAT

Mustard's Retreat has delighted audiences by telling stories for 40 years- Dave

Tamulevich and Libby Glover are witty, insightful, fun and profound, as well as accomplished songwriters and musicians (guitars, dulcimer, electric bass, mandolin, harmonica, pennywhistle). In addition to being raconteurs and storytellers, they will give you things to laugh about for days to come and remember for years.

<http://www.tamulevich.com/roster-booking/mustards-retreat/>

July 28th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: OLIVA MANVILLE and the AQUATIC TROUPE

From the way west and the way east, this eclectic duo hones a Quentin Tarantino type sound with influences from 30s jazz and swing, Parisian cafe, spaghetti western and 60s pop.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAquaticTroupe/>

July 14th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: STEEL DOIN' IT

In 2002, Steel Doin' It was born from a community education class taught

by Glen Miller at Spring Lake High School. The group of eight is composed of Grand Haven and Spring Lake residents. Sharon Rathbun, Rebecca Kaufman, and Scott Klempel play lead drums. Handling the double seconds is Karen Cotton. Ambre Slater is the woman behind the cello pans, and Diane Veneklasen plays the bass drums. Setting the beat and playing the "toys" are Kevin Schmucker and Kelly Parker. Kelly steps in as director and joins in on trumpet occasionally. Our mission is to have fun while bringing the sounds of the Trinidadian steel pan to West Michigan. <http://www.steeldoinit.com>

Aug. 4th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: ARK HARBOR

60's Folk guitarists from Old Town Chicago, Jim Novak and Paul Cerny reunite to bring their unique

blend of soft rock, blues folk and hauntingly beautiful ballads that will touch your heart.



Summer at the Lights 2021

WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION



The tower is open late and available for tours for the standard admission charge on concert nights. **Adults: \$8, Students 17 & under \$5 • ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE.** In case of rain, we will meet at the Fruitland Township Hall.

July 9th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: ROUGH AND TUMBLE

Prolific song writers, performers and born travelers; Pennsylvania-born Mallory Graham and California-born

Scott Tyler have lived in their 16' camper since 2015, making tire tracks nationwide since 2011 as a traveling Folk-Americana duo. Their history goes back as far as New England in the fall of 2007 and as close as going from friends to bandmates to married bandmates. The story is as linear and circular as any. This Americana duo is excited to be back and part of our lighthouse concert series once again. <http://www.theroughandtumble.com>

July 16th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: CHRIS KENNEDY and ERIC MICHAELS

In the acoustic tradition, Eric and Chris perform a diverse repertoire of pop, folk, and country tunes. Whether singing in harmony or playing instrumentally, Eric and Chris are an engaging and dynamic duo."

July 24th • 2:00pm



Afternoon Concert: WEST MICHIGAN DULCIMER FRIENDS

Come enjoy a Saturday afternoon with a group of acoustic musicians that between them have decades of experience playing folk music, the music of our ancestors handed down thru time. The musicians will be playing dulcimers, guitars and fiddles to mention a few.



July 30th • 7:00pm Evening Concert: JOE IRELAN

Come and enjoy the mellow sounds of local guitarist Joe Irelan as he plays popular cover songs and some originals as well. Well known in the area for his many performances at the Fetch Brewery.



Summer days are for unwinding and what better way to enjoy a summer's evening than relaxing along the water on the lawn of the White River Light Station.

These family friendly events are free to the public. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy time together watching a movie, or listening to folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the White River Light Station. The museum and tower will be open for the standard admission charge.

Aug. 6th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: ARK HARBOR

60's Folk guitarists from Old Town Chicago, Jim Novak and Paul Cerny reunite to bring their unique blend of soft rock, blues folk and

hauntingly beautiful ballads that will touch you heart.

Aug. 13th • 6-8 PM



Featuring Fetch Beer and the music of: CATFISH AND THE MAN

Come enjoy your favorite Fetch Beer and the music of Catfish and the Man on the grounds of the White River Light Station. This family friendly event is a fund raiser for the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers, caretakers of the lighthouse. Beer and Wine as well as soft drinks and water will be available for purchase. Proceeds will continue to help support the mission to preserve, promote and educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible. <https://www.facebook.com/catfishandtheman>

LUDINGTON NORTH BREAKWATER

by Sara Anne Hook

Standing stalwart in the snowy, starry night.

A silent sentinel for boats along the shore.

Smaller and not as tall as your sisters.

Squat, stout, four-sided pinnacle, braving the cold and the waves, holding your light and lens high.

Symbol of the small town that you have protected for generations, a life-saver then and now. Bravely enduring the cold, crashing waves that breach your deck and the winds that smash against your metal skin and speckle your bright white paint.

Welcoming all manner of vessels, both massive and modest, into calmer waters.

Patiently waiting for spring to become summer.

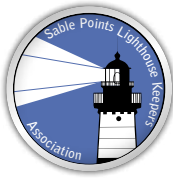
For the crowds that walk along the pier, gather for photographs around your base and climb your steep inner stairway for incomparable views of the lake and the shoreline, before returning to the beach, with its sand like sugar and gentle waves of azure, or perhaps enjoying a hot dog or ice cream cone from the concession stand.

Your rustic and regal beauty captured throughout the years in paintings, photographs, postcards and drawings by children.

Beloved by your keepers - your life preservers - and me.

We Celebrate SPLKA Volunteers!





Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

P.O. BOX 673 • LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN 49431
231- 845-7417 • WWW.SPLKA.ORG

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
LUDINGTON MI
PERMIT NO. 673



We Celebrate SPLKA Volunteers!

