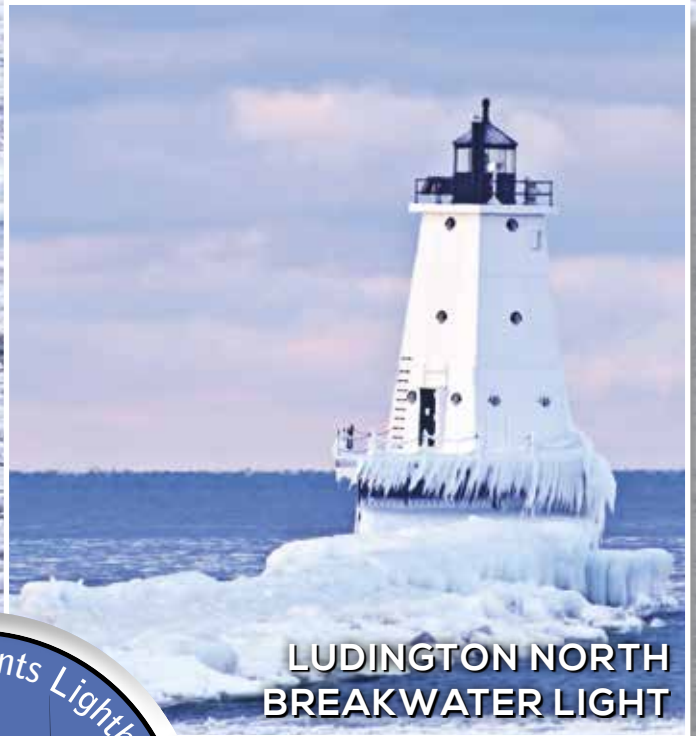


# Sable Points BEACON

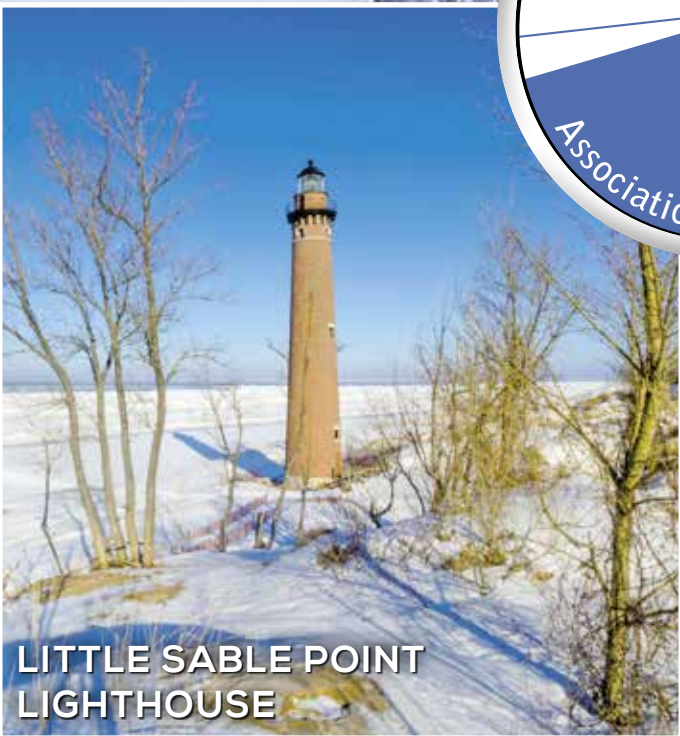
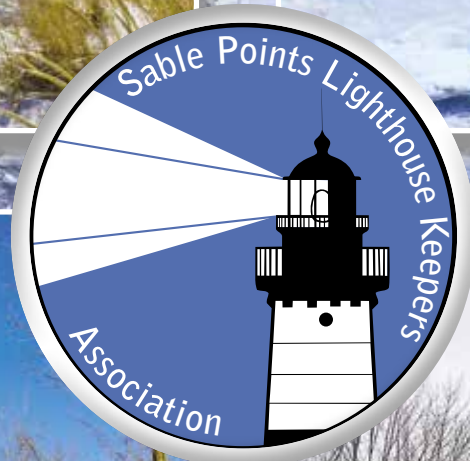
NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2019



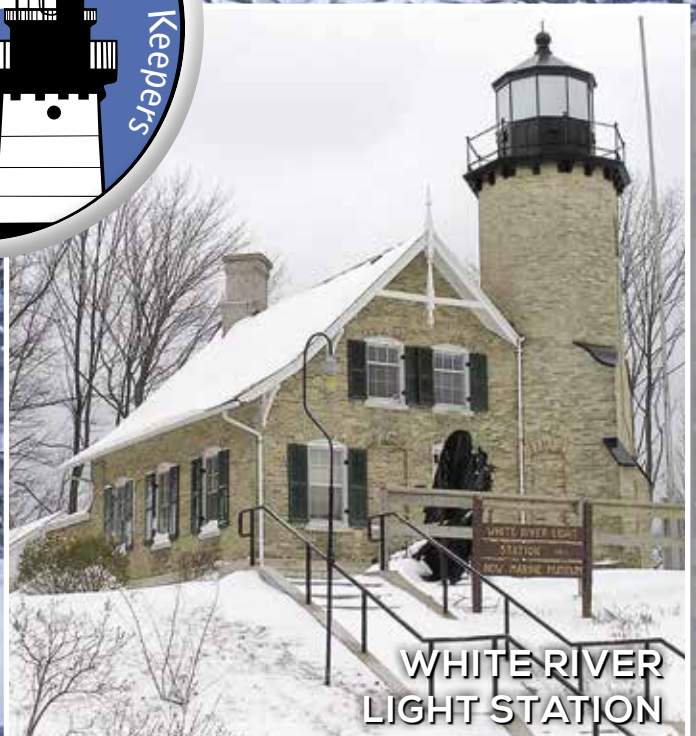
BIG SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE



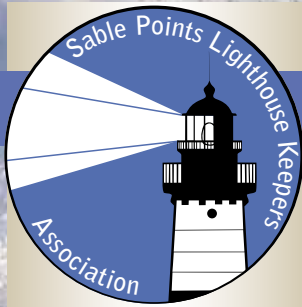
LUDINGTON NORTH  
BREAKWATER LIGHT



LITTLE SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE



WHITE RIVER  
LIGHT STATION



# Letter from the President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bob Baltzer**  
PRESIDENT

**Al Cocconi**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Ted Robinson**  
TREASURER

**Roger Pashby**  
SECRETARY

**Mark Hallenback**  
DIRECTOR

**Lenore Janman**  
DIRECTOR

**Bill McBeth**  
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

As the 2018 season comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteer keepers for making this another very successful year. You folks are the "tip of the spear" so to speak. You are responsible for our visitors' "first impression." When our friends see a smiling face greeting them at the entrance or in the gift shop, or see a volunteer helping to find that one, very special shirt or jacket, it goes a long way toward making their day and vacation special. We receive compliments all season long about how our visitors' lighthouse experience helped to make their vacation one to remember for a long time. We might even gain a keeper or two based on your friendliness or willingness to share your volunteer keeper experience. Thank you for everything you do.

The other important piece of this successful season is our staff. I thank you, Peter, Rachael, Matt, Jim, Cheri and Carol. Your dedication, hard work, and willingness to go the extra mile often go undetected by our visitors. However, make no mistake about it, each of these folks works tirelessly during the season to make each guest's visit a special one. Our interns, Misty Adams, Eric Quick, and Becca Folsom, worked very hard to fill in the gaps, often scurrying from one lighthouse to the next so that supplies were distributed in a timely manner or to ensure that there were enough keepers to operate the light in a safe and professional manner.

I would also like to thank the members of our board of directors for carving out time in their busy schedules to help further the mission of SPLKA. These folks are professional in every sense of the word and do their very best to help our organization continue to grow. We say good-bye to Kim McDaniel and Carl Wiegand and welcome Al Cocconi and Mark Hallenback.

As we say good-bye to 2018, and look forward to 2019, I came across a few words concerning planning:

*"Have a plan for everything. A plan for practice, a plan for the game. A plan for being ahead, and a plan for being behind 20-0 at the half, with your quarterback hurt and the phones dead, with it raining cats and dogs and no rain gear because the equipment man left it at home."*

~ Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant (1913 - 1983),  
Head Football Coach, University of Alabama (1958 - 1982): led Alabama to six national championships

In that vein, your board of directors and staff spent a good portion of this year reviewing our strategic plan and updating our path forward as required. We have essentially three areas that focus our vision and methodology. One area deals with our finances (fundraising, spending priorities, etc.). The second pertains to maintenance and restoration (helping Jim with the never-ending issues of keeping our lights maintained and functioning). The third area deals with education and community relations (school programs, outreach through community organizations, etc.). We have three committees, each supervised by two board members, which address each of these important areas. I am encouraging anyone who would like to be a part of any of our three committees to contact Peter and tell him of your desire to help SPLKA implement the organization's strategic plan. Please note that it will now be easier to participate from a distance as we have acquired new technology to link your home computer to the office and will be utilizing LinkedIn to conduct many of our future meetings. You can stay home and still participate and contribute valuable ideas to help us execute our plan as we work together to move SPLKA forward into 2019. You can view the newly revised strategic plan on our web site.

As I close this winter update, I wish you and your families  
a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Respectfully,  
*Bob Baltzer*  
President, SPLKA



*"What is the use of living if it not be to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?" ~ Winston Churchill*

# 2018 SPLKA ANNUAL MEETING



The 2018 SPLKA Annual meeting was held outside on the grounds of the White River Light Station on August 18th. It was a picnic affair this year. The meeting



was chaired by SPLKA Board President Bob Baltzer. Bob challenged the members to “Grasp the Vision of SPLKA.” Membership needs to be involved in “Promotion, Support and Restoration.” The SPLKA Board of Directors and staff have identified areas in which SPLKA could spend up to 1.7 million dollars on projects at all four of our lights. A few of these projects include tower repair and repainting of the Big Sable Lighthouse, building the Keepers Quarters at Little Sable, new roof for White River, repainting the tower on the Ludington North Breakwater Light and having a Historic Structures Report completed for Big Sable, the Ludington Breakwater and the White River Light Station.



Board Treasure Ted Robinson reported that our “Credits equaled our Debits.” We are financially strong and are

forging ahead as we finish up a wonderful 2018 season. Executive Director Peter Manting highlighted the fact that SPLKA was given an award for Historic Preservation of four of Michigan’s landmark lighthouses by the Governor of Michigan. He also pointed out upgrades that have taken place at all of our lights and expressed his thanks to the Friends of White River Light Station as they had funded the restoration of the keeper’s workshop on the grounds of the White River. Other accomplishments this past year were a new performing deck and memorial benches at LSP, new furniture and restoration of the suite at BSP, six very successful bus days at BSP, the Night at the Lights concerts at LSP and a visit by U.S. Senator Gary Peters and staff. Senator Peters commented that he was “impressed with SPLKA’s restoration efforts and thanked SPLKA for its dedication to preserving Michigan maritime history.”

Membership voted on some updates to the SPLKA By-Laws that were Board approved. They also voted on a Board approved revision to the BSP Suite policy and they elected three members to fill three open board positions. Elected were Roger Pashby to a second term, Al Coccone and Mark Hallenback to first year terms. President Baltzer thanked both Kim McDaniel and Carl Wiegand for their service on the Board.



Jim Hardie presented longtime volunteer Ken Reeves with the “Shining Light Award” and Dan Hall provided the musical entertainment.

# Notes FROM YOUR DIRECTOR, Peter Manting



by Peter Manting  
SPLKA Executive Director



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

It seems like our lighthouse season should just be starting --not ending already. The summer temperatures here in Ludington are no longer and winter is in the air.

I cannot believe that in September I started my sixth year here as executive director. We sure have made and experienced many changes together. It is the Thursday morning coffees at Big Sable and the Friday afternoons visiting LNBL and Little Sable that I miss the most in the off season. As I continue to get to know so many of you, our dedicated and dependable keepers, each week it is exciting to renew old acquaintances but also welcome the new keepers into our family. In a sense, we are family. That's the way it should be. Many of you have told me about your grandchildren, and now I even get to share with you stories of my grandchildren.

In December of last year, I was contacted by a representative of the State Historic Preservation Organization (SHPO) who wondered if I would put together a document highlighting preservation accomplishments that SPLKA has completed at our four lighthouses. I emailed the document detailing the new roof at Big Sable, the new flat tar roof that was replaced at the breakwater, the painting we had done at most of our lights, the porthole project that we were just starting

at the North Breakwater Light, the refurbished keepers' workshop at White River, and a list of upcoming projects that the SPLKA board will decide on as money becomes available. SHPO was blown away at all that we had accomplished in the last four years. The list didn't even include all the upgrades we have made to the volunteers' quarters or some of our new exhibits. That document was used by SHPO to nominate us for the 2018 Governor's Award which was presented to SPLKA on May 1, 2018, in the rotunda of the state capital building.

Preservation efforts continue at all of our lights. Thanks to our hard-working staff and the foresight of our board, we have completed even more projects this year to add to our list of accomplishments. Jim details the porthole project and the restoration and finishing of the 40 interior and exterior doors at Big Sable in his report. We have had several contributions from community members in the form of grants, and our membership continues to step up and help finance a large portion of our projects. We want to say THANK YOU to all who give to SPLKA on a regular basis. We could not complete these projects without your support.

What a successful season we have had! Rachel reports facts and figures regarding tower tours and gift shop sales in her column, "Rachel's Corner." Gift shop sales continue to grow, and the merchandise at the gift shops continues to get compliments from both our volunteers and our guests.

We had a few changes this year. We tried an outdoor barbecue for our annual meeting. We enjoyed a wonderful day and beautiful grounds at the White River Light Station and the entertainment, Dall Hall, was great. The best thing was seeing our membership reconnect with other members and friendships rekindled.

For the SPLKA year-end newsletter I

had invited published author and just recently returned volunteer keeper, Jacquelyn McShulskis, to write about some of her reflections of being a past and present keeper. I have included an article from 1953 which was an interview done with Mrs. David M. Sauers. Mrs. Sauers was the wife of then lighthouse keeper David M. Sauers. Prior to joining the lighthouse service, Mr. Sauers had been a member of the lifesaving service at the Ludington station just south of Big Sable. The interview shows that maybe life wasn't as romantic as people like to remember. The work was hard and life at the station so far out of town was often difficult.

In keeping with our lighthouse theme, I have included an article and pictures of the Muskegon Lighthouse and the many changes it has seen over the years. My shipwreck story is on the TICA which was the subject of many a Thursday morning coffee session. The newsletter also contains little reminders to help you remember how you can support our organization. Please consider using the enclosed envelope for year-end giving to any of our projects, the general fund or for our capital campaign fund.

Our members and volunteers, both seasoned and new, continue to impress me and the many thousands of guests who visit our lights. Your knowledge and love for our four lighthouses is unparalleled.

You graciously welcome all 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 the hours that you have devoted to building SPLKA and furthering our mission to preserve, protect and promote our historic lights, educate the public, and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

*With Sincere Thanks, ~ Peter Manting*

# Rachel's Corner

FALL/WINTER 2018-19



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.*

.....  
maintenance and doing some painting. Both the opening and closing tours at each of the lights require a lot of behind-the-scenes labor, and we appreciate all of the hard work from all of you who dedicate that time each year.

Our four lighthouses bring a level of diversity to our program. Each tour, each lighthouse, and each group has a unique experience. I get the pleasure of working with all the volunteers and hearing all their stories whether they are ghost stories, stories of getting soaked by waves, stories of visitors they have met, stories of friendships made, and stories of challenges. One of my favorite things is hearing about the volunteer experiences. Regardless of your story, these are memories and that will forever connect you to the lights, the area, and SPLKA.

As I write this, our 2018 season is in its final days. I have just returned from Big Sable to check in with our last group of keepers for this year. The keepers are busy doing inventory and packing up the merchandise, rolling up sidewalks, cleaning, helping with

Some of our resident keepers arrive excited to be here and thinking this will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Afterward they are ready to start planning to come back the following year. Others come knowing this is something they plan to do for as long as they can. There are groups of volunteers who spend the summer with us working a day here and a day there throughout the season and look forward to returning each year. It is incredible each season to watch how everyone comes together and the amount of time and effort that the volunteers put into our lights. We all know it may be a vacation from our everyday life, but it sure isn't a "kick back on the beach and relax" kind of vacation. There's a lot of work to be done.

We appreciate all of our volunteers whether you spend one day with us or one month. Every participant in our volunteer program is contributing to the success of SPLKA. Thank you for another great season!

With that, I also want to share some fun facts and information regarding the season. The following statistics provide some insight into what our volunteers helped us achieve in 2018!

In 2018 on the operations schedule we had:

- 171 resident keeper slots to fill/ filled by 235 keepers
- 19 cancellations-most of them covered
- 45 brand new keepers
- 1 volunteer who served 4 weeks
- 14 volunteers who served 3 weeks
- 38 day keepers at Little Sable
- 15 day keepers for Ludington Breakwater
- 14 day keepers for White River Light Station
- 2 day keepers for Big Sable (due to an emergency)
- 30 volunteers for Big Sable bus events
- 18 volunteers for Night at the Lights
- 1 volunteer who weeded our petunias

*Have a great winter and I hope to see you next season! ~ Rachel*

## 2018 INFORMATION & FUN FACTS ABOUT ATTENDANCE, GIFT SHOP/SALES

	BIG SABLE	LUDINGTON BREAKWATER	LITTLE SABLE POINT	WHITE RIVER LIGHT
# of Climbs	17,688	9,202	24,963	4,973
Climbs +/- 2017	-1,648	-493	-2,479	87
Busiest Day of the Week	1. Saturday	1. Sunday	1. Saturday	1. Saturday
	2. Sunday	2. Saturday	2. Sunday	2. Sunday
	3. Thursday	3. Monday	3. Friday	3. Friday
	4. Friday	4. Friday	4. Monday	4. Monday
	5. Monday	5. Wednesday	5. Thursday	5. Wednesday
	6. Wednesday	6. Thursday	6. Wednesday	6. Thursday
	7. Tuesday	7. Tuesday	7. Tuesday	7. Tuesday
Busiest Time of Day	12 PM & 1 PM	12 PM & 3 PM	12 PM & 2 PM	1 PM & 11 AM
Busiest Day of the Season	July 28th - \$3,276.49	Sept 2 - \$2,853	July 21 - \$2,322	July 21 - \$750
	June 23 - \$3,082.47	July 6 - \$2,300	July 27 - \$2,219	Sept 1 - \$655.50
	May 27 - \$2,846	May 27 - \$1,955	July 6 - \$2,171	August 10 - \$645
	July 6 - \$2,839.50	May 26 - \$1,933.75	July 29 - \$2,026	July 27 - \$538
	Sept 22 - \$2,679.75	July 22 - \$1,874	July 13 - \$1,962	July 17 - \$524.50
Total Discounts Given	\$4,129.18	\$2,027.15	\$1,936.69	\$467.52
Gift Shop Sales +/- 2017	(\$6,560.22)	\$10,762.46	\$3,575.84	\$2,462.60
Tour Sales +/- 2017	(\$9,319.99)	(\$2,923)	(\$6,285.37)	\$4,120.90
School Groups	587 youth/148 adults	116 youth/ 26 adults	450 youth/126 adults	10 youth/2 adults

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR ALL 4 LIGHTS THROUGH OCTOBER 2018: 56,826**

# Lighthouse Maintenance News

FALL/WINTER 2018



**by Jim Hardie**  
Restoration and  
Maintenance Supervisor



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

Fall is here, and, as they say, winter is coming. . . All of our lights are closed and the hatches are buttoned down for the winter ahead. The Pines Campground at Ludington State Park is closed, and each time I make the drive out to Big Sable I encounter deer and see the eagles flying overhead. Every season is special at each of our lights, but the peace and tranquility that arrive after the crowds leave can be some of my favorite times. One day it is so quiet you can hear a squirrel running across the leaves. The next day the wind picks up, the waves build, and it sounds like a hurricane is going through and you can barely stand in one place when you are outside. It is so special to have the privilege to help preserve these mighty iconic structures.

So, you are probably wondering, what got done since the spring newsletter? Well, let me tell you! Lots of changes and improvements have taken place with the help of our dedicated volunteers. Work on the refinishing of the doors at Big Sable has continued. It is a very slow process but well worth the effort. They really look nice.

The porthole project at the Breakwater has been nearly finished. All of the refurbished portholes have been installed and the clarity of the new glass is amazing. A few parts need to be fabricated over the winter to check this project off as complete, but the portholes are polished, powder coated and installed. It was amazing how much the open windows helped to cool the inside of the tower during the summer. In the past, it was like a sauna in there. This year it was downright comfortable. The Breakwater also got an upgrade to the solar system to improve the lighting out at the tower. It appears to be working better than the original system. We plan to fabricate new steps that will be left out the entire summer season to improve accessibility into the lighthouse. These new steps will eliminate the hassle of bringing them in each night and putting them out each morning.



Little Sable had a new music deck installed along the fence at the tower. Of course, the day chosen to be the work day was 95 degrees, humid, no clouds and no wind. A big "Thank You" to Pat Perry, Dave Dietrich, Mike Mulac, Ken Reeves and to Jody Johnston of Silver Lake State Park who had his crew help with the moving out of a lot of sand and then moving it back in. By the end of the day we were all ten to twenty pounds lighter, sunburned, and sore but we got the entire deck installed in that one long, hot day. The deck has been received very well, especially on Wednesday nights when our music groups actually have someplace to stand. The memorial benches and Trex board sales have also gone over quite well at Little Sable.

At White River Light Station, extensive improvements were made to the grounds last summer. We started with a ramp leading to the refurbished workshop to improve accessibility. A deck was installed under the magnolia tree that is between the workshop and the main museum. A small bistro table set was put there, and it is a great spot to sit, listen to the birds and the waves





and enjoy the gardens. A sidewalk was installed from the oil house to the new workshop to facilitate the flow of people to the new space. After all this construction, a lot of landscaping needed to be done. We rented a tractor to clean up the grounds and put down some dirt where it had been disturbed. Then on another hot day a few more volunteers and a couple of scouts from the local troop arrived to lay about 4000 square feet of sod. Instant green. Matt was tireless in his efforts to keep the sod watered, and his efforts paid off. The grass looks great. Another big helper at White River was Debbie Hardie. She

helped to refurbish the gardens and identify deer-resistant plantings for the grounds. The only problem has been the deer and the bunnies evidently can't read as they have eaten some plants that they are not supposed to like. Ah, the life of a gardener. Through trial and error there appears to be a good balance of perennials in place that the wildlife approves of and we have learned to coexist. We constantly get compliments on the grounds so a big "Thank You" to Deb for her help. Thanks are also extended to Mike Mulac, Ken Reeves, Ted Robinson and Matt Varnum for their help on the grounds this season.

I had the honor of introducing this year's Shining Light Award winner at our annual dinner in August. Ken Reeves is definitely one of my go-to guys and always shows up when I need him. He certainly is a deserving recipient of this year's award.

The off season will be filled with more tasks from another long to-do list which includes more plaster repair and painting at Big Sable, some new furnishings at Little Sable, and improved displays at all of the lights. There may be some surprises in store at a couple of the residences in the spring if all goes according to plan. We'll just have to wait until that newsletter comes out to know for sure.

If you want to volunteer for some of the projects we are planning for 2019, just let us know. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available for helping to maintain all of our structures. Just call the office or send an email to [splkarestoration@gmail.com](mailto:splkarestoration@gmail.com). Please let us know when you are available and what your skills are. There is work available for all skill levels. We welcome opportunities to work with scouts, 4-H or other community organizations as



well. Come for a day or stay for a week. There is always plenty to do.

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 1/2 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.

# Keeper's Notes



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.*

The 2018 season has come to a close, and what a great season it was. The workshop which was restored in 2017 opened to the public with good reviews. The new workshop saw the larger artifacts that were in storage over the last number of years go on display, along with a very well-done video by

## CURATOR REPORT FOR THE 2018 SEASON

former curator Karen McDonnell. In 2019 additional improvements will be made to the workshop to further enhance the experience of a visit the White River Light Station & Museum.

Many events took place during the 2018 season on the grounds of the White River Light including concerts, yoga, and a fund-raising event which featured beer from local brewery Fetch Brewing Company and wine from Silver Lake's Fox Barn Winery. If you were at the event you saw myself along with my parents pouring the beer and wine. You also may have met our very own board president Bob Baltzer and his wife Becky helping to check ID's and keeping the museum open for visitors. The band *Catfish and the Man* provided entertainment and added to the fun. With the help and support from all of the SPLKA staff, the fund-raising event was a great success.

Again this year, thanks to the hard work of Jim Hardie and his wife Debbie, along with our energetic volunteers,

the grounds of the White River Light Station & Museum received many compliments from visitors. The gift shop also received high praise again this year thanks to the hard work of Rachel and our interns Becca and Misty. Moving the cash register into the entryway allowed more items to be displayed in the gift shop and permitted myself or a volunteer to welcome visitors as soon as they entered the museum.

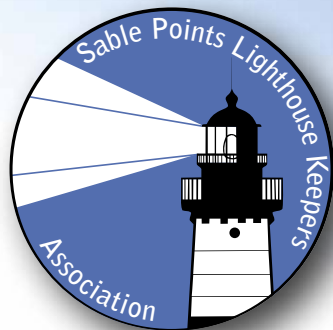
We have many dedicated volunteers here at the White River Light Station & Museum. Their help is greatly appreciated, and I want to thank all of them for their help during the 2018 season. I hope to see many of you here next season either as volunteers or just stopping by to say "hi" and check out the museum and workshop. Until then, enjoy the remaining days of 2018, and we will see you in 2019.

*Respectfully Submitted By  
Matt Varnum, Curator,*

*White River Light Station & Museum*

Just in time for the season SPLKA is announcing the "All Access Pass". These passes provide the user with a discounted rate to climb all four towers. You may purchase these by contacting the SPLKA office by phone at **231-845-7417**, email at **splkaofficemanager@gmail.com** or at any of our four SPLKA lights. The price for these passes is \$5.00 for children and \$15.00 for adults. The passes provide a savings of \$3.00 for children and \$5.00 for adults over buying individual tower climbs. Passes will be good for the 2019 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 2019**



2018

# Shining lights



AWARD  
WINNER

**KEN REEVES**

*The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers awarded Mishawaka, IN resident Ken Reeves its Shining Light Award at its 2018 Annual Dinner on August 18, 2018. Executive Director Peter Manting noted that the Shining Light Award is given by the SPLKA Board of Directors to a volunteer who has made outstanding contributions to the organization whose motto is to preserve and promote our lighthouses, educate the public, and to make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

Over 20 years ago, Ken started coming up from Indiana with his late wife Judy and fell in love with our lighthouses. Even after the untimely loss of his wife, Ken continued to volunteer. Ken has a passion for preserving our lighthouses and a talent for making sure things get done right.



Jim Hardie, SPLKA's supervisor of restoration and maintenance, says "I have several go-to people whom I have learned can be counted on to help whenever the call is out. Ken has worked on major projects at all four of our light--this year alone. Every time I have asked, he has found a way to come and help. Sometimes it seems to be more than I can handle. Sometimes I tell Ken that I need a day off. He tells me to get over it and let's get it done. If it weren't for volunteers like Ken and many others in our organization, we would never have been able to make all the improvements that we have made."

Ken not only helps Jim with the maintenance responsibilities, but he brings a passion to the operations side as well. He loves meeting the public

and talking to the younger visitors. Ken continues to serve on an early season two-week tour at Big Sable, making sure that Big Sable is ready to welcome a new season of visitors. He fills in when there are volunteer keeper cancellations and has bailed the SPLKA staff out of more than one tight spot.

Ken recognizes the need for youth to be involved. On several occasions he has worked with his grandson's scout pack when they have come up to help out at Big Sable. Ken is always promoting ways in which SPLKA can get the next generation of lighthouse lovers involved. Ken is just one of our many exceptional volunteers who come in each summer and stay to tend the lights for a week or two and help SPLKA achieve its mission.

## SUPPORT SPLKA USING THE AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you'll find the exact low prices, vast selection and the same convenient shopping experience as *Amazon.com* with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to SPLKA. Already have an Amazon account? Use the same account on *Amazon.com* and [AmazonSmile.com](https://smile.amazon.com), your shopping cart, wish list wedding or baby registry and other account settings are also the same. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Sign up today at AmazonSmile and specify your charitable giving be given to Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. We thank you for this!



# GUARDIANS OF THE TIMELESS

In Big Sable's original kitchen, lighthouse families of the 1800s and early 1900s undoubtedly reckoned with their troubles over pots of tea where the gift shop is now. At Little Sable Point Lighthouse keepers climbed the tower during storms and their hearts must have quickened with urgency, determination and fear all at once, ready to face challenges almost impossible to imagine. And far out on Lake Michigan, travelers and ships' crews passed the White River Light Station, the Ludington North Breakwater Light, Little Sable and Big Sable as they journeyed through their lives, and the far-off beacons became part of fleeting landscapes in their memories. The past feels just beyond our grasp when we visit these special, preserved places.

The more I explore lighthouse keepers' journals and other books that offer details of their lives, the more deeply I'm humbled by their hardships and efforts. As it is for most people who seek historic sites, one of my main activities at SPLKA's lights is the act of imagining. Allowing the beautifully restored lighthouse parks to conjure glimpses of the realities that lit these very buildings, sands and water. Feeling the existences of those who worked in this place more vigorously than I ever will ... but who don't exist any longer.

I did five Tours at Big Sable Lighthouse from 2008-2012, and I count those ten weeks as some of the best in my life. It's a priceless experience to stay day and night at such a beautiful, undeveloped spot on Lake Michigan, in a house that feels like some home you didn't know you had. To find yourself in conversation with hundreds of visitors, and to share meals, talk and work with the rest of your crew. Not to mention sleeping near an open window not far from the water's edge, walking the shore with a camera any time you please, reading with the sound of the surf as background, and on and on.

During one of the early days of my first tour in 2008 I met Bob Sperling, the Director of

Restoration and Maintenance back then and a kind of roving lighthouse historian. I was at the cash register in the gift shop when a gold van pulled up beside the windows. I saw this stranger's arm lift out a white wooden thing he'd built (to house the trashcans at the gift shop entryway, a structure that's still there), and then he strode in to chat with us, the latest group of volunteers. He was thin and youthful, about six feet tall, and he always wore a ball cap or mariner-style hat.



I liked him right away. A few days later as I climbed up the tower to sit high on the cold lantern room metal and watch the beautiful world below while awaiting visitors willing to climb to the top, I saw this restoration guy Bob walk to the edge of the lake, take off his hat and stare across the water for a few minutes.

After a long, challenging marriage, I was not looking to get involved with a man, but I'd heard he wasn't married and I wondered why not. I ended up alone with him one evening as the rest of the keepers went into town for dinner and he and I remained painting outside. Fifteen or twenty feet apart, we talked about books. I described a novel I was working on, and he seemed interested as he continued to work with focus, then at some point he disappeared.

I came to learn that that was his style.

Connect a little bit with friendliness, then vanish. But for a thousand reasons I fell in love with him anyway; or if I'm honest, maybe partly because of his perplexing qualities. When he died in 2016 after a year living with inoperable cancer, we had been together for 7 years, a rich give and take of two fairly different human beings. I venture to say we were both pretty good teachers to each other in certain ways, especially during that last year when he showed more desire to live and more courage than I have ever witnessed, and I loved him hour-to-hour with a dedication he didn't think possible.

A few months after Bob's death, Ceil Heller kindly invited me to join her all-women group of lighthouse-keeping friends for a 2017 May tour. I balked: She had been much closer to Bob than to me and thoughtfully kept in touch through and after his last year of life, always expressing concern for both of us. Ceil was aware of both my attachment to him and my grief, and she was reaching out because she thought it could be healing for me to be there. But at that time I couldn't imagine returning even for a souvenir, much less to stay on-site for two weeks. To walk around the lighthouse grounds I'd come to associate so intimately with Bob, to be surrounded by choices he'd been part of making and executing in the restoration of Big Sable, to stare down at that lighthouse road from the top of the tower and know that he would never roll in along the sand in his gold van again... In 2017 I turned away from that idea.

But a year later that kind woman invited me again for the May 2018 tour. I was that much further along in time from the last moment I'd spoken to Bob, listened to his voice and his thoughts, touched his hands or heard his laughter, his breath, his heartbeat. And because I missed him no less, the sense of connection to him through the few belongings of his that I possess was increasingly inadequate.

The lighthouses, on the other hand – well, he had touched every inch of them, learned

their stories and stood in all of their rooms in all seasons. In fact, he influenced a good deal of what I admire about their restoration. Suddenly I yearned to be near all of that, so I signed up for May and anticipated those two weeks with increasing joy and hope.

As the dates grew closer, it became obvious that in addition to returning for the lighthouse itself, the camaraderie with the people, and the wild beauty of Ludington State Park, I had another intention: something in me hoped to catch an actual glimpse of Bob Sperling. He had been wholly alive there over the course of almost two decades and I had seen him so many, many times, painting in white tyvek suits, repairing things at the work table in the basement, watching the sky at night – wasn't it possible that there was something left of him that the atmosphere might have retained? Shouldn't it be possible that a twist in Time might occur, even just for a second, and let me see a flash of him at the top of the tower or walking into the gift shop again?



are and always will be threshold spaces between land and water, light and darkness, safety and danger, life and death, inviting a direct connection to the unknown.

The women I stayed with at BSP in May of 2018 were passionate, artistic photographers. I watched them head out to the big lake sky for almost every sunset, and often heard about their pre-dawn light quests over coffee before we started work. From Big Sable's kitchen one dusk I watched them scatter around the dimming beach with glass orbs through which they sought altered images of the water, dune-scapes, sky and lighthouse. There was a persistence to this quest that dragged them outside at the sighting of a bald eagle or other unexpected gift, whether they were tired or tired of their cameras, or not. I marveled. It felt like they were hunters after some abundant but tricky prey.



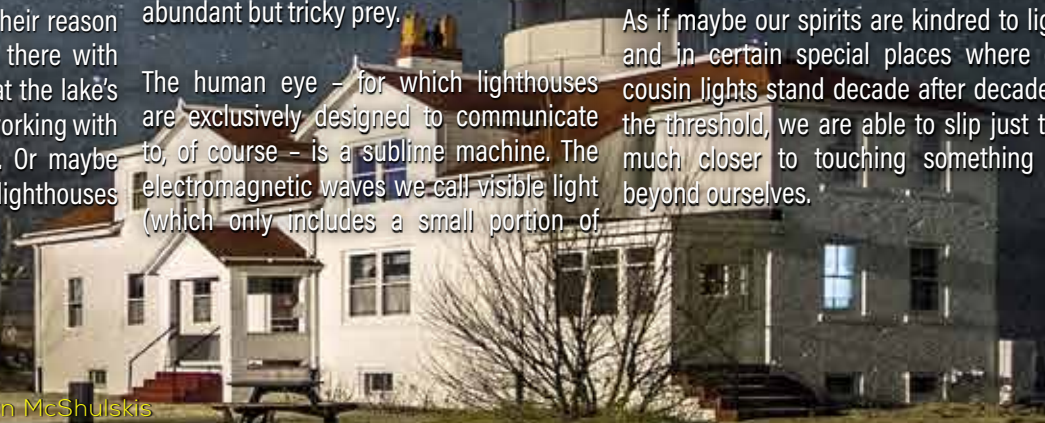
I believe that I am one of hundreds of volunteers and visitors who return to Big Sable and the other lighthouses in part because their hearts yearn for someone who has left this world. Maybe their reason was that they regularly visited there with that person, splashed together at the lake's edge as children, or spent time working with them in that memorable world. Or maybe because for human beings lighthouses

The human eye – for which lighthouses are exclusively designed to communicate to, of course – is a sublime machine. The electromagnetic waves we call visible light (which only includes a small portion of

the spectrum, excluding radio, ultraviolet, and microwaves, etc.), pass through the membrane of the eye that is the cornea, enter the pupil and land on the retina where they stimulate chemical reactions that basically translate light waves into the information our brain needs in order to understand light as images. As we inhabit Earth we use and enjoy the ceaseless flow of information our eyes perceive and our brains interpret, without consciously making any of it happen. To some extent we are pulled through life by this process.

We'll return to cherished landmarks like SPLKA's four lighthouses partly because so much about life remains unknown and unknowable, and we are by nature drawn to this point where steadiness and mystery dwell in such harmony. We feel the past even as we can't see it, can never return to it. And we trust something of our future to these lighthouses as well, for when historical sites and parks are preserved, we are allowed to revisit the places we walked in times past and they are mostly the same. In our attempts to reconnect and possess we take pictures, and gather t-shirts, mugs, blades of grass, jars of sand ... knowing that we can return and there will be a continuity of images and forces we have touched, loved.

Some of us who visit Big Sable will never stop listening for the sound of a familiar voice outside the window on a night in the present that is much like nights not so long ago, when that living soul was actually there, perhaps sitting on a bench among the cottonwoods. As if time is more fluid at a lighthouse and there is something almost within our reach there that isn't elsewhere. As if maybe our spirits are kindred to light, and in certain special places where our cousin lights stand decade after decade at the threshold, we are able to slip just that much closer to touching something far beyond ourselves.



Article written by Jacquelyn McShulskis  
Photo's of Lighthouse with orb by: Jan Wellemeyer  
Night photo of Big Sable by: David Zapatka



**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 Lighthouse.**

# Leave a Print in the Sand

The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers, stewards of the Lighthouse at Little Sable, announces the expansion of their "Leave a Print in the Sand" fundraising initiative. Started in July 2014 this ongoing effort by SPLKA has added \$22,000 to the SPLKA Capital Campaign fund which is designated for the ongoing repairs at the four iconic Lake Michigan lighthouses in which SPLKA maintains. SPLKA's mission is to "preserve, promote, educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible."

Help SPLKA preserve our lighthouses by purchasing a personalized Trex® board. These boards are becoming the new walkway around Big Sable, a new walkway through the sand at Little Sable and part of the Wheel Chair ramp at the White River Light Station. The cost of the engraved boards is \$100.00 each. Each board can be engraved with up to 25 characters on a line, including commas and spaces with a two-line maximum.

Memorialize your fond memories of being keepers or visitors at the Big Sable Light or the Little Sable Light and remembering fondly of climbing up each tower's 130 stairs to one of the most spectacular views in the area. What better way to remember your time spent there than to donate a board or two. These make great birthday and Father's Day gifts. They also are a great way to remember a loved one or just recognize that special person in your life. Please share this with those in your circle of friends who love lighthouses so that they can take advantage of this as well. Brochures are available for downloading and printing on our web site at ([www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org)) or by calling the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Please help SPLKA continue to meet its mission to preserve our magnificent lighthouses for generations to come.

# WOULD NOT TRADE TODAY FOR 'GOOD OLD DAYS'

BY LEONORE P. WILLIAMS

PICTURES COURTESY OF THE LIGHTHOUSE DIGEST.  
AS PRINTED IN THE LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1953



One person who would not trade today's conveniences for "those good old days" is Mrs. David M Sauers, wife of the keeper at the Big Point Sable lighthouse.

And Mrs. Sauers has vivid recollection of life at the Point back in the good old days of 1914 before World War I and on through the four succeeding years when her husband was a member of the crew at the Point Sable Life Saving station.

The station, now discontinued and torn down, was located about a mile south of the lighthouse. Keeper and crew and their families came to the station when navigation opened up in the early spring and there they stayed until late fall except for occasional trips back to town.

Why the trips to Ludington were only occasional can be best understood after hearing Mrs. Sauers' description of the effort involved.

"Our two girls were little more than babies at that time," she explained, "and we planned to make the trip

to Ludington once a month on my husband's day off."

After many preparations the night before, the Sauers family would get up early on their "going to town" day. First leg of the journey was a walk of two miles up and down over sand dunes to the dam at Hamlin lake where, by pre-arrangement, they were met by a boat from

the Barnhart Boat Livery. On this two-mile walk, Mr. Sauers carried their oldest daughter and the family suitcase while his wife trudged along beside him carrying the younger girl.

The boat carried the little family across the upper lake and down to lower Hamlin where it connected with the dummy passenger train operated by the Ludington & Northern Railroad as an accommodation for restorers at Epworth and Hamlin. In open coaches behind the puffing little dummy engine, belching forth clouds of soot and black smoke which the wind had a particular way of carrying back to deposit on the passengers, the Sauers family rode the final lap of their trip to town. It was usually noon or later when the strenuous journey was completed.

Shopping and other errands for themselves and their neighbors at The Point would be rushed through. The family stayed that night with relatives

in town but at 4a.m. the Life Saver father was up and away. He walked the Lake Michigan beach nine miles from Ludington to his station where he reported for duty at 8a.m. Later in the day Mrs. Sauers and the children returned via dummy and boat to the Hamlin dam. There Mr. Sauers met them when his day's watch was over. The tired parents plodded the two miles home through the loose sand, each carrying a daughter plus purchases from town.

"Later we did have it easier though," laughed Mrs. Sauers. "As soon as we could afford it we bought an old horse for our trips to Ludington. We would load our family into the buggy and drive the beach to town, coming up onto the street across the present golf course near Epworth. Of course Mr. Sauers and I got out and walked up all the hills to help the horse but the girls did ride."

A few years ago Mr. and Mrs. Sauers came back to the Point. They now live in the dwelling at the lighthouse where Mr. Sauers is keeper. A wide ribbon of white cement highway leads north from the city to Ludington State park and through the park a passable gravel road winds to the lighthouse.

It's just a 15- minute ride today in their automobile to the business district of Ludington. But, after all, there is no glamour attached to spinning into town for a forgotten quart of milk or loaf of bread. No friends to chat with as on the Barnhart boat or chance to make new acquaintances among restorers on the dummy. Mr. and Mrs. Sauers have pleasant memories of those good old days, even though they would not now trade today's comforts if they could.

# THE MUSKEGON HARBOR AND ITS LIGHTHOUSES



by Peter Manting  
SPLKA Executive Director

Upon arrival at Muskegon's Lake Michigan south beach to view the Muskegon lights, one might wonder, like me, why the many different pier heads are there and wonder why the lights are located where they are. Like many of the lighthouses that line the shores of Lake Michigan, the Muskegon lights have gone through many transformations since their conception. It is my desire that by the time you finish this article that you will have a better understanding of the transformation and rich history of the Muskegon Harbor and the Muskegon lighthouses.

In 1830 Congress approved the building of a lighthouse at the mouth of the Muskegon River and Lake Michigan. But it was not until 1849 that Congress appropriated funds in the amount of \$3,500 to build a light there. Completed in 1851, the lighthouse was a one-and-a-half story, rubble stone dwelling with a short tower on top of it. The top of the tower stood 26 feet above the ground. Six lamps with 14-inch reflectors were originally used in the lantern room. In 1856 the reflectors were replaced by a sixth-order Fresnel lens.

In 1867 local lumber barons made Congress aware that the Muskegon Lighthouse needed to be rebuilt. The original lighthouse was "old" and "no longer worth repairing." Congress then allocated \$8,000 to build a new lighthouse. It was built in the style of the lighthouse located on Old Mission Point. Completed in 1871, this new lighthouse

was a one and one-half story wooden schoolhouse-style building with a short square tower extending up from the roof at the front. The lighthouse was equipped with a fourth-order Fresnel lens.

In 1868, supported by local business interests, the Muskegon Harbor saw some improvements. One of these improvements was a wooden pierhead tower built on the outer edge of the south pier. This tower housed the original sixth-order lens that was taken out of the first lighthouse structure. The next improvements occurred in 1899 when a fog signal building with a lantern room placed on top of it was added at the end of the south pier. The construction was completed when a catwalk was installed to connect the lights to the shore.



## CONT. THE MUSKEGON HARBOR AND ITS LIGHTHOUSES



second assistant and third assistant were created when the fog signal added to the work of the Muskegon light station. Muskegon even had a fourth assistant from 1901 through 1906. The position of third assistant was eliminated in 1909, and three keepers would be responsible for running the station from then until the 1940's.

The present circular metal tower was erected near the inner end of the south pier in 1903. The fourth-order lens that was in the land-based lighthouse was removed and placed in the new tower. On September 27, 1903, the sixth-order light in the wooden tower was turned off and replaced by this new light. Shortly thereafter, the wooden tower was removed from the pier and the tower on the land-based lighthouse was removed. The building itself was then moved to a new foundation next to the keeper's house and became housing for the assistant keepers. In 1907 all the structures supporting the pierhead range lights were painted red.

In March of 1925 a new harbor entrance project was announced. It proposed adapting the harbor entrance to create an arrowhead-shaped entry consisting of converging breakwaters. The plans also called for removing the existing parallel piers. In 1930 a 70-foot steel tower, housing an

In 1895 the light station was assigned an assistant keeper as it now had three lights to maintain. In 1898 and 1899, the positions of

air oscillator fog signal, was installed at the outer end of the new south breakwater. Electricity for this new light, which was operated by remote control, came from a new powerhouse built on shore.

About 1000 feet of the outer ends of the existing parallel piers were removed and the circular red tower was placed at the end of the shortened south pier. The light on the south breakwater and the pierhead light on the south pier formed a range to help mariners approach the Muskegon harbor. The final addition to the harbor was the installation of a flashing acetylene light atop a skeletal tower on the north breakwater in 1932.

At unknown dates the Fresnel lens in both the Breakwater light and the south pierhead light were replaced with modern plastic optics that now display the warning lights to modern-day sailors. Having survived several harbor renovation projects, the 1903 light still remains active today. The catwalks, like the fog horn and long parallel piers extending out into Lake Michigan, are long gone.



# TICA Operator Pleads Guilty to Charge of Littering . . .



. . . So read the headline in the Ludington Daily News on June 27, 2018, just a year, two months and 12 days after the 76-foot yacht was run aground and abandoned just north of the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. In our 2017 summer newsletter, we reported on the information as we had it. The luxury cruiser had been brought up from Florida and was listed for sale out of Grand Haven for \$230,000.00. It was rumored to have once been owned by Lucille Ball. The boat listing claimed that many famous passengers, including Barbra Streisand, had sailed aboard the vessel.



The owner of the TICA, Randall West, was also the operator of the vessel and the one who chose to run it aground and abandon it just north of the lighthouse. Mr. West was charged with reckless operation of a vessel. That charge was dismissed in exchange for a guilty plea of littering.

West was assessed fines and costs of \$150, and he will have to pay the State of Michigan restitution in the amount of \$116,862.21 for clean-up and remediation. The press release from the Mason County prosecutor said that "West also will have to perform 100 hours of community service over the course of eight months."

West claimed he was on his way north to Traverse City when he noticed the boat taking on water and opted to run the ship aground offshore of Ludington State Park. He also claimed he had recently purchased the yacht.



An investigation conducted by the Environmental Investigation Section of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources led by Detective Holly Pennonni concluded that Mr. West had purchased the TICA in 2016 and that he made repairs to the unseaworthy vessel on his own, intending to sell it for a considerable profit.

The official statement from the prosecutor's office reported that "the Coast Guard had inspected the TICA in 2015 and determined that the vessel was at risk for discharging diesel fuel and oil into the waters." Nonetheless, Mr. West made some repairs and set forth on April 15, 2017.

The official summary from the Mason County Prosecutor's office stated

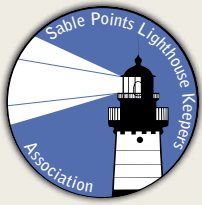


that "the unique factual situation presented here did not fit easily into any of the state laws governing operation of watercraft and / or pollution. In the end, the disposition as a littering case was the most appropriate resolution, coupled with the restitution judgement. While anger is a reasonable emotional response to the desecration of our Great Lakes, state law did not provide an opportunity for a more significant sanction against Mr. West."



# Volunteer

## SPOTLIGHT



*Volunteers are the life blood of the SPLKA organization. We recognize all of our volunteers and say **THANK YOU** for all that you do!!*

When David Dietrich climbs the winding 130-step cast iron filigree staircase to the top of the Little Sable Lighthouse wearing his visor lighthouse keeper's cap and navy blue blazer with the shiny brass buttons, he is walking in the footsteps of his ancestors. Standing at the rail with his binoculars, searching for freighters plying the waters and the wind whips up waves on Lake Michigan, he can imagine his great-great grandfather, great grandfather, two great-great uncles and one great uncle—all Great Lakes Lighthouse keepers-



**Dave and Mary Jo**  
Volunteers

keeping watch.

Dave, and his first wife May, learned of opportunities to be volunteer lighthouse keepers at Big Sable through an article which they read in the Lighthouse Digest Magazine back in 2002. For Dave, a retired CAD designer from suburban Western-Springs, IL this rare opportunity to explore his heritage was an energizing experience. "The first day I was at the top of Big Sable in 2002 I was bonding with the tower. It was a good day." Dave admits that he has studied the history of both Big Sable and Little Sable and has committed the histories to memory. In his years of volunteering

Dave has become a polished guide to his own surprise and delight. "I had never done anything like that. Talking in front of 6,7 and 8 year-olds I am able to stand there and hold their attention telling them about lighthouse keepers and life at the lighthouse."

Dave admits to coming to an interest in lighthouses and his own family history late in life. His grandmother, Elise Davenport Dietrich, raised in lighthouses in Wisconsin and Illinois, died in 1956, when Dave was 15. "She didn't talk about living in a lighthouse. It wasn't romanticized like it is now. It was just another occupation."

He wishes he had now drawn her out on the subject, but he had no interest at the time, although he grew up near Lake Michigan, in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, not far from the Calumet Pierhead Light in South Chicago (demolished in 1996) where his grandmother lived as a child.

May Dietrich played a role in reviving her husband's interest in his heritage. After retiring as a special education teacher in 1987, she immersed herself in genealogy, compiling her own family history and David's as well. David's great-great grandfather, Ambrose Davenport Jr., of Mackinac Island, a sometime lighthouse keeper, had three sons and a grandson who made their careers as lighthouse keepers and a daughter who married a lighthouse keeper. Dave learned that James Davenport, the first lighthouse keeper assigned to the Little Sable Lighthouse from 1873 to 1879, was his great-great uncle.

May sparked his interest in the uniforms worn by lighthouse keepers when she bought him a keepers-cap. That inspired him to decorate an old blazer with brass buttons, lapel insignia and efficiency pin awarded to keepers who excelled during the semi-annual inspections.

In 2002 David, dressed in his keeper uniform along with fake beard, showed up for his first tour at Big Sable. Ever since that first experience Dave has been very active and supportive of SPLKA and its efforts to preserve history.

May passed away in 2009 yet David continued to be active with SPLKA. His love for the lighthouses and the echoes of his ancestors continue to call to him. Dave proposed to his second wife Mary Jo on top of the Little Sable Lighthouse. Their wedding cake was in the shape of the Little Sable Tower. According to Mary Jo "it kind of had to be propped up as it started leaning during the reception."

David has been active as a volunteer keeper, a day keeper, SPLKA Board member and is treasure of the local group called "Seekers of the Little Sable Lighthouse."

David and Mary Jo were the featured speakers for SPLKA's 2016 Annual Dinner. David has put together a wonderful program telling the history and stories of the Davenport family and the many lighthouses in which they served, all located, on Lake Michigan.

During the 2017 Lighthouse Festival bus day, David, dressed in his keeper uniform, entertained those waiting in line, for the bus ride out to Big Sable. His lighthouse stories and facts made the up to 70-minute wait bearable for our summer guests.

This past summer David, helped Jim and other volunteers build the new visitors/ performance deck at Little Sable.

On days that the Dietrich's are on duty at Little Sable, visitors will meet Mary Jo, dressed in period women's clothing, at the base of the tower and then meet David, in his uniform and real beard, at the top of the tower.

David promotes SPLKA's volunteer keeper program to whomever he meets. He lets it be known that "the volunteer keepers today don't do the work like they used to. Hauling fuel up the stairs, tending the wick, cleaning the soot from the lens and adjusting the airflow to keep the light burning. But as a volunteer you get a feel for what it was like to walk the tower, to hear the wind out there. At night, at Big Sable, it is creaky, and when you hear the wind blow through the windows, it can conjure up the ghost stories you have heard. It is a wonderful experience."

## Year End Thanksgiving:

At this time of the year we like to look back and send our thanks to all of our 2018 donors who participated in helping fund our maintenance projects, educational opportunities, our general fund and our Capital Campaign Fund.

Grants were received this year to help fund our LNBL porthole project from the Mason County Community Foundation, Oxy Chemical, The Love Ludington Fund, Change Parts Inc. Fund, the Turczynski Family Charitable Fund, and the Historic Bed and Breakfast Association. Twenty-seven other individuals and local business also provided funds for this wonderful project.

The Great Lakes Energy People's Fund, the Mason County Community Foundation have also granted funds for the refurbishing and restoration of the forty interior and exterior doors at Big Sable.

The White Lake Community Fund, the Seekers of Little Sable and the Friends of White River granted funds



that helped provide funding for the printing of the 2018 SPLKA activity books.

The Mason County Community Foundation also participated by granting funds for our Summer Music at the Lights programming and new metal photographs and educational displays at the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse.

Funding from the Friends of White River are helping fund new a keepers'

log video, a Coast Guard Breeches Buoy video, an updated White River Light Station video and they finance a handicapped accessible sidewalk to the White River Light Station Oil House. The SPLKA Board of Directors has identified the tower repair and tower painting at Big Sable to be our focus for our fundraising efforts for the coming year. All gifts towards this will be deposited in the "SPLKA Capital Campaign Fund" until such a time as we have the estimated \$150,000.00 which will be need to complete this project. Our present fund balance is at \$57,000.00.

The SPLKA Board and Staff want to thank all of you who have given generously this past year. Without your support we would not have accomplished all of the many wonderful projects in 2018. In this coming year, we are counting on Your continued support of SPLKA and its ongoing and future projects.

THANK YOU!  
*Happy New Year!!*

## Winter Projects at the Lights:

We have an extremely busy and ambitious winter planned as we are getting all of our lighthouses ready for the upcoming 2019 season. Maintenance issues such as new paint in the Big Sable gift shop have already



begun at Big Sable. Plaster repair for the two small upstairs bedrooms and some new paint and freshening up of the upstairs kitchen is also on the schedule. At Big Sable, thanks

to another generous donation, we will be adding 30 new Lake Michigan Harbor Lights models to our present lighthouse model display. We will also be updating some of our photographic displays throughout the light. Restoration and refinishing of the forty

interior and exterior doors at Big Sable is to be completed by our May opening as well.

The Little Sable residence will be updated with some new bed room and living room furniture. Thanks to a grant from the Oceania Youth Foundation we will be adding some new metal photographs at Little Sable to help us visually tell a few of the stories that have occurred at Little Sable.

At the Breakwater light we are working on some new displays for the second and fourth floors and finishing the porthole project. At the Breakwater residence new mattresses on all of the beds will greet our resident keepers this spring.

White River will open the 2019 season with some new video exhibits. One new video, from the Coast Guard, will explain and show how the Life Saving Service used the Breeches' Buoy to rescue sailors from shipping

disasters. Another video being produced will show the lighthouse keeper entering log entries in his daily journal. Updating a few of the displays in the oil house and the new keeper's workshop are also on the schedule for 2019 for the light station.



Our last two big video projects of the winter will be to update both the visitors video at the White River Light Station and at Big Sable Light.

As an organization we continue to strive to give our volunteers the information to tell the history of each light and our visitors/guests a memorable experience.

# Renew Your 2019 SPLKA Membership Today!

Your support of the Sable Point 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 2019 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.

2019 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.

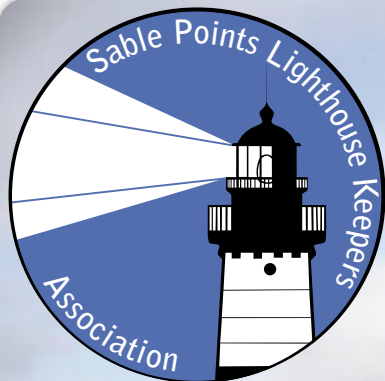
Your partnership is sincerely appreciated, and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2019 membership please consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause to restoring, promoting and educating the public and making our castles along the lakeshore accessible to all.

## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019

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.*



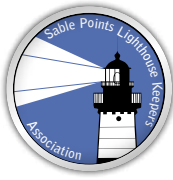
## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association Is on Facebook!

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



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

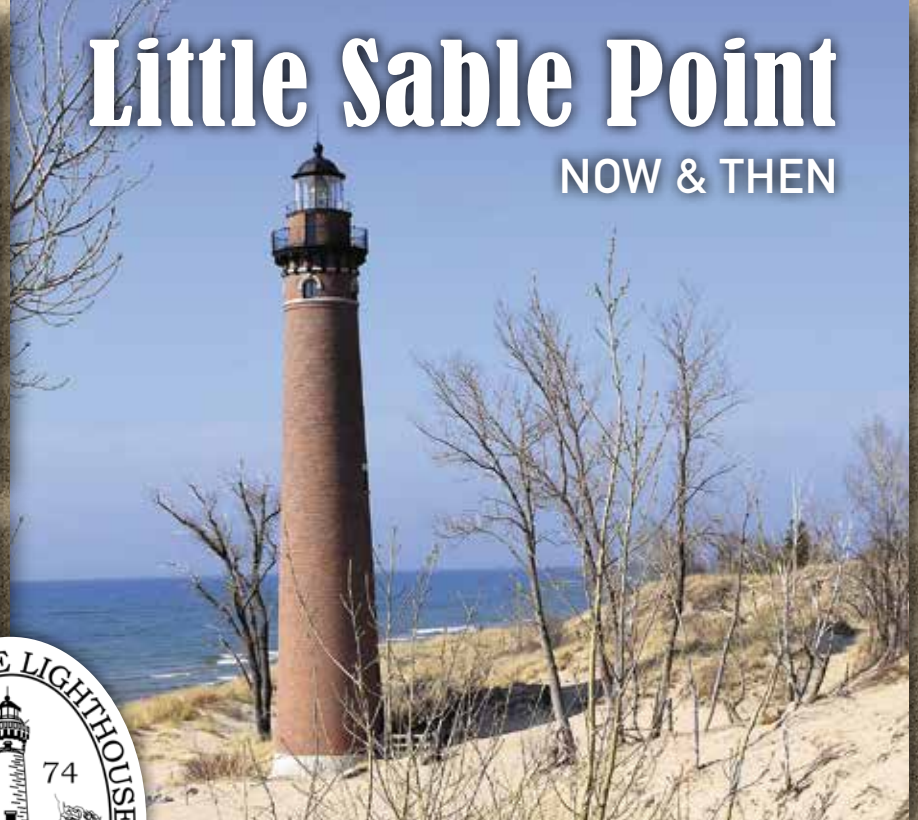
<https://www.facebook.com/SPLKA.org/>



## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

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# Little Sable Point

NOW & THEN

