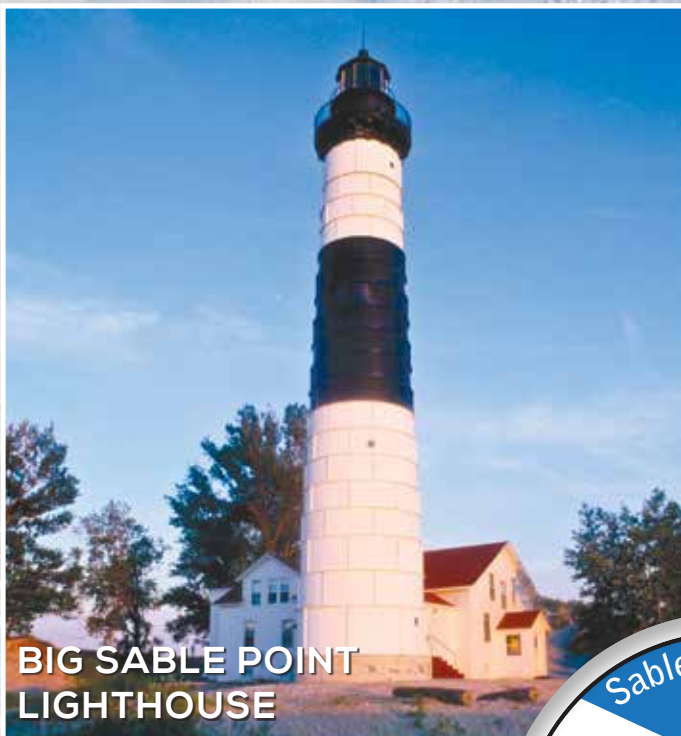
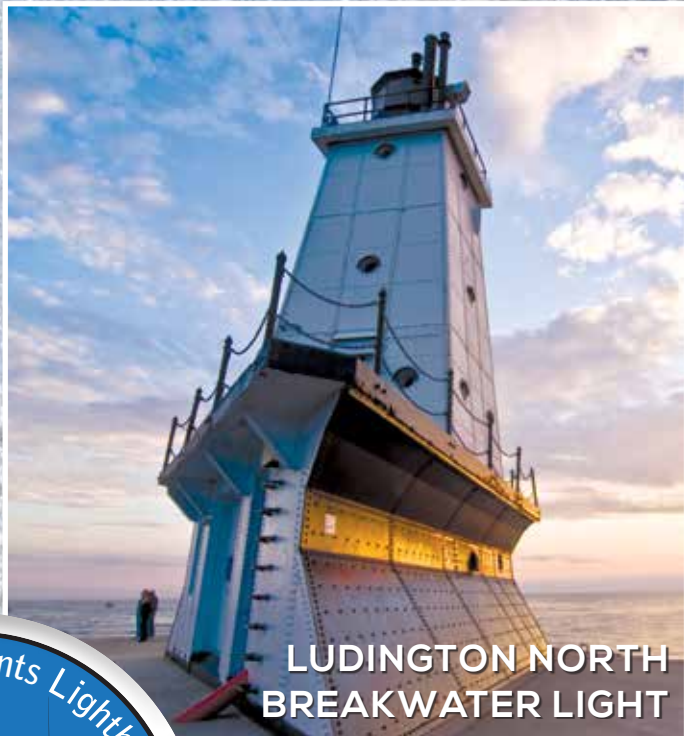


Sable Points BEACON

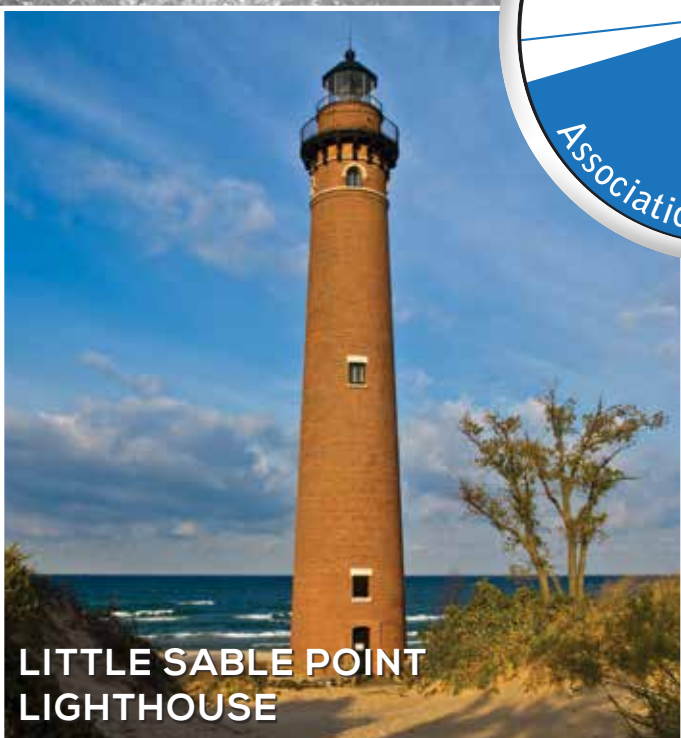
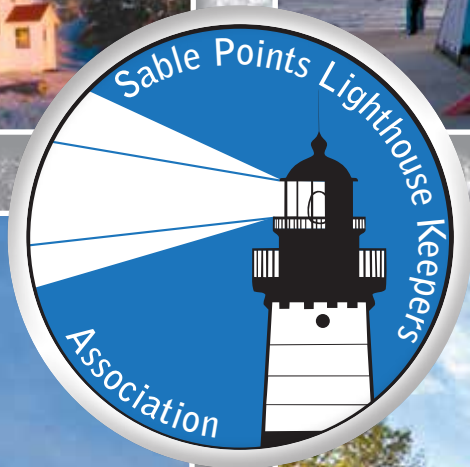
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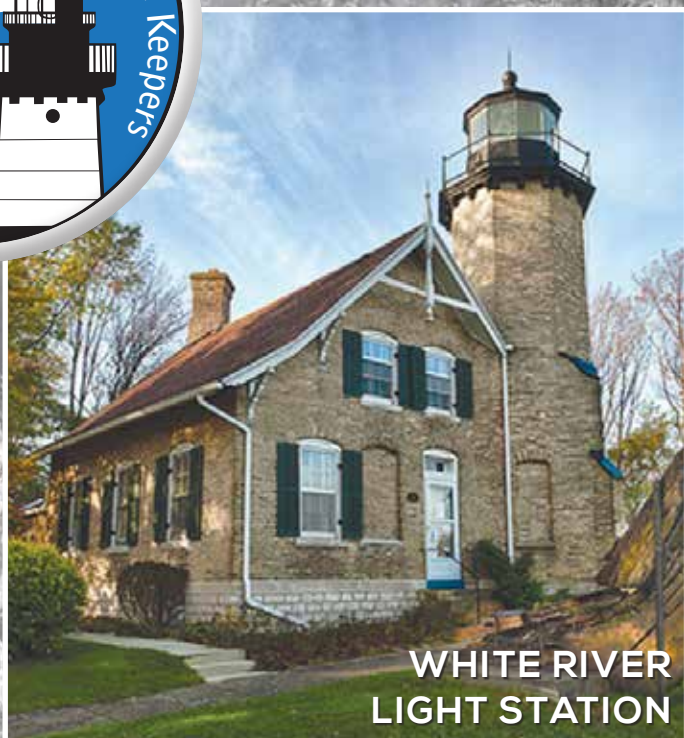
**BIG SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



**LUDINGTON NORTH
BREAKWATER LIGHT**



**LITTLE SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



**WHITE RIVER
LIGHT STATION**



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GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Cherie Hockenberger
INTERIM OFFICE
MANAGER

Letter from the President

Dear SPLKA Members and friends,

At last summer is here, even if the temperature doesn't feel quite like it! We are all looking forward to the opening of our lights for the 2015 season and to meeting and working with new staff members as well as new and returning keepers.

Recently I had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks in Florida in the Bradenton area. The hotel that I was staying at was the headquarters for visiting Pittsburg Pirate fans that had traveled to Florida to watch their team get ready for the upcoming season. Each day as I walked through the lobby to leave the hotel I would see men and women of all ages wearing Pittsburg Pirates' T-shirts and hats. The team's logo was evident everywhere. Even though I am not a fan (Detroit Tigers are my team) it was amusing to see the enthusiasm of the people who came to watch their team prepare for the season and listen to some of their conversations as they discussed players, trades, strategy etc. This experience reminded me of the opening of "lighthouse season". Our team is busy preparing the lights for another fantastic season! Our staff are finishing the scheduling, preparing for new keepers training, getting the lights opened and ready to be inhabited, purchasing merchandise for the gift shops, planning special events and bus days, re-printing brochures etc., etc. Everything is being prepared for our fans to come and enjoy another season. Of course we wouldn't have an "opening day" if we did not have the hundreds of volunteers who come and work a tour of duty at one of our lights.

As always we are grateful to those of you who support SPLKA by volunteering to work one of our lights during the season and to those who support us financially. We have sold 145 Trex boards which are engraved and will be installed out at BSP this spring. Watch for information about a dedication of these boards. It is not too late to purchase one. We have lots of room for boardwalks around BSP and will add more as the orders come in and are prepared for installation.

The Board and staff are looking forward to a great 2015 lighthouse season! See you at the lights!

Sincerely,
Lenore Janman,
President



Welcome NEW EMPLOYEES!

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association is pleased to announce Cherie Hockenberger as our interim Office Manager while Debbie Dyer continues on medical leave.



CHERIE HOCKENBERGER
Interim Office Manager

Cherie moved to Ludington over a year ago when her husband's work relocated from Traverse City. She has over 25 years of working in a dental office setting, doing chairside & office work. She also is very active as a musician, filling in as a pianist for area churches. In May she became the new Director of Music at Emmanuel Lutheran.

Now that her two children have adjusted well into their new schools, she was able to spend her days here with SPLKA.

The Hockenbergers enjoy anything that has to do with being outdoors. They enjoy daily walks upon the break wall, touring the lighthouses, kayaking, hiking, amusement parks and sunsets on the beach.

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Hardie as our Supervisor of Restoration and Maintenance.



JIM HARDIE
Supervisor of Restoration
and Maintenance

Jim comes to us after a 33 plus year career with the United States Postal Service. Jim started at the Postal Service in 1978 after serving in the Navy. He began his Postal career by working in the maintenance field. He worked his way up the organization until he retired as an executive with the USPS in Washington, D.C. Jim has always had a love of history and preserving old buildings. His last project was renovating a 250 year old homestead outside of DC.

Jim moved to the Western side of Michigan in 2011 where as a child he vacationed with his family. He resides in Muskegon with his wife Debbie, Golden Retriever Rosie and cat Frankie. He has three children and four grandchildren.

Jim brings a wealth of experience and passion to our organization and is eager for the 2015 season to get underway.

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Bendele as Operations Manager.



RACHEL BENDELE
Operations Manager

Rachel has a business degree with a focus in accounting and comes to us with 20 years' experience in customer service and management. Rachel's love of beaches, boats and lighthouses began when she was very young and would vacation to the West Michigan beaches and hike at the state park to visit the lighthouse.

Rachel, her husband Dave, and two daughters moved to the area in 2008 and they welcomed a third child, a son, in 2011. They live on a 40 acre farm in Custer and Dave operates his own trucking company. Her family loves visiting the beaches, state parks and lighthouses many times throughout the year. Rachel and her husband actively volunteer with 4H and Fair activities as well as many other youth activities with their children.

She is very excited to have the opportunity to learn more history of the lighthouses and build long lasting relationships with the volunteers and staff at SPLKA. Rachel brings a great deal of well-rounded business experience to our organization and is looking forward to a great first season with us.

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association is pleased to welcome back Priscilla McBeth as Gift Shop Manager.



PRISCILLA MCBETH
Gift Shop Manager

Priscilla retired a few years ago after teaching elementary school for 25 years.

With a love for the beach, lighthouses and the summers in Michigan, Priscilla and her husband moved north to retire in Ludington. The McBeths have 7 grandchildren who are the light of thier lives and they enjoy watching them grow up in Michigan and North Carolina.

Priscilla is excited to return to the gift shop this year to make sure visitors will enjoy the fully stocked shelves and exciting new merchandise.

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 we just closed up the lighthouses for the winter months but spring is here and now it is time to starting to think about reopening them. Big Sable will open May 1st while our other three lights will open May 22nd.

The winter months have been busy and productive. We are excited to have some new staff members join us this season as well as welcoming many returning staff. Last year was a great learning year for me as the new Executive Director and once again I am excited to be able to implement some of the ideas that I had gotten from our seasoned keepers as well as ideas that I and the staff have had over the course of this last season. As always we want to make our visitors and Keepers experience the best that it can be.

As most of everyone is aware the light at Little Sable was turned back on in October and has been shining all fall and winter. Part of our agreement with the DNR which allows us to relight the light on is that we would have the lens professionally cleaned by a certified lampist. This will be done before we open Little Sable for the season. The State of Michigan DNR is helping to pay a majority of the cost from the State Recreational Pass Fund, to bring in a qualified lampist to perform this task.

The Historic Structures Report, HSR, for Little Sable is 95% complete and we are looking for a completion date of June 1st. This is helping us identify needs at Little Sable with architectural price estimates and architectural recommendations. This HSR is an important document in helping SPLKA move forward to obtaining grant funding for the projects at Little Sable that need to be completed as we preserve this precious light for future generations.

The Michigan State DNR has applied for a National Maritime grant which would fund a Historic Structures Report for Big Sable as well as HSR's for three other Michigan lighthouses. We are waiting to hear on this, as the grants have been awarded but not announced yet.

I mentioned in my last report that our Activities booklets have been well received by the students and teachers alike who have received them. Our original printing was for 3,000 booklets and we have given out around 2,000 in just the few months that they have been available. We have received grant money from the DTE Energy Foundation, OxyChem and the Seekers group to help us with reprinting these activities booklets as we will be printing around 10,000 of these booklets for the upcoming season.

Highlights of our coming season will be our "Night at the Lights" concerts which will be evening and afternoon events at our lighthouses. We will be hosting Wednesday evening concerts at Little Sable starting July 8th and running through August 5th. We will also be having some entertainment at Big Sable on one or more of our bus days, and an evening concert, Saturday afternoon Dulcimer event, Yoga instruction

and a Movie night are all planned for White River. The Ludington North Breakwater lighthouse will be open extra hours for Sunday evenings in July and August and on Friday nights in July corresponding to the Ludington Friday Night Live events. We will be welcoming our own Cherie Hockenberger for one Friday evening events as she will perform on the bag pipes out on the pier as the S.S. Badger makes its arrival.

SPLKA has decided to take a year off from hosting the West Michigan Lighthouses Festival. Instead we will be participating and exhibiting at the new Michigan Lighthouse Festival which will be in St. Ignace this year on June 12-14th. This will be a traveling lighthouse festival and our hope is to bring this festival to the Ludington area in a year or two.

Updated exhibits at White River and the Ludington North Breakwater Light are a must see for this coming season.

Our "Leave a print in the Sand" capital campaign has been very successful. We have sold over 155 Trek's boards since we started this campaign last July. In addition to this we have also opened the Sable Points Capital Campaign fund at the Mason County Community Foundation as we need to raise \$250,000.00 for the identified needed repairs for our four iconic Lake Michigan Lighthouses.

Our Castles on the Lakeshore have great stories that continue and need to be told. Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to work for you as your Executive Director. I am looking forward to seeing, visiting and catching up with all our returning keepers and welcoming and getting to know the many new volunteers keepers this summer.

New Board Member Elected

At the annual meeting last September Sue Ann Schnitker was elected to a three year term on the board of directors. Sue Ann (and her husband Gary) are the proud owners/operators of the Cartier Mansion Bed and Breakfast in Ludington. Sue Ann has a desire to serve the community of Ludington and loves visiting lighthouses so these two attributes make her ideal to serve on the SPLKA Board of Directors. She has been involved in many other community organizations such as the Salvation Army, Mason County Garden Club, West Shore Community College Foundation Board, Sand Castle Children's Museum and the Mason County Historical Society, to name a few. Sue Ann is enthusiastic and creative and we look forward to working with her on the SPLKA Board of Directors.



Sue Ann Schnitker

Volunteer opportunities with SPLKA

Not sure if you want to commit to a week or two week tour at one of SPLKA's lighthouses. We have an opportunity for individuals to be Day Keepers at three of our Lighthouses.



The White River Light Station.

Responsibilities include handling of money from tours and gift shop sales, sharing historical information with visitors, keep the grounds and lighthouse clean, welcoming visitors and having fun! This excellent opportunity is opened to both veteran and new keepers. To get involved Contact Matt by email at whiteriverlight@gmail.com or by phone 213-894-8265.

Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse.

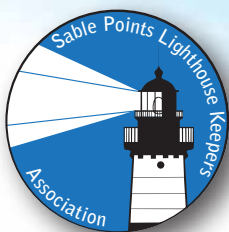
Join the local Breaker group in working on Sunday evenings as well as all day Monday at the North Breakwater Lighthouse. Work a shift running the gift shop, selling the tour tours, sharing the history of the lighthouse with visitors or be the friendly face who greets those who venture up to the lantern room of the light. To sign up as a Day keeper call 231-845-7417 or email the SPLKA office at splkaoperationsmanager@gmail.com.

Little Sable Lighthouse.

Monday and Tuesdays are days in which the local Seekers Group operates Little Sable Lighthouse as Day Keepers. The Seekers are also looking for more hands. They also open the light for us for our special evening events that place throughout the summer as well. Responsibilities include greeting guests, collecting for the tour tours and giving historical information to our visitors. Call the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417 or email splkaoperations@gmail.com if you are interested in this unique opportunity.

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 2015 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 2015

2015 S.P.K.L.A CALENDAR

MAY

MAY 1ST

OPENING OF BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Big Sable will be open all week 10am-5pm through October 25th.

MAY 22ND

OPENING OF LUDINGTON NORTH BREAKWATER LIGHT

Open all week 10am-5pm (Monday's until 8pm) thru Sept. 7th.

MAY 22ND

OPENING OF LITTLE SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Open all week 10am-5pm through September 30th.

MAY 22ND

OPENING OF WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION

Opened Tuesday through Sunday 10am-5pm through October 31st.

JUNE

JUNE 6TH

Movie Night at the Light. FINDING NEMO

A Free, outdoor, family friendly movie. White River Light Station at Dusk. ***Rain location will be held at Fruitland Township Office.

JUNE 13TH

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

ALSO on JUNE 13TH

WALKWAY DEDICATION!

Come celebrate as we dedicate our new walkway at Big Sable Lighthouse. Dedication is at 12 noon. Over 150 boards have been generously donated to start our new memorial walkway at the Big Sable Lighthouse. More information contact SPLKA office.

JUNE 27TH

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

JULY

JULY 8TH

Night at the Lights Concert featuring ERIC ENGLADE

Little Sable Point Lighthouse 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI 49420. 231-301-8186.

JULY 11TH

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

JULY 15TH

Night at the Lights Concert featuring RUTHIE EILERS & FRIENDS from Ruthie's Cafe

Little Sable Point Lighthouse 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI 49420. 231-301-8186.

JULY 22ND

Night at the Lights Concert featuring ARK HARBOR

Little Sable Point Lighthouse 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI 49420. 231-301-8186.

JULY 25TH

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

JULY 25TH

Afternoon concert featuring ARK HARBOR

Big Sable Point Lighthouse 1pm-2:30pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price.

JULY 25TH

Afternoon concert featuring WEST MI. DULCIMER FRIENDS

White River Light Station 2pm Free concert for the public, tower and museum will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Fruitland Township Office.

JULY 29TH

Night at the Lights Concert featuring RUTHIE EILERS & FRIENDS from Ruthie's Cafe

Little Sable Point Lighthouse 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI 49420. 231-301-8186.

AUGUST

AUGUST 5TH

Night at the Lights Concert featuring GHOSTS OF THE AMERICAN ROAD

Little Sable Point Lighthouse 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI 49420. 231-301-8186.

AUGUST 6TH

Evening concert featuring GHOSTS OF THE AMERICAN ROAD

White River Light Station 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower and museum will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Fruitland Township Office.

AUGUST 8TH

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

AUGUST 12TH

Evening concert featuring SWEET WEDNESDAY

White River Light Station 7pm. Free concert for the public, tower and museum will be available for tours at regular admission price. ***Rain location will be held at Fruitland Township Office.

AUGUST 21ST

Yoga on the Lawn with WHITE RIVER YOGA

For additional information please contact Mitch Coleman at 231-740-6662. White River Light Station 9:30am. ***Rain date for Yoga on the lawn will be on August 28th

AUGUST 22ND

BUS DAY at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.



SEEING THE LIGHT

White River Light Station

Researched and written by Terry Pepper • Copyright photographs & illustrations by Terry Pepper



In the early 1800's western Michigan consisted of seemingly endless forests, and with the skyrocketing industrialization of the major cities in the Midwest, it was inevitable that there would be those who would come to the area to take advantage of its bounty. In 1838, Charles Mears built the first sawmill on the shores of White Lake, and in 1849, the Reverend William Ferry and his son Thomas purchased land around Stoney Creek where they built a water-powered sawmill. The Ferrys also purchased land on the shores of White Lake and built a steam powered mill at the mouth of the White River, which joined White Lake to Lake Michigan.

While some of the lumber from these mills was used for construction in the area, the vast majority ended up being shipped to the growing cities of Chicago and Milwaukee on the Lake's southern shores. As a result, increasing numbers of vessels began tying-up at White River to be loaded with the area's bounty.

With a growing frequency of wrecks in the area, the Michigan Legislature officially approached Congress requesting a lighthouse at the entrance to White Lake on Jan 19, 1853. While the lighthouse was undeniably necessary, for obvious reasons the lumber barons

and merchants of White Lake felt that the creation of a new channel from White Lake into Lake Michigan was of even more importance. Thus they too began lobbying the State and Federal Governments to commence such an undertaking as quickly as possible.

In 1866, the pressure being applied by the Michiganders was felt, and Congress appropriated \$67,000 for the construction of a new channel between White Lake and Lake Michigan, and \$10,000 for the construction of a lighthouse at the harbor entry. However, it was realized that the final outcome of the channel project would have a significant impact on the location and construction of the lighthouse. Thus the caveat was added, "...no expenditure shall be made upon the aforesaid works until a careful survey

shall have been made, and the character of the structure required shall have been thus determined."

Work on the new channel began the following year and progressed slowly. In 1869, Congress appropriated an additional \$45,000 to cover cost overruns. After four years, the channel project was completed in 1871. \$1,059 of the lighthouse appropriation was spent on the construction of a beacon at the end of the short south pier guarding the channel. The square white pyramidal tower was of wooden construction, and stood 27 feet in height. The iron lantern room was prefabricated, and outfitted with a Fifth Order Fresnel lens. With a focal plane of thirty-three feet, the fixed red light was visible for approximately eleven and a half miles at sea. With the construction of a small oil storage building to house the tin containers of lard oil used to fuel the lamp, the White River station was complete.

William Robinson became the first keeper of the beacon light in 1872, and that same year the Lighthouse Board requested that the sum of \$4,000 be appropriated for the construction of a keeper's dwelling on the shore near the pierhead light. With no positive response to the request for a keeper's dwelling, and significant growth in vessel passages into White Lake, the



Map showing the 1871 channel cut between White Lake and Lake Michigan.

following year the Lighthouse Board recommended to Congress that the appropriation be increased to \$15,000 to allow for the construction of a larger shore-based light station. Congress finally reacted favorably, and a survey of the area was conducted and land was obtained for the new lighthouse in 1874.

1875 was a busy year at the White River entrance. In August, a Lighthouse Service crew and a local contractor began construction of an elevated wooden catwalk to the pierhead light, and Keeper Robinson was instructed to employ five men to assist Lighthouse Service construction Foreman E. Rhodes in the construction of the new shore-based station. Grading was completed on September 28, and construction of the building began with Keeper Robinson helping-out with all phases of construction including the masonry work.



The south pier light after installation of the elevated walk in 1875.

The foundation was laid from native limestone blocks, and the walls constructed of yellow Michigan brick. The spiral cast iron stairs were manufactured in Muskegon, and the cast iron lantern room was prefabricated at the Milwaukee lighthouse Depot, and delivered by lighthouse tender. The crews working on the new catwalk finished their job in November, and work continued on the new lighthouse until December 28, when Rhodes and his team left the site for the season. At this point, all external structural work was complete on the building, with only interior work and the installation of a light in the empty lantern room



The new White River Light established in 1876.

remaining. The building featured a full cellar, with an oil storage room accessible from the spiral staircase, which lead from the cellar to the tower.

The Lighthouse Service Lampist arrived to install the Fourth Order Fresnel lens and lamp in April of 1876, and Keeper Robinson exhibited the new light for the first time on May 31st. The lens rotated at a speed of one half a revolution per minute, and showed as a fixed white light varied by a flash one a minute. Robinson continued the task of finishing-out the



White River's Fourth Order Fresnel Lens.

inside of the dwelling through the remainder of the year. The south pier was also extended by a hundred feet during this same year. The beacon was lifted and moved to the new pier end, and the wooden catwalk was extended to the new beacon location. Additionally, two hundred and twenty six feet of the existing catwalk was repaired.

With two lights now guarding the entrance to the White River, one would assume that shipwrecks had become all but non-existent. Unfortunately this was not the case, and a number of vessels ran aground in the area over the

ensuing years. The Lighthouse Service assumed that the nature of the light signature was to blame. On November 1, 1890, the Lighthouse Service Lampist arrived at the White River Light Station and took measurements of the original Fresnel lens and flash panels in order to fabricate new frames and order parts from France. After notifying mariners of the impending change, the light was modified on December 12 of 1892. Thus the character of the light was changed to a steady white light, varied by a red flash every forty seconds.

The results of the light modification must not have achieved the desired results, as the Lampist again arrived at White River on November 8, 1901 and increased its rotation speed to one revolution every forty seconds. In order to achieve this speed increase, ball bearings were installed in the carriage wheels on which the lens rotated. With this modification, the characteristic was changed to alternating red and white flashes with twenty seconds intervals between. After this modification the light was visible for a distance of fourteen miles at sea. Also in 1901, part of the wooden catwalk on the pier was replaced with an iron assembly.

In 1902 the Pierhead Light Fresnel was removed, and replaced with a smaller sixth order lens, reducing its visibility to nine miles. Things remained relatively stable at White River for the next nine years until a crew arrived in 1910 to convert the entire Pierhead catwalk to cast iron.

The Lighthouse Service was still dissatisfied with the characteristics of the light in the shore-based station, and in February of 1912 the Keeper received instructions to disassemble the lens and clockwork assembly and ship them to the Milwaukee Depot. At the Depot, the red flash panels were removed, and when reinstalled the light's characteristic was changed to a cycle of a white flash of ten-second duration followed by darkness for ten seconds.



Keeper Robinson soon before his death in 1919.

As was becoming the practice during this period on the Great Lakes, the Pierhead light was painted red in 1917. The following year a jute covered electrical cable was run across the bottom of the channel from the north shore and a 9.600 candlepower incandescent light bulb was installed in the light station tower. Keeper Robinson passed away at 10.10 AM on April 2, 1919, after faithfully tending the White River light for 47 years. At 87 years of age, he was the oldest active keeper in service at the time of his death.

While the pierhead light had thus been electrified in 1917, the main light and dwelling would not be electrified until 1924, when electrical power finally made its way around the south shore of White Lake.

Finding this Light: Take US31 to White Lake Dr. exit, head west for approximately 5 miles from US31. Turn left (West) on South Shore Drive and go approximately 3-1/2 miles. Turn right/West on Lakewood Rd./S. Shore Dr. ~ Continue to the 4 way stop and go straight where the road changes to Murray Road. Look for the Lighthouse Museum signs, and follow the narrow road up to the lighthouse. (6199 Murray Road, Whitehall, MI 49461)

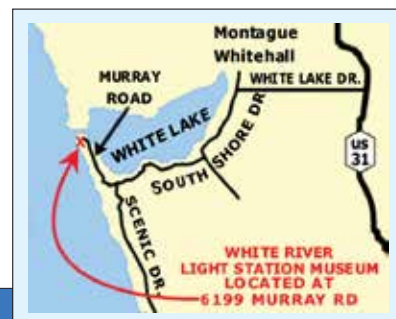
Ever since its original installation, the Pierhead Light catwalk had been plagued constant maintenance requirements resulting from vessels making contact while passing through the channel. Exasperated with the cost of constant annual maintenance, the catwalk was completely removed in May 1925, and the components were shipped to the Milwaukee Depot for possible use elsewhere.

Finally the end came for the old Pierhead Light in 1930, when the pier was completely refaced with concrete, and the wooden tower replaced by a skeletal steel structure. The Lighthouse Tender Hyacinth arrived in November and took the lantern, lens and other reusable components back to the Lighthouse Depot in Milwaukee. The new tower was equipped with an acetylene lamp controlled by a sun valve. This sun valve was a source of constant trouble until the light was electrified in 1949.

The shore-based light station was decommissioned in 1960, and the Fresnel removed, crated and shipped to the Detroit Coast Guard Depot.

Fruitland Township purchased the structure in 1966, with plans of converting it into a maritime museum. The museum was opened for the first time in the summer of 1970. In 1972 the Coast Guard returned the Fresnel lens to the museum, where it was reinstalled in the lantern room. The lens stood proudly in the tower until 1975 when someone with a rifle and little intelligence shot through the lantern room windows, chipping the irreplaceable lens. To prevent a recurrence, the lamp was once again removed from the tower, and redisplayed on the first floor of the museum, where it can be seen to this day.

At some time during the 1980's, the skeletal steel tower installed in 1930 was demolished and replaced with a simple steel pole with a triangular red daymark at its top, along with a flashing red electric light. Thus, while no where near as romantic, a light still faithfully guides vessels into the White River, as it has since 1871.



KEEPERS OF THE WHITE RIVER LIGHT

YEAR STATION ESTABLISHED: 1872 • YEAR STATION DISCONTINUED: 1959

POSITION	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	IN	BORN	DIED	POSITION START			POSITION END			COMMENTS
						D	M	YEAR	D	M	YEAR	
Act. Keeper	Robinson	William III		1831	1919	12	06	1872	2	05	1876	Permanant Apt.
Keeper	Robinson	William III		1831	1919	2	05	1876	15	03	1919	Retired
Act. 1st Asst.	Robinson	Thomas		1867		11	08	1877	22	07	1881	Permanant Apt.
1st Asst.	Robinson	Thomas		1831		22	07	1881	31	08	1882	Transferred
1st Asst.	Bush	William	E.	1873	1953	11	03	1911	15	03	1919	Promoted
Keeper	Bush	William	E.	1873	1953	15	03	1919	7	03	1943	Retired
Keeper	Wuori	Leo					02	1943		05	1948	Resigned
1st Asst.	Wuori	Mrs. Frances					08	1944		05	1948	Resigned
Keeper	Johnson	Mrs. Frances					05	1949	28	02	1954	Resigned
Keeper	Newald	Andrew				1	03	1954	31	12	1959	Last Keeper

Information compiled by Phyllis L. Tag of Great Lakes Lighthouse Research



summer events at the White River Light Station



Summer days are for unwinding and what better way to enjoy a summer's evening than relaxing along the water at the White River Light Station. Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is kicking off summer with a Movie Night at the Light on June 6th and outdoor concert series this summer on the lawn on July 25th and again Aug 6th. New this year, SPKLA will be offering a Yoga class on the lawn on Aug 21st. 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.

JUNE 6th • Movie Night at the Light! **"FINDING NEMO" begins at dusk.**

In case of rain, movie will be shown at the Fruitland Township Office.

JULY 25th • We welcome back West Michigan Dulcimer Friends, at 2PM

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. This is the music played in grange halls for square dances. The musicians will be playing dulcimers, guitars and fiddles to mention a few. They play for the love of music. Bring the family, your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon of folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the White River Light Station. The museum and tower will also be open for the standard admission charge.



AUGUST 6th • We welcome GHOSTS of the AMERICAN ROAD at 7PM

Bring the family, your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon of folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the White River Light Station. The museum and tower will also be open for the standard admission charge.



People across America are saying this emerging duo's performances leave them feeling as if they've "just read a great book."

From a one-bedroom farmhouse in the middle of 180 acres in Texas, *Ghosts of the American Road* is the latest brainchild

from acclaimed songwriter Kevin Higgins and his talented musical partner, Barbara Malteze. Performing coast-to-coast, this duo has logged over 380,000 miles and collected seven Texas Music Awards along the way. Inspired by Higgins' cinematographic compositions, *Ghosts of the American Road* create beautiful music. Defying comparisons, one thing's for certain...no other artists come close to sounding like them. This is "American Music" where all styles come together at a distinctly original musical crossroads.

AUGUST 12th • SWEET WEDNESDAY, 7PM

From Boston, Massachusetts, folk artists Dave Falk and Lisa Housman make up the duo *Sweet Wednesday*. The pair alternate lead vocal duties, with sweet harmonies reminiscent of Gram Parsons and Emmy Lou Harris. Multi-instrumentalist Dave Falk lends his own unique style to the guitar, mandolin, harmonica, banjo, and fiddle, while Lisa Housman, in a voice often compared to Natalie Merchant and Joan Baez, sings of long-distance friendships, having a hard day working as a clerk in a bakery in New York City, lost love, and those crazy mermaids you might encounter after being out on the ocean for several days (among other topics).



In addition to inspiring fans near and far, Housman and Falk have been recipients of several songwriting awards, including First Place in the Great American Song Contest, First Place in the Dallas Songwriting Competition, and Runner-Up in the John Lennon Song Contest.

AUGUST 21st • YOGA ON THE LAWN! beginning at 9:30AM

Bring your yoga mats or large towels and water to drink and join SPLKA for Yoga. Beginning at 9:30am. In case of rain we will have Yoga on the lawn on August 28th. For further information please call Mitch Coleman at White River Yoga, 231-740-6662.



summer events at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse



June 13th WALKWAY DEDICATION and Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

June 27th Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

July 11th Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

July 25th Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

July 25th Afternoon concert featuring ARK HARBOR 1pm-2:30pm

Free concert for the public.
Tower will be available for tours at regular admission price.
Adults \$5, Children 12 & under \$2.

August 8th Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.

August 22nd Bus Day at Big Sable Lighthouse 12pm-5pm

Round trip bus transportation is offered to Big Sable Lighthouse for an additional fee \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the building next to the park office.



**Big Sable Point Lighthouse
and Gift Shop
is opened daily 10am-5pm.**

**Tower Tours Admission price:
Adults: \$5, Children 12 & under: \$2**

ARK HARBOR



We are pleased for the return of ARK HARBOR for an evening performance at the Little Sable Point Lighthouse on July 22nd, and at Big Sable Point Lighthouse on July 25th. Ark Harbor features three veteran folk guitarists with a unique blend of soft rock, blues, folk and hauntingly beautiful ballads that will touch your heart.

Ark Harbor is led by guitarist Jim Novak, and joined by fellow band mates Paul Cerny and Dale Johnson. Originally from the Chicago area, Jim first got into music playing in the Second City's Club and coffee house scene. He and his childhood friend Paul Cerny were the original members of the singing group called the Newport's. Their popularity led to a series of college concerts and a regular job as the opening act for the Stars of the WGN Barn Dance.

Jim is a Vietnam veteran. When he returned from service, he and Paul reunited for several years and along with Dale Johnson they shared their music on the coffee house circuit on Chicago's Northside. In 2008 Jim released his first "Be Still" to great reviews as did his second release in 2011, "Meetin' Tonight". Paul now resides in Georgia, Dale in North Carolina and Jim in Grand Haven, Mi. They reunited four years ago to do a benefit concert for Worship on the Waterfront. In 2012 and 2013 they reunited again to lead a Sunday evening of worship for Worship On the Waterfront, a Sunday evening service at Grand Haven's waterfront stadium.

In 2014 they gathered together once again to do the Ark Harbor Lighthouse Tour, playing concerts at Little Sable Lighthouse, White River Light Station and the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse.



summer events at the Little Sable Point Lighthouse



Summer days are for unwinding and what better way to enjoy a summer's evening than relaxing along the water on the sands of the Little Sable Point Lighthouse!

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is kicking off summer with an outdoor concert series beginning July 8th on the beach. These family friendly events are free to the public. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy time together listening to folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the Little Sable Point Lighthouse.

**The tower will be open late and available for tours for the standard admission charge.
Adults: \$5, Children 12 & under \$2
Concerts begin at 7:00 PM.**

July 8th

Night at the Lights Concert featuring
ERIC ENGBLADE

Little Sable Point Lighthouse

Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI. 231-301-8186.

July 15th

Night at the Lights Concert featuring
**RUTHIE EILERS & FRIENDS
FROM RUTHIE'S MUSIC CAFÉ**



July 22nd

Night at the Lights Concert featuring
ARK HARBOR

Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI. 231-301-8186.



July 29th

Night at the Lights Concert featuring
**RUTHIE EILERS & FRIENDS
FROM RUTHIE'S MUSIC CAFÉ**

August 5th

Night at the Lights Concert featuring
GHOSTS OF THE AMERICAN ROAD

Rain location will be held at Ruthie's Music Café, 28 S. State St., Hart, MI. 231-301-8186.



ERIC ENGBLADE



Eric Engblade kicks off our summer 2015 *Night at the Lights* concert series on July 8th. Eric is an accomplished and acclaimed singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Engblade's "inspiring musicianship and songwriting" (*John Sinkevics, localspins.com*) led him to being selected as a finalist in the Great Lakes Song Writing Contest in 2009 for his song "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" (www.GreatLakesSongs.com).

Growing up in Ludington, Michigan, Engblade frequently uses the natural beauty and history of the Great Lakes region as a reference for his "expertly crafted songwriting" (*John Sinkevics, localspins.com*).

At a very young age, Engblade was drawn to the music of "The Beatles, Bob Dylan, John Prine and John Hartford, (thanks to his father), while also embracing artists as wide-ranging as Nick Drake, Dave Matthews Band and Led Zeppelin, who've rubbed off on his music" (*John Sinkevics, localspins.com*).

"Enhanced by multi-instrumentalist and lead singer Eric Engblade's songwriting" (*John Sinkevics, localspins.com*), the group's music was described by music critics, fans, venue owners, and local publications as energetic "bluegrass, Americana, and Celtic music that's been poured through an indie rock funnel to distill something that sounds like a party out in the back yard. And yes, there is moonshine at that party" (*Revue Magazine Grand Rapids, MI*).

Plan to join us at these Michigan Lighthouse Festivals!

Join SPLKA as we will be attending and exhibiting at two lighthouse festivals for 2015.

The 1st Annual “Traveling Michigan Lighthouse Festival” will take place in St. Ignace on June 12th through June 14th. This festival will feature many vendors, special guest speakers, lighthouse cruises, and other events that will take advantage of the St. Ignace area.

The “20th Annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival” is October 8th-11th in Alpena. This also features many lighthouse specific vendors, fall lighthouse cruises, open lighthouses open from Mackinaw City to Tawas, MI.

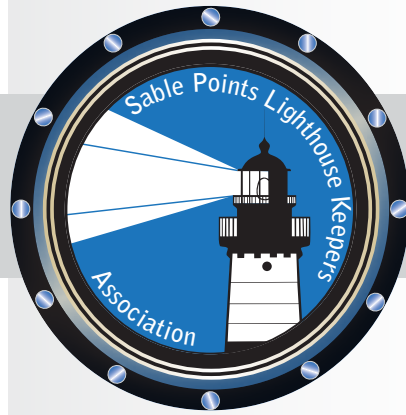
We hope that you will put these dates on your calendar and we will see you there. Check out our web site for links or use the information below for more information about these events!

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**1ST ANNUAL
 TRAVELING MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE
 FESTIVAL**

June 12-14th, 2015 - St. Ignace, MI
www.michiganlighthouseguide.com/lighthousefestival.html

**2015 - 20TH ANNUAL
 GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL**

October 8- 11, 2015 (Thurs - Sun)
 Alpena, Michigan
www.lighthousefestival.org



**Sable Points
 Lighthouse Keepers
 Association**

Check us out on Facebook!



**Need reminders of our Bus Days or
 other special events?**

**Keep up to date with all the SPLKA
 happenings by visiting our Facebook page.**

**Search “Sable Points Lighthouse
 Keepers Association” and LIKE us!
 Or, scan the QR code with your
 smartphone!**



Leave a print in the sand

“Leave a Print in the Sand” is a fundraising initiative started last July by the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA) to raise money for the ongoing repairs that need to be done at the Big Sable Lighthouse. SPLKA’s mission is to “preserve, promote, educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible to all.

Built in 1867, Big Sable Lighthouse first fell into disrepair in the late 1970’s. SPLKA came into being when a group of local businessmen and women donated their time, materials and money to save the structure from total destruction due to vandalism and high Lake Michigan water levels. Since that time, the association has grown to over 350 current members. SPLKA has always been a responsible caretaker of this precious Lighthouse and the surrounding property. The tower and keepers’ quarters have been maintained and many minor repairs have kept the structure in perfect “picture quality”. Time and weather are once again taking a huge toll on the tower and keeper’s quarters. Both are in need of major repairs. This is a part of our newly launched Capital Campaign Fund to raise the \$250,000.00 needed for repairs such as filling/repairing over 135 rusted sections on the towers steel cladding, repainting the tower, replacing the roof on the entire structure, completing a window repair and

Help us preserve Big Sable Point Lighthouse and Tower by purchasing a Trex® board. These boards will become the new walkway around Big Sable Point.



restoration project and finally replacing over 700 original (deteriorated) bricks on the keepers quarters, sandblasting the reminder of the old paint off and whitewashing the entire building.

Help us preserve Big Sable Point Lighthouse and tower by purchasing a Trex® board. These boards will become the new walkway around Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The cost of

the engraved boards will be \$100.00 each. Each Trex® board can be engraved with up to 25 characters on one line, including commas and spaces with a two line maximum. Included with this letter is the order form for these walkway boards.

Most of you have fond memories of being keepers at the Big Sable Light and the long 130 stair climb 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 also make great Christmas, birthday or to recognize a special event gifts. Also share this with those in your circle of friends who love lighthouses as well. More brochures are available for downloading and printing on our web site.

Join the 150 individuals and families who have already purchased Trex®s boards and “Leave Your Print in the Sand.”

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** 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**, 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!



Renew your 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 Spring is a great time to renew your membership for the 2015 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 include 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.

These go into effect January 1st, 2015. Your partnership is sincerely appreciated and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2015 membership please

consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause.

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

SPLKA membership dues in 2015	
associate membership.	\$30
individual membership.	\$60
couple/family membership.	\$100
head keeper.	\$175
business/corporate sponsor.	\$250
lifetime individual membership. . .	\$750
lifetime couple membership.	\$1,000

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

To help meet the future major the tower at Little Sable Point and expense needs of preserving our four making the basement water tight at iconic Lake Michigan Lighthouses the White River Light Station. the SPLKA Board of Directors has established Capital Campaign Fund The fund is the "Sable Points at the Mason County Community Lighthouse Keepers Association foundation to accept larger gifts Capital Campaign Fund". Our given for upcoming major projects. organization has established this fund with a deposit of \$5,000.00 from our existing funds.

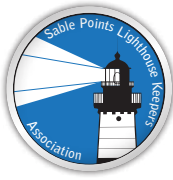
It is our desire that businesses as well as individual will be inclined to donate a larger sum to help spur our major lists of projects to completion.

Some of these projects include the recladding of the outside of Big Sable Tower, replacing a ceiling at the Ludington Breakwater Light, repairing and painting the inside of

Contributions can be sent to:
 SPLKA Capital Campaign Fund,
 c/o Mason County
 Community Foundation,
 P. O. Box 10, Ludington, MI 49431.
 Help us keep our four lights in First Class restored condition for future



generations and photographers to come. Please consider participating in all of our fund raising efforts. All of the money raised will go directly to fund these and other projects that the board deems worthy. They will not be used for operations of SPLKA. Don't keep this to yourself. We are asking that you also share our fund raising efforts with others in your circle of business and friends.



Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

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

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THE MANY MOODS OF THE LUDINGTON BREAKWATER LIGHT.

