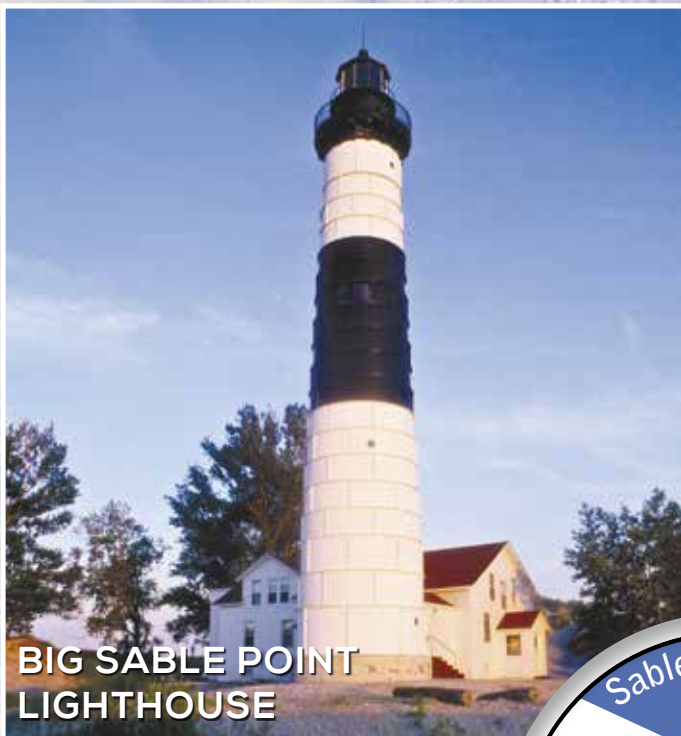
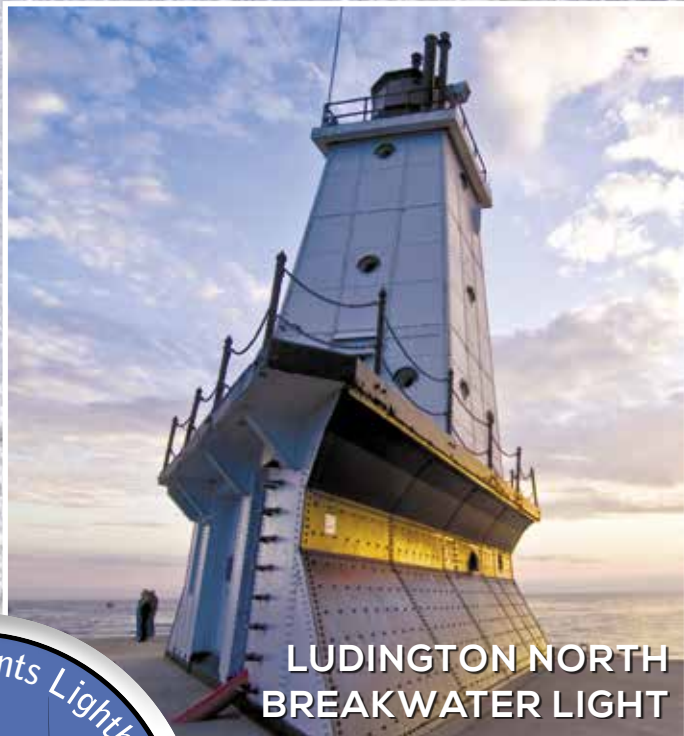


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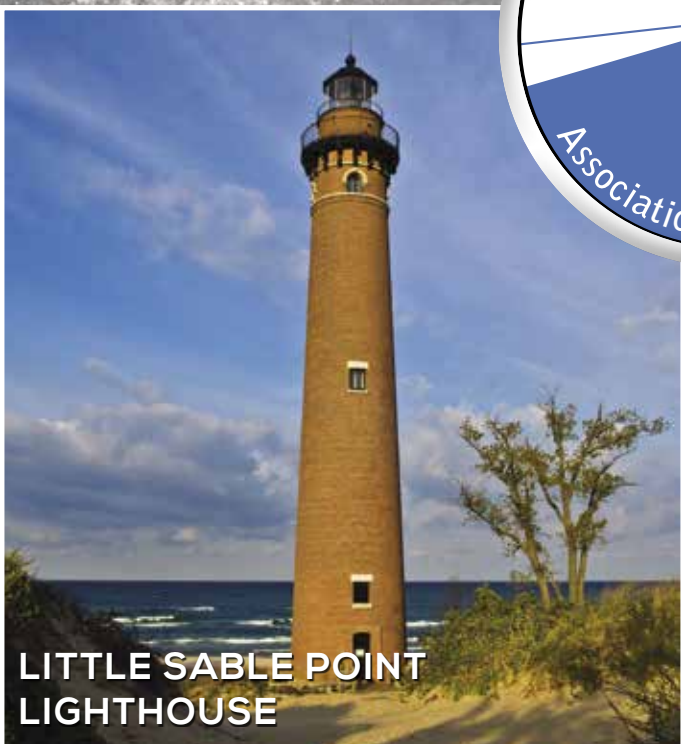
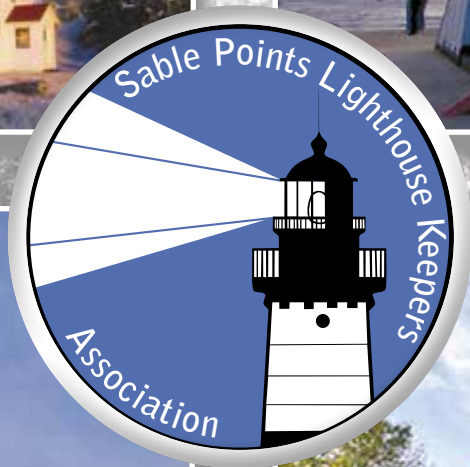
NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2019



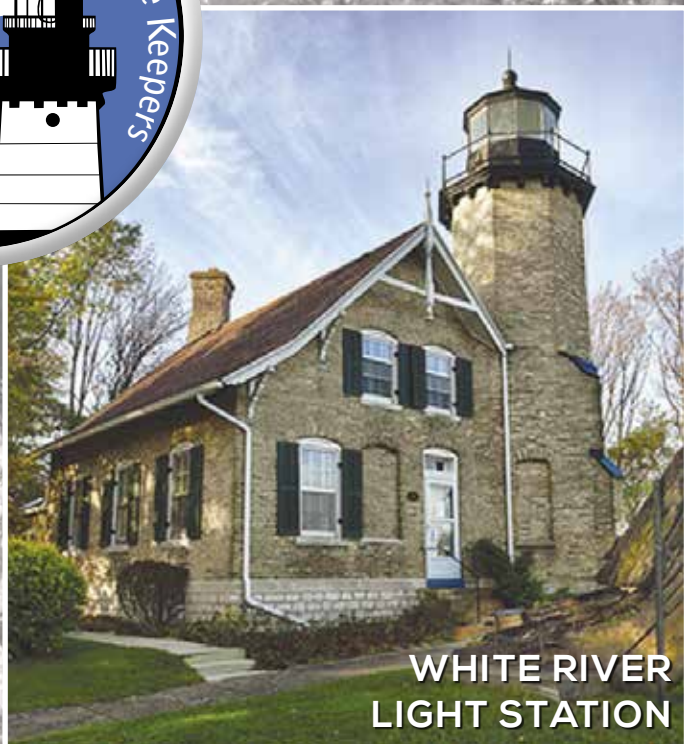
**BIG SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



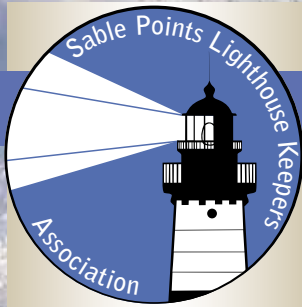
**LUDINGTON NORTH
BREAKWATER LIGHT**



**LITTLE SABLE POINT
LIGHTHOUSE**



**WHITE RIVER
LIGHT STATION**



Letter from the President

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As you read this newsletter, spring has come and gone and summer is upon us. Our lights are open, and many friends are visiting while others are making plans to do so. Our lighthouses are not only beautiful, historical structures, but they have also played an important role in protecting the ships that journey along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan from as early as 1867, the year in which Big Sable became an active navigational aid.

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA) includes in its mission statement a commitment "to preserve, promote, educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible to all." When this edict is read carefully, it becomes quite a significant undertaking. Our oldest structure, Big Sable Point Lighthouse, (BSP) will be 152 years old in November! While it was well built, at the time, it has suffered much as the years passed. Since SPLKA acquired BSP, it has been restored and opened to the public.

Maintenance and restoration continue. Seven years ago, SPLKA employed the services of Building Restoration, Inc. to assess the integrity of all of our lighthouse structures. Building Restoration compiled an extensive report that included pictures of current conditions at our lights. At the time, they documented over 200 rusted holes that penetrated the steel cladding of BSP, rusting of the underside of the upper gallery decking, general rusting of many areas of the steel cladding, and severe deterioration of the brick walls of the keepers' quarters. While Jim Hardie has done a yeoman's job of mitigating the crumbling brick on the keepers' quarters and replacing and repairing the windows, the issues with the tower remain and get worse as time passes.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the board has reviewed and updated the strategic plan, and we have identified the critical tower repairs at BSP as our number one priority this year. Peter and Jim have obtained estimates to address the rust and sandblast and repaint the tower. The cost to accomplish this work is \$160,000. In addition, in order to obtain approval for most work and restoration on historical structures, one has to obtain an Historical Structures Report (HSR). This document is compiled by an architectural firm that researches archives, reports, and other historical files pertaining to the subject structure. They compile and issue an extensive report that documents via pictures, plans and other archived information what the structure "looked like" at a certain point in history. The HSR is critical to securing grants and other funds for restoration. These reports cost, on average, \$60,000. Adding these two costs together, we need a total of approximately \$220,000. (I graduated from Ohio State University).

The board has initiated a Capital Campaign Fund to raise these dollars this year. It definitely is a lot of money, much more than has ever been sought before by SPLKA. However, we can no longer afford to "nickel and dime" our maintenance issues. If we want to be true to our mission statement, we need to maintain our structures so that they will be preserved and protected now as well as for many years into the future.

The board met in April for our first meeting of 2019 and held a retreat that focused on how a good board operates and how to manage fundraising. We learned much about effective fundraising, how to write effective "request letters," and how to write successful grant applications. One thing that was emphasized is that one has to be bold and not afraid to ask. We will be contacting corporations, foundations, and individuals who have been identified as having an interest in lighthouses. We will conduct specific fundraising events. Senator Peters has offered his help as well.

You all have been very generous with donations, your time and your talents. In addition to your generous donations, your help is needed identifying names of any contacts (corporations, businesses, individuals) that you think might be willing to help with our preservation campaign. We will also need help writing follow-up letters and forwarding informational packages to prospective donors.

As the campaign progresses, we will provide updates to keep everyone informed of our progress. We thank you in advance for your support and your participation in this crucial project.

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for their tireless efforts to further the mission of SPLKA. Even though the winter was long, cold, and snowy, we all survived the polar vortex and are working hard to make the 2019 season a special one. I hope to see many of you this summer at one of our beautiful lighthouses. I wish you all a blessed summer season.

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

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.

Summer is here! As you read this, temperatures may not be the balmiest yet but they are on the way. 2019 is shaping up to be another successful season. All of our lights are open as of May 24, and I believe our members and guests will enjoy the many upgrades to our facilities. I cannot thank Jim Hardie enough for all of his hard work and his dedication to the lights of SPLKA.



It is because of Jim's efforts that the gift shop and main floor of the Big Sable Lighthouse look so spectacular as we open for the season. Horse hair plaster repair of all of the cracks and fresh paint on the walls and ceiling were a few of the projects that Jim made sure were accomplished this winter. Along with the downstairs, Jim also made sure that the plaster ceiling in the upstairs kitchen was repaired and a new coat of paint applied. A new kitchen table and chairs now grace the upstairs kitchen as well. No longer will the cards stick to the table during the volunteer keepers' evening card games

in the muggy weather.

A big thank-you goes out to the many volunteers who came in during those cold winter months to give Jim a hand with painting, plastering and hanging doors. A few even battled harsh wintry conditions as they came up to work a weekend.

Over 40 doors at Big Sable have been stripped of layers of paint and repaired and refinished. What a restoration project! The refinished doors add new a luster to each of the rooms throughout the lighthouse. SPLKA is grateful to the *Mason County Community Foundation* and the *Great Lakes Energy Peoples Fund* for providing support for this project.

At Big Sable, there are a few new displays for our visitors to explore and enjoy. The new interactive Fresnel lens display seems to already be a crowd favorite. Twenty-one donated Michigan Harbor Lights lighthouse models are now on display in the tunnel area between the tower and the video room at Big Sable. Newly framed pictures now are displayed on the walls along with two new video monitors which are showcasing many photographs of Big Sable from the SPLKA archives. Also greeting our guests this season is an updated Big Sable Point Lighthouse informational video.

New items to see at Little Sable include a small display of photographs and information related to the Armistice Day Storm of 1940. This exhibit honors the three ships which were lost on this day between Little Sable Point and Pentwater. The display was partially financed through a gift from the *Oceana Youth Council Foundation* and a very generous donor. Some of SPLKA's historical pictures of Little Sable have been transferred onto metal and are also on display in the Little Sable tower. On May 13, the Fresnel lens at Little Sable was cleaned by professional lampist Kurt Forsberg. SPLKA's agreement with the State

of Michigan requires that the lens be cleaned by a professional lampist every five years. The cleaning is paid for with funds from a grant from the Michigan State Parks Department.

The ice was barely off the pier and north side of the lighthouse as we got ready to open the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse this season. We are hard at work making sure that our exhibits at the LNBL are kept up to date. Now that Jim has electricity inside the light, we are even exploring the possibility of putting together a short informational video for our guests to view during their visit. An interactive porthole game is a new attraction that was just recently funded. Some new metal pictures have been added and line the walls of the tower as our guests climb to each level.

Work was also finished this spring on the porthole restoration project. The comments we received last summer from our guests and volunteers when only half of them were finished were very complimentary. The cool breezes blowing in from Lake Michigan, cooling off the tower and those inside, were a welcome relief on hot summer days. The restored portholes look spectacular. We are thankful for the many donors who helped with this important preservation project. Our donors will be recognized with a new plaque which will hang in the LNBL for all to see.



Matt has been busy with informational projects at White River. A new video focusing on the keepers of White River was produced for the station this past winter. It highlights many key journal entries that describe the happenings around the White River Light Station. Our own David Dietrich is featured in this video. Dave says he will be volunteering at White River this summer so look for him when you visit. SPLKA has also helped produce a new White River informational video which will be shown in the keepers' workshop. SPLKA thanks the Friends of the White River Light Station who helped fund the new technology that is being used in the exhibit area and for helping with the new videos.

Just completed at the White River Light Station is the new roof. The old roof was badly in need of repair and replacement. SPLKA partnered with Fruitland Township and the White Lake Community Foundation to make this happen earlier this spring. A Saturday of grounds work was donated by the Sierra Club of Fremont on Earth Day, and the White River Light Station is now ready for a busy summer season.

Once again, our Summer at the Lights programs will feature local and national artists. Back again this summer is the wonderful little folk band from Nashville, TN, The Rough and Tumble, which took our audience

by surprise last season. They will be playing the week of July 10 at Little Sable, Big Sable's Bus day, and at White River. The Steel Doin It steel drum band will return to both Little Sable and White River this summer. If you haven't attended one of their concerts, it is well worth the time and effort to see them. Wyatt and Shari Knapp are back as a duo at Little Sable and with their country group High Lonesome for bus day at Big Sable. Third Coast Gypsy Jazz will be making their debut this year at Little Sable Lighthouse. They are a very popular local group. Fremont John will be joining us at White River and for a bus day at Big Sable. Oceana Drive featuring Ruthie Eilers and 60's folk duo Jim Novak and Paul Cerny will be returning to round our summer concerts. Visit our website at www.splka.org for a complete schedule of the dates and times for all of these concerts and many other planned events at all four of the lights.

I hope many of you have had an opportunity to check out our new web site. This endeavor has been a few months coming. We had our soft opening of it in February of this year, and we have been tweaking it ever since. We will be promoting it more as it makes it easy to donate and find information regarding our organization. We have already seen an increase in on-line donations. Both our web site and our Facebook

presence continue to grow in numbers of followers.

Our most ambitious goal this year is to raise enough money in the Capital Campaign Fund to refurbish and paint the Big Sable Tower in 2020 and to start a Historic Structures report for Big Sable. This will be an investment of \$220,000 into preserving the Big Sable Lighthouse. It is a lofty goal, but if we all pull together we can make it happen. Our Capital Campaign Fund stands at \$85,000 on this date. This is 38% of our goal. There are several ways in which you can help, including purchasing a walkway board, sending in a designated donation, and sharing our needs with your circle of friends. The SPLKA Board of Directors and I will continue to speak with funders and donors and seek grants to help us make the goal a reality. This may appear to be a daunting task, but keep in mind that the Big Sable tower and keepers' quarters were saved by a small group of individuals, in 1987, who worked together and succeeded in spite of the odds. They laid the foundation for what our organization has become today. So, in that same spirit, and the spirit of Guy Blake, one of Big Sable's former keepers, we are the present-day keepers of the dream and vision for the light. Together we can make this a reality.

Thank-you for helping futher our mission to make our lighthouses accessible to all! ~ Peter Manting

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 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!



Rachel's Corner



by Rachel Bendele
SPLKA Operations
Gift Shop Manager



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

Spring has finally brought in some sunshine and bright skies! That means we are all busy working to get the lighthouses up and ready for the season. We've just welcomed our first group of volunteers to Big Sable, and they are busy getting the lighthouse cleaned and merchandise on the shelves.

The volunteer schedules at the lighthouses are looking great for this time of year, with only a few openings remaining at Little Sable and Ludington North Breakwater. The scheduling can be very complex, and with things kicking into high gear at this time of year, the one thing that lets me breathe much easier is a nearly filled schedule!

However, don't think you've missed your chance to be a volunteer keeper if you haven't already signed up. If we don't have an opening that fits your schedule now, just remember, "life happens." Throughout the season, things do open up occasionally. Please let us know if we can put you on the cancellation list. Last year we had a couple of weeks where we were already short-handed, and then on top of that a cancellation occurred. After the panic attack and feeling a bit overwhelmed, the volunteers pitched in and solved the scheduling problems. They never let us down. To those of you who may have had to cancel, we understand life doesn't always conform to your plans. And to those who fill in during the unexpected cancellations, thank you for your flexibility.

This year we have cut back the days the local day keepers will work at Little Sable and Ludington North Breakwater to just Mondays because the number of day keepers and/or the time they have to offer has dwindled. Our day keepers work as much or as little as they'd like throughout the season and help cover the lighthouses on the days the resident keepers transition, with one group moving out and a new group moving in. In past years, we have tried to schedule day keepers on a second day during each tour so those coming in from out of town and other states or countries can explore the community and see our other lighthouses. If you are local to

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

any of our lighthouses or know anyone who is and who might be interested in day keeping, we are always welcoming new day keepers.

In other news, we are receiving deliveries of gift shop merchandise into the office and getting it to the appropriate locations. There are some great looking items coming in, and the staff and I enjoy opening each box to see what's inside.

Speaking of merchandise and gift shops, the lighthouses will have some new displays this year. I was able to score some deals on display equipment from a store that was going out of business. At Little Sable getting the merchandise outside the trailer so it can be seen is a challenge, but I am hoping some of the new displays can help us solve that. Also, Ludington Breakwater and White River will have some new displays that will help in the tight spaces. The gift shop area at Big Sable has undergone some improvements and upgrades, and with the help of staff and volunteers we have been moving things around a bit to allow a better flow through the gift shop area and showcase some of the changes. I am looking forward to seeing it all come together as we prepare each light to open.

It's going to be a great year, and I hope you get a chance to come out and volunteer or even just stop by to see what we're up to at the lighthouses!

I look forward to seeing you at the Lights!
~ Rachel

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.

Lighthouse Maintenance News

SPRING 2019



by Jim Hardie
Restoration and
Maintenance Supervisor



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

It is spring and I want to say the grass is getting green, the tulips are blooming and the weather is beautiful. Not. What happened? I am writing this on tax day, April 15. I had eight inches of heavy wet snow yesterday at my house near Whitehall. As I was watching the season opener of Game of Thrones in what appeared to be an endless snowstorm, it was sure true when they said on the TV, "winter is here." Oh, well, enough whining on my part. I have finally put the snowmobile and the snowblower away. Now out come the summer toys. Ready or not.

The lighthouses are in good shape for the upcoming season with many improvements completed for visitors and keepers alike. Big Sable has had the gift shop area, the video room and the upstairs kitchen plasterwork repaired. With the help of several volunteers, the rooms are sporting a fresh coat of paint on the walls and trim work. It looks fresh and bright. Thanks to Chuck Jameson, Anne Jameson, Ken Reeves, Dave Rusnell, Mark Whitford and Rob Bauman. New lighting was installed in the hallways and video room along with a few new displays. The new

displays were built to showcase our lighthouse models and light source artifacts. They turned out quite nicely, if I do say so. The door-refinishing project is nearly completed, and the doors look great. A big thank you to Lowe's Home Improvement in Ludington, Michigan, for their assistance with the procurement of new doors to replace some that could not be refinished. Their donation is very much appreciated.

Little Sable's residence sports a new look as well. There are new dressers in all the bedrooms, new furniture, paint, area rugs, curtains, and more in the living room. We also replaced the dishwasher and first floor toilet this winter. The house is ready for people to move in. I want to thank my wife Debbie whose design ideas and many hours of hard work are greatly appreciated.

The Breakwater Light residence has new beds this year. Hopefully this will allow everyone to have a more restful night of sleep after working at the lighthouse all day. The ice is rapidly leaving the walk going out to the lighthouse, but it's not gone as of today. I am anxious to see how the lighthouse fared over the winter. New steps that

don't need to be brought in every day will be installed when weather permits. The new steps should make the work load a little easier on our keepers each day.

The big news at White River Light Station this spring has been the emergence of the shipwreck on the beach. If you didn't get a chance to see it, let me just say that it was pretty cool. Matt will have more to say about the wreck in his curator report. I am receiving bids to replace the roof on the residence and museum which is long overdue. That work will commence yet this spring, weather permitting, as always. A local chapter of the Sierra Club is coming in on Earth Day to help us spruce up the grounds after a long hard winter. Hopefully, the snow will be gone, and I am looking forward to their help. The landscaping which was done last year appears to have survived the winter quite well. I know the rabbits are enjoying it as there must have been a half dozen frolicking through the yard and garden while I was there last Friday getting bids on the roof replacement. I felt like Elmer Fudd yelling at them to get off my yard and out of my gardens. Yikes! I scare myself sometimes. Lastly, a few changes are being made to the



interior hallway to make it easier to get around for Matt and our day keepers. If you haven't been to the White River Light Station recently, stop in after opening day to see all the improvements we have made over the past few years.

The off season is filled with more items to accomplish than I can possibly get done, but there is always next year. Last spring I mentioned that your maintenance guy loves fresh homemade cookies. A big thank you to all who made cookies for me. The cookies are much appreciated as are all the pleasant conversations with old friends and new ones. Our volunteers are the best part of the job. A special shout-out to all the ladies from the third tour at Big Sable last year. You rock. A big thank-you to Bruce VanWingen also for his help each spring in moving the mountains of sand that build up each year. He is quite handy with the skid steer.

As always 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. 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.

Porthole Project complete:

Restoration of the portholes in the Ludington North Breakwater lighthouse has been completed. What a wonderful project. Thank you to the many generous donations that SPLKA received we have been able to complete this project right on schedule. This has been a very interesting restoration project. A retired Coast Guard reached out to us when he heard what we were doing. He said that the windows tended to leak even back in the early 1960's when he was stationed in Ludington. He also laughed when he heard our claim of removing up to twelve coats of paint from the flanges. He said in his four years in Ludington he himself had put over twelve coats of paint from the flanges so he was sure there were many more than we were claiming to have removed.

In addition to the fourteen portholes that were present in the Lighthouse, we

needed to find four more to complete the project as four had been missing and boarded up for years. To the amazement of our staff, we were able to find four period correct portholes, the correct size and whose brass flanges matched all the bolt holes of the missing units. Two of the portholes were from a 1929 steamer and the other two were from the oil tanker TEXACO ROCESTER built in 1959 in Belgium. Both ships were scrapped out in the late 1980's and the portholes found by the SPLKA staff on eBay.

The SPLKA staff will be hosting an open house at the North Breakwater Lighthouse on June the 11th with an inclement weather date of June the 13th. The open house will be for the many donors who made the project possible. Donors will be recognized with a plaque honoring Head Keepers,



those who donated \$1,000 or more to the project, First Assistant Keepers who donated \$500.00 to 999.00, Second Assistant Keepers who donated \$250.00 to \$499.00 and the Wickes whose donations were under \$250.00. The SPLKA staff and Board especially want to thank the *Mason County Community Foundation* as it was their lead gift in October of 2017 that got the project started.

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.

Hello SPLKA!

I hope everyone had a great 2018 and beginning of 2019. Since the end of the 2018 season, many things have taken place here at the White River Light Station & Museum.

The first week of December saw a lot of activity here at White River as a shipwreck became visible out on the beach in front of the station. Valerie van Heest, Eric Harmsen, and WZZM came out and did a report on

CURATOR REPORT FOR THE 2019 SUMMER SEASON

the shipwreck. Valerie and Eric took measurements and concluded that the wreck is not the *Woodruff* as originally thought back in the 1970's when the wreck was previously visible. Instead, it is now believed that the wreck is that of the *Contest*. With all this excitement, there have been many visitors to the area to check out the wreck. With that said, the plan is to display all the pictures that I have taken of the wreck, the news report that WZZM did, and some information provided by Valerie to be on display for visitors in case the wreck is no longer visible during the season.

During the off season, I have been working on several things. New this season in the workshop you will find a mannequin attired in a replica of a lighthouse keeper's uniform. Also within the workshop, the artifacts on display have been rearranged. A new informational video has been developed and will be played for visitors in the workshop. In the museum, some exhibits have been updated and rearranged as we have made space for some electronic additions to the exhibits. During this time, I have been

researching information along with searching for additional artifacts, both original and fabricated, to add to the collection. I have also been thinking of creating additional hands-on activities and exhibits to further enhance visitors' experiences at the museum.

During the 2019 season we will again be having many concerts along with yoga sessions on the grounds. Our Beer & Wine fundraising event is scheduled for August 9. New this year, in conjunction with local libraries, there will be story times for children on the grounds of the light station.

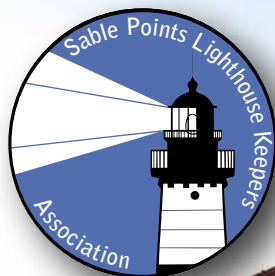
On a personal note, as some of you may not have been aware, since 2015 I have been working on a master's degree and in December I graduated. I want to take a moment to not only thank the great staff of SPLKA, but I also want to thank our board of directors and you the membership for all of your help and support not just for my work here but also as I worked on my degree.

I hope to see you all here during the 2019 season!

*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 **spklofficemanager@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

U.S. Lighthouse Society's Passport Program

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

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



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

JOIN THE PASSPORT CLUB!

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



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A Ghost Ship Returns: But Which One?

By Valerie van Heest

Michigan Shipwreck Research Association

December 2018



It is an exciting moment in the life of anyone who loves history when a window to the past is opened. Mother Nature opened that window the first week of December, 2018, when her lake gale calved off a giant section of a dune on the south side of the White Lake channel just west of the White River Light Station Museum. Where there used to be a slope to the beach, now there is a precarious bluff. And below the bluff, once buried under some five to ten feet of sand, lay exposed a time capsule from the past. Even casual observers knew what they were seeing: the



backbone and ribs of a ship, or rather the keelson and frames in maritime jargon. Some of them grabbed their cell phones, snapped pictures, and posted them on Facebook

Craig Rich, co-director of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association, reposted those photos and the story went viral. Some 30,000 pairs of eyes saw the shipwreck on line. Over the next week, many hundreds of people flocked to White Lake to see the actual wreck. And they did so without even the hope of finding a gold coin, because everyone who lives near Lake Michigan knows that lake boats only carried such cargoes as lumber, grain, coal, or stone, among other ordinary raw materials.



This was not the first time that particular shipwreck had been seen. In 1974, Pete Caesar, the first curator of the museum in the

recently decommissioned White River Light Station, spotted the same wreck (photo at left). He dug through the archives and found photos taken when it had been visible in 1942. He recognized it immediately as the remains of a schooner and began trying to identify it. Pete eventually

dubbed it the L.C. Woodruff, a 170-foot long schooner sunk in 1878. At the time, news accounts told a dramatic story of storm, disaster, rescue-gone-bad, death, and resurrection when some of the crew struggled out of the surf safe and sound. Back in the day, and particularly before the lighthouse was erected in 1875 at White Lake, more than a dozen schooners met their fate close to shore when storms made it difficult for those ships to maneuver. Shore is no friend to a sailor in bad weather.

With a new museum to run, Pete Caesar put out an appeal for support and funding to recover and display the wreck before the lake could reclaim it. However, he was met with rejection. No one had the money or space to conserve and display such a large artifact. At that time, the



Mystery Ship Seaport in Menominee, Michigan, was already feeling the pain in their wallets and seeing the degradation of the schooner Alvin Clark, an intact ship raised just a few years

earlier from deep water in Green Bay. Instead, Caesar managed to drag the stem of the vessel (the forward-most timbers) up from the beach and mount it for museum visitors to see just outside the lighthouse. It still stands there today, though considerably decayed. Only oral history passed down to the current lighthouse museum curator, Matt Varnum, tells us it was recovered in the 1970s so we have to surmise it came from this wreck. Then, five years later, Caesar published his first of many books: L. C. Woodruff: Lake Michigan's Ghost Ship Returns.

Now in 2018, with the news going viral, people began saying that the ghost ship Woodruff had returned once again.

However, we recalled that back in 2005 a beachcomber had come across the remains of a shipwreck in shallow water about a mile north of the White Lake Channel. The timbers were long and large. Wisconsin historian Brendon Baillod reviewed photographs of that wreck and suggested it was more likely the Woodruff than the wreck at the channel.

Craig Rich, who had written about the Woodruff in his book *Through Surf and Storm*, looked into this further. All the historical accounts suggested that, while the Woodruff spent some time anchored off the White River Channel during the storm back in November, 1878, waves swept it north where it eventually grounded north of the channel.

Over the past twenty years, since we founded the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association, our team has surveyed and identified more than two dozen shipwrecks along the West Michigan shore, not to mention another two dozen in deep water. It was time to dig out our shovels, tape measures, and slate boards and head up to the White River Light Station Museum to attempt to officially confirm or refute Caesar's identification of the wreck.

I invited Eric Harmsen, an archaeologist who now manages the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, to join me to document the remains.

We arrived armed with historic accounts that Craig Rich and I had unearthed of six schooners that had wrecked at White Lake. All six had been built in the mid-19th century, so we could not expect differing construction styles would provide any clues to the wreck's identity. One schooner was small, four schooners were medium and one schooner was large in size. But even before we headed down to the beach, we ruled out three of the mid-sized ships. The Telegraph, Alex Mitchel, and North



Yuba had all wrecked at White Lake before 1866. But before 1866, the White Lake Channel was nearly three quarters of a mile north of where the channel is today and that was considered the location of White

Lake. In 1867 lumberman Charles Mears dredged out the new channel as a more direct, and thus more cost effective, path into Lake Michigan through which to ship his sawn lumber.

Therefore, only three candidates remained: The small, 67-foot long Madison, the medium 124-foot long Contest, or the large 170-foot Woodruff, if Caesar knew something we didn't. There are no historic photos of any of these ships.

Varnum, who works for the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association, led us 500 feet west from the lighthouse to the wreckage.



At the beach, we carefully negotiated our way down the dune that shifted under our every step. Mother Nature had been at work again, churning up the surf to give us a vision of what it must have

been like the day the mystery schooner battled the elements and lost.

Thus we came face to face with the past. The bow, obvious because the frames were shorter at one end, faced south, and we approached from the stern stepping gingerly over the structure. Waves crashed over the starboard frames. Walking along the port side, we came to the bow, where we could easily picture where the bow stem, now displayed on shore, had once been positioned. We got right down to the business of measuring the length, as that would provide the best opportunity to



identify the wreck. From the bow to the last portion of the structure visible before the dune enveloped it, the keelson measured 66 feet plus about six feet to account for the missing

stem. We used the shovel to burrow a ways into the dune and could clearly see that the keelson continued with no end in sight, so we ruled out the 67-foot Madison.

We inspected an interesting feature along the keelson. A slab of wood angled down (at right) through a slot in the keelson. It could only be the centerboard, still in position. While sailing, it helped stabilize the ship. Now, it locked the ship into the sand. From years of examining wrecks and ship drawings, we knew that a centerboard typically was located forward of the ship's centerline. On this wreck, the centerboard box starts about 40 feet back from the bow, and the slot measures just over 20 feet. That put the center of the ship at about 60 feet. Double that, and the wreck is some 120 feet long, give or take. Due to degradation and the partial covering of the wreck in sand, we could not be precise. But we could rule out the 170-foot Woodruff once and for all, leaving the 126-foot Contest as the most logical conclusion.

There is little historical data about the Contest and no dramatic accounts of its final accident. No photographs exist, but it may have looked like the two-masted schooner pictured below. Built at Buffalo,



New York, in 1855, it sailed on lakes Erie, Huron, and Michigan, operating, according to records, in the grain trade. But it may have carried salt and lumber, too. The ship had many owners and many masters. It suffered numerous minor accidents, was repaired and sailed again. In 1868, it disappeared in a snow storm and was presumed lost, but later sailed into port. When S. Cobb of Chicago purchased it in 1876, it was considered unseaworthy. He must have repaired it because he used it until 1882 when it encountered that storm off White Lake. There is nothing to tell us whether it was loaded or sailing light that fateful day. A few newspaper accounts indicate that it "went ashore" at White Lake. One account indicates that it missed the channel and ran up on the beach. The crew members simply stepped off the ship onto dry land. They probably took shelter in the lighthouse, just seven years new at the time. The next day, under orders from the owner, the crew stripped it of its valuables, probably equipment, maybe masts, and cargo, if it had been carrying any at the time, and watched as the surf began breaking it up.

So now we watch while Mother Nature performs her handiwork yet again and once more buries the wreck in the sand. Even while we were there, sections of the bluff hanging over the wreck had begun falling onto the timbers. For another brief period of time, we have had a glimpse into the past, to the days when sailing ships dotted Lake Michigan and when sailors risked their lives on every voyage.

Thank you to Craig Rich for collaborating on the research, Eric Harmsen for his expertise, Kevin Ailes for aerial photographs, Matt Varnum for his photos of us working at the site of the wreck, and Brendon Baillod for his input.

Volunteer

SPOTLIGHT

by Rachel Bendele



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

In a recent telephone call with a couple who are long-time volunteers, I questioned them about an older article for which they had been interviewed. As we tried to think back to the timeframe for the article, I mentioned that I knew they had been keepers for a long time and

asked them to remind me how they initially had heard about becoming lighthouse keepers. After that, I think we forgot about the article and began a conversation about the couple's journey as lighthouse keepers.

In 1996 Bruce and Sandy Van Wingen, both retired school teachers, read an article in the Grand Rapids Press about the opportunity to become a lighthouse keeper at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. Both very interested, they followed the process to apply for the volunteer program.

Every year since, they have volunteered for a two-week tour of duty at Big Sable Point Lighthouse and have also helped fill in for emergency cancellations when they could. Once the organization opened Little Sable, they also volunteered to work a week in the fall at Little Sable Point Lighthouse.

During my conversation with Bruce I asked, "What has made you stick with it and come back every single year?" Without skipping a beat, he replied "It's a great experience – a great work experience. After you've been doing it a couple of years you take pride and ownership in the organization and it's no longer 'they,' it becomes 'we.'" As he replied I felt a very deep passion resonate from his words.

I then asked, "What is your favorite part of being a lighthouse keeper?" This is always one of my standard questions for the volunteers. With excitement in his voice he replied, "Oh, gosh, the most rewarding part is meeting the visitors and sharing the information with them. It's never the same conversation twice, and I can remember so many little things about different people I've met and the conversations with them."

At this point I was thinking he's probably wondering why I am asking him so many questions, as though he's being interviewed. However, the reality is when people speak with passion and excitement about our lighthouses, I just want to hear more. So the conversation continued as I asked questions when I had them and listened as he shared his stories.

Bruce began with a story of a man who visited the lighthouse

back in 2006. The man and his wife, Joe & Jean, were visiting because they had a connection to the lighthouse as many of our visitors do. Joe's father worked for the Life Saving Service back in 1908. Bruce recalled the conversation with Joe and how fascinating it was. As they talked, Joe discovered a picture of his father on the kiosk outside the lighthouse. Bruce remembers how the feeling of that moment has stuck with him. Bruce also shared a letter that he received from Jean and Joe following the visit.

October 2, 2006

Dear Bruce and all the Big Sable Point Lighthouse volunteers:

Thank you for the royal treatment Joe and I received while visiting Big Sable Point Lighthouse museum on Thursday October 21st. What an amazing experience it was for Joe, walking the area that his father walked in 1908 while serving in the Life Saving Service. We knew it was going to be thrilling but did not expect everyone at the lighthouse to help make it such a memorable experience. Seeing his father's picture on the kiosk where the Life Saving building used to stand was the "frosting on the cake." Walking up to the top of the lighthouse was also awesome for Joe. He told me that he felt the closest to his father that he had felt since his death in 1946 when he was 13 years old.

We left on the ferry from Ludington on Friday, October 22nd. That trip back was a truly memorable trip also, to say the least. We had 12 foot waves rocking the ship for most of the four hour trip. One huge wave tipped the boat and people and tables went flying. Many people were injured. It was almost like a movie. The employees were giving ice to a person here and bandaging a person there. The ambulance met us in Manitowoc and we were not able to leave the ship until the paramedics removed a severely injured person. My final picture of our trip was of the ambulance waiting at the gate. There were lots of people who were taken to the emergency room in Manitowoc. Joe and I were sitting at a booth that was bolted to the floor and therefore just hung on for the ride!! I believe it was a first for the ferry. I believe if we ever crossed again the tables in the area that were not bolted will be bolted to the deck. Quite an experience. I kept thinking that this was the type of water that his dad went into to rescue people when the lighthouse gave them the signal. Funny it should happen on that day.

I've enclosed one of the pictures that you took of us with my camera. You had asked me to mail you one. I've also enclosed a picture of Joe by the kiosk pointing at his dad's picture. Does he look happy or what??

How does one say thanks for making our trip such a memorable event in a 73 year old man's life?

Thanks for everything. ~ Jean & Joe

Sandy was sitting in the background as Bruce and I talked, and she would remind him of other stories or he would lean to her for a name or piece of the story were talking about.



Bruce & Sandy Van Wingen
Volunteers

I then asked “What are some of Sandy’s favorite memories?” Sandy said that some of her best memories and experiences at the lighthouse were the opportunities to interview different

people who had lived at the lighthouse. One was Violet Robinson whose father was a lighthouse keeper. Another was Dr. Parker who, as a boy, would stay at the lighthouse with his best friend Gilbert, whose father was one of the last keepers.

For many years now the Van Wingens have been serving on an early spring tour that starts a week before opening day. They along with fellow volunteers spend many, many hours working and getting the lighthouse grounds ready to open for the season. They move sand (and lots of it) to make way for the walkway boards, they roll out and place the walkway boards, they help complete maintenance projects, and they do all this starting early in the morning and working late into the evening. Sandy and other volunteers on the tour are busy inside with finishing touches to the gift shop, cleaning, and assisting with projects.

Bruce says he enjoys coming to the lighthouse and working hard, and he takes pride in putting out the walkways and making everything just right. It’s the least he can do, he says, as he is so grateful to the very early volunteers who came together to save the lighthouse.

After 22 consecutive years of volunteering, the Van Wingens decided for 2018 that the two full weeks at the lighthouse were getting to be too much, but they are not ready to walk away. They still want to be involved, and Bruce plans to help with maintenance at the lighthouse and continue to help with the grounds work in the spring for getting Big Sable ready to open.

Bruce and Sandy Van Wingen have worked with many people over their years of service and have enjoyed working with different people and making so many memories. In fact, Bruce shared some funny stories and pranks that they pulled over the years. I bet that some of you who have had the pleasure of working with Bruce and Sandy will be brought back to these memories with a chuckle or just simply nodding your head as you read this reflection on their years of service.

Together they have made a lifetime worth of memories as Keepers of the Lights!

As the lightning lit up the room, Sandy saw a young girl, 8-10 years old, wrapped in a white gown with some type of scarf over her face, reaching for her. Sandy held her frail cool hand in hers and lay there knowing there were no children in the lighthouse. She said she was not afraid but felt surreal. At one point in the night, Bruce woke up and Sandy asked if he could see her and he replied yes and fell back to sleep. Upon waking the next morning, the visitor was gone and, when asked, Bruce didn’t remember any part of the encounter. In every tour since then, Sandy has waited for the girl to re-appear and need her again.

Sandy also shared her most memorable experience from November 2005. It was a stormy night and they were lulled to sleep by rumbling thunder and rain pattering on the roof. As they slept, the storm escalated to loud claps of thunder and bright flashes of lightning that lit up the room. She remembers suddenly being awakened by something—someone was trying to get into their bed. She sat up quickly and said “What’s going on here?” A breathless voice replied, “My mother is not here...I’m afraid...can I stay with you?”

Welcome New Board Member **ALAN J. COCCONI**



Alan J. Cocconi
Volunteer

Mr. Cocconi is a long-time resident of suburban Chicago. A native of New England, he holds a BS in marketing from the University of Connecticut and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. Professionally, he retired from a technology and sales career spanning software and professional services. He has spoken nationwide on business technology and was an adjunct professor of business at Aurora University.

Mr. Cocconi has a long history of volunteer and charitable service in civic and religious organizations, including chairing an annual event raising healthcare funds for people on the margins of society. He has been a member of Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association since 2003 and has been a volunteer light keeper annually since.

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Welcome New Board Member **MARK HALLENBECK**



Mark Hallenbeck
Volunteer

Mark Hallenbeck has deep roots in West Michigan. His grandfather built a lake cottage there in the 1940’s, and every summer his family ventured from the Detroit area to vacation at the cottage. Mark vividly recalls walking up the Ludington north breakwater to the then-shuttered lighthouse, wondering what mysteries might lurk inside. He couldn’t possibly have imagined that decades later he would volunteer inside that historic lighthouse. But it was Big Sable Point Lighthouse that led Mark & his wife, Nancy, to join SPLKA and begin ten years of lighthouse volunteering. Mark has always been drawn to sand and water, and when he and Nancy discovered the magnificent black-and-white structure on the lakeshore, they couldn’t believe their good fortune. Mark and Nancy count their weeks of lighthouse volunteering, and sharing their passion for the lighthouses with wide-eyed visitors, among the most memorable adventures of their lives, and Mark is excited to pay it forward by serving on the SPLKA Board.

Mark Hallenbeck has deep roots in West Michigan. His grandfather built a lake cottage there in the 1940’s, and every summer his family ventured from the Detroit area to vacation at the cottage. Mark vividly recalls walking up the Ludington north breakwater to the then-shuttered lighthouse, wondering what mysteries might lurk inside. He couldn’t possibly have imagined that decades later he would volunteer inside that historic lighthouse. But it was Big Sable Point Lighthouse that led Mark & his wife, Nancy, to join SPLKA and begin ten years of lighthouse volunteering. Mark has always been drawn to sand and water, and when he and Nancy discovered the magnificent black-and-white structure on the lakeshore, they couldn’t believe their good fortune. Mark and Nancy count their weeks of lighthouse volunteering, and sharing their passion for the lighthouses with wide-eyed visitors, among the most memorable adventures of their lives, and Mark is excited to pay it forward by serving on the SPLKA Board.

Internship Matters
 AT SPLKA
 by
BECCA FOLSOM



Hello! My name is Becca Folsom and I just recently completed my internship with SPLKA this past summer (2018). I received my Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in May 2017. My major was geography and I had two minors – museum studies and history. While completing my studies at CMU, I had the opportunity to work at my residence hall's front desk for three years and I was also involved in multiple volunteer opportunities. These opportunities included working at the Humane Animal Treatment Society, the Mount Pleasant Discovery Museum, as well as numerous volunteer outings with the Museum Studies Club on campus. After getting my degree at CMU, I decided to go a little deeper in my museum studies interest and decided to complete a graduate certificate from Eastern Michigan University in Cultural Museum Studies. I completed this program in August of 2018 (after completing my SPLKA internship). This program gave me the opportunity to meet other museum professionals in the area and take graduate level museum studies courses.

My family has a cottage in Mears, Michigan, located right down the street from the Little Sable Light, so I was already aware of SPLKA's involvement with the lighthouses well before I started my internship. My family would often spend many weekends up north and often we would find ourselves 92 feet above the ground on top of Little Sable's tower for tours. When I saw SPLKA's post about needing summer help on their Facebook page I jumped at the chance to be involved. I interviewed with Rachel and Peter



Becca Folsom

(pictured on right) SPLKA 2018 Intern

shortly after submitting my resume and not long after I accepted the intern position! I was incredibly excited to start this opportunity. I didn't have to worry about finding housing, since I'd be living at my family's cottage in Mears all summer, which put my mind at ease when thinking about this new opportunity. I was going to be living and working with lighthouses for the whole summer – how cool is that?!

I had a variety of duties while I worked with SPLKA this summer. Every week I would facilitate keeper orientation at Little Sable. During this orientation process I would remind new and old keepers alike on SPLKA's policies and procedures, answer any questions they had, trained them in our gift shop trailer, and made sure tours were running smoothly. I met so many new people this summer – both volunteers and guests! I loved talking with everyone to see if they had been to LSP before, how they found out about our organization, where they were from, and what they hoped to gain from this experience.

In addition to facilitating keeper orientations every week, I also helped with special events. I was responsible for set up, facilitation, and tear-down of many community events that SPLKA was involved with. Some of these

events included: Night at the Lights (weekly music concerts at LSP), Friday Night Live (Ludington's summer-long street fair down Ludington Ave.), and Bus Day (where SPLKA provides bus transportation to and from the front of Ludington State Park right to Big Sable Point). During these events we (SPLKA staff and volunteers) were able to talk interact with members of the community and help further promote our mission.

While I did spend most of my time at Little Sable Point, I also had the opportunity to fill-in for volunteers at the White River Light Station in Whitehall. On the days that I was assigned to WRLS, I was responsible for opening, closing, and, well, working the light house! I would invite guests to come inside, tell them a little bit about the light (answering any questions, of course), and sell tour tickets and merchandise from our gift shop. I helped Matt (SPLKA Curator) with a couple of small things in addition to my normal guest services duties.

This internship experience really helped me to develop my people skills and to narrow down what I'm interested in doing career-wise. While I'm just starting off my professional career, this internship made me think about how much I am interested in working with volunteers, programming, and special events. One of the most important pieces of advice I think I can give to any SPLKA intern in the future is simply to be open to any and all opportunities that come your way. Having an open mind and a willing-to-help attitude is incredibly important to have. You need to be flexible. Some days are harder than others, and the staff at SPLKA know that. Volunteers will test your patience and you need to know how to stay calm, cool, and collected while working with volunteers and guests alike. Take advantage of working on the beach! Engage in conversations with guests, explore the area outside of the beaches, and have fun!

I am so thankful for this incredible opportunity. I'll always remember my summer working with the lighthouses!



Open May 1 - Oct. 20

Summer at the lights, 2019!

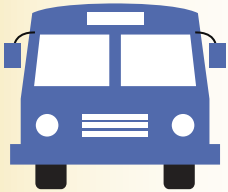
BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



The tower will be open late and available for tours for the standard admission charge.

Adults: \$5, Children 12 & under \$2 - ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!

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



BUS DAYS at BIG SABLE LIGHTHOUSE 2019

JUNE 22, JULY 11 and 27, AUG. 8 and 17, SEPT. 21
from: 12pm-5pm

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

June 22nd • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
ASPARAGRASS with Ruthie Eilers

Back for bus day by visitor request is AsparaGras. Local bluegrass/folk band complete with guitars,

fiddle, mandolin, upright bass and a truly fine blend of vocal harmonies.

July 11th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
The ROUGH AND TUMBLE

Prolific song writers, performers and born travelers; Pennsylvania-born Mallory Graham and California-born Scott Tyler have lived in their 16' camper since 2015, making tire tracks nationwide since 2011 as a traveling Folk-Americana duo. Their history goes back as far as New England in the fall of 2007 and as close as going from

friends to bandmates to married bandmates. The story is as linear and circular as any. This Americana duo is excited to be part of our lighthouse concert series.

<http://www.theroughandtumble.com>

July 27th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
HIGH LONESOME

Serving up 'Classic Country With A Kick' along with old favorites and a touch of rock, High Lonesome is getting audiences fired up across Michigan! Originally established in 1994 and re-launched in 2016, High Lonesome has been turning heads with energetic arrangements featuring multiple lead vocalists and rich three-part harmony! This four-piece band employs guitar, keys, bass and drums to entertain audiences with plenty of boot stompin', high energy, real country music that'll make you wanna dance!
<http://highlonesomeband.com>

August 8th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
JIM NOVAK AND PAUL CERNY

60's Folk guitarists Jim Novak and Paul Cerny reunite to bring their unique blend of soft rock, blues folk and hauntingly beautiful ballads that will touch your heart.

August 17th • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
FREMONT JOHN

A distinctive acoustic guitar style with resonate growl of a baritone voice is reason enough to listen to the music of Fremont John. Whether it's a remake of a classic or an original selection, the guitar work is sure to please and the stories surrounding the songs are delightfully entertaining. <http://www.fremontjohn.com>

Sept. 22rd • 1:30pm



Afternoon Concert:
OCEANA DRIVE

Oceania Drive is a hard-driving West Michigan band known for its rockin' blues, country and original tunes. The group features musicians Ruthie Eilers on vocals, piano and mandolin; Mark Smith on vocals and guitar; Andy Henley on bass; Frank Galante on vocals and guitar and Hank Cupp on drums. Favorite group at all our lighthouses.



Summer at the lights, 2019!

LITTLE SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Open May 24 - Sept. 22

Tower is open for climbing until 8PM on the nights of the concerts.
Standard admissions apply. Adults: \$5, Children 12 & under \$2
ALL Concerts are free.

July 10th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: The ROUGH & TUMBLE

Prolific song writers, performers and born travelers; Pennsylvania-born Mallory Graham and California-born Scott Tyler have lived in their 16' camper since 2015, making tire tracks nationwide since 2011 as a traveling Folk-Americana duo. Their history goes back as far as New England in the fall of 2007 and as close as going from friends to bandmates to married bandmates.

The story is as linear and circular as any. This Americana duo is excited to be part of our lighthouse concert series. <http://www.theroughandtumble.com>

July 24th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: WYATT & SHERRI KNAPP

Known for their sparkling vocals, lush harmonies, and tasteful blend that sets them apart, this personable and engaging husband-wife duo are a must see.

<http://www.wyattandsheri.com>

July 31st • 7:00pm

Evening Concert: 3RD COAST GYPSY JAZZ

3rd Coast Gypsy Jazz is a Band based in Michigan. Specializing



in Swing Jazz Popularized by Guitarist Django Reinhardt.

July 17th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: STEEL DOIN' IT

In 2002, Steel Doin' It was born from a community education class taught by Glen Miller at Spring Lake High School. The group of eight is

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

Aug. 7th • 7:00pm



Evening Concert: JIM NOVAK AND PAUL CERNY

60's Folk guitarists Jim Novak and Paul Cerny reunite to bring their unique blend of soft rock, blues folk and hauntingly beautiful ballads that will touch your heart.

Summer at the lights, 2019!



WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION

Open May 24 - Oct. 27

The tower will be open late and available for tours for the standard admission charge. Adults: \$5, Children 12 & under \$2 • ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE. In case of rain, we will meet at the Fruitland Township Hall.



YOGA at the LIGHT STATION - 9:30AM

June 21st (Rain date June 28.)

July 19th (Rain date July 27.)

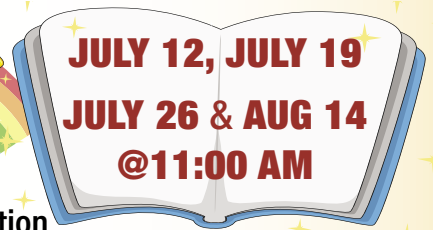
Aug. 23rd (Rain date Aug. 30)

Bring your yoga mats or large towels and water to drink and join SPLKA for Yoga. For further information call Mitch Coleman at White River Yoga, 231-740-6662.



on the lawn at

White River Light Station



JUNE 21ST • 7:00PM



Evening Concert: WYATT & SHERRI KNAPP

Known for their sparkling vocals, lush harmonies, and tasteful blend that sets them apart, this personable and engaging husband-wife duo are a must see. <http://www.wyattandshari.com>

JULY 12TH • 7:00PM



Evening Concert: THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE

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

JULY 19TH • 7:00PM



Evening Concert: STEEL DOIN' IT

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Karen Cotton. Ambre Slater is the woman behind the cello pans, and Diane Veneklasen plays the bass drums. Setting the beat and playing the "toys" are Kevin Schmucker and Kelly Parker. Kelly steps in as director and joins in on trumpet occasionally. Our mission is to have fun while bringing the sounds of the Trinidadian steel pan to West Michigan. <http://www.steeldoinit.com>

JULY 27TH • 2:00PM



Afternoon Concert: WEST MICHIGAN DULCIMER FRIENDS

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

AUG. 9TH • 6-8 PM



Featuring Fetch Beer & the music of:

CATFISH AND THE MAN

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

AUGUST 16TH • 7:00PM



Evening Concert: FREMONT JOHN

A distinctive acoustic guitar style with resonate growl of a baritone voice is reason enough to listen to the music of Fremont John. Whether it's a remake of a classic or an original selection, the guitar work is sure to please and the stories surrounding the songs are delightfully entertaining. <http://www.fremontjohn.com>



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) 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.

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.

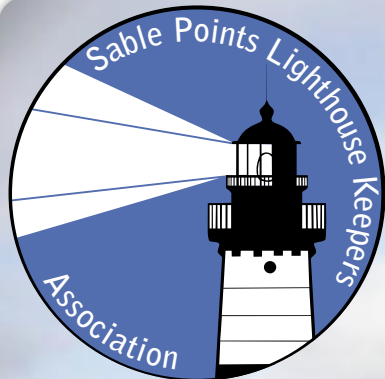
Your partnership is sincerely appreciated, and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2019 membership please consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause to restoring, promoting and educating the public and making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



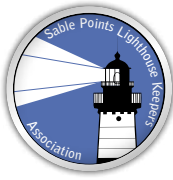
Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association Is on Facebook!

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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Kids Draw the Lights

