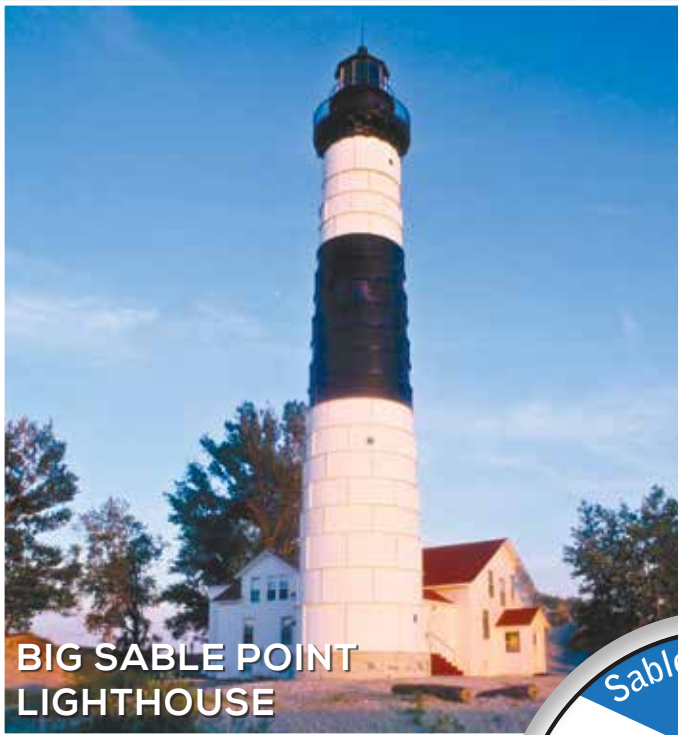
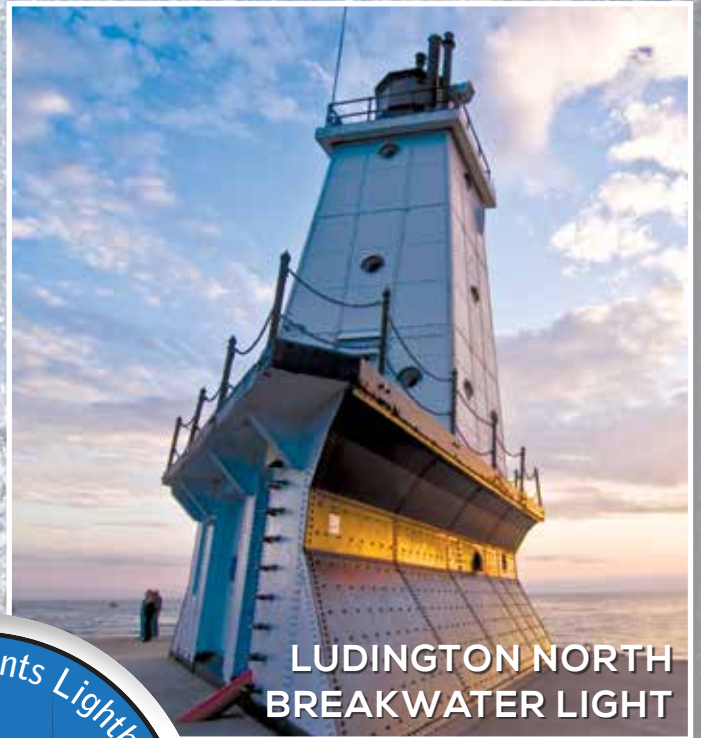


# Sable Points BEACON

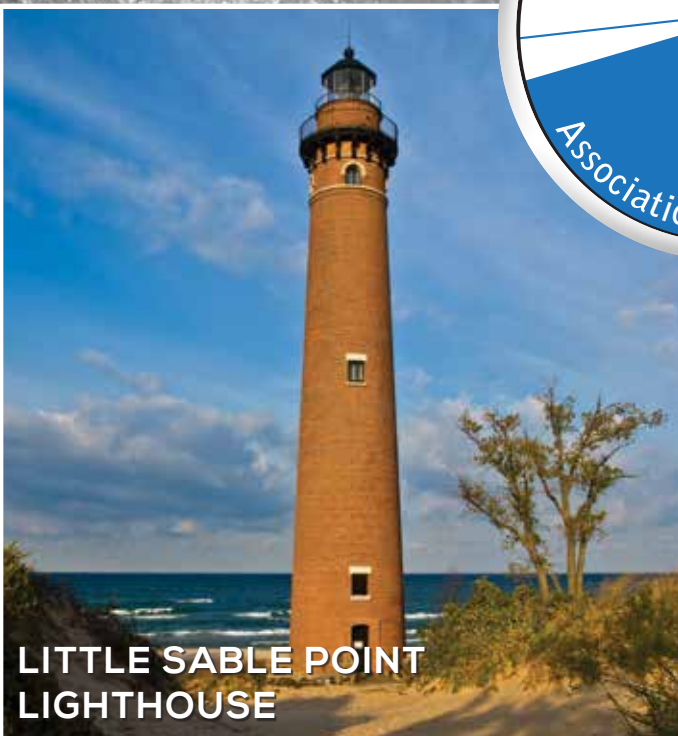
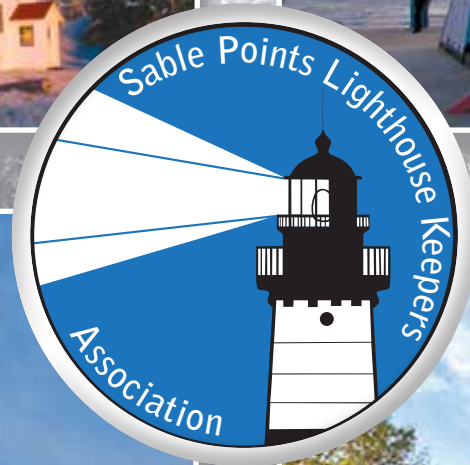
NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2018



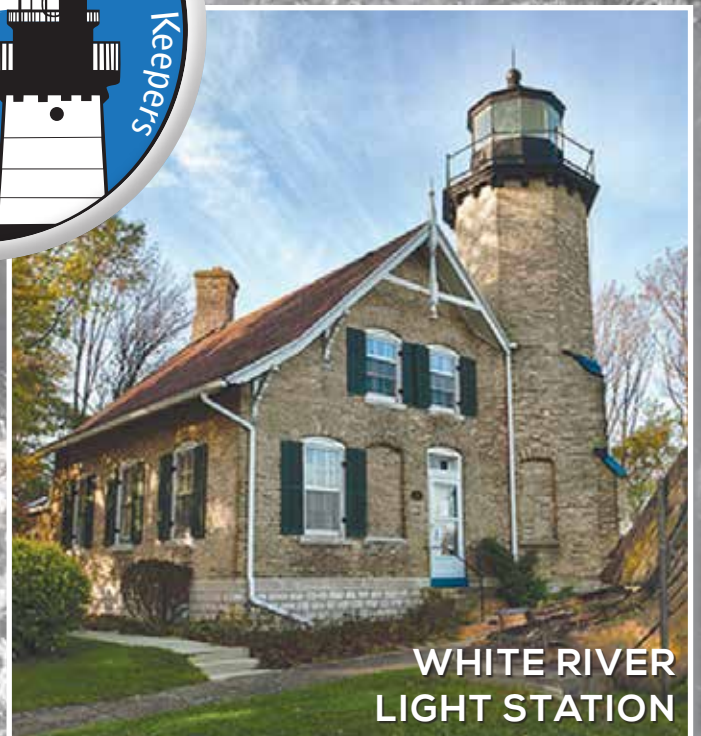
**BIG SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE**



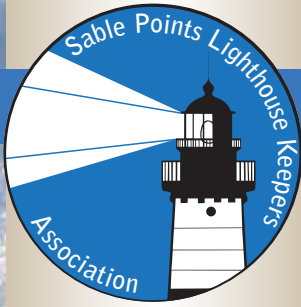
**LUDINGTON NORTH  
BREAKWATER LIGHT**



**LITTLE SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE**



**WHITE RIVER  
LIGHT STATION**



## Letter from the President

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

**Ted Robinson**  
TREASURER

**Roger Pashby**  
SECRETARY

**Kim McDaniel**  
DIRECTOR

**Bill McBeth**  
DIRECTOR

**Carl Wiegand**  
DIRECTOR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Cherie Hockenberger**  
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

**Matt Varnum**  
WRLS CURATOR

**Rachel Bendele**  
OPERATIONS/ GIFT SHOP MANAGER

**Jim Hardie**  
RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**Carol Copper**  
BOOKKEEPER

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as president of your board of directors. Some of our members know me from my previous experience on the board and/or seeing me at one of our lights. For those whom I have not yet had the privilege of meeting, I was born in Michigan and raised in Ohio. As both of my parents were born and raised in Ludington, my family has spent many wonderful vacations visiting relatives, fishing, swimming in the cold water and otherwise enjoying this beautiful area. I am very familiar with the local surroundings and often see my "Ludington friends" when we are out shopping or dining. I look forward to meeting many of our new members and once again connecting with our older members.

For you, our 2018 volunteers, welcome! You have already attended our training program and hopefully visited the light where you will be working this summer. We all want this to be a special time as you begin to learn the "ins and outs" of being a lighthouse keeper. At times it might seem a bit overwhelming with all the numbers, history, stories, and responsibilities. Please remember what one of our former volunteers and board president often said, "Rule number one: have fun!" We hope you do have fun and return for many more years of enjoying our lights and all the folks who come from all over the world to see our "castles by the lake."

As you read this newsletter, our 2018 season is well under way. I can tell you that our director and his staff have been very busy preparing our lights for the sometimes-hecktic summer season. Last year SPLKA showed growth financially and growth in membership. We have secured important relationships within our local community and established many connections on the state level. We are looking forward to another very successful year.

Yes, our director and staff have worked very hard to ensure that SPLKA is the number one lighthouse organization in Michigan. However, without you, our dedicated and loyal membership, we could not have reached our present levels of achievement. I caution, we cannot rest on our laurels. We still have much to accomplish if we wish to continue our success. To that end, I would like to share with you a summary of our updated strategic plan.

In March, Lenore Janman (a former board president) graciously facilitated a working session where board members reviewed and revised our plan for the near future. Previously, we had four goals:

**Goal #1** was basically a financial goal dealing with obtaining dollars to cover operational expenses and fundraising to support restoration projects.

**Goal #2** dealt with increasing our physical footprint to include a separate building for a gift shop at BSP, restore the garage at WRLS and build the keepers' house at LSP.

**Goal #3** addressed increasing our efforts to educate children about our lights and provide hands-on exhibits at all of our lights.

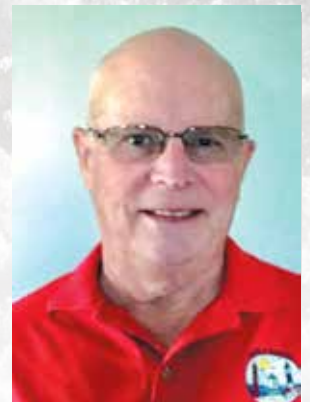
Finally, **Goal #4** dealt with establishing positive relationships and increasing our visibility in both the community and with other state agencies.

The board decided to basically keep Goal #1 as a financial goal. Goal #2 remains essentially a restoration, facilities, and maintenance goal. Finally, it was decided to combine Goals #3 and #4 as a plan for increasing our "presence" via social media in our community, the state and our local schools. We are in the process of editing the plan and, upon completion, the detailed plan will be posted on our website.

I invite anyone who would like to help implement the vision and goals to join whichever committee might be of interest. There are two board members on each committee that will help facilitate discussions, finalize plans and implement future projects. Committee members are encouraged to attend committee meetings when they can, but we are also working hard to enable interested folks to attend meetings via the internet. It is my vision to include more of you, our members, directly in the planning and implementation of our strategic plan. Together, working as a team, we will insure that SPLKA will remain a strong organization, not only preserving our lights, but also serving as a leader and role model among lighthouse organizations.

If you have questions, suggestions or ideas, please contact me at [spkpresident@gmail.com](mailto:spkpresident@gmail.com) or Peter Manting at [spkdirector@gmail.com](mailto:spkdirector@gmail.com). Again, thank you for your continued support for this great organization. I wish you all a blessed and joyous summer.

*Bob Baltzer*  
President



*"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*

# NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**CARL WIEGAND**

Appointed to the SPLKA Board of Directors at the March meeting, Carl will serve out the last year of an unexpired board term. Carl retired as building inspector for Oceana County. He is also a licensed residential contractor and licensed electrician. Carl has served on many boards in and around the Silver Lake and Mears area. He has been president of the Lighthouse Seekers group for thirty-two years, and he and his wife, Maureen, were very instrumental in getting the Little Sable Lighthouse open to the public.



**LENORE JANMAN**

Appointed to the board of directors at the May meeting, Lenore will fill a year and a half of an unexpired board term. Lenore is no stranger to the SPLKA board as she served on the board from 2010 to 2016. While on the board, she served as president from 2011-2015. Her past accomplishments include helping SPLKA develop the original strategic plan and overseeing the update in 2015 during her term as president. She was also instrumental in developing most of the SPLKA operational policies.



## OPEN POSITIONS FOR SPLKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The SPLKA Board of Directors is taking applications for three board positions. The membership will need to fill three positions at the annual meeting in August, as three current board members' terms are expiring at the end of the year. Positions will be for three-year terms. Applications are on line at the SPLKA web site or by contacting the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Applications can be emailed to [splkadirector@gmail.com](mailto:splkadirector@gmail.com) or mailed to the office at SPLKA, P.O. Box 673, Ludington, MI 40431. The deadline for submitting applications is July 31, 2018.

# 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 involve Contact Matt by email at [whiteriverlight@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverlight@gmail.com) or by phone 213-894-8265.

## Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse.

Join the local Breaker group in working on Monday and Thursday at the North Breakwater Lighthouse. Work a shift running the gift shop, selling the tower 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 Rachel at 231-845-7417 or email the SPLKA office at [splkaoperationsmanager@gmail.com](mailto:splkaoperationsmanager@gmail.com).



## Little Sable Lighthouse.

Monday and Thursday's 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, selling merchandise at our gift shop trailer and giving historical information to our visitors. Call the Rachel at the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417 or email [splkaoperations@gmail.com](mailto:splkaoperations@gmail.com) if you are interested in this unique opportunity.



# 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.*

The sun is shining and the temperature is right around seventy degrees as I write this executive director update. Summer is just around the corner. The lighthouses are all open and our guests are starting to make their way to each of our lighthouses. The SPLKA staff and our wonderful volunteers are ready for the season.

We as a staff continue to enjoy our new office space on Ludington Avenue which continues to be a blessing to all of us. This is the first season since I have been here that we didn't have to negotiate bringing the ordered merchandise up and down the office flights of stairs before the season opened. The office is convenient and gives us a wonderful presence in the City of Ludington.

The off season was a busy time for all of us. As I mentioned in my last



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report, Jim needed a project for the winter. The project we identified was refurbishing the portholes in the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse. The Mason County Community Foundation stepped up to provide SPLKA with a grant for the initial funding for this project. Since then, our members and the Ludington community have contributed over \$11,000 to help fund this \$18,000 project. As this project is ongoing, and will be for the entire 2018 season, there is still time to contribute to help with the expense of this restoration.

During the winter months, SPLKA has received some nice press coverage. The Lighthouse Digest featured Big Sable Lighthouse and recognized our 150th birthday celebration in their January/February issue. Coastal Living magazine's April issue featured a nice article on all four of our lighthouses. On May 1, SPLKA was presented with the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation for being the caretaker of four of Michigan's iconic lighthouses. What a testament to all the men and women who have had a hand in the preservation of all four of our wonderful "castles along the lakeshore." This certainly validates the first declaration in our mission statement which says SPLKA's mission is to "PRESERVE."

During the winter months, SPLKA, along with the Mason County Museum and the Port of Ludington Museum, presented the three-session winter writers' series. This year James Jansen talked about the Mason and Oceana Railway. David Dietrich spoke about his uncle, lighthouse keeper James Davenport, and the Davenport family of lighthouse keepers. Valerie van Heest, author and shipwreck explorer, spoke about her quest to find the airplane, Flight

2501, which disappeared over Lake Michigan in 1950. Once again, these lectures were well attended and well received by the Ludington community.

This summer will be packed with activities at all of our lighthouses. There will be music on all of the Big Sable bus days. This year we have scheduled two Thursday bus days and four Saturday bus days. The dates can be found on SPLKA.org on the Schedule tab.

The Night at the Lights programming at Little Sable starts Wednesday, July 11, and will continue on four more consecutive Wednesday evenings. These are wonderful concerts for the whole family. Back this year on August 1 will be the Steel Doin' It steel drum band. They drew over two hundred people last season with their Caribbean sound. We have some other returning musicians and a few new artists as well. What a way to spend a wonderful Wednesday evening relaxing on the beach to music and watching the sunset behind Little Sable.



## Notes from your Director, CONT.

There will be some great Friday evening concerts at the White River Light Station for those who want to start their weekends off right. On August 3, we will be hosting our second annual Beer Festival. Wine and bottled water will be available for those non-beer drinkers. This is a fundraiser put on by Fetch Brewery of Whitehall, featuring their locally made beers with proceeds going to help support SPLKA's lighthouses. Last year the weather didn't cooperate so we are hoping for better climate conditions this year. Come out and enjoy the music by local musicians, *Catfish and the Man*, and the fellowship of area lighthouse and beer lovers.

Debating this season at the lighthouses will be new exhibits inside the White River Light Station. With the opening of the newly restored keeper's workshop at White River, there are now larger artifacts on display that previously could not be accommodated in the available space.

Three new memorial benches will welcome our guests at Little Sable Lighthouse. These benches were given in memory of Clifford Steward, Marlene Pierce and Paul Kutsche. The benches will be a welcome addition to the site for those visiting the light and the beach.



**Aug. 3rd • 6-8 pm**



**featuring: CATFISH and the MAN  
AT WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION**

A new stabilized visitors deck at Little Sable will also welcome our summer guests. No longer will the deck be at the mercy of the shifting sands.

Refurbished portholes have been installed on the first floor of the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse and others will be

removed, refurbished and installed throughout the summer.

At Big Sable, most of the winter season updates were indoor projects. New paint and furniture will greet our summer guests in the Big Sable Suite and keepers' stairway. Some fresh paint in the upstairs living area is also brightening the keepers' residence. Jim's new project of refinishing the forty interior doors at Big Sable is just getting underway.

The gift shops at Ludington Breakwater, Big Sable and White River have a new updated look. The reconfigurations at all three sites are making a splash with our summer visitors. Be sure to check out the concession trailer at Little Sable as well.

My hat is off to our wonderful staff who continue to amaze all with their energy, love for the lights and innovative ideas.

Once again let me state that it is my privilege to be the executive director of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association.

*Looking forward to seeing you all at the lights this summer.*

~ Peter Manting

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.

# 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.*

In the fall and winter I spend the majority of my hours processing applications, interviewing volunteers, and scheduling them for the season. During this time I also meet with vendors to order merchandise. I spend time planning and reviewing notes on how to make things more fluent and consistent for our volunteers for the next season.

During the winter months we work reduced hours, but we spend our time working on many different things to get the lighthouses ready to open for the following season. Throughout each season, we compile notes and information from keepers, keeper surveys, things we notice, or other means of feedback. Anything that is not immediately addressed is discussed in the fall and added to project lists that we can work on throughout the slower months.

Then spring comes around . . .

And BAM! It is so hard to believe we are opening lighthouses for the 2018 season already. Maybe it was the overstayed revisit of winter that let opening dates sneak up on us! Not really sneak up on us- but, in all seriousness, this always feels like the busiest time of year for all of us.

We have been working to get gift shops put together over the past couple of weeks, which consists of cleaning, rearranging the layouts, and



staging and folding lots of apparel. We are getting all of the boxes sorted and ready to haul to the Little Sable trailer and doing the same for hauling merchandise out to Ludington North Breakwater. And we are crossing our fingers that the weather, always another challenge during crunch time, is on our side for this to happen.



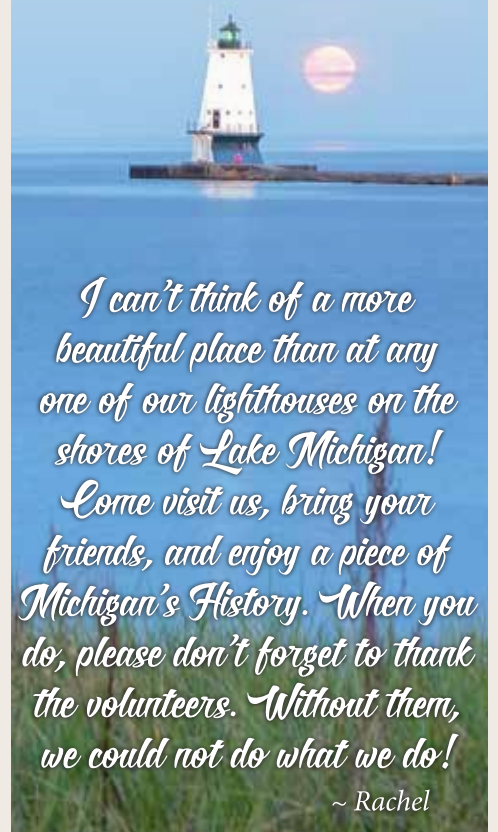
Have you been wanting to come enjoy the lighthouses and beautiful Lake Michigan with us as a volunteer? It's not too late. We still have openings for the 2018 season at Little Sable and Ludington North Breakwater, as well as day keeping opportunities at White River Light Station. There are a few tours where we could use some couples (or friends who will share a room) to fill the bedroom spaces and

SUMMER 2018

have enough volunteers to operate for the week. If you or someone you know might be interested, please call the office or send an email to [splkaoperations@gmail.com](mailto:splkaoperations@gmail.com).

All of the tours at Big Sable are filled for 2018. Our first volunteers at Big Sable for this season have been busy and working hard to get the entire place cleaned up. They are sorting through all of the merchandise, setting up the gift shop, and putting the remainder away for back-up. Big Sable is ready for you and all of our visitors to see how great it looks as it stands guard for its 151st year!

Ludington North Breakwater, Little Sable Point and White River are following right behind and will all be looking spectacular and ready to open on May 25th.



*I can't think of a more beautiful place than at any one of our lighthouses on the shores of Lake Michigan! Come visit us, bring your friends, and enjoy a piece of Michigan's History. When you do, please don't forget to thank the volunteers. Without them, we could not do what we do!*

~ Rachel

# Keeper's Notes

## PRESEASON AT THE WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION & MUSEUM



**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.*

.....

Since the end of the 2017 season, new exhibits in the museum have been developed and completed. Larger artifacts have been moved

from storage into the newly restored workshop. Along with those artifacts, a lighthouse history video is now available for viewing at the White River Light Station & Museum. Those who visit the museum and have visited over the last few years will also see a new look to the gift shop along with operating days changing from six days a week to seven days a week.

During the 2018 season, there will be concert and yoga events at the light station. In addition, an event in conjunction with local brewery, Fetch Brewing Company, will take place on the grounds on August 3rd. Join us for "Music and Beer at the White River Light Station." This fundraiser will take place from 6 pm. to 8 pm, featuring "Catfish and the Man."

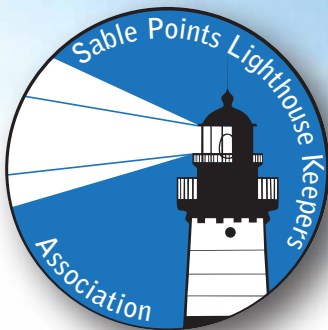
Information about all the events at the White River Light Station & Museum as well as at Big Sable Point Lighthouse and Little Sable Point Lighthouse can be found on our website, [www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org).

With the museum being open now seven days a week, the number of days where volunteers are needed to help out has doubled. There are still many dates available. If you are interested in volunteering at the White River Light Station & Museum, please contact me either at [whiteriverlight@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverlight@gmail.com) or 231-894-8265.

*I am looking forward to a great 2018 season and hope to see you at the White River Light.*  
~ Matt Varnum

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](mailto: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 2018 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 2018**

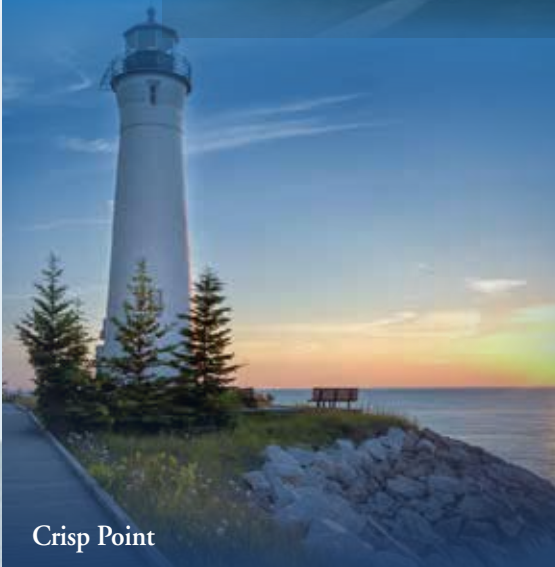


# Michigan Lighthouse FESTIVAL

*August 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2018 Paradise, Michigan*



Whitefish Point



Crisp Point



Point Iroquois

Dinner & The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Concert  
Lighthouse Market Place  
Special Events of Music, Artists & Speakers at the Lighthouses

**SPONSORED BY**

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# Lighthouse Maintenance News

SPRING 2018



**by Jim Hardie**  
Restoration and  
Maintenance Supervisor



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

.....

Winter came early to our lighthouses this year. December was cold and the lake effect snow just didn't seem like it would ever stop. But spring arrived on March 20, and the snow has melted. As you drive through our lighthouse towns, you can see the area beginning to wake up after the long and cold winter. Fishermen are trying their luck on the rivers, and a few hearty souls have ventured out onto the big lake. The Soo Locks are now open and any day we'll see our first freighter going past Big Sable Point Lighthouse.

Work didn't stop just because of the cold or snow though. New lighting was installed in the basement areas at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. This will greatly assist in restocking merchandise as one can actually see the tags now. A porch light was added on the south side to make entrance after dark safer, and there is a new light at the top of the basement stairs. The hallways in the center of the residence and stairway leading to the keepers' quarters have had plaster repaired and a fresh coat of paint applied along with new lighting. The east living room and the living room in the suite also got their plaster repaired and fresh

coats of paint along with some new furniture and light fixtures in the suite's living room. A new wood countertop made from mahogany salvaged from the shipwreck of the Tica in April, 2017, was fabricated for the keepers' kitchen and it looks wonderful. A new stove has been ordered for the upstairs kitchen so hopefully all that baking will be easier now. (Maintenance guys love fresh baked cookies. Just saying.....)

We are starting a renovation project to strip and refinish the doors throughout the lighthouse. This will take some time as there are approximately forty doors in the residence alone. A big thank you to Ken Reeves and his grandson Jared Reeves who have come up to assist this spring with getting things in order. Jared is continuing the tradition that Ken has established in helping to maintain the lights. It is great to see the next generation excited about volunteering.

The high lake water levels and early storms made getting out to the breakwater light difficult at the end of the year in 2017. As soon as we can, we plan to continue with the porthole refurbishment project. As of the first day of spring the walkway was reasonably clear of ice but the lighthouse itself was still iced in on the ramp.

Little Sable was struck by a graffiti artist in February. Luckily we had a thaw the next week for a few days, and the artist's misguided contributions to the humanities have been removed. Hopefully this will not happen again, and the beautiful light will stay unmolested for all to enjoy. Work is planned to begin on the new and improved deck at the lighthouse entrance and on the solar panel to supply electricity to the gift shop trailer. The Little Sable residence received some shelving in the basement to facilitate the restocking of the gift shop merchandise. Rachel requested some new beds for the residence as several keeper surveys requested this. They

have been installed.

White River Light Station is poised to open the new workshop display center this year, and an entrance ramp will be installed on the south side to make it easier to enter. Further landscaping and sidewalk improvements are planned for this year.

SPLKA has reaped the benefits of our new office space, and the entire staff wants to thank Brenda Glerum and Bob & Becky Baltzer for their help and contributions to making the space what it is today. We also want to thank Dick and Ruth Smith for their donations of lighthouse artifacts and decorations.

A tremendous amount of work was accomplished in 2017 and continues in 2018. A big 'Thank You' to all of our volunteers who help to make all these projects a success. We couldn't have done it all without your help and efforts. I would like to particularly recognize the help of the following volunteers who consistently help with the maintenance of our lighthouses and especially last year with preparing for the Lighthouse Festival in Ludington and Big Sable's 150th anniversary. Ken Reeves, Chuck Jamison, Dave Deppe, Bob and Gayle Turnwald, Bob and Becky Baltzer, Bruce VanWingen and Dave and Bunny Lambkin. They are my go-to people when it comes to all things maintenance related.

If you want to volunteer for some of the projects we are planning for 2018, just let us know. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available for helping to maintain all of our structures. Just call the office or send an email to [splkarestoration@gmail.com](mailto:splkarestoration@gmail.com). Please let us know when you are available and what your skills are. There is work available for all skill levels. We welcome opportunities to work with scouts, 4-H or other community organizations as well. Come for a day or stay for a week. There is always plenty to do.

# BIG RED: Holland Lighthouse



It was my privilege last September to represent SPLKA at the Michigan History Conference, which was held at my alma mater, Hope College, in Holland, MI. One of the side trips that was offered was a trip out to the Holland lighthouse. As it has not been regularly accessible, I jumped at the chance to take the tour of the lighthouse. I was amazed at the wonderful interior and the large rooms on the second floor. I also enjoyed seeing the view from the top of the lighthouse. As I was contemplating this newsletter, I thought, why not share some of the knowledge I had gained from my tour of Big Red?

One of Michigan's most recognized and photographed lighthouses, "Big Red," located in Holland, Michigan, sits on the south side of the channel which connects Lake Macatawa to Lake Michigan. As is the case with most lighthouse structures that were built on piers extending out into the lake, the structure has changed many times. Such is the case with the Holland light as well.

The first light marking the harbor built with federal funds was completed in 1872. It was located at the end of the south pierhead to mark the entry into the harbor. The pierhead beacon was a typical structure taking the form of a 27-foot tall white, timber-framed pyramid. With its upper section enclosed with clapboard sheathing, a small room was formed within the structure to serve double duty as both a service room and as shelter for the

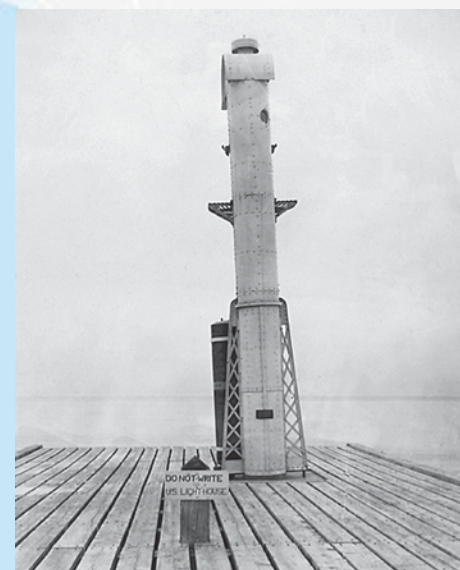
keeper when forced to spend time tending the light in rough weather. Atop this service room, an octagonal iron lantern was centered on a square



gallery and outfitted with a fixed red fifth-order Fresnel lens. In 1874, a 550-foot long elevated timber framed walkway was built to link the pierhead lighthouse with an additional 450 feet of plank walk that had been laid atop the cribs. The walkway was designed to allow the keeper to make his way safely along the pier above the waves which frequently splashed over the top of the pier. Five years later, the lighthouse was moved 264 feet lakeward, and the elevated walk was extended this distance as well. By 1885, the weather had taken its toll on the elevated walk, and over 600 feet had to be replaced.

On May 26, 1890, a post light was established at the outer end of the extended south pier to form, with the main light, a range for entering the harbor. With only 200 feet between the north and the south piers, accidents were frequent. It was later that year that the scow the Breakaway carried away the post light while attempting to enter the harbor. In 1892, the schooner R. Ranters broke three of the legs of the elevated walk along with a

section of its stringers and railings. In 1902, the post light was replaced with a square, pyramidal steel structure similar in form to the original wooden lighthouse but taller. This new tower with a fifth-order fixed red Fresnel lens would serve as the harbor's main light.



On December 22, 1904, a gale damaged the crib beneath the metal tower, forcing the light to be disassembled and shipped to the St. Joseph Lighthouse depot for repair. A wooden foundation pier was erected, and the repaired tower returned to Holland where it was hoisted on the rebuilt pier and bolted in place. In 1905, a fixed red lens lantern was installed on a 60-foot pole 400 feet to the rear of the pierhead light to serve as the rear range to the pierhead light. The pole light was replaced in 1906 by a 61-foot tall steel skeleton tower 265 yards to the rear of the pierhead light.

by Peter Manting  
SPLKA Executive Director



The fixed red lens lantern from the pole was moved to its top.



Work began in 1907 on a new fog signal building. It was located ten feet to the rear of the pierhead beacon. The 22-foot by 32-foot structure was constructed of riveted iron sheets over a timber framework. Bedrooms and living quarters were installed on the second floor and would serve as residences for the two assistant keepers. The head keeper's residence was back on shore. The building was equipped with boilers and ten-inch steam whistles from a discontinued station at Calumet, Illinois. A fourth-order lens was installed in the tower as well.

In 1908, a small steel tower was erected at the end of the south pier to range with the primary light. The two lights were electrified in 1932, and the following year an air whistle was installed to replace the old steam whistles. In 1936, a square tower was erected between the western gables on the fog signal building and capped with an octagonal cast iron lantern. The lens from the pierhead beacon moved to the new lantern room. The metal pierhead tower was dismantled



and shipped to Calumet, where it is still in service on the south end of the Calumet breakwater.

In 1956 the Coast Guard painted the structure red to meet the requirements that aids to navigation on the right-hand side of the harbor should be red. Hence, the lighthouse became known as the iconic "Big Red." In 2005, the Holland Harbor Lighthouse, deemed excess by the Coast Guard, was transferred to the care of the Holland Harbor Historical Commission which now manages this fine light.

Like our four lights, Big Red is worth a trip to the lakeshore to see. Pedestrian access to Big Red is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is parking for four cars beyond the gatehouse, available when the gatehouse is staffed. Otherwise,

parking is outside (not at the marina or the yacht club). Bicycles must be left in the bike rack at the gatehouse. It is a quarter-mile walk to the lighthouse from the park entrance; the walk is across sand and gravel and is not handicapped-accessible. No beach towels, dogs, or coolers can be carried in to the park. Visitors may stay for one hour.

The gatehouse will be staffed weekends during May; this includes the weekends of Tulip Time. There will be an opportunity to park within the gate at that time.

On occasion during the summer, tours of the lighthouse are scheduled. The lighthouse may always be seen from the north side of the channel, either by boat or from the Holland State Park. Indeed, the lighthouse is best viewed from the north side.

# Leave a Print in the Sand

**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.**

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 engraved Trex board. These boards are becoming the new walkway around Big Sable Point Lighthouse and now the new walkway between the Little Sable Merchandise trailer and the cement walkway. The cost of the engraved boards is \$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.

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 Valentine's Day gifts. They also are a great way to remember a loved one or just recognize that special person in your life. Please share this with those in your circle of friends who love lighthouses so that they can take advantage of this as well. Brochures are available for downloading and printing on our web site at ([www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org)) or by calling the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Please help SPLKA continue to meet its mission to preserve our magnificent lighthouses for generations to come.



# Summer at the Lights WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION



Open May 25 - Oct. 28, 2018

White River Light Station's Regular Hours Are:  
Mon.- Sun. 10 am to 5 pm

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 9:30 AM

June 22nd (Rain date June 29.)    Aug. 17th (Rain date Aug. 24)  
July 20th (Rain date July 27.)    Sept. 14th (Rain date Sept. 21)

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.

## June 22nd • 7:00pm



### Evening Concert: BOB HAUSLER

Come out and join in a sing along with Bob. He knows it's all about being in the moment. Most of all he wants to please his audience and let them experience the music in their own unique way. <http://bobhausler.com>

## July 20th • 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 • 6-8:00pm THE FRIENDS OF WHITE RIVER ANNUAL MEETING

The 15th annual meeting of The Friends of the White River Light Station: Join the local support group on the lawn of the Light Station as they celebrate 15 years supporting of the mission of the Lighthouse. Enjoy refreshments on the lawn and a guest speaker.

## July 28th • 2:00pm



### Afternoon Concert: Western 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. 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 your family, your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon of folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the White River Light Station.

## Aug. 3rd • 6-8 pm



### Featuring Fetch Beer & the music of:

### CATFISH AND THE MAN

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 for cash only. <https://www.facebook.com/catfishandtheman>

## Aug. 17th • 7:00 pm



### 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 has a mission to have fun while bringing the sounds of the Trinidadian steel pan to West Michigan. <http://www.steeldoinit.com>



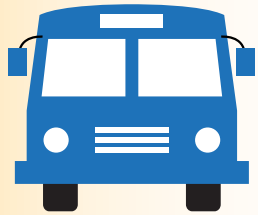
# Summer at the Lights BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



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 2018

**JUNE 23, JULY 12 and 28,  
AUG. 9 and 25, SEPT. 22**  
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 23rd • 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>

### July 12th • 1:30pm



#### Afternoon Concert: **SKOONIE AND KLY**

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.

### July 28th • 1:30pm



#### Afternoon Concert: **BITTERSWEET HIGHWAY**

Bittersweet Highway is the singer-songwriter duo of Rene' Janiece and Wayne McKinzie. They hail from a thriving metropolis of 13

that scratches the border of Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Living and traveling along the edges of America, theirs is music that rises from the fringes, in place and in style. It crosses genres and blends the sounds that have influenced these two as individuals, combining to create something strikingly original.  
<https://www.bittersweethighway.com>

### August 9th • 1:30pm



#### Afternoon 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>

### August 25th • 1:30pm



#### Afternoon Concert: **BOB HAUSLER**

Come out and join in a sing along with Bob. He knows it's all about being in the moment. Most of all he wants to please his audience and let them experience the music in their own unique way. <http://bobhausler.com>

### Sept. 22rd • 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>



# Summer at the Lights

## LITTLE SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Open May 25 - Sept. 23, 2018



### July 11th • 7:00pm



#### Evening Concert: **SKOONIE AND KLY**

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.

**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 18th • 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>

### Aug. 1st • 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>

### July 25th • 7:00pm



#### Evening Concert: **BITTERSWEET HIGHWAY**

Bittersweet Highway is the singer-songwriter duo of Rene' Janiece and Wayne McKinzie. They hail from a thriving metropolis of 13 that scratches the border of Southern Colorado and

Northern New Mexico. Living and traveling along the edges of America, theirs is music that rises from the fringes, in place and in style. It crosses genres and blends the sounds that have influenced these two as individuals, combining to create something strikingly original. <https://www.bittersweethighway.com>

### August 8th • 7:00pm



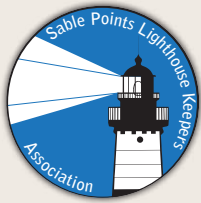
#### Evening Concert: **WYATT & SHERRI KNAPP**

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>

# Volunteer

## SPOTLIGHT



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

Volunteers are the life blood of the SPLKA organization. SPLKA hosts over 425 volunteers who come in each summer and spend a week or two helping SPLKA meet its mission to preserve, promote and educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible to all.



**Ken Reeves**  
Volunteer

Ken Reeves has worked a volunteer for over 15 years. Ken, an Indiana resident, got drawn into our keeper ranks after meeting Bob Sperling and seeing Bob's excitement for the Big Sable Lighthouse. Bob recognized Ken's tremendous talent right away and the two became good friends and workers. Not only did Ken share his talent with SPLKA but after Bob Sperling had left SPLKA the two of them could be found helping with maintenance projects at other Michigan Lighthouses including the Mission Point Lighthouse in Traverse City.

In this June issue of the newsletter, SPLKA would like to recognize two individuals whose service and love for lighthouses and educating others about our lights has been exemplary.

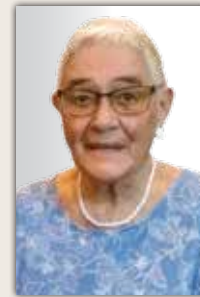
We at SPLKA continue to utilize Ken's talents. We split Ken's tour so that part of the tour is maintenance but the second week of the tour the keepers meet and interact with the public. Ken's wealth of knowledge and love for lighthouses comes through as he guides visitors through the lighthouse and up the stairs to the light.

Ken is known to get up with the chickens. His keeper days start around 4:30 am at the Lighthouse. Making coffee for all and scrubbing the kitchen floor and possibly painting a section or two of the Big Sable tower stairway before breakfast at 7 am at Brenda's café, in Ludington, where he has breakfast every morning when he is in town. Not only is he greeted with smiles by Brenda, the owner, and wait staff, but usually a hug or two as well accompany the greetings.

Behind the scenes is where Ken shines. If Jim Hardie needs someone, for a weekend project, Ken is in his car and driving up from his home in Mishawaka, IN. to meet that need. Always willing to do what it takes to get the job done, Ken's friendly manner and love of laughter are part of his infectious personality that attracts staff, other keepers and our visitors. Last summer Ken came up and helped paint the exterior of our new offices as the staff was all out working at The Michigan Lighthouse Festival. Ken also took some time off from his job as a machinist and helped with the Halloween activities and stayed to help with the Big Sable 150th Birthday celebration as well. Ken's love for Big Sable is so strong that the SPLKA staff believes that the Lighthouse is his second home.

Marlene Pierce passed away this past December. Marlene was part of the Seekers Group at the Little Sable Lighthouse. Marlene joined the Seekers, in 2008, shortly after her husband passed. She told her friend Mary Jo that she wanted to join so that she could have as much fun as Mary Jo was having serving at the Lighthouse.

Her desire along with the desire of the Seekers group was to make sure that as many people who wanted to climb and experience the Little Sable Lighthouse tower be accommodated.



**Marlene Pierce**  
Volunteer

Marlene was always one of the first to sign up as volunteer for shifts on Mondays and eventually Thursdays, which is when the Seekers volunteer open and man Little Sable. When others couldn't make their

shift, Marlene was always there to fill in. SPLKA operations manager Rachel Bendele said "Marlene was always ready to help out and she will be greatly missed by all."

Marlene's mission included making sure that each guest to the lighthouse have one of the best experiences of their life. If that didn't happen, Marlene made sure that the SPLKA staff was aware of this and made sure the staff knew how correct the situation.

Her motto in life which she lived by was; "My own self at my very best." Because of this she expected the very best from all of us.

Since Marlene's death the SPLKA office staff has been receiving an outpouring of Marlene stories and how her life had effected theirs in a very positive way. Because of the love and generosity of Marlene's friends, the new visitors deck will be completed outside of Little Sable Lighthouse and there will also be a new bench, for our visitors to enjoy, in Marlene's memory.

The SPLKA organization is built on great volunteers like Ken Reeves and Marlene Pierce that have the passion for our Lighthouses and give of their time and talent. Our organization wants to continue to recognize all of our volunteers and say THANK YOU for all that you do to make sure that SPLKA continues to meet its mission.



# THE PORTHOLE PROJECT



The Porthole project is well underway for the 2018 season. As of May 25th the first four portholes on the first floor have been removed refurbished and reinstalled. They look fantastic. Portholes on the second floor have been removed and the opens have been covered with Plexiglas sheets until the refurbished units can be reinstalled.

In the fall of last year SPLKA announced its intentions to restore the portholes which are in the Ludington North Breakwater. The current portholes leak, have been painted over several times, making the portholes unoperable, and the glass or Plexiglas in the portholes is so weather damaged that our guests who visit the light in the summer months cannot see out of them. To correct these problems, SPLKA will be removing the fourteen existing portholes, stripping them down to the brass, polishing the brass frames and installing new 3/4 inch thick glass in the openings. The refurbished portholes will then be reinstalled into the light so that the lighthouse will not experience any more leaks. SPLKA will also be locating four period correct brass portholes and installing them in the four openings that have been boarded up for years.

The cost of this project will be approximately \$15,000.00. Local gifts from Mason County Community Foundation, Love Ludington Fund, Historic Bed and Breakfast Association and Oxy Chemical have been received totaling \$5,000.00. Another \$4,000.00 has been given as year-end gifts from community business and the SPLKA membership. Since January 1st another \$2,500 has been given by local community members. As June 1st we are still in need of an additional \$3,500.00 to make sure that this project is completed by the end of the year. SPLKA is reaching out and asking you to please consider giving a gift to this project. A plaque located on the gift shop wall inside of the lighthouse will recognize Gifts over \$250.00 which will be honored on a metal plaque as Second Assistant Keeper. Other levels honored on the plaque include First Assistant Keeper for gifts of \$500.00 or more and Head Lighthouse Keeper for any donation of \$1,000.00 or more.

The mission of SPLKA is to preserve, promote and educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible. We are asking for you, SPLKA member, commnity memberor lighthouse lover, to help SPLKA preserve the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse not just for all the photographers that cannot take enough pictures of it, or the guests to the Ludington Community who visit it in the

summer, but let's do this for the preservation of an iconic Lake Michigan Lighthouse as it stands as a beacon to all. Your gift designated, porthole restoration, to SPLKA will help preserve this Ludington Landmark. Gifts can be sent in to SPLKA P.O.Box 673 Ludington, MI 49431 or you may donate on the web site using our donate button. When using the donate link on the web site this please put portholes in memo/comments section as well.



# SPLKA Receives Governors Award for Preservation in 2018

The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association was one of five recipients of the 2018 Governor's award for Historic Preservation.

The association was recognized for its long-term stewardship of four Lake Michigan light stations: Big Sable Point Light Station, Little Sable Point Light Station, Ludington North Breakwater Light, and White River Light Station.

Now in its 15th year, the award program was created by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at MSHDA to recognize outstanding historic preservation achievements that reflect a commitment to the preservation of Michigan's unique character and the many archaeological sites and historic structures that document Michigan's rich past.

The recipients of this year's Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation brought vision, partnership and determination to five noteworthy historic structures in Michigan.

"Our historical structures and archaeological sites contribute to our economy and our identity as a state, and tell us and others who we are as a people," said Gov. Snyder. "Each May, during National Historic Preservation Month, it's important that we recognize the people and organizations who preserve Michigan's important historic resources."

"These projects would not succeed



The 2018 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation is presented to Executive Director Peter Manting (third from left) and Restoration/Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hardie (second from left).

without collaboration, vision and the commitment of not only financial resources, but sweat equity and lots of energy," said Earl Poleski, executive director at MSHDA. "Governor's Award projects demonstrate the highest standards of preservation."

Other recipients included: Home Renewal Systems, LLC; Community Action Alger Marquette; Barry J Polzin Architects, Inc.; Wolverine Building Group; North Coast Community Consultants, LLC and Scheuren & Associates, LLC for the rehabilitation of Holy Family Orphanage (The Grandview), Marquette. Strand Theater Manager LLC, West Construction Services, TDG Architects and Kidorf Preservation Consulting for the rehabilitation of the Strand Theater (Flagstar Strand Theatre for the

Performing Arts), Pontiac

Aparium Hotel Group; 21 Century Holdings, LLC; McIntosh Poris Associates; Simeone Deary Design Group; Sachse Construction; and Kraemer Design Group, PLC for the rehabilitation of the Detroit Fire Department Headquarters Building (Foundation Hotel), Detroit 4625 Second LLC, Quinn Evans Architects, Lowell Construction Management and McCleer Architetto for the rehabilitation of Forest Arms Apartments, Detroit.

The award was presented at a public ceremony in the Michigan State Capitol Rotunda on May 1 to Executive Director Peter Manting and Restoration/ Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hardie.

## SUPPORT SPLKA USING THE AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

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



# Renew Your 2018 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 2018 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.

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.

Your partnership is sincerely appreciated and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2018 membership please consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause.

## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018

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

Advantages of being a member include being eligible to be a day keeper,(associate membership) or resident keepers,(all other membership level categories) at

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



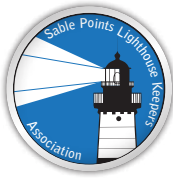
## Sable Points **LIGHTHOUSE** Keepers Association Is on Facebook!

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

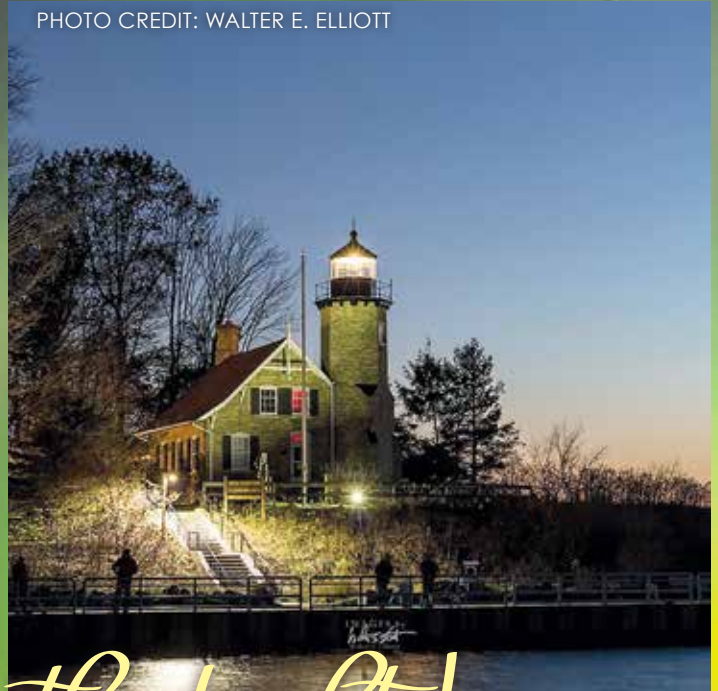
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# Nights at the Lights!

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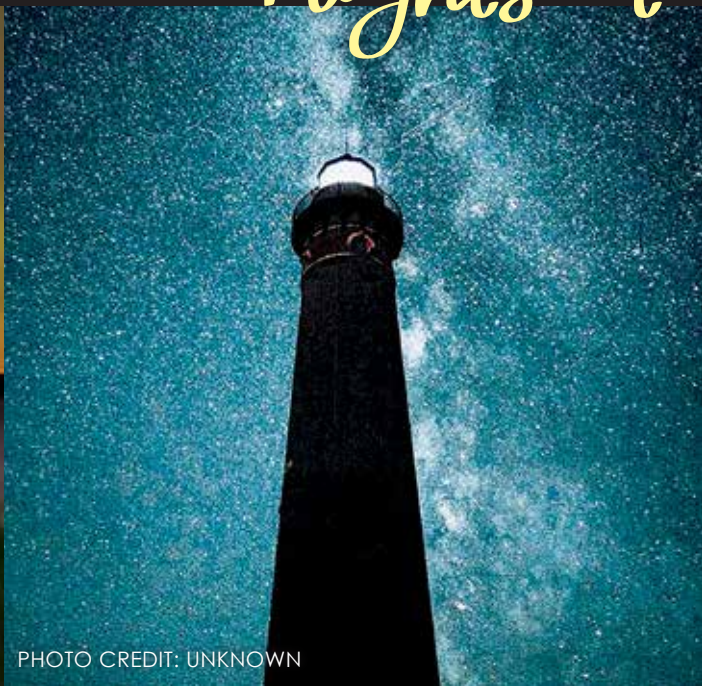


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