



PASSAGES



* PO Box 307 * Drummond Island MI 49726 * drlps@drlps.com * www.DRLPS.com * 906-493-6609 *

Issue 20

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

June 2010

Lighthouse Keeper Positions Still Available for Summer 2010!!

The popular volunteer lighthouse keeper program at DeTour Reef Light will start its sixth season on June 18th. Details about this program can be found at DRLPS.com. Just follow the link "Lighthouse Keeper Program" immediately below the photo of the lighthouse on our home page.

The program starts at noon on Friday and runs through late Sunday afternoon. Keepers provide their own food and bed linens (or sleeping bags). Keepers tasks are minimal and include light housekeeping and assisting with tours. The program is designed to accommodate six keepers each weekend (and a minimum of 4 keepers). The following weekends have at least 3 openings. Dates indicate the Friday start of the weekend.

<u>Friday Start</u>	<u>Number of openings</u>
June 18	4
June 25	4
July 23	4
Aug 6	3
Aug 27	4

As cancellations regularly occur, there will be opportunities for keeper positions in the remaining weekends during the summer. Individuals are encouraged to apply. For more information visit www.drlps.com or call 906-493-6609.



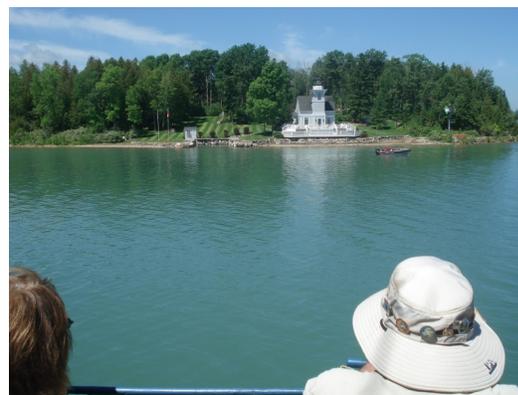
Lighthouse keepers enjoying a meal on the DeTour Reef Light (photo by Bob McSweeney)

Come and support the DRLPS at an event this summer!

13th Annual Fathers Day Cruise on the St. Mary's River Sunday, June 20

The day long narrated cruise includes a trip to the DeTour Reef Light with many photo opportunities while circling around the Light. After circling the Light, the narrated cruise proceeds up river and through the Soo Locks.

The cruisers are treated to a brunch, buffet luncheon, and afternoon snack. \$95 per person Contact Anne Stafford for reservations. 906-297-6051 or RiverCruise@drlps.com.

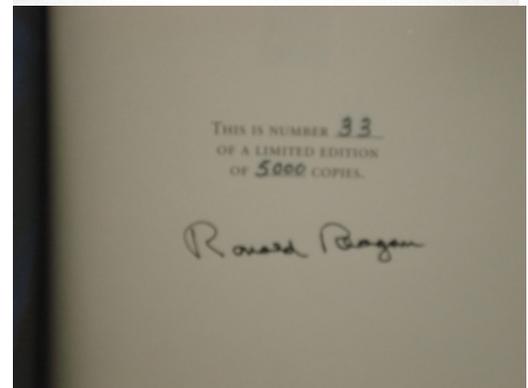


Passing the Round Island Light on the River Cruise

11th Annual Evening Under the Stars Friday, July 9

The evening includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a beautiful gourmet dinner, a unique dessert, music and a silent auction. It will be held on the shore of Lake Huron at Bayside Dining on Drummond Island, MI. Tickets are \$125 per person.

One of the silent auction items at the July 9th Stars is a Ronald Reagan signed Limited Edition Book entitled "Speaking My Mind" (#33 of 5000). A Brass Presidential seal sits on the cover of its beautiful blue velvet lined, brown Oak Presentation Box with a set of six audio cassette tapes in a pull out draw. The entire set is in mint (un-used) condition. (Note: set 365 of 5000, without statement of condition, is offered by AntiqueArts.com and GoAntiques.com for \$4,500.) DRLPS will establish a minimum bid for this item at Stars. Bids received by noon July 9th will be accepted by emails addressed to StarsEvent@DRLPS.com or regular mail address to Stars Event, DRLPS, P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726. This unique silent auction item was donated by Judi and Roy Martin.



There will be many more interesting and unusual auction items. If you are unable to attend, the items will be available for pre-bid. Please contact Judi Bailey Martin at StarsEvent@drlps.com or 906-493-6581. For more information about the Stars Event, please visit www.drlps.com.

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Tours

Saturdays except indicated:

June 19, 26

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Aug 7, 15 (Sunday), 21, 28

In its sixth year, the lighthouse tour includes boat transportation on a government inspected charter boat piloted by a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, light refreshments on the Light, and a guided tour. Each tour is limited to 6 individuals, assuring personal attention by the tour guides. The tour lasts approximately 2 1/2 hours. DRLPS members \$75; non-members \$95. Family memberships start at \$30.



*Climbing the ladder from the boat to the deck of the
DeTour Reef Light*

Advanced reservations and payment will be required. Contact John and Sunny Covell at 906-493-5648 or Tours@drlps.com.

Don Gries – Fond Memories

By David Bardsley

Last year at this time, I asked Don Gries to train for and join me on a 500 mile bicycle ride across Nebraska in June – a ride I have been doing since 1995. (For information on this ride see BRAN-INC.ORG.) Don took up the challenge, purchased a proper road bicycle, and cycled over 1200 miles on Drummond Island before our June 4th departure. I was impressed! On the road in Nebraska he demonstrated the same “Let’s do it!” spirit that allowed him to recover from cancer, surgery and treatments. I am in awe of the discipline he demonstrated in training for and completing this ride. Paula and I are truly blessed by the friendship we have had with Don and his wife, Nella. Whether bicycling, working on DeTour Reef Light, a Lions project or just meeting for whitefish at the Moose on a Friday night, time spent with Don was a blessing.

Don was a worker, a doer, a man of great discipline and a friend. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and in June of 2008 went through major surgery to have his esophagus removed and his stomach attached to the bottom of his throat. Hopefully, this would, with chemo and radiation, eliminate the cancer and prevent its spread. The prognosis seemed good a year ago and Don was a strong rider on our Nebraska bicycle ride. Unfortunately, in the fall of 2009 the cancer had spread to his brain. Don was still a fighter, and in early December he and Nella braved a canoe trip to visit us on James Island – one of his last social calls outside his home. It was a delightful visit. We visited with Don and Nella (and their sons Nathan and Mark) a few more times after that at their home. Don passed away early in the morning on December 26th.

Our prayers are with Nella, Nathan and Mark. I cannot know or even imagine their grief. Don was young (65), active, otherwise healthy, and a brilliant engineer and executive. I will not presume to guess at God’s reason for calling him early but I am thankful that He made Don a part of my life.

Don Gries, DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) Director and Preservation Chairman, is remembered as a person who made many contributions in the three years that he served in a leadership position. As the individual responsible for the physical well-being of the lighthouse, Don faced many challenges, which included the restoration and fabrication of the crane on the northwest corner of the lighthouse, repairs to the moisture damaged interior plaster, repairs to the deck, and annual preparation of the lighthouse for the summer tours and keeper programs. Don was also active in the Drummond Island Lions and was third vice-president at the time of his death. He was also a Trustee of the Lions of Michigan Service Foundation. Don was a member of the Drummond Island Lutheran Church and participated in the Wednesday morning men’s Bible study. He retired from Williams International as Vice President of Engineering in 2006. All of those who worked with or were friends of Don and Nella have been blessed by the time they have spent with him and enriched by the association.



Don and Nella Gries, March 6, 2009

Shopping for DRLPS

Those of you who shop at Gordon Food Service GFS Marketplace stores have an opportunity to donate to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society every time you shop. Just tell them that you would like your purchases credited to DeTour Reef Light House. GFS will credit 1% of total purchases to the Society. Then at the end of the year, DRLPS will receive the rebate. The total amount of purchases for the year has to be at least \$1000 to receive any rebate. However, for the past two years, I have been able to reach this amount just with my own purchases. If total purchases for the year exceed \$2625, the Society will earn 2% and receive a rebate check. Amounts less than that earn a GFS gift card, which we can apply toward refreshments for our tours. Remember, just tell the cashier when you’re checking out that you would like your purchases credited to DeTour Reef Light House. You will also need to give them our customer number, which is 002059329. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call (906-493-6609) or send me an email (membership@drlps.com).

Thank you for your support.

Paula Bardsley, MembershipChair

Big Sable Lighthouse Experience

On the evening of Saturday, May the 15th, the annual dinner meeting of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers' Association was held. Much like our DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, they have initials they commonly use. They are known as SPLKA, and we are DRLPS. On this date, members of the DRLPS were the guests at their meeting. Ann Green, vice president and infamous P.R. person of our group, asked my husband John and myself, if we would accompany her to this meeting. We were being invited to simply "come and tell our story". Hmmmm. "How much time do we have?" I wondered. Just what part of "our story" did they want to hear?? Ann had prepared a terrific slide show about the history of how DRLPS came to be, and all the work involved with saving this piece of maritime history. Towards the end of her presentation, she talked about the Secrets of Success of our organization. Up flashed a picture of Jeri and Chuck Feltner, early founders of the society, and then she followed that with a picture of Sunny and John Covell. YIKES. Now that is a tough act to follow! All the REAL work of creating this organization took place several years before John and I came on board. We were just lucky enough,no.....make that privileged to be asked to conduct the tours the second year the lighthouse was open to the public. We do sort of a tag-team tour which is really kind of a fun thing to do, but.....TO GIVE A TALK ON IT?? I was nervous, to say the least, but these folks in Ludington made us feel so welcomed and relaxed we did just fine.

The best part of the weekend was our accommodations. The Big Sable Lighthouse itself had a room for a couple. Because Ann didn't have her spouse with her, we got the lighthouse! WOW! How cool was that!! Now this lighthouse is your more "typical" lighthouse. It is located on land whereas the DeTour Reef Light, is just that. We are located on a reef. Big Sable is in the State Park. A beautiful park, by the way. Sand dunes are between Lake Michigan and the park. There is a locked gate between the camp grounds and the 1 and 1/2 miles or so to the lighthouse. The dirt road, with a speed limit of 10 miles max, first goes through a jack-pine wooded area. The trees become fewer and fewer, and then come the sand dunes. Beautiful! On both sides of the road, even! Suddenly you see the top of the lighthouse, and the closer you get, the taller it becomes. That reminded me of how you feel when you can first catch sight of the DRL when your tour boat approaches it from Whitney Bay. You leave the quiet waters of the bay behind, and there you are out on Lake Huron. The closer Captain Ivan (Meade Gable) steers the Luk Dragon to the light, it fairly looms before you.

But I digress. The keepers' quarters at Big Sable, are located in a large building adjacent to the lighthouse tower. The keepers' quarters on the DeTour Reef Light occupy the entire second floor. The Little Sable lighthouse once had keepers quarters also. Alas, when "progress" came along, and electricity became available to automate the light in 1954, Little Sable no longer needed a keeper. In the spring of 1955, the Coast Guard demolished the keeper's dwelling and all out buildings. Thank goodness the buildings at Big Sable are still intact, and have been since 1867! John and I had the whole first floor. A large sitting room/living room, fully equipped kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. In the front living room wasdrum roll here.....a roll-top desk! We have a similar desk in the office of OUR lighthouse! Theirs needs some repair, but my husband says he is not available. However, he has already written up what they could do for a fix, and emailed it to the head of the volunteers.

In the upstairs rooms above us, were 6 "keepers". Their organization differs from the keeper program that DRLPS offers. SPLKA, if I understand correctly, has 6 resident keepers at Big Sable for a 2 week stretch from May to October, and get this. They are booked up a year ahead! They work 9 to 5 the whole time they are out there, with a day and a half off. They also have a start up group in April and a shut down group in November. Sort of like the DRLPS has with our LADIES OF THE LIGHT to get the light open for our season from June to the end of August. Then in September, the guys take over with the shut down of the DRL.

To top off this fabulous Big Sable Lighthouse Experience, the weather was superb! Sunshine from the Friday we arrived to the Sunday morning we departed, and clear cool nights with stars ablaze both nights. Unlike DRLPS, SPLKA has not one, but THREE lighthouses to maintain! The Big Sable, the Little Sable, and the Breakwater Lighthouse. We were lucky in that even though the Breakwater Lighthouse is not yet open to the public, the volunteer year/round maintenance person, Bob Sperling, was going out on Saturday to do some work. "Would we like to see that light?" "Why Yes, Indeed We Would!!" Like I said, the weather co-operated the whole time, and the walk out to the Breakwater Light at the end of the pier in downtown Ludington, was most pleasant.

For more information on this trio of Ludington lighthouses, check out www.splka.org. For more info on the DeTour Reef Lighthouse Keeper program, tours, and anything else you should know about events put on by the DRLPS...ie: The Father's Day Cruise departing from a dock near you.....check out www.drlps.com.

Sunny Covell.....Tour Co-chairperson with John C.

Brian Nettleton Appointed DRLPS Restoration Chair

Brian Nettleton has accepted the position of Restoration Chairman for the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) formerly held by Don Gries who passed away in December 2009.

In accepting the position Brian said that he grew up a mile away from the DeTour Reef Light and has always felt that the Light was a part of his life history. He wants to be a part of the restoration effort, to continue what's been started.

DRLPS President Dave Bardsley noted that Brian has a long history of supporting DRLPS and involving young people in the restoration of the lighthouse. As Restoration Chair, Brian will be responsible for coordinating the overall maintenance, preservation and continued restoration of DeTour Reef Light. This has never been a one person job and DRLPS members are encouraged to contact Brian and volunteer to serve on his committee.

Brian's accepting the Maintenance Chair comes at a time when the DRLPS is preparing for the summer on the Light. With the June opening of the DeTour Reef Light, Brian and the DRLPS have many tasks including spraying the exterior and interior to remove unwanted bugs and spiders and testing the water and lighting systems.

Other projects planned for this summer include winning the war against sea gull droppings on the deck with the purchase and installation of an electronic gull repelling system. This system uses the recorded sounds of gull predators and gulls in distress to discourage the birds from landing on the lighthouse.

Brian will no doubt continue student involvement in the maintenance of the Light. In the past his students have welded ladders that are currently used on the bunks in the assistant's sleeping quarters, assisted with moving furnishings out to the lighthouse and the construction of bookcases to hold the complete set of lighthouse logs that are located in the DeTour Library.

For the last twelve years, Brian has been the Industrial Arts teacher at DeTour Area High School. He and his wife, Angela are the parents of Edyn and Ava.

The DRLPS is fortunate to have Brian's skills and abilities.



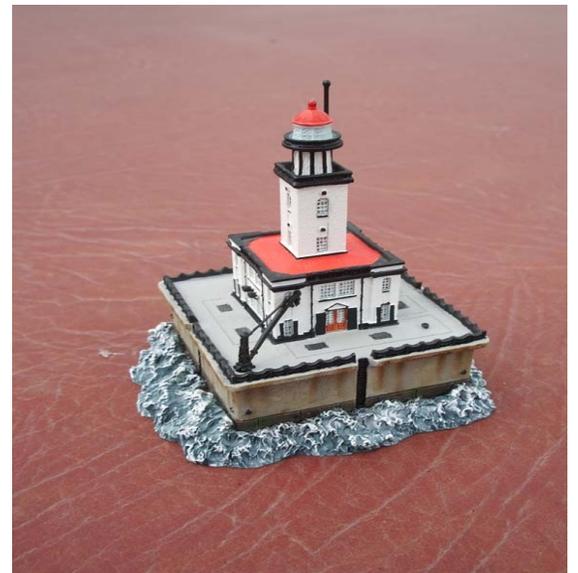
DeTour Reef Light For Sale

(Miniature version only)

Because so many friends of the DeTour Reef Light have asked, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society has responded. From Harbor Lights and the "This Little Light of Mine" series, the DeTour Reef Light in miniature.

The three inch Light is priced at \$17.50 plus shipping and handling and can be ordered online at www.DRLPS.com, click on Store.

Money raised from the sale of these miniature lights will be used for additional restoration and continuing preservation of the historic DeTour Reef Light.



DRLPS Re-Releases the Gateway to Superior - Saving the DeTour Reef Light DVD

The DVD is being re-released as a 2 disc DVD set!

The DVD contains the story of the restoration of the DeTour Reef Light. It is told not only by the men and women of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society, but by those that actually carried out the work of the restoration. And, it is a story told by a man who actually took part in the construction, beginning in 1930.

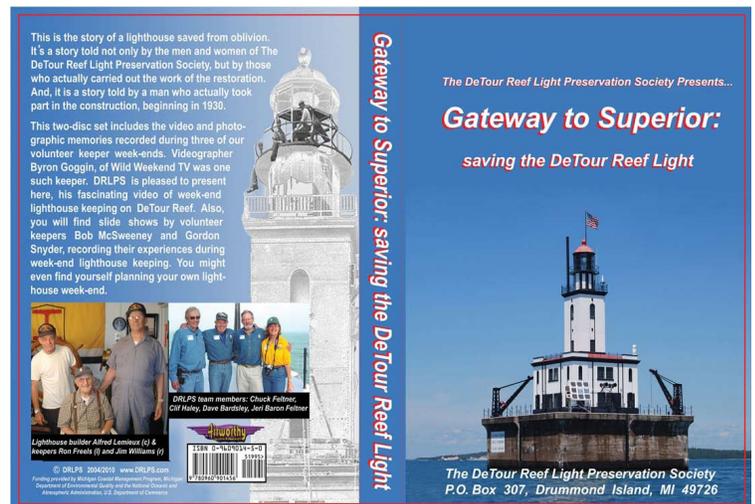
Fantastic footage is shown of the lighthouse before, during and after restoration, along with a fierce storm at the lighthouse in 1975. It includes interviews with the last known person who built the lighthouse in 1931 and past keepers sharing their personal experiences at the lighthouse, along with interviews of DRLPS officers and state and federal historical preservation officials.

The 83-foot historic structure, located a mile offshore on a concrete crib, warns ships of a dangerous reef at the entrance to DeTour Passage at the mouth of the St. Mary's River which connects Lake Huron to Lake Superior. Restored by the DRLPS in 2004, it proudly sits between the two communities of DeTour Village and Drummond Island as part of the rich maritime history of the region.

This two-disc set includes the video and photographic memories recorded during three of our volunteer keeper weekends. Videographer Byron Goggin, of Wild Weekend TV was one such keeper.

DRLPS is pleased to present his fascinating video of week-end lighthouse keeping on DeTour Reef. Also, you will find slide shows by volunteer keepers Bob McSweeney and Gordon Snyder, recording their experiences during weekend lighthouse keeping.

To order this fantastic DVD set for just \$15, you can use the order form on page 9 or find more information online at www.drlps.com.



From the Editor's Desk....

As many of you may have noticed, the publishing of *Passages* has gotten a little less predictable. This is not because there isn't anything going on within the DRLPS, it's simply because the last 10 months have been a little rocky for the editor. In September of 2009, I discovered I was pregnant with our second child and he proceeded to wreak havoc on my system for the next 9 months. I was trying to work, take care of a 2 year old and deal with said havoc and sadly *Passages* wasn't the first thing on my mind.

Our little bundle of joy arrived at the end of April, and things are getting back to normal, or should I say as normal as they can be with a 2 1/2 yr old and a newborn! Joshua made his appearance weighing in at 8 pounds, 19 3/4 inches long with a beautiful dimple on cheek that is bound to catch all the girls as he gets older.

Hopefully now things will get back on a more normal schedule and *Passages* will too!

Sheila Sawyer, *Passages* editor

This is the third of a four part series that will be published in Passages.

Keepers of the DeTour Reef Light

Stories shared by members of the U. S. Coast Guard that Served on the Light to Dr. Charles Feltner, Historian DRLPS
Compiled and written by Ann Method Green, PR Chair for DRLPS

Acknowledgment

Most of the information in this article came from a video recording of an interview conducted by DRLPS members Chuck Feltner, Russ Norris, and Donnie Stefanski on August 31, 2008. Participating in this interview were several former US Coast Guard people who either served on the Lighthouse or supported its activities. Actual participants were Gene Anderson, Floyd Colvin, John Gretka, Jerry Livingston, Eric Olsen, Bob Soldenski, John DeAngelis, John Massey, and Jim Woodward. Marvin Kurkierewicz and James P. Williams also contributed to the article in separate interviews. Some of the material from the video recording of the interview has been placed on the DRLPS website (www.drpls.com).

Entertainment

The men on the Light had to make their own entertainment. Many of them became avid readers and there were many books available. They were able to fish. They did battle with the sea gulls and, at one point, sprayed red paint on the gulls that came too close.

Watching television was an option for them also. They had fair reception paired with a bit of static, but with dedication it was possible to watch some of their favorite comedians like Bob Hope and Jackie Gleason. It seemed to them that every time a joke came to its punch line, the fog horn went off. If the next punch line was 5 minutes later, they could count on the foghorn to blast over it.

When the foghorn was going off, that was also the time for coffee cup races. They would fill coffee cups to different levels and put them on the mess (kitchen) table. Because the fog horn housing is just below the mess, the vibrations were substantial and the coffee cups would actually move and race.

On a weekend when Charlie Jones, Keeper and Officer in Charge (OIC), was on rotation off the Light one of the men decided to have a party. Coming back from a mail run, he brought two local girls back with him. The party was just getting started when they heard a launch pull up to the side. One look and they realized that they were about to have an unannounced, surprise inspection by the Captain from the Soo. Thinking quickly, they convinced the girls to hide in the small attic above the living quarters that is accessible at the base of the tower stairs. It was a tight fit in the dark, windowless, stuffy attic. When the inspectors left, they came out of the attic covered in dust and spider webs, but they bravely kept quiet and went unnoticed by the inspectors.

“You know that idle hands are the devil’s work shop,” observed Jerry Livingston. When cases of wooden safety matches and a bunch of old fuses were discovered in a storage room, “We can make bombs!” They all had sharp knives so they scraped the “red stuff” off the matches and eventually had a pile of sticks and a pile of the “red stuff”. Did you know that ‘00 shot fits into 3/8” pipe? They started packing the wire into the pipe, packed the “red stuff” in, dropped down the shot, packed it with a piece of rag, added a spark plug, and ignited it. “The bomb could go thru three or four 1” boards!” At least we were smart enough to hide behind the furnace.”

Weather

Weather, including the waves and fog, had a great impact on travel to and from the Light.

In bad weather it was always an adventure to travel to and from the Light. Bringing an electrician to the Light in 20 foot seas, the 25’ launch was lost when it hit the crane’s boom. The launch was burned the following spring in a bonfire.

One of the men traveling to shore in a 16 foot fiberglass skiff got locked in the ice. He climbed out of the skiff onto the ice. Luckily he was able to walk across the ice to shore. Some weeks later the skiff showed up at 40 Mile Point in Lake Huron with his glasses still in the boat.

Other memories include waves coming over the deck that is 20 feet above the water and blowing the window out and being weathered in and running short of supplies. But one of the saddest memories comes from Bob Soldenski. On opening day in the spring of 1967, a seaman didn’t make it out to the Light. They believe his boat hit ice, flipped over and he drowned.

Stay tuned for more stories of Keeper’s of the DeTour Reef Light in future issues of Passages

2010 Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference
June 14-17, 2010 at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan
DeTour Reef Light will be Transferred to DRLPS on Thursday, June 17th

Join lighthouse preservation leaders and notable experts in various fields of preservation in Michigan for this important preservation conference. Don't miss this opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the protection and preservation of lighthouses by coming to the 2010 Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference!

Your attendance will ensure that vital educational opportunities about our historic resources are communicated throughout the DRLPS, that lighthouses will be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations, and that they will continue to inspire and educate visitors from around the world.

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference will be an exciting gathering of your peers and is a dynamic way to network with like-minded professionals.

The conference will feature:

- o **Conference sessions and panels** that cover all aspects of owning, restoring, and preserving historic lighthouses;
- o **Speakers** that represent a wide range of individuals, corporate, private business, federal and state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations;
- o **Getting Solutions from experts;**
- o **How-To educational sessions** that present step-by-step practical advice;
- o **Island lighthouse trip** to South Manitou Island Lighthouse to discuss how-to's and case studies;
- o **Attending this conference** will enhance your knowledge of how to take care of your lighthouse, manage it and give your organization the technical know-how to help your lighthouse!
- o **Networking opportunities** to build relationships with other lighthouse organizations and industry professionals are critical to a successful organization.

Your attendance at this conference will benefit you and your organization greatly by enhancing your knowledge of how to take care of your lighthouse, manage it and give you the technical background on what resources are out there to help you, help your lighthouse! Networking with other lighthouse organizations at this conference is also critical to a successful organization.

For more information go to www.michiganlighthousealliance.org or contact Sally Frye at (231) 590-4004 or by e-mail at info@michiganlighthousealliance.org

Depending on when this issue of *Passages* arrives, this conference may have already occurred. If it has, please keep an eye out so you won't miss the next one!

Memorabilia Order Form—DeTour Reef Preservation Society

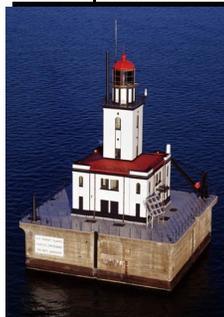
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (very important) _____ Phone _____

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Price Each	Color	Size	Quantity	Total
1	Decal with Society Logo	\$1				
2	Bumper Sticker with Society Logo	\$1				
3	Cup with Society Logo	\$3				
4	Embroidered patch of DeTour Reef Light— 2 3/4 inch square	\$6				
5	DeTour Reef Light Collectors Pin— 1 1/8 inch	\$6				
6	Hat (khaki, khaki/blue, or wheat/pine) with Lighthouse Crest	\$15				
7	Visor with Lighthouse Crest (navy)	\$10				
8	T-Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (stone blue or light green — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$20				
9	White Golf Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$32				
10	Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$39				
11	Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (stone — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$28				
12	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (birch — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$35				
13	Sterling Silver Charm of Lighthouse	\$20				
14	Tote Bag with Lighthouse Crest (natural/red trim or natural/navy trim)	\$28				
15	Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 — 50 sheets per pad)	\$2				
16	Note cards, ivory, showing Lighthouse in 1931 (10 cards & envelopes)	\$8				
17	8x10 Color Photo of 2004 Lighthouse	\$10				
18	8x10 Color Photo of 2008 Lighthouse (NEW!)	\$10				
19	DVD 2 disc set including Keepers experience, slide shows, and videos	\$15				
20	2009 Ornament (oval-shaped 3x5 inch glass etched with Lighthouse image)	\$16				
21	1931 Limited Edition Lighthouse Window Pane (9 1/4 x 11 x 1/4 inch) w/Etching of Lighthouse	\$300				
22	Custom Framing for item #21	\$150				
23	Lighthouse Model 3" Little Light of Mine by Harbor Lights	\$17.50				



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for your
Support!*

*We'll Keep the
Light on
for You!*

Value of Order	S&H
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\$10.01—\$25	\$5
\$25.01—\$45	\$7
\$45.01—\$65	\$9
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**DETOUR REEF LIGHT
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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Memorabilia: Dotty Witten & Sandy Wytiaz, *memorabilia@drmps.com*

Charter Boat Services: Captain Ivan Gable—Sturgeon Bay Charters

MEMBERSHIP:

\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper. All memberships include family.

www.DRLPS.com * membership@drmps.com * 906-493-6609

or by writing: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society

DRLPS is a volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. Donations are welcomed and are tax-deductible (EIN 38-3387252, MICS 27001).

The Light was automated in 1974. In 1997, the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships, and the Coast Guard's not having the funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines. In January 1998, local citizens joined together to save the Light.

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The structure rises 83 feet above the water and marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River.

The DRLPS received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is to establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

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To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email *newsletter@drmps.com* or send by mail to: Sheila Sawyer, 49434 Tarrytown Ct., Shelby Township, MI 48315

Your input for the future issues of *Passages* would be appreciated. Thank you!