



1931

PASSAGES

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Today!

Issue 26

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Fall 2012

Shedding Some Light on the Lenses of the DeTour Reef Light

by David Bardsley

The history of the illumination and lenses of DeTour Reef Light begins with a meticulously crafted **1908 French Fresnel lens to the current beacon that looks like something from "Star Wars."** A somewhat technical and boring (according to my wife Paula) summary follows.

When DeTour Reef Light Station was constructed in 1930-31, the 1861 light-house tower from DeTour Point with its 1908 3½-order Fresnel lens was relocated to the reef light station. This lens was configured as a flashing white light with a characteristic of a one-second flash and a nine-second eclipse. The lens was manufactured by Barbier, Benard & Turenne Co. of Paris, France at a cost of \$2,940.50 (\$73,512 in 2012 dollars). The original shipping weight of the lens and components was 4,480 lbs. In 1936, the color changed from straight white to white with a red sector to the North West to warn of the dangerous reef. This was accomplished using a color plastic inside the lantern (the glass-enclosed room containing the beacon) which is unchanged to this date. In 1978, the Fresnel lens was removed and replaced by a modern beacon. The 1908 lens and its timing mechanism are now on display at the DeTour Passage Historical Museum. From 1996 until May 15, 2012, a Vega VRB-25 served as the beacon for DeTour Reef Light.



3 ½ order Fresnel Lens from DeTour Reef Light now on display in DeTour Passage Historical Museum

On May 15, the U.S. Coast Guard installed an eight tier Vega VLB-44 LED Marine Beacon in the lantern of DeTour Reef Light, replacing the Vega rotating beacon (VRB-25) that has been in DeTour Reef Light for about 15 years. Vega Industries is a New Zealand company. The DeTour Reef beacon is programmed to flash white every 10 seconds (with a red sector to the North West). As such, it does not rotate. The vertical divergence is 2.5 degrees – making the beacon only visible at water level and not visible to aircraft at flying altitudes. The total power consumption is a maximum of 80 watts per each flash resulting in average power consumption per day of 96-watt hours. Seventy-four feet above the water, the beacon has a range of 16 miles.



Six sided VRB-25 prior to removal from the DeTour Reef Light

The prior VRB-25 beacon by Vega was six sided (six lenses) and rotated continuously day and night, although the 22.5-watt incandescent lamp was activated at night by a photocell. Six bulbs in an automatic changer (like a ferrous wheel) assured continuous service when a bulb burned out. The beacon had to rotate during the day because sun light is focused through the lens, and
(*Lens continued on page 2*)

Eight tier VLB-44 in DeTour Reef Light lantern. Laker Paul R. Tregurtha in background (1013.5 feet in length)



(Lens continued from page 1)

if the lens were stationary, the intense heat would destroy the beacon. Power consumption to rotate the beacon was about 2 watts. Accordingly, the average power consumption per day would be about 318 watt-hours. As installed in DeTour Reef Light, the VRB-25 range was 18 miles. When the VRB-25 was removed from the lantern, the Coast Guard donated it to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society which has it on display in the lighthouse basement.

All of the aids to navigation on the lighthouse are powered by a 12-volt battery bank, which is charged by solar panels. Concurrent with the introduction of the LED beacon, the Coast Guard reduced the number of solar panels from ten to four. This corresponds to the 60 percent reduction in power usage by the beacon. Other aids to navigation powered from the battery bank are the foghorn (which is activated by a signal from marine radios) and the radar beacon (RACON) **which transmits the Morse code letter “D” (dash dot dot) to radar receivers. The Morse code dash dot dot identifies the lighthouse so the boats using radar do not mistake the lighthouse for a large ship.**



Hallie Wilson by the six sided VRB-25 prior to removal from the DeTour Reef Light lantern



Jillian, James and mother Kristen Palmer sitting near the Eight tier Vega VLB-44 LED Marine Beacon in the lantern of DeTour Reef Light. What a view!

Information on DeTour Reef Light tours and lighthouse keeper programs can be found at www.drllps.com

~~~~~DeTour Reef Light Featured on~~~~~  
**Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie’s New Logo**

Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie has a new logo featuring the DeTour Reef Light! The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is thrilled to be honored in this new logo and is grateful to **Chief Boatswain’s Mate (BMC) Marvin Lalone and the crew at the Aids to Navigation team Sault Sainte Marie** for suggesting to include the DeTour Reef Light in the logo.

Information on Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie:  
Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie is responsible for all Coast Guard missions on Lake Superior and Northern Lakes Michigan and Huron including surrounding navigable waterways, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Aids to Navigation, Marine Safety, & Homeland Security.

Located on the St. Mary's River in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, the Sector is the operational and administrative commander of 15 subordinate field units, which include 8 Multi-Mission

*(Logo continued on page 3)*

(Logo continued from page 2)

Small Boat Stations, 1 Marine Safety Unit, 2 Aids to Navigation Teams, and 4 Coast Guard Cutters.

**Sector Sault Sainte Marie's missions are accomplished by a dedicated workforce of 248 Active Duty, 70 Reserve, and 26 civilian personnel.** The Sector's vessel inventory includes: 2 47' Motor Lifeboats; Medium; 10 25' Response Boat - Small; 1 49' BUSL; 3 21'/23' TANBs; and 12 NSBs; plus 1 airboat.



The all-volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary, 9th Central Region, supports Sector Sault Sainte Marie performing a wide variety of operational, educational, support and training missions with 400 personnel throughout the region.

Sector Sault Sainte Marie was established on June 27, 2005, by combining the former Group Sault Sainte Marie and Marine Safety Office.

The Sector Commander is the operational commander for all missions within his/her area of responsibility. The Sector Commander's legal authorities include Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections, Federal on Scene Coordinator, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator and Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordinator.

*Thanks to Chief Boatswain's Mate (BMC) Marvin Lalone and the crew at the Aids to Navigation team US Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie the DeTour Reef Light has been included in their logo.*

~~~~~History Revisited~~~~~

Though not historically correct, this photo was taken from the ferry dock on Drummond Island as the *Welcome* (a replica of the British warship) was passing the Detour Reef Light. The photo was taken by Sheila Powell and "Dock" Borth of Drummond Island. They had met up with the warship a day earlier at the Detour Marina where it had just moored after "defeating" (their words) the USS Niagara at Fort St. Joseph in a gun battle with blanks. The original ship was built in 1774 by John Askins, a business man for the shipping trade. In 1778 it was purchased by the British Military for L 900. In 1781 the ship was lost in a storm possibly in the Straights of Mackinaw. If so, Shelia and "Dock" have probably sailed over it many times. A beautiful picture, thanks for giving us a view of past history.



~~~~~Are You a Pharologist?~~~~~

Pharology is the scientific study of lighthouses and signal lights, their construction and illumination. Those who study or are enthused by lighthouses are known as pharologists. The term comes from the classical Latin or ancient Greek *Pharos*, meaning lighthouse. Pharos was also the proper name of the famed lighthouse of Alexandria.

One famous amateur pharologist is Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. She has a keen interest in *Pharology*. She has personally visited all 215 of Britain's lighthouses, often touring with the Northern Lighthouse Board. She first got this interest when her mother, Queen Elizabeth, took her to a lighthouse when she was five years old.

~~~~~Why We Have Tours~~~~~

By Sunny Covell

More than ever, we are convinced that the tours are not about making money. If they were, John and I would have been fired long ago. We have endeavored to ensure our guests have a quality lighthouse experience. Although we have been at this for seven years, we have always found ways to improve with each tour. The tours this year, as well as in the past, have generated interest in the keeper program.

This past summer, 34 tour-participants Saw The Light. Three of our eleven weekends had no tours. Another weekend, we had to cancel what was to be one large tour with 8 people, commencing at noon. The plan was for Capt. Ivan to make two rapid runs out to the light, and we would



John and Sunny Covell not looking too seasick though the tour was canceled due to big swells

proceed with one tour. This was the only way Capt. Ivan could keep his morning AND his afternoon fishing charters. (It should be noted, that without Capt. Ivan, the keeper and tour programs would not be possible.) I have always tried to schedule our tours around his schedule. On this day, he told us how rough the seas were after dealing with them on his morning charter. We had a discussion with him and our tour participants and it was decided we wouldn't know until we tried it...so out we went. The swells at the base of the lighthouse made both the mooring of the boat and getting safely up the ladder an impossibility. I don't know who was more disappointed...our tour participants, or this tour guide. We made our way back to the calm waters of Whitney Bay.

Tours have been cancelled before due to weather (twice in our 7 years) but never have we been so close...yet so far.....We always give the option of a refund, or rescheduling. This time, we refunded 4, and the second group of 4 will be back next summer.



This year we had another first. Because Dave had mid-week keepers, we were able to schedule a Thursday tour. We will no doubt keep this in mind for next year.

The last tour for the 2012 season with Jeri Feltner, Jayme Sutton, middle Sunny Covell, Leigh Method, and heading down the ladder Ann Method Green. Until next season,

We'll Keep the Light on for YOU!

~~~~~Think Summer 2013~~~~~

**Here are the dates for next summer's DRLPS activities!**

**16th Annual Father's Day Cruise**—Sunday June 16th (For information contact: Anne Stafford at 906-297-6051 or email rivercruise@drlps.com)

14th Annual Evening Under the Stars on Friday, July 5th (For information contact: Jeri Baron Feltner (313) 268-6846 or email starsevent@drlps.com)

Lighthouse Tours June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 11 (Sunday), 17, 24 and 31 (For information contact: John & Sunny Covell by email: tours@drlps.com or by phone: 616-874-9458 (winter) or 906-493-5648 (June thru mid-September)

Light Keeper Weekends in June, July, and August Friday-Sunday. June 14-16, 21-23, 28-30, July 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28, August 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25 and August 30-Sept 1. (For Keeper information contact: Dave Bardsley at 906-493-6609 or email keepers@drlps.com)

~~~~~Share your photos and stories – Win a 2013 lighthouse calendar!~~~~~

By Ann Method Green

I hope that the time you have spent (or will spend) on the DeTour Reef Light was as an amazing experience for you as it was for me. I continue to be in awe of what has been accomplished by this determined group of volunteers.

When you're looking through all those wonderful picture memories I'm hoping that you'll think about sharing some of your favorite pictures with the DRLPS. We are in need of pictures for the stories that we share with the public. You can e-mail (PR@drlps.com), snail mail, Picassa mail, put them on Face-Book or whatever format you care to use to get them to Ann Method Green, Public Relations chair for the Society. I promise to make sure your name is attached to the picture. Also, if you have an interest in contributing a story of your experience, we'd love to share it with you and other lighthouse enthusiasts.

As an added incentive, all of you that share with the Society will have your name put in a bowl and we will have a drawing at the November board meeting. The name that comes out of the bowl will receive a 2013 lighthouse calendar that features the DeTour Reef Light on the March page and also our own calendar girls – **the Ladies of the Light. (It's a \$10 value!)** The winner will be announced in a future Passages.



DRLPS Calendar Girls 2013—Left to Right—Dotty Witten, Sandy Wytiaz, Paula Bardsley, Janelle Dudeck, Jeri Feltner, Angie Leonard

~~~~~DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society~~~~~ Final Ornament Annual Limited-Edition Series



The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society 2012 limited-edition annual ornament (#15 of 15), final in the glass series (1998-2012), celebrates the successful *Lighthouse Tour and Keeper Programs* to the historic offshore lighthouse operating since 2005 and championed by DRLPS dedicated volunteers David Bardsley (Keeper Program Chair), and John and Sunny Covell (Tour Program Co-Chairs).

The oval beveled glass ornament features a photo by DRLPS President Ann Method Green of Lady of the Light, Nancy Kleiner, climbing the spiral staircase steps on the lighthouse representing that it is the people who visit the lighthouse and learn and enjoy its magnificent maritime history that will help sustain the success of the Society to keep the Light on for all generations to enjoy.

The DRLPS ornament includes a hanging ribbon, satin pouch, gift box, description card, and suction cup to use ornament as a sun-catcher.

The price of the ornament is \$18 (see the order form on page 11). All proceeds from the sale of this ornament go to the DRLPS, a nonprofit organization established in 1998 with volunteers dedicated to the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light.

~~~~~**15th Annual Father's Day Cruise**~~~~~  
*A Great Day on the St. Mary's River*

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) held their fifteenth annual Father's Cruise on June 17, 2012. The Soo Locks Boat Tour (SLBT) vessel "Le Voyageur", piloted by Captain John



*Bernie Arbic narrating from the Pilot House*

Lowes and his crew Ken Spencer and Larry Piirainen, left DeTour Village at 10 a.m. and headed out to DeTour Reef Light. John Covell described the interior of the Light with the help of Mike and Cari Horton and Kevin and Kathy Mixer, weekend Lightkeepers. After the boat circled the Light and provided many picture opportunities for the cruisers, the weekend Lightkeepers waved and shouted encouragement from the pier deck and sent them on their way **up the St Mary's River.**

The Cruise then proceeded up river and through the Soo Locks with narration by Ann Method Green of the DRLPS and Bernie Arbic, author of City Of the Rapids, Sugar Island Sampler and Upbound Downbound-the Story of the Soo Locks. The trip through the Soo Locks was a first time experience for many of the passengers.

The cruisers were treated to a brunch of pastries and fruit, a buffet luncheon with many selections of cold meats, cheeses, and salads, and an afternoon snack of cheeses, crackers, and cookies. Esther Parris and her family did a fantastic job putting together the food for the cruise.

Door prizes were awarded to several cruisers. The prizes were donated by **the Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center, Sune's Dry Goods and Grocery, Island Wellness Center, the Timberdoodle, North Country Sports and Fisher's Restaurant. Soo Locks Boat Tours donated a ticket for their tour of lighthouses on the St. Mary's River.**

**Anne Stafford, the Father's Day Cruise chairperson, stated that plans are in process for next year's 16th annual DRLPS River Cruise, scheduled for Father's Day, June 16, 2013.** She also thanked the volunteers, Paula Bardsley, Sunny Covell, Jeri Feltner, and Ann Method Green, for helping make this years cruise a success.



*Billy Parrish and Capt John Lowes steering the course*



*Bill & Mary Mannion and Ken & Bette Walker enjoying the day*



*Carl & Irmie Roggow are all smiles on the cruise*



*Ben, Rich, Marv, Jon and Gary Schuen, 3 generations of the Father's Day DRLPS Cruise*



*Caterers of the event Daniel, Esther, Roger Parris*

~~~~~13<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening Under the Stars~~~~~  
Good Friends, Good Weather, and Great Food!

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's (DRLPS) annual Evening Under the Stars was a magnificent success with over 100 guests attending the event held on the shore of Lake Huron at Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center's Bayside Dining on Friday, July 6th.

Jeri Baron Feltner, chair of Evening Under the Stars, put together an outstanding group of volunteers, donors and sponsors, making the event unique and full of friendship and fine dining. Jeri stated: **"Thank you to all the shining stars that supported Stars 2012 to help preserve the DeTour Reef Light for generations to enjoy. It was truly a great sharing experience and I am grateful for being a part of it."**



I started Stars in 2000 and since have worked with wonderful chairs including Sis Bailey, Joyce Buckley, Judi Bailey Martin, and Sandy Wytiaz, who have, along with the Stars team, contributed their time and talent to a very successful annual fundraiser for the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society. After being asked to come out of my Stars retirement by Ann Method Green and Dave & Paula Bardsley to chair Stars 2012, I gladly accepted because of my deep respect for these people who have volunteered so much to DRLPS over the years. I decided to put my efforts into Stars in loving memory of my twin brother Larry Baron, a strong supporter of DRLPS and my efforts since the beginning in 1998, and who became a permanent star on August 16, 2011.

When each guest arrived they were presented with a wine glass, donated by Joyce Buckley and hand etched by her with a DeTour Reef Light sketch drawn by Sandy Ledy. Darlene Skinner added to the festivities with beautiful table décor of silver chargers and blue and white napkins, chair covers and sashes, and table chiffon covers. Each table had a centerpiece of a Lenox Crystal Star vase donated by Jeri Baron Feltner and Gerber daisies provided by Darlene Skinner. Lise White and Friends came from Sault **Sainte Marie area again this year and played jazz standards and hits from the 70's. Chef Frank Jones, Penny Brown, and Carly Bauknecht and their staff at Bayside presented a fabulous and elegant dinner. Entrees included: *Carved Beef Tenderloin, Fresh Whitefish and Mostaccioli with Red Sauce.***

Plans are under way for the 14th Evening Under the Stars to be held on Friday, July 5, 2013. Mark your calendar and plan to join the DRLPS for this fun fundraiser.

Thank you to all the friends of the DRLPS that helped
to make the Evening Under the Stars a success!

Master of Ceremonies - Clif Haley

Photographer - Sunny Covell

Memorabilia Table – Dotty and John Witten

Raffle ladies – Carolyn Haley, Joyce Buckley, Nella Gries and Hallie Wilson

Auction – Lois Bryant, Ann Green, Dotty Witten, Paula Bardsley, Hallie Wilson, Matt and Sheila Sawyer

Programs – Janelle Dudeck—Poster distribution –Chuck and Jeri Feltner

Set Up -**Jeri Feltner, Anne O'Connell, Darlene Skinner with Amy Scott and her daughters Alexis and**

Mikayla, John and Sunny Covell, Dave and Paula Bardsley, Carolyn Haley, Hallie Wilson, Ann Green, Joyce Buckley, Lois Bryant, Debbie Hanson, Matt Sawyer

Greeters and ticket takers - Jim and Barb Gusfa

Accounting and tickets – Dawn Gibbons

Advertising – Carol Martin

~~~~~Getting Passages to You~~~~~

This marks the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of *Passages* and who could have imagined, when the *Passages* 1 was first published in the Fall of 1998, that the DRLPS would be mailing out over 1600 copies throughout the United States as well as Canada, Scotland, and Japan? It's a huge job to get them out and I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped us accomplish this. Paula Bardsley is the database guru who updates the addresses, sorts the labels into Post Office acceptable groupings, and then prints the labels. When her task is done a group of volunteers gathers to tape each newsletter and attach a label to it. The trip to the Post Office can be tricky – ask Dave Bardsley about the time he had to stop suddenly on his way to the Post Office and all the carefully sorted newsletters went sliding onto the floor.



*Bette Walker, Jeri Feltner,  
Merwyn Crampton and  
Howard Meredith*

Thanks to all the volunteers over the years who have helped the DRLPS get the newsletters out. Here are a few pictures from last summer's "mailing bee" for *Passages* 25.



*Willie Moffat*



*Note: This edition of Passages is being printed by Mitchell Graphics and they will be printing, tabbing, labeling and taking the newsletters to the Post Office. Paula will still be responsible for providing them with the data base of addresses for the labels and know that the DRLPS will find more activities that will need volunteers.*

*Dave Bardsley and Mary Lawrence*

## Receive *Passages* Digitally

We are now offering you the opportunity to receive your current issue of *Passages* by email. The advantages for you are:

- 1) You will get your copy as soon as it is ready for the printer – no need to wait for printing, folding, addressing and mailing;
- 2) Your copy will be in full color, which you can either print or save on your computer;
- 3) Your copy will not be lost in the mail because you were traveling or at a different address when it arrived. It will come to your computer to download wherever you are and whenever you wish; and
- 4) It will save the Society printing and postage costs. Each copy of *Passages* costs DRLPS approximately fifty cents to print and mail, plus the volunteer time to prepare them for mailing.

In order to receive your copy of *Passages* by email, just simply send an email note to [membership@drlps.com](mailto:membership@drlps.com) requesting *Passages* by Email, and we will put you on the *Passages* email distribution list. Please note if the email address you would like the newsletter sent to is different from the one in your email message. It will be distributed in a PDF format, which requires that you have Acrobat Reader software on your computer. (We will include the instructions for downloading this free software if you don't already have it.) It would be helpful but not necessary if you have a high-speed internet connection, since the files will be in the 1-2 megabyte size range. Dial-up will work, but it will take a while to accomplish the download.

**Just let us know if you would like the email option, and your next issue of *Passages* will be delivered to your computer.**



The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society wishes to thank everyone for their  
**Support of our Fundraiser “Evening Under the Stars”**

Table Sponsors:

- AFV Natural Gas Fuel Systems, Twinsburg, OH, Mark Hurt
- Drummond Island Yacht Haven, Denny Bailey
- First National Bank of St. Ignace/Cedarville Branch, Joanne Waybant
- m-Bank, Sault Sainte Marie, Dave Thomas
- Triangle Electric, Madison Heights, Michigan, Roy Martin
- Autore Oil & Propane Company, Cedarville, Steve & Tami Autore



Matt & Sheila Sawyer bidding at the auction

Silent Auction Donations:

- Wanda Bartleson – Basket including handcrafted cribbage board with etching of Upper Peninsula lighthouses, two wine glasses and a bottle of wine
- Jim and Sue Kelley of North Haven Gifts - **Wrought iron deco table with tile of NOAA’s Drummond Island map**
- Jessie Hadley of Woods & Water Ecotours, Hessel – Half day kayak trip for two
- Captain James C. Shutt of Dreamseakers Fishing Charters, Pickford - \$50 discount off a charter
- DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society and David Bardsley - Keeper Program for two - 3 days 2 nights at the **DeTour Reef Light including the DVD “Gateway to the Superior – Saving the DeTour Reef Light”**
- John and Sunny Covell – **42”x28” mounted and framed photo, “The Silent Sentinel”** (photo by Sunny Covell, frame by John Covell)
- **Captain Ivan “Meade” Gable of Sturgeon Bay Charters, 4 hour charter**
- Jeri and Chuck Feltner – Tiffany table lamp, Canvas Print of the DeTour Reef Light (photo by Jeri Feltner 2010), Lenox Hope Star metal bowl, and framed DeTour Reef Light picture
- The estate of Larry Baron – Harbour Lights model of Old Mission Point Lighthouse in Traverse City
- Tim Harrison of Lighthouse Digest — 2 year subscription to Lighthouse Digest, T-shirt, golf shirt and sweat-shirt hoodie all with Lighthouse Digest logo
- **Kelli and Dale Melvin of Sune’s Dry Goods** – Metal decorative tray with 2 stemless wine glasses etched with Drummond Island outline, 2 bottles of Leelenau Wine, bottle stopper and napkins
- Ron and Ann Green – Picnic under the Stars insulated basket with service for four, cutting board, knife, stars ice cube trays and 2 bottles of wine
- Garry Wiltse - Creations by Garry Wiltse – handcrafted necklaces of angelite 2 necklaces in the shape of Drummond Island, one in the shape of a star and a Drummond Island shaped dream catcher
- Kewadin Casino – one night lodging in Sault Sainte Marie
- Marge Haley – **Hand woven Swedish throw, 100% cotton Monk’s cloth 50x80**
- Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center – certificate for 2 rounds of golf with shared cart at the Rock
- Central Savings Bank and House of Bargains in Sault Sainte Marie – Framed print of 2 loons “*Summer Serenity*” by Harlan Zieska
- Arlene Lyons - Backpack with Stars
- Mainsail Restaurant in DeTour Village, Desi Nelson - long sleeve hoodie sweatshirt
- Janelle Dudeck – DeTour Reef Light print by Jeanne Tubman and a handmade pendant necklace made from a **vintage atlas image of the St. Mary’s River in the 1800’s**

Door prizes:

- Lori and Ron Ogden of the Islander Shoppe – \$25 gift certificates (2)
- **Paul and Janis Gratkowski of Sune’s Home Center** - \$100 gift card
- DRLPS - Crystal DeTour Reef Lighthouse
- DRLPS - DeTour Reef Light Tote Bag

Raffle:

Matt and Sheila Sawyer won the Dinner for Six at Bayside or a Drummond Island home meal prepared by Chef Frank Jones & staff donated by Clif & Carolyn Haley, Jim & Barb Gusfa, and Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center.



Colton Frownfelter, Kevin Eikey, Dan Frownfelter & Erik Eikey

~~~~~August Knights Trip~~~~~  
By David Frownfelter,

Every August we have a group of 5-7 fathers and sons who look for adventure in northern Michigan. We call it our *August Knights* trip. *Knights* because we got the inspiration to plan getaways with our sons after reading the book **“Raising a Modern Day Knight”**. In past years we have been at Beaver Island, Lime Island, and Charity Island. This weekend at the DeTour Reef Light was incredible – the self-sufficiency, the engineering and equipment, history and physical challenges we found in this setting all contributed many great memories. The foghorn blew us all away. Literally! We had to restrain the boys from giving the red button too much of a workout. There were people on shore to consider !



Colton relaxing

We all have people at work who are very interested in the experience and we are only too happy to tell them about it and connect them up with the DRLPS website.

Thanks to you, Dave and the rest of the Society for your work in restoring and preserving the great Pure Michigan treasure, and for sharing it with us.

~~~~~Annual Meeting~~~~~

The Annual meeting of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at the DeTour Passage Museum in DeTour Village, Michigan. A presentation was made by Ann Method Green, President, on DRLPS activities in 2011 and stories and ideas for the Society were shared by the audience. The original Fresnel Lens from the Light provided a perfect backdrop for the meeting.



Denny Bailey and Ann Method Green were re-elected to 3 year terms on the Board of Directors. After the meeting, DRLPS member Karl Hildenbrand invited the attendees to his home to sit on his deck and enjoy his view of the DeTour Reef Light. What a beautiful view he has and many **thanks to Karl for sharing it with the people who “Keep the Light on for You!”**

~~~~~Thanks Sheila for 12 Editions of Passages!~~~~~



Sheila Sawyer

The DRLPS wants to thank Sheila for her long term commitment to the Society and editing the Passages newsletter for us. She has been the editor since Fall of 2007 and in that time she has given birth to two beautiful children (Taryn and Joshua) and finished her degree. She works full time at being a wife to Matt, our webmaster, a mother of pre-schoolers, and a medical assistant for an orthopaedic surgeon. Sheila has edited 12 editions of Passages and **now she’s passing the responsibility on to a new team.**

Joan Meyer a Weekend Lightkeeper has stepped up to do the editing and Ann Method Green will be her partner. Joan works as a special education secretary at Kent ISD in Grand Rapids and is an Advanced Master Gardener and Master Naturalist through Kent County. She and her husband, Dave, own a place on Drummond and have been coming there for over 40 years.



Joan Meyer

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email (very important) _____ Phone _____



| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | Each | Color | Size | Quantity | Total |
|------|---|-------|-------|------|----------|-------|
| 1 | 2012 ornament celebrating the Keeper and Tour Programs 4x6" oval – limited edition | \$18 | | | | |
| 2 | Weekend Puzzle – DeTour Reef Light - 360 pieces – 12"x18" photo by Sunny Covell | \$16 | | | | |
| 3 | Retro Ceramic Coffee Mug with line drawing of DeTour Reef Light circa 1931 | \$10 | | | | |
| 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, yellow, red, gray) with Lighthouse Crest | \$15 | | | | |
| 7 | Visor with Lighthouse Crest (navy , tan) | \$10 | | | | |
| 8 | T-Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (evergreen, navy— S, M, L, XL, 2XL – not all sizes/colors available) | \$20 | | | | |
| 9 | Golf Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (Men's in black, Ladies in red — S, M, L, XL, 2XL) | \$32 | | | | |
| 10 | Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL) | \$39 | | | | |
| 11 | Crew Neck Sweatshirt w/Lighthouse Crest (stone, evergreen, navy — S, M, L, XL, 2XL) | \$28 | | | | |
| 12 | Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (navy — S, M, L, XL, 2XL) | \$35 | | | | |
| 13 | DeTour Reef Light Counted Cross Stitch Kit 5"x7" designed by Hallie Wilson | \$10 | | | | |
| 14 | Plastic To-Go Mug with Society Logo | \$3 | | | | |
| 15 | Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 — 50 sheets per pad) | \$2 | | | | |
| 16 | Crystal Cube w/ internal 3D etching of DeTour Reef Light - small | \$17 | | | | |
| 17 | Crystal Cube w/ internal 3D etching of DeTour Reef Light - large | \$22 | | | | |
| 18 | Lighthouse Model 3" Little Light of Mine by Harbour Lights (Price has been reduced) | \$15 | | | | |
| 19 | DVD of the Lighthouse before/during/after restoration/keeper experience, 2 disc set | \$15 | | | | |
| 20 | Polar Fleece Zippered Vest (burnt orange– S, M, L, XL, XXL) | \$42 | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |



*Thank You
for your
Support!*

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

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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. In 2010 the DRLPS was designated a Preserve America Steward by First Lady Michelle Obama.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society 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.**

PASSAGES is the official publication of the DRLPS. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of DRLPS, its officers or members. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for publication and to publish material which is felt to be in the best interest of the DRLPS. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, DRLPS, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated.

To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email *newsletter@drlps.com* or send by mail to: Joan Meyer, 0-12828 3rd Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

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