



1931

PASSAGES



Today!

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

Issue 39

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Spring 2018

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Turns Twenty 1998-2018

Encouraging a New Generation of Lighthouse Keepers to Keep the Light Shining

By Jeri Baron Feltner, Founding Director Emerita

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) proudly celebrates 20 years of continued restoration and preservation of the DeTour Reef Light Station (1998-2018). We take this milestone opportunity to thank all the devoted dedicated volunteers, members and organizations who have steadfastly supported the DRLPS's success in preserving the lighthouse, and to inspire and encourage the next generation of Lighthouse keepers to Keep the Light On.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Built in 1931, the offshore DeTour Reef Light Station proudly stands guard at the entrance to the St. Marys River in northern Lake Huron at the eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, between the communities of DeTour Village and Drummond Island. The light guides ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior and shines as an icon to the rich maritime history of the area. The Light was automated in 1974. Due to sophisticated navigational equipment aboard modern ships, and the massive conversion to unmanned automated beacons, along with insufficient operating funds, the U.S. Coast Guard rendered many Great Lakes lighthouses obsolete in 1997, including the DeTour Reef Light Station. Government regulations allowed for nonprofit organizations to obtain ownership of lighthouses for the purpose of preservation and education.



DRLPS Board of Directors' Meeting in 1998: Denny Bailey, Dick Moehl, Jeri Baron Feltner (Secretary), Barb Snider (Treasurer), Jim Charles (Vice-President), Bob Jones (President)

THE SOCIETY

With the mission of saving the Lighthouse, a small group of citizens from DeTour Village and Drummond Island met on January 4, 1998, and the DRLPS was established as an all-volunteer nonprofit 501c3 organization, dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Lighthouse and the sharing of its history for generations to enjoy. With government grants, and public and private donations, DRLPS significantly restored the Lighthouse in 2004; and, in 2005, guided public tours, and overnight keeper programs were established to this magnificent monument to Michigan's maritime history. The DRLPS has earned many awards for restoration and preservation of this significant historic structure and regional icon, including the State of Michigan Governor's Award for Historic Preservation in 2005, the Superior Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2006, and the DRLPS was designated a Preserve America Steward by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2010. The DeTour Reef Light Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, the Federal government transferred ownership of the DeTour Reef Light Station to the DRLPS in June 2010 – for which every volunteer, member and supporter of the Lighthouse can stand proud! A Michigan Historical Marker honoring the Lighthouse was erected on M-134 near DeTour Village in 2013.

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DRLPS Keeper's Weekend *By Dean Smith*



The journey that brought my wife Carol and myself to be lighthouse keepers on the DeTour Reef Lighthouse began with the somewhat panicked thought as I approached our 25th wedding anniversary with the age old "guy" question: "What do I get my wife for our wedding anniversary?" I was blessed with an answer while camping in our 5th wheel in Sault Ste. Marie and enjoying my favorite hobby, watching Great Lakes freighters pass through Mission Point on the St Mary's river. I caught a small ad in a tourist magazine that advertised the "Lighthouse Keepers" program sponsored by the DRLPS. Absolutely Perfect!

My wife and I have gifted each other in the past with "mystery dates" where we just tell each other the "when" but not the "where" or "what". The "why" being "It's a mystery date to be solved". We try to top each other with the uniqueness and originality of the destination and fun of our dates. The "Who" part of this trip was intended to include my daughter along with my wife. The DRLPS desires to place 6 people on the light for the desired weekend. However I found out by contacting David Bardsley of DRLPS we could have the light house to ourselves if we purchased a minimum of four spots. I offered one of the 4 spots to our daughter to accompany us, however, at the last minute she was unable to come so we had the lighthouse to ourselves for our special weekend **anniversary date**.

One of the physical requirements is that you'll be able to climb a ladder up the side of the concrete foundation of the light for approximately 20 feet to the lighthouse patio deck. I am afraid of heights so I had a little anxiety but they also use a safety harness to prevent an accident and that was all I needed to feel secure. Since I couldn't keep the secret of the date, my wife and I were ecstatic for the three or four weeks leading up to our trip. A boat is chartered out of Fort Drummond Marina on Drummond Island for the approximate 20 minute trip out to the lighthouse in Lake Huron at the mouth of the St. Marys River. The day we went out the weather was marginal due to high winds and it wasn't until the captain reached the base of the lighthouse that the determination could be made to transfer us safely. The waves were three to five feet and the captain did an excellent job maneuvering on the lee side of the lighthouse and we were on the patio twenty feet above Lake Huron before we knew it.

The quality of the restoration overwhelmed us as we saw our first close-up site on the lighthouse having driven our Four Winds 26-foot boat around it a couple years previous. The restoration, in order to qualify for the grant dollars needed to maintain historic authenticity, made it all the more difficult. Again many contractors and volunteers and State authorities were involved to produce such an incredible tribute to Michigan Maritime navigation history. The DRLPS has a website that describes the work that they went through, and you can research all the information you want via the website (www.DRLPS.com) or Googling.

Due to the high winds, our familiarization by volunteer Mike Horton was abbreviated once he was confident that DeTour Reef Light was in good hands. Before we knew it we had the lighthouse to ourselves and the responsibility as the keepers. Almost immediately I noticed the '1000-footer' Edwin Gott exiting the St. Mary's River so I quickly donned the lighthouse keepers official hat and took up station at the foghorn operating panel giving my wife the headphones for ear protection. When the freighter was next to the lighthouse I blew the horn as a salute eagerly awaiting the Gott's reply which never came.

Undaunted, we quickly made ourselves comfortable and at home unpacking in the main quarters of the Lighthouse Keeper, leaving the other bedroom with bunk beds open. After climbing through all the different levels and rooms in the lighthouse and admiring the spectacular views we settled in to cook our first dinner of southwestern tacos. Perhaps the funniest moment of our Mystery Date came when I was sitting at the top of the lighthouse next to the light at dusk and the light came on! I was so excited to see it come on that I yelled down to Carol who was cleaning up in the kitchen "HEY CAROL, THE LIGHT JUST CAME ON!" and then came her somewhat surprising but totally serious reply: "WHAT LIGHT?" Fortunately I didn't verbalize the first reaction that came to my mind, but my second thought was: "It's a good thing she's not in charge of the light!"

continued on page 3



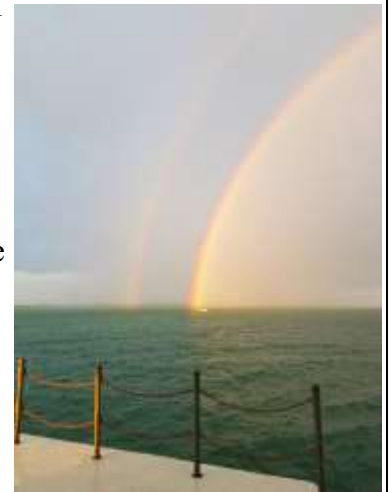
Continued from page 2

What a delightful first night we had sleeping in the master bedroom with the windows open and the mild temperatures listening to the six foot waves and wind slap against the foundation, secure in the knowledge that we were totally as safe as all the previous keepers were before us.

Saturday morning brought with it a delightful breakfast cooked on the historically accurate vintage appliances. After breakfast we began the routine chores that were assigned to previous keepers, such as scrubbing the seagull poop and abandoned fish guts off the patio that surrounds the lighthouse. Carol went about making a trial run at baking the chocolate chip cookies for any tour guests that may arrive on Saturday afternoon. (Carol is an excellent cook, however not being used to baking with antique ovens the first trial run turned the cookie dough into nice, flat, round, black hockey pucks familiar to all Michigan hockey fans). By noon we were prepared for our two guests and tour guide to arrive. We greeted our guests at about 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon and welcomed them with properly prepared chocolate chip cookies. Being such a freighter nerd, I started taking over the tour guide's job talking about freighters and Carol had to politely take me by the arm and whisper in my ear that I was not the tour guide but a light housekeeper host so I quickly stopped my dissertation on Great Lakes freighters. (Our guests were actually interested in bidding on one of several Great Lakes Michigan lighthouses that are abandoned and slowly deteriorating and are now coming on the market for sale.)

After a couple of hours, our guests left us and once again we had the lighthouse to ourselves. There was an almost constant flow of freighters moving in and out of the St. Mary's to keep us entertained. And one of them finally responded back to my constant salutes from our own foghorn. Saturday's evening sunset was beautiful and accompanied by a complete semi circle double rainbow.

The most exciting moment of the weekend came Saturday evening at approximately 10 p.m. while Carol and I were outside watching the beautiful sunset. Someone reported to the Coast Guard an abandoned kayak connected to a water trampoline in the vicinity of the DeTour Reef lighthouse. That report triggered concern for our personal safety so the Coast Guard was attempting to contact us via marine radio and also by contacting David Bardsley who then was attempting to contact us by phone. Since Carol and I were outside enjoying the sunset we were not aware of all of the attempts to contact us to assure we were safe. When we came back inside the lighthouse we became aware and began responding back to the Coast Guard that we were safe and to David Bardsley who was also concerned. To this day I believe the abandoned kayak remained a mystery or due to the high winds of Friday and Saturday it had come loose from shore.



After another wonderfully peaceful night sleeping, we awoke Sunday and prepared for our departure. We washed the deck one more time from overnight seagull dirt and followed the shutdown checklist for guest Lighthouse Keepers before departure and spent the last few hours enjoying perfect weather on the deck outside. All too soon, our chartered boat arrived to take us back to Fort Drummond Marina. Because I hadn't known about this incredible opportunity beforehand I had to add to my bucket list and check it off at the same time. I highly recommend this incredible piece of Michigan nautical history even if you only take a couple hours to come out for a tour. Once again many thanks to David Bardsley and Mike Horton and all of the amazing people who dedicated such talent and time to preserve this lighthouse for all of us to enjoy.



Three Historic Lighthouses Awarded \$112,800 in State Preservation Grants

LANSING, MICH. – Three historic lighthouses will receive Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grants for rehabilitation projects or assessment for future improvements.

“The lighthouses that dot Michigan’s vast coastlines and stand tall offshore are vulnerable to the elements and require upkeep,” said MSHDA Executive Director Earl Poleski. “The State Historic Preservation Office’s (SHPO) MLAP grants help lighthouse stewards protect and preserve these beacons for all of us.”



Funding for this program comes from the sale of specialty Save Our Lights license plates that can be purchased at any Secretary of State branch office. To date, SHPO has awarded more than \$2.1 million to help rehabilitate and preserve lighthouses for

tourists and local residents alike to explore and enjoy. “Because of the generosity of people who pay a little extra for a lighthouse license plate, we are able to award grants that help preserve these iconic Michigan structures for the long term,” Poleski said.

Awardees are chosen annually through a competitive application process. Grant recipients are required to contribute 50 percent of the grant amount as matching funds. The 2018 MLAP grant recipients are:

Keweenaw Waterway Lighthouse Conservancy, Inc., Chassell, MI

Award Amount: \$7,500

Use of Funds: The Keweenaw Waterway Lighthouse Conservancy, Inc. will hire a consultant to produce a Condition Assessment Report (CAR) for the Keweenaw Waterway Lower Entrance Light to guide future rehabilitation.

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, Drummond Island, MI

Award Amount: \$60,000

Use of Funds: The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society will hire a contractor(s) to address water infiltration issues by rehabilitating the pier deck, sidewalk lights and casement windows.

Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society, Alpena, MI

Award Amount: \$45,300

Use of Funds: The Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society will hire a contractor(s) to replace the roof at the Thunder Bay Island Fog Signal Building with a historically correct metal shingle roof.

SHPO’s Historic Lighthouses of Michigan maps, auto decals and other materials are available at welcome centers throughout the state. More information about the program, including electronic versions of the lighthouse map, posters and more is available at michigan.gov/saveourlights.

THANK YOU! From the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

Thanks to our members, lighthouse keepers, tour participants, and those who attend our fund raiser “Evening Under the Stars” the Society was able to meet the \$30,000 match requirement to apply for and be awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program. In addition, to the \$30,000 DRLPS anticipates additional expenses of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to cover architectural and engineering services for required bid documents and drawings and other expenses not covered by the grant. Furthermore, DRLPS must first pay the restoration contractor before it can submit reimbursement requests to the granting authority. Bottom line – it takes a lot of financial support to keep DeTour Reef Light maintained and that support comes from membership dues, keeper program contributions and our fund raisers. Thank you all.

Dave Bardsley, DRLPS Treasurer

Lighthouse Keeper Positions Are Available for this Summer

Vacationing on DeTour Reef Light is an exceptional experience. Located in Northern Lake Huron at the mouth of the Saint Marys River, all ship traffic to and from Lake Superior must pass close to the Light providing exceptional “boat watching.” Keepers often salute the “lakers” with the restored F2T fog horn and are sometimes rewarded with a return salute from the ship. Cruising yachts and fishing boats fill in the gaps between the ship traffic.

As one of the very few offshore lighthouses in the world that have a resident keeper program participants become one with the Light and Lake Huron. Keepers have an abundance of free time on the Light with only a minimum of housekeeping activities. On Saturday there is usually a two hour tour of the light and keepers are expected to prepare refreshments (DRLPS provides cookies from frozen cookie dough, cheese and crackers, lemonade and ice tea) for the tour guests. A DRLPS docent will conduct the tour of the lighthouse.

The lighthouse accommodates six keepers. There is a double bed in the keeper’s room and two bunk beds in the assistant’s room. The weekends of June 22-24, July 20-21, July 27-29, August 10-12 and August 31 – September 2 are sold out. Singles and couples are encouraged to apply and will be paired with others to fill the weekend. If a party of 4 or 5 applies as a group, they can have the lighthouse to themselves. Cost is \$200 per person for Friday through Sunday (\$220 for non-DRLPS members: Membership is \$30 and includes all in household). Children under 18 are half price and keepers can extend the weekend at one half the nightly rate.

The two DVD video set “Gateway to Superior” documents keeper experiences and is available from DRLPS for \$8 plus tax and shipping. For more information go to www.DRLPS.com and click on “Light Keeper Program”, email keepers@drpls.com or call 906-493-6609.



Jillian, James and Kristen Palmer (mom) near the Eight tier Vega Marine Beacon in the lantern of DeTour Reef Light

From Pharos to the Future!

International Lighthouse Conference

May 20-22, 2018

In the Heart of Lighthouse Country



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ALLIANCE

For more information: www.MichiganLighthouseAlliance.org

**DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
Jewelry Workshop and Lighthouse Keeper Program
Sunday, June 24, 2018 through mid day on June 26, 2018**

Our third Jewelry Workshop and Lighthouse Keeper program at the DeTour Reef Light (DRL) is scheduled for June 24-26 this year. Our instructor will be one of our DRLPS members who has participated in several Jewelry workshops and will share her experiences with the participants.

Precious Metal Clay (PMC) is the material that will be used to create pure silver jewelry pieces by the participants. PMC is manufactured by the Mitsubishi car company and was designed for use by their employees for creative outlets. PMC is made up of tiny molecules of fine silver in a binder material. It has the consistency of clay. This clay-like material can be easily manipulated into molds and then dried. After drying, a small butane torch is used to burn off the binder material, leaving a pure silver piece of jewelry.

Participants should be on the lookout for interesting textures to bring with them to use as designs for imprinting into mold material. Bark, old buttons, arrow heads, tree foliage, drift wood, pine cones, and rocks are just a few ideas. Let your imagination fly! The PMC and needed tools will be provided for the participants to use while they are on the Light. If you have some jewelry tools at home, please feel free to bring them with you. Each person will be given a portion of PMC. The amount should be enough to complete 2-4 projects depending on the size and thickness of each piece made. There will be an opportunity to either tumble the pieces to a bright finish, or to use an oxidizing material to give definition to the highlights of the design.

Once we know who is participating, the group will plan their meals, each sharing in either a meal or a portion of a meal for the group. The exact time of departure on Sunday, June 24th will depend if there are Keepers already on the Light. Should there be Keepers present, the time will be an early afternoon departure for the Light. We will then switch places with the Keepers who will leave on our boat. As we are technically Keepers on the Light while we are there, Keeper information is included with the application for the Workshop. During the time we are on the Light, there will be time to enjoy sunrises and sunsets, freighters and fresh air.

Cost for the workshop is \$270.00 for non-members, and \$250.00 for members, which includes transportation to and from the light, all workshop materials and the Keeper costs. Participants must be able to climb a 20 foot ladder that is embedded in the side of the Lighthouse crib, to access the deck, while using a safety harness. The number of applicants will be limited to 4. Upon sign up, further information will be sent via email containing information about what to bring. For workshop information go to DRLPS.com and click on "Stay or Visit" on the tool bar. Scroll down to "Jewelry Workshop."



DRLPS Received Grant From Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP)

By Stephanie Fortino

Reprinted from *The St. Ignace News*

The DeTour Reef Light, which has marked the southern entrance of the St. Marys River since 1931, will undergo much-needed repairs, using a \$60,000 state grant coupled with \$30,000 raised locally toward its preservation. The lighthouse remains an active navigation aid and is owned and maintained by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, which raised the local funds and received the grant from the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA). The funds come from the sale of Michigan lighthouse license plates.

The society has served as the steward of the DeTour Reef Light for 20 years, since taking ownership about 2005. Since 1998, the group has refurbished and preserved the lighthouse, which is actually in good shape, said society director and treasurer, David Bardsley. Maintaining the structure can be challenging, however, he said because it lies a mile off shore of Point DeTour and three miles southwest of Drummond Island.

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“Doing the type of work we’re doing on an offshore lighthouse is very difficult and expensive,” Mr. Bardsley said.

The society will repair the deck this summer, fixing leaks and replacing the coating. Other structural repairs will also be needed, as the building’s original cement pier has not been replaced since it was built. In all, about \$200,000 of work is needed, Mr. Bardsley said, but some projects will have to wait until the group raises more money.

The lighthouse navigation aids are maintained by the United States Coast Guard and include the light that flashes every 10 seconds, a communication system that sends out a Morse code “D” signal, and a fog horn. While the lighthouse receives electricity from shore via an underwater power line, the navigational aids are powered by an on-site solar panel.

The preservation society has restored the lighthouse to the period during which it was manned, 1931 to 1974. Following a major restoration in 2005, the structure is now habitable, Mr. Bardsley said. It features running water, a shower, stove, microwave, marine radio, television, and a DVD player.

In 2014, the society oversaw a \$100,000 roof replacement.

A requirement of taking ownership of a lighthouse from the federal government is to make the structure available to the public. The preservation society offers tours throughout the summer, bringing visitors over on charter boat trips from Drummond Island. Since 2005, the group has also opened up the lighthouse to a guest light keepers program during which people can live there for a weekend or week, serving as greeters for those visiting during tours.

“We’re one of the very few offshore lighthouses you can stay at,” Mr. Bardsley said.

During their stays, the visiting lighthouse keepers can enjoy the many scenic views the lighthouse has to offer, including the numerous freighters that pass by on their way to and from Lake Superior.

Deck repair will begin as soon as possible, Mr. Bardsley said, and is slated for completion by fall. Since the lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the construction plans must follow the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation. The plans must also be reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office, which manages the grant program.

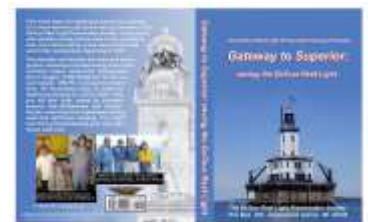
In addition to the project at the DeTour Reef Light, MSHDA also awarded grants to two other lighthouse projects in Michigan. The Keweenaw Waterway Lighthouse Conservancy of Chassell received \$7,500 for a condition assessment report that will guide the rehabilitation of the Keweenaw Waterway Lower Entrance Light. The Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society of Alpena received \$45,300 to replace the roof at the Thunder Bay Island Fog Signal Building.



The deck of the DeTour Reef Light will be upgraded this summer with the help of a grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program, which is funded by sale of lighthouse license plates. The lighthouse is owned and maintained by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (Photograph courtesy of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society).

DeTour Reef Light 2 DVD Video Available

The best way to learn about DeTour Reef Light, short of visiting the light in person, is to view the “Gateway to Superior” video set. Conditions prior to restoration, the restoration effort, interviews with those who built the light in 1931 and operated it when it was a manned by the Coast Guard, and the recent experiences of volunteer keepers of DeTour Reef Light are documented. It is a must see. The set is available from DRLPS for \$8 plus \$0.64 tax. Shipping is available (priority mail) for \$7.20. Mail your order to DRLPS Video, P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726 or Email DRLPS@DRLPS.com. Charge cards are accepted.



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RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

It takes a lot of money to restore and maintain a lighthouse, particularly an offshore one! Since the establishment of the DRLPS in 1998, restoration and preservation of the historic DeTour Reef Light, along with developing and executing educational programs, has required major funding to keep the Light on and available to the public. Since 1998, the DRLPS team has worked hard to obtain, and has been blessed with, 15 grants from government and private organizations. These grants, coupled with generous donations from DRLPS members and the general public, have enabled DRLPS to restore the Light and keep it shining for the public's enjoyment.

The DRLPS is extremely grateful for the support of the public, their members, the Lighthouse keepers, and the participants in fundraisers, which has enabled DRLPS to raise funds to obtain the matching funds required for the Federal and State grants, which, when combined with DRLPS donors' funding, totals over \$1.5 million. DRLPS is also very appreciative of the State Historic Preservation Office Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (whose grant funds come from the public purchase of lighthouse license plates), and other State, Federal and private grant agencies for their past and continued support of grant funds to preserve the Lighthouse and educate the public on its history. DRLPS is managed by a dedicated and determined all volunteer group who work diligently with ongoing restoration, maintenance, and operation of the Lighthouse programs. DRLPS has become a nationally-recognized model for historic lighthouse preservation, and is an enormous source of community pride. For detailed information on the DRLPS and the Lighthouse, including a timeline of accomplishments, please see *The DRLPS Story* at <http://drlps.com/about/about-drlps>.

PUBLIC TOURS AND KEEPER PROGRAM

Guided tours to the Lighthouse since 2005 are conducted by DRLPS volunteers throughout the summer along with two to seven nights in the overnight Keeper Program, where you can walk in the footsteps of the former keepers and learn of the history of the Lighthouse and the rich maritime history of the region. Located a mile offshore, there are magnificent water views, freighters passing by, and spectacular sunrises and sunsets. It's a great place to share with family and friends for a memorable experience. Since 2005, there have been 534 people who have taken the day tour of the Lighthouse, and 574 who have enjoyed the overnight keeper program.

THE NEXT GENERATION KEEPING THE LIGHT ON

For 20 years, the awesome volunteer DRLPS Team has worked hard from day one to generate a devoted constituency and support of public and government funding by demonstrating a high level of excellence in their effort to establish the Society and to preserve the DeTour Reef Light Station. The future of the Lighthouse and the DRLPS are dependent on the next generation of dedicated volunteers who will donate their time and talent to preserve the Lighthouse and keep the programs going for the public to enjoy the Lighthouse now and for generations to come. Funding from private donations, membership dues, Lighthouse keepers, tours, fundraisers, and the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Grant Program are essential to the DRLPS's continued success. Support of the people and organizations have been overwhelming during the past 20 years, for which DRLPS is eternally grateful and will work for continued support, so the Light can shine bright in the years to come. DRLPS encourages you to become a member of the team to Keep the Light On For You!

DONATE FOR PRESERVATION

If you would you like to make a valued tax-deductible donation to the continued preservation of the Lighthouse in honor of the DRLPS's 20th Anniversary, please send a check or credit card information to DRLPS-IS -20, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726.

20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A celebration to honor DRLPS 20th Anniversary will be held in the summer of 2018 in to honor this major event and DRLPS accomplishments, to bring attention to DRLPS and encourage continued involvement and support, and especially to thank those who have helped keep the Light on. More information will be available at www.DRLPS.com.



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office HNRP: KS, MI, ND, NE, SD
c/o Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
301 River Road
Harrison, NE 69346



IN REPLY REFER TO:

8.A.4 (H3023 MWR/CR-HRNP)

November 9, 2017

David Bardsley, Treasurer & Director
DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
P.O. Box 307
Drummond Island, MI 49726

Re: National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act Program
DeTour Reef Lighthouse
GSA Control No. 1-U-MI-764

Dear Mr. Bardsley:

Thank you for submitting a remarkably comprehensive 2015-2016 Biennial Report for the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. As is always the case, the information provides an outstanding summary of the continuing excellent work by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) and its hardworking volunteers. The delightful comments from the Volunteer Keepers log is testament to DRLPS' success in providing an exceptionally memorable and educational experience about life at a Great Lakes lighthouse. I also appreciate the excellent foresight of DRLPS to work with Central Michigan University and archive the organization's materials.

I would particularly like to thank you for reporting about the largest challenge facing DRLPS--attracting new, active and young leadership, and volunteer burn-out. This challenge to make history relevant and appealing to a younger and diverse demographic is a nation-wide issue with no easy solutions. In an effort to bring additional attention to the NHLPA program, and to properties that have been transferred via the program, the National Park Service is undertaking a digital mapping project. When complete, the maps will identify and locate all NHLPA properties with a photograph, brief description, and link to those properties that have a website. I will notify all NHLPA owners and stewards in Michigan when this map is available online.

This office has received all necessary information for the 2015-2016 reporting period, and no additional information is required. The next Biennial Report for the years 2017-2018 will be due April 2019. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via electronic mail at dena_sanford@nps.gov or telephone me at 308-436-9797.

Sincerely,

Dena Sanford
Michigan Surplus Property Coordinator

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's logo apparel now on sale at the Islander Shoppe Clothing and Gifts.



29699 E Channel Road
Drummond Island, MI 49726
906-493-5092

Mark Your Calendars 2018



Light Keeper Weekends (Maximum 6 people per weekend)

Friday through Sunday
Weekends: June 15—Weekend of August 31

For more information contact:
Dave Bardsley (906) 493-6609
Email: keepers@drlps.com
<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/stay-at-the-lighthouse/>

Light Keeper and Jewelry Workshop

Sunday, June 24—Tuesday, June 26

For more information contact:
Hallie Wilson 989-430-5266
Email: HWilson@drlps.com
<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/jewelry-workshop/>

Lighthouse Tours

(Maximum 6 people per tour)
Saturdays, June 16 thru September 1

For more information contact:
Ann Method Green 906-430-8169
Email: tours@drlps.com
<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/tour-the-lighthouse/>

Evening Under the Stars Drummond Island Township Golf Course Saturday, July 21, 2018

For more information contact:
Darlene Skinner 906 493-6812
Email: StarsEvent@drlps.com
<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/tour-the-lighthouse/>

Nordic Bocce Drummond Island Township Golf Course Sunday, August 12, 2018

For more information contact:
Joe Henne 906 630-5093
Email: DRLPS@drlps.com
<http://drlps.com/news-events/bocce/>

****Correction****

In Passages 38, the article on Floyd Colvin incorrectly stated Floyd was interviewed in 1999 by Chuck Feltner. It was Jeri Baron Feltner who conducted this interview with Mike Spears.

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

By Joe Henne



We expect another busy year with several items for your preview. Of course the EVENING UNDER THE STARS FUNDRAISER scheduled for Saturday, July 21st heads the list. Once again we have decided to change venues and have selected the Drummond Island Township Golf Course as the winning site this year! We are promising some very interesting silent auction items (boat tours of Potagannissing Bay and Les Cheneaux Islands, Up Potagannissing River past the rice fields to Third and Fourth Lakes, guided local birding tours, some selected gift certificates, and items that are guaranteed to open your checkbook or flash your plastic!). The menu will not disappoint with a great buffet and desserts and pastries from local favorite ovens with a cash bar. Again, the date is Saturday, July 21. You do not want to miss it! Let's look for a record turnout! (Please register early to aid us in planning.)

The inaugural DRLPS NORDIC Bocce had a successful start last August. Fifty-some of us had an enjoyable afternoon doing something a little different. This year we are looking to double the participation. We had a great picnic attitude and food plus refreshments. The date is Sunday, August 12 at 2 PM at DI Township Bocce (Golf) Course. Register early@ \$20 per person \$80 /team. SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. Inquire at (906) 630-5093.

I am asking DRLPS members for involvement. I would like to hear more comments, suggestions, and ideas for ways to 'grow' DRLPS. Call or write anyone on the executive board. **President:** Joe Henne, *DRLPS@drlps.com*, **Treasurer:** David Bardsley, *Treasurer@drlps.com* or **Secretary:** Hallie Wilson, *Secretary@drlps.com*. Even better yet - - - check out some committee work. There is much work to be done and we need some help from different sources. Yes, introduce a friend (or more) to us. Plan ahead to attend an event and bring a friend or four for fun!!!

And read up on what is happening out on the lighthouse deck with regards to refurbishing the surface and re-installing the skylights (which have been leaking a tad). We have been awarded significant funding, but this does involve matching DRLPS funds. Oh oh, we know what that means.....

THANK YOU ALL for your support. We have achieved so much, we cannot stop now.

20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A celebration to honor DRLPS 20th Anniversary and 20 years of DRLPS accomplishments is being planned for this summer. We want to especially thank our supporters for their continued involvement and to thank those who have helped keep the Light on. More information will be available at www.DRLPS.com.



DeTour Reef Light
Left to Right:

1931

1998

2018

**Thank you Supporters of the 2017 Evening Under the Stars
The Evening's success is because of you!**

THE STARS TEAM

Dave & Paula Bardsley
Lois Bryant
Jeri Baron Feltner
Dawn Gibbons
Ann Method Green
Jim & Barb Gusfa
Joe & Chris Henne
Matt & Sheila Sawyer
Darlene Skinner
Hallie Wilson

TABLE SPONSORS

DeTour-Drummond Community
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(Denny Bailey)
First National Bank of St. Ignace
(Represented by Frank Taylor)

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Captain Ivan Gable
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Sandra Ledy
Carol Martin
Daniel Mills
Northwood Restaurant
(Dawn Gibbons)
Walt Papke
Candace Reynolds
Ernie Seaman
Bob & Tess Welstead
Josh Whitefeather



Twenty Years of Membership

Twenty years ago restoration of the DeTour Reef Light was a dream of a few DeTour and Drummond Island residents, who diligently worked to make it a reality. They formed the non-profit DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society and convinced friends, neighbors, and businesses to purchase charter memberships that would be used to help save the Light. People purchased annual memberships for as little as \$15 for an individual membership. A few individuals and businesses purchased one-time, lifetime memberships for \$1000. That small group proved that the faith shown them was not misplaced, as they moved toward restoration of the Light.

Today, almost twenty years later, sixty charter members are still current members, many of whom have renewed their membership every single year since 1998. Through the years many more people have joined, some in order to take advantage of the reduced rates for Tours and Keeper Weekends, and many more because they believe that this piece of local and maritime history should be preserved for future generations. Some have not renewed their membership after their Tour or Keeper Weekend, but many more have renewed regularly, some even becoming Lifetime and Grand Keeper members. Currently we have 21 Grand Keeper (\$1000) members and 62 Lifetime (\$500) members. The remaining are annual memberships, including the Basic (\$30), Patron (\$50) and Keeper (\$100) levels. All memberships include your entire family living with you.

Memberships are consistently one of the top sources of income for the Society, virtually all of which goes toward maintaining and restoring the Light. The only paid team members are our accountant, who provides support to all of us, and the licensed charter boat captain, who safely takes all of the Tour and Keeper Weekend participants to and from the Light. Everyone else on the team is a volunteer.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2018, or if you have never been a member, please consider sending in your membership at this time. A membership form can be downloaded from our website, www.drlps.com. Just click on "Get Involved" and then "Become a Member."

We'll keep the Light on for you!

Paula Bardsley, Membership Chairperson

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 307

Drummond Island MI 49726

www.DRLPS.com

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Brian Nettleton, Russ Norris

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Director Emeritus: Clifton Haley

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Legal Matters: Clifton E. Hailey, LegalMatters@drpls.com

Accounting: Dawn Gibbons, dgibbons@alphacom.net



DRLPS MEMBERSHIP:

\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper.

All memberships include the family.

www.DRLPS.com * Membership@drpls.com * 906-493-6609
or write 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. 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@drpls.com or send by mail to: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726

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