



1931

PASSAGES

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



Today!

Issue 34

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Winter, 2015

Joe Henne Elected President of DRLPS for 2016 Succeeds Ann Method Green who completes five years as President

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors Joe Henne was elected the sixth president of the DRLPS. He succeeds Ann Method Green who has been President since 2011.

Ann joined DRLPS in 2006 and took on the duties of Public Relations Chair. As PR chair she also regularly contributes to Passages, maintains and updates the DRLPS.com web page. She has worked on the Father's Day Cruise since 2006 and has shared narration duties on the Cruise for the last 8 years. The Stars committee has also benefited from Ann's enthusiasm and participation. "Being President of DRLPS has been an honor and I am proud of all that the Society has accomplished not only during my five years as President, but since the Society was founded by Bob Jones and the other founding directors. The Society has a proven record of success in restoring, preserving, and maintaining the DeTour Reef Light over the last 18 years, and I am confident that Joe will keep us on course," shared outgoing President Ann Method Green.



Joe Henne receiving the keys to the DeTour Reef Light from outgoing President Ann Method Green

After being elected President for 2016, Joe said "I was attracted to DRLPS several years ago and was amazed at the achievements of the organization in such a short time frame. The restoration and amount of committee work to achieve its completion has been remarkable."

Joe previously served on the board of directors of the Canadian Academy of Audiology for several years (while he had a private practice in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario). After returning to Michigan he served on the planning board and the community services board for approximately 15 years. He hopes to increase the local community's interest by welcoming all to participate in the ongoing workings of this significant landmark.

Hallie Wilson was elected Secretary succeeding Janelle Dudeck. Hallie has participated in many DRLPS activities including Ladies of the Light, photographer at fund raisers and this year, she is coordinating the Jewelry Workshop on the Light (more information of the workshop on Page 7). Janelle has been the Society's Secretary since 2008. In addition to her secretarial duties she has worked on many projects during her time with the Society including Stars, Ladies of the Light, and keeper on the Light with her family. Janelle is also an artist who works in watercolor, pastels and jewelry design and is co-owner of a local business and President of the Eastern

Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council. The Society is grateful for her years of service.

Dave Bardsley was re-elected Treasurer. He is also Co-chair of the Keeper program.

The DRLPS team is fortunate to have the leadership of these dedicated people.



*Presidents—Present and Past:
Left to Right: Joe Henne (2016),
Chuck Feltner (2001-2004), Ann
Method Green (2011-2015), Dave
Bardsley (2005-2006, 2009, 2010).
Not present Russ Norris (2008-
2009). Bob Jones was the DRLPS's
first President (1998-2000)
Photos by Jeri Baron Feltner*

Bring Back the Light!

Buzz Hoerr, Board Chair

Shared by Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society

The sun had set, light was fading and hundreds were watching the lighthouse from Lincoln Park Beach as the countdown began....

On Saturday July 18, the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society held a 130th Birthday Celebration for our lighthouse on the anniversary of its commissioning. The nightcap featured the lighting of an exact replica of the original 4th Order Fresnel lens in the lantern room for all those gathered. Dan Spinella of Artworks Florida had installed this 15th replica lens earlier in the month and all tests had gone perfectly in preparation for the birthday party.



It was an all day event, with a large tent for guests from around the area community who came to listen to speakers like Terry Pepper from the Great Lakes Light Keepers Association talk about lighthouse history in general, Bob Kegerreis from CHPC Productions showing a great video on Lake Huron lights, Bob McGreevy telling history through his beautiful paintings of many of the ships that have plied the Sweetwater Sea over the years, and entertainment from Lee Murdock who led us in lighthouse and lake ballads throughout the day and evening.

Unfortunately Dennis Hale, a great friend of ours and the lone survivor of the sinking of the Dennis J. Morrell in November 1966, was unable to attend and tell his riveting tale of a harrowing journey through freezing seas in a small lifeboat to land near Harbor Beach and be treated in the local hospital. We wish him improved health and a return to see us soon!



The story of “Bring Back the Light!” is one that began over 3 years ago when the Society decided it was important to have the original light back in the lighthouse. This was not only to complete the restoration period of the 1920’s as part of the process to obtain the City of Harbor Beach’s eventual ownership of the structure, but to put the “spirit” back for all to see. Without getting into details, it was a lot of work to go through a process of returning a lens to the lantern room, and at times it seemed hopeless. But credit Captain Scott Smith, USCG Chief of Navigation Systems, with always having faith we would find a way, and with his help we did.

It’s hard to imagine that a light would have value beyond the functional aspects of an aid to navigation. But that feeling of something evocative and emotional to so many people was what was on display July 18th. Our lighthouse is an aid to navigation, but it is also a personality, as many of them are, for the residents, the former keepers and visitors who don’t come to just watch an “aid to navigation”. They see the “face” on the front with eyes, nose and jaunty hat topping it off, and then something more mystical than that, something that calls out to them as a symbol of the community over the years, of a time when that community came together in 1874 to petition Congress for the \$1.1 million it took over 11 years to build this lighthouse and what was at the time the largest harbor in the world. And of dates they had with partners years ago, like former keeper Dick Bandelow who told his story of meeting his wife when she and some other friends swam out to the lighthouse one afternoon just to get a closer look, and a movie date and eventual family are what followed.

Lighthouses draw us to them, and while the exterior day markings and building design and shape are attractive, there is no more special time to watch a lighthouse than in the evening as that light comes on, and then later as it stands out in the darkness with stars all around with that pulsing white, then red flash sweeping around the harbor and out to the ships and other vessels passing many miles offshore. They are called “light” houses for a reason!

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

And while the Coast Guard, who've been stalwart friends of ours over the 30+ years, we've worked on this project to keep things on a functional basis with successive versions of flashers after removing the original in 1885, we knew what was missing to complete the picture. Artworks Florida had just the item to top it off.

We created the "Bring Back the Light!" campaign in 2014 to galvanize our members and the large number of area residents who had helped us all through the restoration and now public access period with money and personal time. The response was amazing. We raised nearly \$75,000 in donations in just a few months by offering sponsorships for the many individual prisms, the operating systems and even the lantern room glass replacement from over 90 people. We commissioned Dan to go to work on this and he responded with a lens that is an absolute ringer for the original lens we've housed and conserved in our nearby Grice House history museum. In a word, and many were speechless when they saw it installed, it was a jewel, the crown jewel of Harbor Beach!

Now our many tour participants, who numbered nearly 100 that day from all over the US and Canada, can climb a short ladder and see the lens in place and take photos. You can visit us on Saturdays in the summer to take a mile long boat ride out to the lighthouse and enjoy a full tour with docents on every floor giving you lots of history while you take plenty of pictures and enjoy the terrific view from the gallery deck. For more information and to book a tour, visit us at www.harborbeachlighthouse.org.

After a wonderful dinner and community photo taken from the bucket of the City fire ladder truck, we all gathered around a beautiful 8 foot tall "knife switch" that local residents Raymond and Susan Buggs had made for the event. After inviting Mayor Gary Booms, City Manager Ron Wruble, and City Councilor Al Kleinecht to come and join with former keeper Bandelow and Society members Bill Rands, Pam Semp and Shelley Boehmer, we all put a hand on the switch and started a countdown from ten to zero as we closed it, and moments later the Fresnel lit up the evening sky. People cheered, some cried. It was a moment many had been waiting over 30 years to see again!

Evening Under the Stars Entertainment for 2016

We are planning on having some new entertainment at our Evening Under the Stars on July 8, 2016. Matthew Ball will be here playing background music for the event and doing a 30 minute performance. Take a moment to browse through his credentials.

Described as "Michigan's leading boogie-woogie pianist!" by *The Farmington Patch*, "A boogie-woogie master!" by *The Romeo Observer*, and "A rising giant in the field!" by *Metroland*, Matthew Ball is a graduate of Oakland University and The University of Detroit. He holds degrees in Music, History and Law. He trained classically at Oakland University with the internationally renowned classical pianist Flavio Varani, a graduate of The Paris Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music, who traced his own pedigree of study back to Chopin himself!

Find Matthew Ball aka THE BOOGIE WOOGIE KID online @ www.boogiewoogiekid.com.

You won't want to miss this special toe-tappin' program of piano fun at Evening Under the Stars!



**RAGTIME, BOOGIE &
BLUES PIANIST
MATTHEW BALL**

Great Lakes Freighter Article—Edward L. Ryerson

By Joan Meyer



The second freighter I saw during my stay as keeper of the DeTour Reef Light-house was the Edward L. Ryerson and after my research, I realize how lucky we were to have seen her!

The Edward L. Ryerson, is one of only two remaining straight-deck bulk carriers still part of the American fleet on the Great Lakes. Built as hull #425 by Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Inc. of Manitowoc, WI; the keel for this bulk carrier was laid April 20, 1959. At a snow covered shipyard on January 21, 1960, sponsored by Mrs. Edward L. Ryerson, the new vessel was launched and christened Edward L. Ryerson for owners, the Inland Steel Co. of Chicago, IL. The new steamer was the first of five American-flagged ships to be added to the "730-class" of lake boats in the early 1960's, the other four all being former Maritime Commission T2-type tankers converted for Great Lakes service (these being the Leon Falk Jr., Paul H. Carnahan, Pioneer Challenger, and the Walter A. Sterling). The Edward L. Ryerson became the third of thirteen 730' (222.5m) carriers to eventually share in the "Queen of the Lakes" title for being the longest ships on the Great Lakes. She was also the second American-flagged vessel to share this honor; the first being the Arthur B. Homer launched November 7, 1959. The "Queen of the Lakes" title was thusly shared until December 7, 1962 when the title was passed to the slightly larger Frankcliffe Hall.

By all accounts, the Edward L. Ryerson would have to be classified as the most aesthetically pleasing of all lake boats. From her gracefully flared bow and top of her pilot house to her large, but streamlined, stack to her rounded and tapered stern and her striking paint job, no expense or effort was spared during her construction to achieve this goal. Over \$8 million was reported to have been spent on the accommodations alone. The Ryerson was considered a slightly larger version (basic design and construction) of her 1949-built fleet mate Wilfred Sykes. Regardless of the Ryerson's appearance however, the bulk carrier was built with one cargo in mind, that being iron ore. Her basically square boxed holds do not favor the carrying of such other bulk cargoes as coal, slag, or limestone due to the difficulty in unloading these cargoes. Any thoughts of conversion to a self-unloader would be even more difficult and expensive as her holds would have to be reconfigured with sloped sides to allow for the free movement of the cargo to the self-unloading conveyor(s).

A sequence of "lasts" are a part of this beautiful straight-decker's history. The Ryerson was the last American-flagged new ship built on the Great Lakes until the launch of the Stewart J. Cort in 1972. She was the last U.S. laker to be built as a steamer, the last to be built without a self-unloader, the last lake boat to be constructed at the Manitowoc, WI shipyards, and the last and only to be built with such aesthetically pleasing lines. No wonder she is so special!

The Ryerson is capable of speeds up to 19 m.p.h. earning her the nickname "Fast Eddie" as one of the fastest ships on the Great Lakes. Eighteen hatches service four holds where the bulk carrier is capable of carrying up to 27,500 tons. A 1,200 horsepower diesel bow thruster was added in 1969. After completing her sea trials on August 3rd, 1960, the Ryerson sailed in ballast to Escanaba, MI where 23,213 tons of iron ore were loaded on board on August 4th for her maiden voyage to Indiana Harbor, IN. On August 28, 1962, the Ryerson set a new iron ore cargo record when 25,018 tons were loaded on board at Superior, WI bound for Indiana Harbor, IN. This record was broken in 1965.

The Edward L. Ryerson has had no recordable incidents of any serious nature throughout her tenure on the Great Lakes. The Ryerson did, however, have difficulty before entering service when it was determined after her launch that the new bulk carrier was, in fact, landlocked in the Manitowoc River. Fifty feet of Manitowoc's east dock had to be excavated to allow the Ryerson to make the turn and pass through the railway bridge.

A downturn in industry forced the lay-up of the Ryerson at Indiana Harbor through the 1986 and 1987 seasons. At that time, when the bulker returned to service in 1988, she was the only remaining American-flagged

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

straight-decker employed exclusively in the iron ore trade. The Ryerson laid up again on January 24, 1994 in Sturgeon Bay, WI. He remained inactive through the 1994, 1995, and 1996 seasons as Inland Steel had chartered the surplus self-unloader Adam E. Cornelius from American Steamship Co. to carry the Ryerson's cargoes. During this time, the Edward L. Ryerson received a five-year survey (1996) and, with increased tonnage, returned to service on April 5, 1997.

On December 12, 1998, the Ryerson again was placed into long-term lay-up at Bay Shipbuilding, Sturgeon Bay, WI. Also in 1998, her official name was changed to Str. Edward L. Ryerson. Following the purchase of Inland Steel by the Netherlands-based Ispat International N.V. in 1998, the three vessels of the Inland Steel fleet were sold to a newly established U.S. firm, Indiana Harbor Steamship Co., to comply with the Jones Act. A second new company, Central Marine Logistics of Highland, IN was created to manage the fleet. The other two fleet mates sold to the new company were the Joseph L. Block and the Wilfred Sykes. Following the sale, the "Inland Steel" name was removed from the sides of the hulls. Since then, the Ryerson was moved to Sturgeon Bay's east dock on December 7, 2000 and then back to Bay Shipbuilding on August 17, 2004. Her only other "activity" has been to open for public tours.

The early summer of 2006 brought a change in the fortunes of the Edward L. Ryerson. With an abundance of cargoes came the need for more reliable hulls to carry them. Having been maintained in an excellent state of readiness, on June 3, 2006, the classic laker was brought out of lay-up and dry-docked at Bay Shipbuilding for an assessment followed by a 5-year survey and fit out. She departed Sturgeon Bay via Sherwood Point on July 22, 2006 under the command of Capt. Eric Treece. Flying her christening pennant, she was bound for Escanaba, MI where 25,632 tons of "Royal" iron ore pellets were loaded on board for Indiana Harbor, IN. Trade routes including Escanaba, MI and Superior, WI to Indiana Harbor, IN and Superior, WI to Lorain, OH have kept the Edward L. Ryerson engaged since her return to service. Carrying the last load of her season, a load of iron ore pellets from Superior to Lorain, the Edward L. Ryerson had the distinction of being the last vessel to transit the Soo Locks for the 2006 navigation season. The steamer passed down bound through the Poe Lock at about 1:20AM on January 16, 2007. Her season ended when the classic laker returned to Sturgeon Bay on January 20, 2007 for winter lay-up, again flying her christening flag.

April 6, 2007 marked the beginning of a full season of sailing for the Edward L. Ryerson. Trade routes from 2006 were enhanced with new destinations and some firsts. On May 24, 2007, she passed down bound through the Welland Canal bound for Quebec City, QC making her first ever transit of the Canal and a couple of days later transiting the St. Lawrence Seaway for the first time. The Edward L. Ryerson achieved an obscure first for any US flag Great Lakes vessel. On one of her return trips from Quebec City, she picked up a return load at Valleyfield, QC bound for a lower Lake Michigan port. During the down bound trip from Superior, WI and the up bound trip from Valleyfield, QC, the vessel transited every major body of water in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway system, from Lake Superior through to the St. Lawrence River and back via Lake Michigan to Lake Superior. Her season ended January 7, 2008 when she laid up at Superior's Fraser Shipyard.

During the winter, the Edward L. Ryerson received a new coat of paint and, to match the new name of the company that charters the vessel, had the new stack markings of Arcelor Mittal applied. With Arcelor Mittal now the owners of Dofasco in Hamilton, ON, the Ryerson began the 2008 season on the new regular iron ore trade route from Superior, WI to Hamilton, ON. With the Arcelor Mittal (Dofasco) docks in Hamilton having regularly received iron ore shipments from Gulf of St. Lawrence ports in the holds of Canadian straight deck bulk carriers for many years, the docks there are well equipped to handle and experienced at unloading ore cargos from vessels not equipped with self-unloading equipment. The new trade route is a "perfect fit" for the Edward L. Ryerson. May she sail the great lakes for many years to come!



Taken from *Great Lakes Vessel Feature* by George Wharton

Keeper Log Excerpts 2015

Volunteer Keepers of DeTour Reef Light are requested to write in the Lighthouse Log Book. Excerpts from some of these entries from last summer are copied below. DRLPS already has reservations for the summer of 2016. We encourage potential keepers to make their application early, so they get the weekend they desire. Keepers can extend their stay extra nights at half the weekend rate and minors (under 18) are always half price.

“Great experience – a time to strengthen both family ties and friend ties. Grandson learned much about early life of Great Lakes. Had time to just stop and breathe, meditate and “go within” to strengthen my personal life. Excellent facility and program.” Rudy Edel, Gaylord, MI

“Great 3 days – Very laid back and peaceful with no TV. Time to visit with old navy friend and his progeny. Will return next year with them. Good accommodations.” Louis Hagenbruch, Collinsville, IL

“What a place! ... I can't believe that we get this place to ourselves for a whole week! ... The solitude of this place is like nowhere we've ever been before. ... So glad we came here. ... We ended up on top of the lighthouse for the local fireworks display – Words cannot describe how amazing that was and I know I for one will never look at fireworks again without remembering the sight from last night [July 4th]! ... Chris likes blowing the fog horn at freighters. One actually honked back yesterday. We have had a few of the smaller boats come by and greet us from the water. Everyone seems so nice. Love, love, love this place! ... Another marvelous morning on the light! ... We have pretty amazing lives – great jobs, 3 grown sons and 3 grandchildren with one on the way. I love our lives! But I really love being here – This is an experience of a lifetime and one I would recommend to anyone. ... I can tell you – we will be back! ... I teared up several times throughout the day as we had our last supper, last sunset, last view of the stars and night ships.... The memories we made while here will be burned on our minds and hearts forever! We will return as this is an experience we have found nowhere else. Thanks a million to DRLPS and everyone who made this possible xxoo. ... A week is too short but we are one day closer to our next visit here. “ Chris and Belinda Nelson, Sioux Falls, SD.

“What a great weekend out here at DeTour Reef Light! As a family of four...we enjoyed getting away and slowing down a few days. Some of the highlights of our stay included gorgeous sunsets, grilling on the deck, playing games together as a family, watching freighters pass and blowing the beloved foghorn. ...Overall the stay was great and something we will remember forever. Thanks to all who have restored DeTour Reef Light, and God bless all the ones lucky enough to stay here in the future.” The Vandenboom family, Markle, IN.

“There are not enough words in the world to explain how great of an experience being on this lighthouse is. This is my family's second trip up here, we have so much fun coming up here, watching the sun rise and set never gets old. The view is incredible, especially at the top. When you're up there you feel like you're on the top of the world. ... Coming here will always be one of my family's favorite memories. I hope that this won't be our last journey up here, this is amazing and we got to do it!” The Olender family, Grand Rapids, MI

“We came with friends and met two new ones! Together we cooked and prepared delicious food. Our diets can begin again when we return home! Being on the lighthouse was a time to be festive and celebrate. Together we saluted ships both large and small. The blast of the horn put smiles on the boater's faces. ... Sometimes when you plan a vacation months ahead, the anticipation is more fun than the actual trip but not this time! The weekend was wonderful and better than what we anticipated it to be. Thank you.” Michael and Lorie Loos, Northville, MI

“It was always a dream of mine to be a lighthouse keeper. My dream finally came true and I was able to have this beautiful experience with the love of my life (Paul). We have made new memories at DeTour Reef from watching the sunset together, looking for falling stars to lighting sky lanterns.” Paul and Cindy, Commerce, MI

“It is so quiet and peaceful here. It is very soothing to the soul! ... A great day in a great place. ... Last night the wind howled like we were in a horror movie. Around 5am the wind was blowing so much the waves didn't know which way to lap. They just danced in place, jumping to the sky and wagging in all directions. They were having a grand party! ... The moon rise was beautiful. As it was a full moon, one of us had to howl at it! It looked superb though our binoculars.” Karen Cote, Plainwell, MI

Continued on page 9

Jewelry Workshop on the DeTour Reef Light **Sunday, June 26, 2016 returning on Wednesday, June 29, 2016**

This year the DRLPS is excited to offer a new experience on the Light. We are combining a chance to make some pure silver jewelry while enjoying the delights of beautiful sunsets, and sunrises, freighters, and good friendship with your fellow participants, along with being a Lighthouse Keeper.

Our instructor is Rosemary Gould. She has a Master of Fine Arts degree from MSU and is an Adjunct Professor at North Central Michigan College. She is certified in the use of Precious Metal Clay which is used in the making of the jewelry we are going to create. The "clay" is actually made up of small molecules of pure silver combined with a binder. After the clay is formed into the desired design in a mold which each participant will create, the clay is removed from the mold, dried for a short time and then fired with a small butane torch. This removes the binder, leaving your pure silver jewelry piece.

As we will not be able to go out collecting natural materials on the Light, participants should be on the lookout for interesting pieces of wood, drift wood, unusual buttons, small pine cones, leaves, any rocks that have an interesting surface, and items that have a unique surface that would make a mold design. You would bring these items with you to use and share with the other participants.



Materials to bring and some wonderful examples of what the finished pieces of jewelry could look like!
For more information Email: hwilson@DRLPS.com

All the participants will pool their talents for deciding what meals we will have while on the Light, and share in contributing food for the workshop. Each person should bring their own sleeping bag and pillow case or their own sheets and pillow case, towel and wash cloth and face soap, and appropriate clothing for various temperatures.

The cost for the workshop is \$310 for DRLPS members and \$330 for non-members and includes all the workshop materials, instructor fees, cost of staying on the Light, and the roundtrip boat trip. The workshop is limited to 5 participants plus the instructor. Come and join us for a great Lighthouse experience.

Farewell Dotty, and Thanks!



After 15 years Dotty Witten is officially retiring from her position as Chair of the Memorabilia Program and will be sorely missed.

The Memorabilia Program has had a great leader. Dotty started working with Jim Charles, a Founding Director of DRLPS, and continued as Chair of the Memorabilia Program after his passing. The annual ornaments were a result of her efforts and design ideas. She and her husband, John, have manned the DRLPS booth at many, many shows and festivals. She also participated as an enthusiastic Lady of the Light

Thanks Dotty for all your contributions to the DRLPS and your mega-watt smile.



Sheila Powell
September 19, 1939 – July 27, 2015

The DRLPS has lost an energetic and dedicated Board member. When Sheila came to a Board meeting we always knew there would be a new and unique fundraising idea. Sheila Powell stepped up to chair the Silent Auction for the Evening Under the Stars this year, and her efforts resulted in the most successful Silent Auction in the 16 year history of the event.

Her passing is a huge loss to the Society and all her friends on both sides of the St. Marys River. Sheila, we will miss you!

The Ladies of the Light

Getting the Light ready for the summer provided an opportunity for friends to gather and enjoy the Light and polish it up for summer tours and keepers.

Thank you Ladies for all you do to keep the DeTour Reef Light shining!

(From left to right): Anne Mrakitsch, Candis Collick, Wednesday Townsend, Hallie Wilson, Lisa MacDonald and Kimberla Jacobs.



Method Family Lighthouse Tour

by Ann Method Green



Auralyn Method, her daughter, Sophia Benitez and nephew, Max Method climbed all the way to the top of the Light.

Over Labor Day weekend, 32 of some of the closest members of my huge extended family gathered on Drummond Island. Thirteen of us were able to tour the DeTour Reef Light.



The Method Clan gathered between tours for a photo. Family came from far and wide—Alaska, Brazil and throughout the Midwest.

There were a lot of “oohs and aahs” at all that the DRLPS has accomplished. Six-year-old Max spent time studying the crib model and gave us an accurate and detailed explanation of how the Light got built out on the reef.

Other members spent time at the top enjoying the panoramic view and freighters passing by.

They want to extend their thanks to weekend keeper, Mike Horton and his group of keepers for the tour and the great cookies and lemonade. Also thanks to Captain Ivan Gable for the great ride and helping get us all safely onto the Light.



Mike Horton, weekend keeper and tour guide showed the family the Light and shared great stories about the men that served there.

Evening Under the Stars



Good friends Anne Almoney and Deb Bennett enjoying the evening.



Ann Method Green and Lisa MacDonald smiling for the camera.

Ron and Daryl Ann Dawes checking in with Barb and Jim Gusfa and Dick Bennett signing in.



Candace Reynolds and Stars Silent Auction Chair Sheila Powell checking out the auction items.



Tom and Talma Heydinger (front) with Lorna Heydinger, co-chair of Evening Under the Stars, and Steve Miller



Paula and Dave Bardsley (front) show Dixon and Betty Gerber what to expect at the "Gourmet Brunch on James Island" silent auction item that they successfully bid on at the Evening Under the Stars.



First time attendees Flo and Chuck Bissell



Lise White and Friends were back again this year entertaining the "Stars" with easy listening music

The weather was perfect on July 10th for the 16th annual Evening Under the Stars on the shore at Bayside Dining on the shore of Lake Huron on Drummond Island.

Lorna Heydinger was the General Chair and was supported by Sheila Powell who chaired the Silent Auction and Paula Bardsley who coordinated the invitations and responses. Candace Reynolds worked with Sheila on the auction and Matt Sawyer got the technical pieces up and running. Clif Haley was the Master of Ceremonies. Frank Jones and his staff prepared a delicious dinner that was served buffet style.

The next Evening Under the Stars is planned for Friday, July 8, 2016. For more information, contact Lorna Heydinger at 906-440-9155 or StarsEvent@drlps.com.

Keeper's Log Excerpts 2015

Continued from page 6

"We arose feeling a bit depressed, as today we have to leave this wonderful place. ... The time here goes so fast, I swear the lighthouse must be in some kind of time warp bubble. It has been another great weekend in a fantastic location with wonderful company. I am truly blessed. Respectfully submitted, Karen Cote lighthouse keeper."

"...ready for 2 tours starting at 10:30am. Ann is a great tour guide, tours included delightful children and a family from Brazil! ...continued our long euchre tournament – spanning many vacations. Then the fog rolled in....so thick you could hardly see the railings. The freighters were just ghost-like lights passing by. It was 'pea soup.' ... Lots of great pictures to remember a fantastic weekend." Mike & Cari Horton, Kathleen and Jimmy Johnson, Livonia MI

Facility Executive Magazine Article

Reprint - July/August 2015 Issue

The DeTour Reef Lighthouse in Michigan's Lake Huron found a tool to keep away pest seagulls. Built in 1931, the 83' tall lighthouse located one mile offshore at the mouth of the St. Mary's River in Lake Huron has been restored and preserved since 1998 by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS), a volunteer-based, non-profit 501c3 organization. David J. Bardsley, director and treasurer of the Society, and co-chair of the Keeper Program, is responsible for ensuring the facilities are kept clean and safe.



Before the lighthouse Keepers found a solution, cleaning bird droppings was a regular and time-consuming chore.

Seagulls had become a real problem. After spending untold hours and dollars on reconstruction efforts for the Classical Revival-style structure, it was horrible to find it covered in bird mess every day; not only bird droppings and feathers, but the remains of their lunch—fish parts, skeletons, and crayfish pieces. DRLPS hires a charter boat service to take people out to the light, and having the place look and smell bad isn't something any of them would accept. They had spent all this money to fix up the place; then people went there and didn't want to walk around in seagull gunk.

Volunteers, members, and visitors all benefit from a clean space, but the amount of work it used to take to keep the lighthouse clean of the mess was challenging to say the least. Before installing the BirdXPeller PRO on the decks in the summer of 2010, our volunteers—members of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's Keepers Program (Keepers)—were soaking the seagull messes down with a pressure washer. That was a four to five hour job with three people; it involved big, stiff brushes and a lot of hard work. The lighthouse keepers are the ones who really benefitted the most from the unit. They are the ones who had to scrub the decks and get their hands dirty. There are an awful lot of keepers who love Bird-X! One Keeper stated, "In so many ways [the unit] has decreased work and increased the quality of the lighthouse stay." Another has said, "Those who have never been here before will never know the miracle of it. Those who have been here before, rejoice! And never forget our fight against the seagulls. The battle is won!"



BirdXPeller PRO

They had previously tried everything before turning to Bird-X. They tried rubber snakes. They tried owls. They tried hanging CDs from strings so they'd reflect the sun and annoy them. Nothing worked. Seagulls are drawn to land, and that far out it is an extremely attractive place to stop. Clif Haley, one of our directors, recommended the BirdXPeller PRO, which he had used on the dock in front of his own house. They decided to give it a try, and were shocked it worked so well.

Initially back in 2010-11 it was 100% successful. The real trick to this device is keeping the birds guessing. So, whenever birds did start to come back, they would change the settings as Bird-X recommends—which are fully programmable, to keep the sounds randomized and varied. If you don't keep on top of that, the birds eventually get used to the sounds, so maintaining that element is important. Currently they only run the unit at night as they don't want it on a lot, and are also adding an extension speaker to better treat a side of the structure that needs more coverage.

They still use the same unit today and with a few alterations, additions, and keeping things creative, have managed to have continued success with the BirdXPeller PRO. Our Keepers can focus on other tasks now. They work so hard to keep everything operating and really are responsible for making sure the place runs smoothly, and there are so many better uses for their time than having to clean up bird mess!



Allyson Lahnala steering the 'Le Voyageur' up the St. Marys River under the watchful eye of Soo Locks Boat Tours Capt. John Lowes

2015 Father's Day Cruise

The 18th annual Father's Day Cruise went out to the DeTour Reef Light where Dave Bardsley and Captain Ivan Gable provided them with a virtual tour of the Light from the tower to the basement. The historic F2T fog horn welcomed the Cruisers with a mighty blast.

After circling the Light and having many picture opportunities the Soo Locks Boat Tours "Le Voyageur" headed up the St. Marys River, past Lime Island and light-houses along the way and through the Soo Locks. The cruisers were treated to Esther's Catering and enjoyed a morning buffet, lunch and an afternoon buffet. Ann Method Green and Kevin Mills shared the narration duties.

Anne Stafford, the chair of the cruise, made sure that everyone on board had a great time.

DRLPS FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND FIRST PRESERVER OF THE DETOUR REEF LIGHT STATION DICK MOEHL PASSES

by Jeri Baron Feltner

It is with great sadness that DRLPS announces the death of Dick Moehl on December 28, a Founding Director and the first person who made preservation of the DeTour Reef Light Station a top priority.

In the summer of 1997, Dick Moehl learned of the U.S. Coast Guard's plan to declare the DeTour Reef Light Station excess property since the government could no longer afford to maintain the structure. As President of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers' Association at that time, and an avid pioneer national lighthouse preservationist, Dick took a boat



ride with the Coast Guard in August 1997 to visit the lighthouse to determine its condition. Also included on this visit were local DeTour Village residents Bob Jones (DRLPS first President), and Jim Charles (DRLPS first Vice-President).



Dick Moehl with Judy Jones at the DeTour Reef Light Station Michigan Historical Marker Dedication in September 2013. Photo by Jeri Baron Feltner.

This group made fast work of deciding that the lighthouse would be saved, restored and preserved and rallied some local citizens to organize a society to restore this revered icon; thus, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was born in January 1998.

Dick's staunch dedication for the preservation of the nation's lighthouses helped develop some landmark government decisions on nonprofit groups being eligible for ownership of their lighthouse, e.g., the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and many other legislative matters that help pave the way for lighthouse restoration. Dick's persistence and passion in this endeavor was contagious, and he helped lead many preservation groups with successful lighthouse restoration programs.

Dick retired from the DRLPS Board of Directors in 2008 after ten years of significant contributions to the preservation of the lighthouse, and up until his death maintained his involvement to keep one of his favorite lighthouses shining strong!

Thank you Dick Moehl for all of your heart and soul efforts to keep the Light On. The DRL will always shine brightly for you.

Mark Your Calendars 2016 Events at the DeTour Reef Light

Lighthouse Tours

Saturday June 18
 Saturday June 25
 Saturday July 2
 Saturday July 9
 Saturday July 16
 Saturday July 23
 Saturday July 30
 Saturday August 6
 Saturday August 13
 Saturday August 20
 Saturday August 27
 Saturday September 3

Contact: Donna Burden
 906-430-8169
 Email: Tours@drlps.com

Light Keeper Weekends (Maximum 6 people per weekend)

Friday June 17 – Sunday June 19
 Friday June 24 – Sunday June 26
Sunday June 26 – Thursday June 29
Jewelry Workshop
 Friday July 1 – Sunday July 3
 Friday July 8 – Sunday July 10
 Friday July 15 – Sunday July 17
 Friday July 22 – Sunday July 24
 Friday July 29 – Sunday July 31
 Friday August 5 – Sunday August 7
 Friday August 12 – Sunday August 14
 Friday August 19 – Sunday August 21
 Friday August 26 – Sunday August 28
 Friday September 2 – Sunday September 4

Contact: Dave Bardsley
 906-493-6609
 Email: Keepers@drlps.com

17th Annual Evening Under the Stars

Friday July 8, 2016

Contact: Lorna Heydinger
 906-440-9155
 Email: StarsEvent@drlps.com

Michigan
Lighthouse Guide

LIGHTHOUSE ENTHUSIASTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN JOIN IN ON THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF ENTERING YOUR MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE PHOTOS IN OUR ONLINE CONTEST.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ENTER AND YOU MAY BE CHOSEN FOR ONE OF SIX PRIZES INCLUDING GRAND PRIZE WINNER!!

MICHIGANLIGHTHOUSEGUIDE.COM

Father's Day Cruise on the St. Marys River

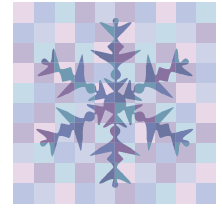
The DRLPS has sponsored a St. Marys River Cruise on Father's Day for 18 years, and it has been enjoyed by many people of all ages. We have had many return cruisers bringing their friends and family with them and have enjoyed sharing the history of the DeTour Reef Light, the sites along the St Marys River, and the thrill of locking through the Soo Locks.

Sadly, the DRLPS will not be having a Cruise in 2016. There are many reasons why the Board has come to this painful decision, and they are leaving open the possibility of future cruises at a later date.

The Captains of the "*Le Voyageur*" and Rich Brawley from Soo Locks Boat Tours have worked with us to provide a fantastic experience over all the years of the cruise. Esther Parris and her helpers from Esther's Catering and Authentic Mexican Food have fed the cruisers over the last few years. The food from Esther's was exceptional and her enthusiasm for the cruise was infectious. The DRLPS is grateful for all of their support.

If you have any suggestions for future cruise formats, please share your ideas with Anne Stafford, the Cruise Chair. She can be reached at RiverCruise@drlps.com or at 906-297-6051.

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



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Each	Color	Size	Quantity	Total
1	Hat (khaki, yellow, red, gray) with Lighthouse Crest	\$15				
2	Visor with Lighthouse Crest (navy, tan)	\$10				
3	T-Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (evergreen, navy) - S, M, L, XL, 2XL—not all sizes/colors available	\$20				
4	Golf Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (Men's in black and navy, Ladies in red and sky blue—S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$32				
5	Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex—S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$39				
6	Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (stone, evergreen, navy) - S, L, XL, 2XL)	\$28				
7	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (navy, gray, forest green-S, M, L, XL, 2XL—not all sizes/colors available)	\$35				
8	Polar Fleece Zippered Vest (burnt orange-S, M, L, XL, XXL)	\$38				
9	DeTour Reef Light Counted Cross Stitch Kit 5"x7" designed by Hallie Wilson	\$10				
10	Plastic To-Go Mug with Society Logo	\$3				
11	Retro Ceramic Coffee Mug with line drawing of DeTour Reef Light circa 1931	\$10				
12	Embroidered patch of DeTour Reef Light-2 3/4 inch square	\$6				
13	DeTour Reef Light Collector's Pin-1 1/8 inch	\$6				
14	Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 — 50 sheets per pad)	\$2				
15	Crystal Cube w/ internal 3D etching of DeTour Reef Light - small	\$17				
16	Crystal Cube w/ internal 3D etching of DeTour Reef Light - large	\$22				
17	Lighthouse Model 3" Little Light of Mine by Harbour Lights	\$15				
18	DVD of the Lighthouse before/during/after restoration/keeper experience, 2 disc set	\$8				
19	1931 Limited Edition Lighthouse Window Pane (9 1/4 x 11 1/4 inch) w/Etching of Lighthouse (Does NOT include frame)	\$300				



*Thank You
for your
Support!*

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

Value of Order	S&H
Up to \$10	\$4
\$10.01—\$25	\$5
\$25.01—\$45	\$7
\$45.01—\$65	\$9
\$65.01—\$85	\$11
\$85.01—\$150	\$13
Over \$150	\$15

Merchandise Total	
Tax 6% (Michigan Residents Only)	
S & H (see chart)	
Total Enclosed	

Method of Payment: Today's Date _____
 Check or Money Order Payable to DRLPS
 VISA MasterCard Discover American Express
 Account # _____ Expires _____
 Signature _____

Please allow up to 21 days for delivery.

Mail order form & payment to:
 DRLPS, PO Box 307
 Drummond Island MI 49726
 www.DRLPS.com
 memorabilia@drlps.com
 Questions? Call 906-297-6801

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 307

Drummond Island MI 49726

www.DRLPS.com

Email: DRLPS@drpls.com

President: Joseph Henne, DRLPS@drpls.com

Treasurer: David Bardsley, Treasurer@drpls.com

Secretary: Hallie Wilson, Secretary@drpls.com

Directors: Charles Feltner, Brian Nettleton, Russ Norris, Ann Method Green

Founding Director Emerita: Jeri-Baron Feltner

Honorary Director: James S. Woodward

Public Relations: Ann Method Green, PR@drpls.com

Keeper Program: David Bardsley and Mike Horton, Keepers@drpls.com

Tours: Donna Burden, Tours@drpls.com

Membership: Paula P. Bardsley, Membership@drpls.com

Stars Event: Lorna Heydinger, StarsEvent@drpls.com

Stars Event Silent Auction: *Open*

River Cruise: Anne Stafford, RiverCruise@drpls.com

Passages Editor: Joan Meyer, Newsletter@drpls.com

Preservation: Brian Nettleton, Preservation@drpls.com

Memorabilia: Open, Memorabilia@drpls.com

Sponsor A Step: Jeri-Baron Feltner, JeriBaron@drpls.com

Webmaster: Matt Sawyer, Webmaster@drpls.com

Boat Captain: Ivan Gable, Sturgeon Bay Charters, fishingivan@yahoo.com

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

Accounting: Dawn Gibbons, dgibbons@alphacomm.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 base was built in 1931, using the 1861 tower which was previously at DeTour Point. It 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!