



1931

# PASSAGES

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Today!

Issue 27

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

Winter 2013

## MLAP, We Have a Leak

For the last several seasons when the Ladies of the Light come to open the DeTour Reef Light in the spring, they have been dealing with wet plaster and peeling paint on the interior walls. They have scraped the peeling paint, and it has been repainted. In the fall the Guys on the Light have climbed inside the attic above the keeper's quarters and caulked the interior of the roof and applied exterior caulk.

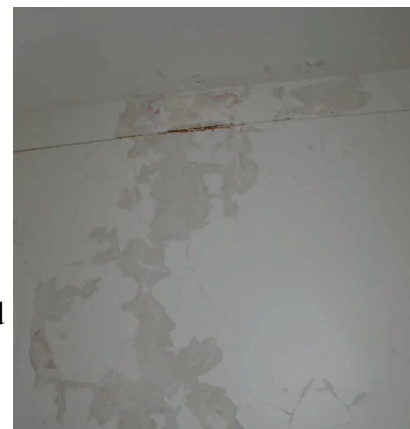
Last fall a site visit was made to the lighthouse by DRLPS members Chuck Feltner, David Bardsley, and Brian Nettleton, and architect Ken Czapski of Sanders & Czapski Associates, PLLC, the restoration architect for the Light and a longtime supporter of the DRLPS. The purpose of this trip was to look at the damage and to inspect the sloped roof over the living quarters. At the time of the visit, the temperature was in the mid-50's and a very heavy rain was falling which was helpful in searching for active roof leaks.

*West wall in the bathroom.*

Based on that trip and recommendations made by Ken, Jeri Baron Feltner prepared a detailed application for a MLAP grant (Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program) to repair the existing flat seam copper roof and repair and paint the interior walls and ceiling.

*Ceiling of the head keepers bedroom*

The grant application deadline was November 30, 2012 and a decision on the grant award is expected in the early spring. The plan, as submitted with the application, is to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) for repair to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for approval in April, 2013, to begin the actual repairs in early August, and complete the project in an estimated 2 months.

*South wall in the radio room*

The DRLPS anticipates the cost of repairs to the roof and interior to be \$90,000 with \$60,000 from the MLAP grant and \$30,000 of matching funds from the DRLPS.

*The Michigan Lighthouse Alliance Program (MLAP) grants come from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and are funded by the profit the State makes on selling the "SAVE OUR LIGHTS" specialty license plates.*



***If you would like to help the DRLPS repair the leaky roof, send your donation to:  
DRLPS—Repair the Leaky Roof, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726  
(Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law – Tax ID: EIN 38-3387252 ).***

## Share your photos and stories – You might see them in the next *Passages*

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, Facebook or whatever format you care to use. We'll make sure your name is attached to the picture. Also, if you have an interest in contributing a story of your experience on the Light, we'd love to share it with other lighthouse enthusiasts. In this issue thanks to Karen Cote, Janelle Thorne, Joe Henne, and Bruce Caswell for the articles and pictures.

### Congratulations!

We held the drawing of the contributors to *Passages* 26 and Dock Borth won. He received a 2013 lighthouse calendar from Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival (GLLF) and DRL is featured in the month of March..



(If you'd like to purchase a 2013 Lighthouse calendar close-out price is only \$10 including postage and tax—see page 11 for order information.)

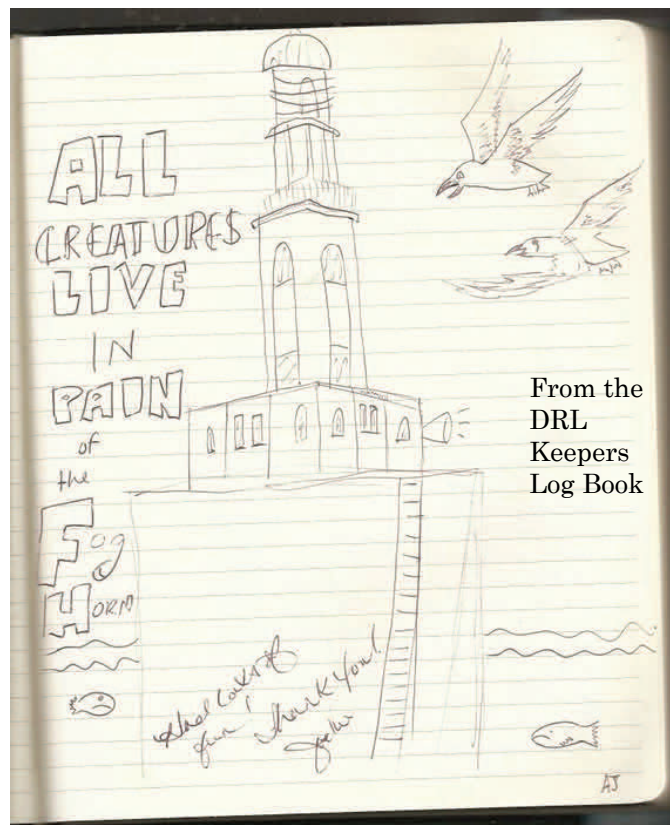
### Receive *Passages* Digitally

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 arrives. 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 over eighty cents to print and mail.

In order to receive your copy of *Passages* by email, just simply send an email note to [membership@drpls.com](mailto:membership@drpls.com) requesting *Passages* by Email, and we will put you on the *Passages* email distribution list. **(TheDRLPS will not share your e-mail address with anyone.)** 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.



From the  
DRL  
Keepers  
Log Book

## Pharology (The Study of Lighthouses)

By Bruce F. Caswell

Before there were lighthouses mariners navigated at night by observing open fires located on hilltops near harbor entrances and other critical destinations. Same as with modern day lighthouses, much effort was required to keep the fires burning. A heavy rain and high winds could play havoc with the flame.

The Greeks are credited with being the first to locate the fires inside masonry towers. The most famous Greek lighthouse was the **Φάρος της Αλεξανδρείας** (*Pharos of Alexandria*), built in 280 to 250 BC on the island of *Pharos* at the mouth of the Nile River in Egypt. The light was said to be visible from a distance of 30 miles into the Mediterranean. In addition to serving as an aid to navigation, the lighthouse ended up resulting in the eviction of pirates from the island who had been preying on ships in the harbor.

Alexandria, named after its founder *Alexander III* (the Great) of Macedonia, at that time was the second largest city in the world, right after Rome, and a busy trading port.



*Pharos*

The Pharos was designed by the Greek architect *Sostratus of Knidus* and was regarded as one of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one with a practical purpose. The total height of the limestone tower was about 400 feet, making it at that time the second tallest man-made structure in the world, after the Great Pyramid of Giza. The light came from a fire fueled by wood. The firewood had to be taken to the island via a causeway and hauled up a ramp inside the tower. There is some dispute among historians as to whether or not the light was magnified by a polished parabolic metal mirror inside the tower. The Pharos, a dramatic example of Greek ingenuity, turned out to be a major tourist attraction in Alexandria and visitors touring the lighthouse could buy food on the second story inside the tower.

The Pharos of Alexandria was completely destroyed by the earthquakes of 956, 1303, and 1323 AD. None of the ancient Greek lighthouses survive to this day, all having been destroyed by earthquakes or invading vandals.

Roman lighthouses were more substantially built and many do survive to this day. The Romans believed that the Empire would last for eternity (it did last for a thousand years) and so most of their structures were designed accordingly. Noteworthy is the *Farum Brigantium* (Lighthouse of Brigantia) designed in 100 AD during the reign of the Emperor Trajan by the architect *Gaius Sevius Lupus of Lusitania* (Portugal) and located on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic coast of *Hispania* (Spain). It was dedicated to *Mars*, the Roman God of War. In almost continuous service since the Second Century AD, it is the oldest operating lighthouse in the world.

This area of the Spanish Coast is known as “*Costa da Morte*” (Coast of Death), as it is notorious for shipwrecks. The inlet shown in the picture was too narrow and too shallow even for most ships in ancient times. *Julius Caesar* once visited the area with 120 warships and found no safe place to anchor or dock.

The Farum Brigantium was patterned after the Pharos of Alexandria and built on a rock 177 feet above water level. The total height at the top of the tower is 350 feet above the water. Much of the lighthouse structure is solid granite blocks.

In recent times the Spanish Tourist Board changed the name of the lighthouse to *Torre de Hercules* (Tower of Hercules). Some repairs to the facade have also been made. In 1847 a Fresnel lens was installed, and oil replaced coal as fuel for the lamp. In 1928 the light was electrified. The light is visible from 23 nautical miles out in the Atlantic and flashes once every five seconds. The tower is open to visitors, who must climb 242 steps to reach the top. Admission is free. The lighthouse is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



*Farum Brigantium*

After 1900 years of exposure to weathering, hurricanes, earthquakes, and wars, the Farum Brigantium / Tower  
(continued on page 4)

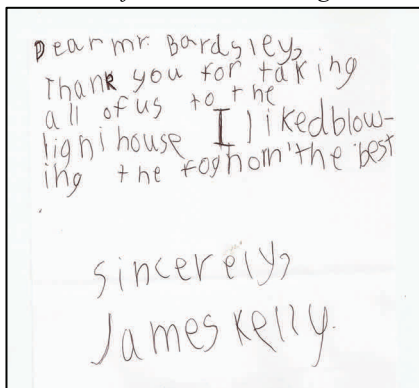


(continued from page 3)

of Hercules is structurally sound and still sends out a beacon. Visitors say it looks like it will be there forever, just as the Romans planned.

Lighthouse technology has advanced rapidly in modern times to solar powered and nuclear powered lighthouses, such as those on the northern coast of Russia, and now even to the point where the Global Positioning System has almost rendered lighthouses obsolete.

*The author, of Dearborn MI, is a PhD in Chemical Engineering and has authored two books and nine journals in his field. This is his first article on a lighthouse subject.*



Lighthouses, by F. R. Holland, Friedman Publishing Group, New York, 1995.  
Lost Lighthouses, by T. Harrison, et al, Pequot Press, Guilford, Conn., 1973.  
Lighthouse Encyclopedia, by Ray Jones, Homegrown, London, 2007.  
The United States Lighthouse Society resources, Hansville, Wash. 2006

## A Catamaran Rescue

*Karen Cote'*

*DeTour Reef Lighthouse keepers monitor marine radio channel 16 and frequently hear calls from the Coast Guard about boats in distress or possible marine accidents due to the sighting of empty kayaks and drifting life jackets. Last August 10<sup>th</sup> repeat lighthouse keepers became personally involved. The following is Karen's entry into the DeTour Reef Lighthouse Logbook.*

August 10, 2012 (63° and windy).

Since we are all returning keepers this weekend (Jane Benke, Teresa Thomas (2<sup>nd</sup> time), Colleen Frens (3<sup>rd</sup> time) and Karen Cote (4<sup>th</sup> time), we skipped the museum orientation, and headed right out to the light. We were ready and raring to go long before Dave and Ivan were ready for us! The winds were so strong, that Captain Meade had to dock on the south side of the light for the first time this summer. His boat did not like being tied to the light in that rough water. However, we got everything unloaded with no problem and the men were soon heading back to shore. We had an adventurous first day here. We were relaxing after a little exploring and settling in and noticed there were more flies than usual keeping us company. Jan and Colleen, being great fly hunters, just couldn't keep up with the little beasts. Colleen went downstairs (to the catwalk) and discovered a window standing wide open. Apparently part of the latch was missing, and the wind liked the window open so the flies could take refuge inside the light. Well, we fooled them! We shut the shutter so the wind could no longer help the flies – Ha!



I called Sunny in the late afternoon to let her know we needed cheese and crackers for the tour on Sunday. While I was talking with her, I walked around in the living quarters. I looked out the bedroom window and saw something strange about 100 yards off the north side of the light. I figured out it was a tipped over catamaran. I hung up from Sunny and we looked in the Keeper's Book to see if there was a special way to contact the Coast Guard. I didn't find anything, but it said to contact Dave Bardsley for emergencies. Meanwhile, Teresa went down to yell to the folks on the catamaran to see if they wanted us to call the Coast Guard. (They couldn't hear her due to the wind). Dave gave me the directions and told me to contact the Coast Guard. I called them on the radio and Teresa called the Harbor Master on the telephone. During this time, a small fishing boat had also seen the distressed vessel and had motored out to help. The Harbor Master said he would send out the small Whaler (which we never saw). It was very difficult to understand the Coast Guard radio person, as every two words out of three were static. They seemed to be having the same problem understanding me, but they finally got the situation (and the fact that we didn't know our GPS location), and sent help. While I talked with the Coast Guard, the little boat helped right the catamaran and they got the sail down (with *much* difficulty!). By this time the two vessels had blown so far out "to sea" we could only see them with binoculars. It took the little boat well over an hour to pull the bucking catamaran back in to shore. The Coast Guard stayed with them the entire way. The rough wind was obviously making the rescue very difficult. (The Coast Guard did check back with us just before their boat got there to give the status of the situation and thank us for the tip).

As we were eating dinner, the sun came out for a while. Then we were treated to a beautiful rainbow, of which we could see both ends! (I guess since we were in the middle of the rainbow, you could say that if you followed the ends around to complete the circle, the DeTour Reef Light would be the "pot of gold" at both ends!☺) *continued on page 5)*

*(continued from page 4)*

Before the day was over, four folks on a couple of Skidoos drove around the light. After speaking with them, we discovered they were the same folks that helped us rescue the poor little bat from the water when we were here last year. What a wonderful day to start a great weekend in a great place!

*Editor's Note: The latitude and longitude of the Lighthouse is 45° 56' 54" N, 83° 54' 12" W which is noted in the Keepers Handbook. (However, it should be sufficient to identify your location as "on DeTour Reef Light as a volunteer lighthouse keeper").*

## A Small Sample of 2012 DeTour Reef Light Keeper's Log Book Excerpts

*Below are some excerpts from the log that DRLPS asks keepers to write. In 2011, DRLPS opened the keeper program to children accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian. Many of the comments (and art) are the reflections of young children enjoying a family vacation on DeTour Reef Light.*

**June 27-29, 2012:** Wow!! What a unique experience! Not sure where to begin! The building itself, massive structure but with many places to feel comfortable. The attention to details restored inside and out allow us a glimpse of what living and working here in kinds of weather must have been like. The detour light is a great place to relax. In the two days we were there, I had the chance to finish a book and enjoy some great company. Beautiful place. I would have never thought that I would ever be here! I love it! The only part is my family is scaring me 'cause we are looking for ghosts! My favorite part is the old foghorn! Well whoever comes over here better love it. If you don't...you're crazy ♥ Best experience ever! It was all so unique and wonderful! We are looking to make it an annual event and be involved as much as possible. *Keepers Norm Hamann and children Peter and Katrina, Tony Hamann and children Jacob and Kara.*

**June 30-July 1, 2012:** Had a great tour yesterday, led by the indomitable John and Sunny. Kids were up early (with surprising little coercion) prepping for the tour. Tour was incredibly informative. This is one of the most unique travel experiences we've ever had. We're so grateful to the DRL Preservation Society for their efforts & their work that gave us the opportunity to be a part of history! Lighthouse Awesomeness! I had a great time. Thank you. *Keepers Jackie Jones and children Alexandria and Kevin, Ann O'Neill & children Grace & Charlie.*

**July 6-8, 2012:** How special it is to be able to be up here [at the top of the lighthouse]. It is awesome out here. Those that have come before know how hard it is to put into words the feeling at the lighthouse. Boy did she blow last night. What a storm. Storm started around midnight – wind, rain, lightning. Beautiful red sky this morning and sun. Gorgeous! What a wonderful time. What a wonderful experience for us. Looking forward to our next keeper weekend. *Gary Schuen & Patti Braun.*

**July 13-15:** Very beautiful every direction you look. The shift from reliance on lighthouses to GPS and automation has been of significance to this singular life of decades past. And yet it speaks of our own ability to set our own course relying on the tools given to us by God and those developed by man. The path may be clearly delineated on a map or a computer screen, but the journey is not always the same. As a State Representative, it is inspiring to see Michigan residents so dedicated to restoring and maintaining an important icon in our maritime history. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the DeTour Light restoration a reality. *Amanda Price (State Representative, 89<sup>th</sup> District), Roger Price, Larry and Karen Mulder.*



*L to R Diane Weber, James Weber on tour-with keepers Karen and Larry Mulder and David and Amanda Price and tour guide John Covell (photo by Sunny Covell)*

*(continued on page 6)*

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**July 18:** The lighthouse is really cool! I was really surprised. The spiral stairs were neat. The foghorn was pretty cool! I had fun! Nice view! Best day ever. Everything that was cool: spiral stairs, captains room, the very top, the view, foghorn, and everything else. *Kristen, Jillian and James Palmer, Jim and Barb Gusfa.*

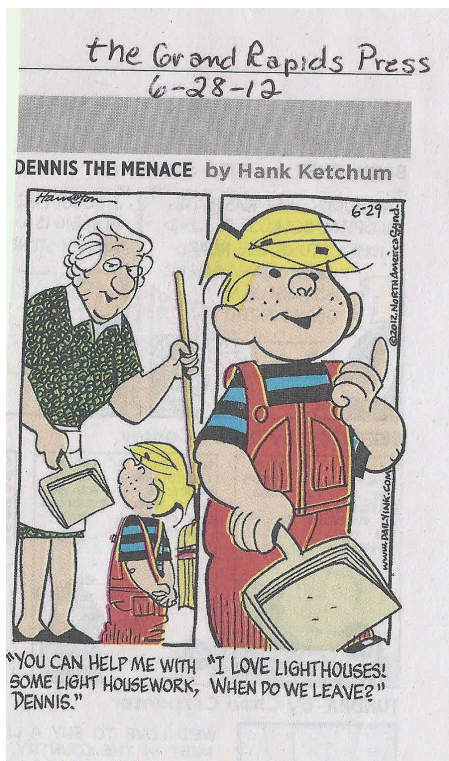
**July 27-29:** The weather has been perfect and the company most enjoyable. We enjoyed watching sunset and freighters and scaring boaters with the foghorn. *John, Dotty, Brad & Dianne Witten, Daniel & Kristine DuCharme.*

**Aug 3-5:** Loved it at first sight! *Ann and Joe Langmesser*

**Aug 17-19:** Great weekend! We had a great crew, 6 nice, fun people. Will do another lighthouse next year. Foghorn-such power. For someone who never relaxes—this made me relax. Stellar photo ops., killer fog horn, 19 freighters, super people, great swimming. Fun euchre games, great storms & just a whole lotta' fun! Tx DRLPS. Great time. New great friends, good memories. What a beautiful getaway. Hope to get back again. Love the foghorn—one answer from a freighter. Wonderful experience. Awesome views, foghorn, so much fun to push the red button, and simply a great time with the most fun “keepers” that shared this weekend together. Lots of laughs, great meals cooked by each set of keepers & many wonderful memories to take home. *Jan Minton, Brooke Elder Schwartz, Aaron Lee, Neil Kirby, Darlene Boyles, Jan Beaver.*

**Aug 22-24:** This has been another awesome lighthouse experience for me. The weather was perfect, enjoyed the freighters going by and also all the friendly small craft boats, even enjoyed (from the top deck) the thunder and lightning last night. We had great food, great friends, lots of laughs, and wonderful memories. Very blessed to be able to experience these past few days. Love the foghorn. Enjoy just watching the boats & ships. These are moments that make it all worthwhile – one of the best cups of coffee I've ever had – sunrise in the lantern – rainy & misty, windy & cool – a dash of lighting here & there – what a great way to wake up. Many thanks to all who made their dream a reality and kept the light on for us! *Bev Wentzel, Sally Grzegorzczuk, Fay Adkins, Judy Ruttan.*

**Aug 26:** Brought up sons & had a fabulous weekend watching the freighter, jumping off the pier and enjoying the sunsets. What a great place! *David, Dan and Colton Frownfelter, Kevin and Erik Eikey.*



Dear Sunny, John, Dave, Paula & everyone -  
We recently received a newsletter from DRLPS and enjoyed reading every word of it. In fact, looking at the pictures, Bill commented "Look at all the people on our lighthouse." I think once you do a keeper stint you feel like it really is yours. Keep up the good work - we hope to be back some day. Saw this cartoon in our paper & thought you might appreciate it.

Love Bill & Bonnie Weisma Former Keepers ♡



## Guys on the Light

The summer of 2012 is over and the DeTour Reef Light is shut down until next spring. Thanks to the guys that went out there in September to make sure that all the systems were drained, cleaned, oiled, and locked up tight. The Light will be ready for all the visits and surprises of the summer of 2013.

*Ed Greiner,  
Dave Bardsley,  
Brian Nettleton,  
Gerald Nettleton,  
Joe Henne  
(photo by Meade  
Gable)*



## New Galley Equipment

Last summer John and Dotty Witten and family spent a beautiful weekend on the DeTour Reef Light as keepers. Dotty shared, "After taking our four children and their spouses on lighthouse weekends we felt we had enough experience on the Light to recognize a couple of issues in the galley that bothered us."



*New flatware for DRL*

Jeri and Chuck Feltner had already donated lovely, authentic Lighthouse Service dishes but the flatware and most pots and pans were mismatched and not from the 1931 era. So, in discussion with Jeri, Dotty offered to purchase the flatware and steak knives, and Jeri offered to purchase period-appropriate pots. They hoped these donations would provide a more authentic kitchen experience to future keepers. Dotty later realized that she and John donated the 1931 stove that is in the galley and laughed, "Guess we have to face it...we like to eat!"

Thanks to Jeri's web surfing abilities the DeTour Reef Light has some great additions to the galley equipment. Flatware and steak knives from the U.S. Light-House Service days (circa 1930) were joyfully presented to Keeper Program Chair Dave Bardsley at the DRLPS December gathering.

Jeri and Chuck have followed up on their promise and various sizes of 1930s era pots and pans from Wagner Ware have also been donated.

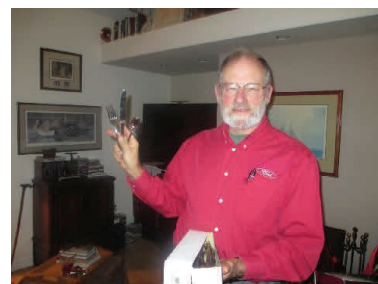
Thanks Dotty and John Witten and Jeri and Chuck Feltner! It looks like there will be some spectacular and elegant 1931 era meals coming out of the galley on the DeTour Reef Light. Head keeper Charlie Jones would be proud!



*Head Keeper Charlie Jones  
(1940-1962)*



*Dotty Witten and the 1931 stove in the galley*



*Light Keeper Chair Dave Bardsley*

## THREE LONG : \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , & TWO SHORT: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

*By Joe Henne*

Three long two short is a maritime salute: a welcoming and/or acknowledgement that is frequently heard on the lower St. Mary's River. It can be heard easily for miles and has different meanings depending on the sender and sendee. Last summer, in line waiting for the 7:10 ferry, I watched a young woman pace about near the ferry's docking pier, her attention obviously downriver. Soon, all of us in line heard what she was waiting for: The salute! It was welcoming for us waiters but more warming for her as her maritime sailor husband was blowing her an anniversary kiss beginning from near the DeTour Light and booming up river for all the community to witness. The freighter passed and some of us noticed the anniversary couple in frenetic communion (waving at each other from 1500 feet away).



*Picture is by Gail Vander Stoep from MSU and a Director on the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance*

This past fall I was pleasantly invited to be among the group of men who 'closedown' the DeTour Reef Light for the season. Seasonal maintenance, buttoning up the facility, bleeding the foghorn, etc. The 'closedown crew' used the light's foghorn to salute several passing freighters (most of which in spirit would return the favor). Before this communication process was initiated all on the platform were advised to either secure hearing protection or ready themselves (manually plug your ears!) as the foghorn's loudness level on the platform could be damaging to your ears. I am determined to get a sound level reading of the fog horn by late spring. I will keep you posted as you do know (good common sense prevails) that loud noises (especially of long duration) will damage your ears and hearing!

The long and short of it is: maritime salutes are welcomed warmly in and around the St. Mary's River. It is great to participate in a salute and perhaps the best place to be is on the platform of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. But be forewarned! It is loud and you must protect your ears. Being a lighthouse keeper for a weekend furlough may be the best way to participate in this activity. Contact: [WWW.DRLPS.COM](http://WWW.DRLPS.COM) for more information.

I will listen for your salutes on the lower river. Should you wish I will also 'listen' to your replies at: [HEARINGBETTERHEARING@yahoo.com](mailto:HEARINGBETTERHEARING@yahoo.com) Remember: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , And: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ !!

## Do Something Exceptional this Summer!

*By Dave Bardsley*

Words from this writer cannot do justice to the experience of being a volunteer lighthouse keeper on DeTour Reef Light. Be it a family vacation, a getaway from the stress of everyday responsibilities, a boat watching extravaganza, or a desire to live a part of history – a few days and nights on DeTour Reef Light will provide memories that will last a lifetime. Keepers are encouraged to make entries into a logbook at the lighthouse and excerpts from last summer's entries are included in this issue of *Passages*. The keepers' words, better than ours, describe the experience.

The 2013 DeTour Reef Lighthouse keeper program will run every weekend from June 14<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Keepers meet on Drummond Island normally at 1pm on Friday of their weekend and stay on the lighthouse until Sunday afternoon. The lighthouse is furnished to accommodate six keepers each weekend. Payment confirms and locks in a weekend and can precede an application. Midweek keeper stays and extension of the weekend (on either end) can be arranged. For groups of four or larger, DRLPS will close the weekend unless specific approval to add keepers outside the group is obtained. Cost for the first two nights is \$200 apiece for members, \$220 nonmembers. Additional nights are \$50 per person. Membership in DRLPS is \$30 a year and includes all family members at the same residence. As of the date of this publication, June 20-23, July 12-14 and August 9-11 are booked. Many weekends are still available if you are interested and we'd love to have you there!



## Three Generations on the Lighthouse

*By Janelle Thorne*

Lake Huron: the third largest great lake by size, and in the middle geography-wise. The door to the passage-way known as the Saint Mary's River, and the gateway to Lake Michigan. On occasion, at this location, fog rolls in. As this fog comes in, the foghorns of the many lighthouses dotting the shoreline roll out across the lake's surface. Among these, the largest working foghorn in the United States sends out its mighty bellow. This foghorn, hails from a lighthouse standing proud and alone on a crib anchored on bedrock a mile out into the lake. To most, this foghorn is a warning: do not come near, for danger is here! However, to a select few, this is something else entirely: this is an invitation.

For my Aunt and Grandma, this was exactly how they came to find their way to DeTour Reef Lighthouse. A place where they could hail passing ships large and small, with a yell to their housemates to cover their ears and a touch of a button, the mighty fog horn would sound out its greeting. My Aunt and Grandma spent a weekend in 2011 with four other people exploring the excitement, tranquility, adventure and forging of new friendships on DeTour Reef Light. They are the people with tales of late night landings, bats arriving (read last year's article from issue #-24), new policies, and other high adventures.



*Ann Thorne Family*

Prior to their weekend stay, my Aunt and Grandma were planning a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 2010 and read an article about DeTour Reef Lighthouse tours. My Aunt wanted to take that boat ride out to the crib and see that hard-to-get-to-lighthouse. After days of discussing whether Grandma could climb the rung ladder up to the house they finally signed up for a tour. My Aunt also purchased a membership to the DeTour Reef Perseveration Society before that maiden trip to DeTour Reef 2010. While on the tour they learned that they, too, could stay at the lighthouse on the crib and they knew that they would return to spend a weekend soon.

That was how we came to be a part of the infamous night landing adventure of 2011 along with four others. Despite the unusual events that weekend in 2011 my Aunt and Grandma enjoyed their stay and then they decided to come again for a weekend in 2012 at DeTour Reef Lighthouse only this time...a weekend with family.

Yes, a working (?) family vacation at a Lighthouse in the middle of Lake Huron. My Aunt was the HEAD Keeper; she set the schedule of cooking, cleaning, and assigned tour stations. She runs a tight ship. Grandma was in her element and ready to make cookies with her granddaughter Beth (my younger sister). Mom and Dad (the grandkid's parents) were in charge of maintenance (well Mom was), Dad was her trusty assistant, okay really my Aunt was really her assistant but that's another story. And I (Janelle) the college-bound granddaughter was in charge of the crow's nest and sounding the alarm for the foghorn operator (my younger sister) to hail the passing ships.

Three Generations of one family taking turns filling out the Light Keepers Logbooks. Dave didn't know what he was in for when he told us to write down ideas and things that were needed or needed improving for the lighthouse. We also had to keep up the Boat Log (large ships only please) and the Light Keepers Logbook updated. Clean the deck and prepared the house for tour guests. "Oh, and please hang the thermometer." We did as he asked but we are not sure the suggested heated pool and man cave will be added in the near future.

~~~~~**Think Summer 2013**~~~~~  
**Save the Dates and Join in the Fun**

**Father's Day Cruise (16th Annual)**  
**Sunday June 16th**



(For information contact: Anne Stafford at 906-297-6051 or email [rivercruise@drlps.com](mailto:rivercruise@drlps.com))

John Covell, Tour guide aka "the Old Tortoise" enjoying the cruise up the St. Mary's River



Captain Jack Cork, the official Father's Day Cruise Captain and Stars chair Jeri Baron Feltner at Stars

**Evening Under the Stars (14th Annual)**  
**Friday, July 5th**

(For information contact: Jeri Baron Feltner (313) 268-6846 or email [starsevent@drlps.com](mailto:starsevent@drlps.com))

**Lighthouse Tours**  
**Saturdays 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](mailto:tours@drlps.com) or by phone: 616-874-9458 [winter] or 906-493-5648 [June thru mid-September])

**Light Keeper Weekends—Friday-Sunday**  
**June 14-16, 28-30, July 5-7, 19-21, 26-28,**  
**August 2-4, 16-18, 23-25 and August 30-Sept 1**

(For Keeper information contact: Dave Bardsley at 906-493-6609 or email [keepers@drlps.com](mailto:keepers@drlps.com))



Brian Conway up the ladder and ready for the tour

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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| 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 |       |      |          |       |



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**DETOUR REEF LIGHT  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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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.

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