



1931



Today!

PASSAGES

Issue 45

Keeping the Light on for Since 1998!

Spring 2023

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Celebrating 25 years of Keeping the Light on for You!

**Celebrate with DRLPS at
Evening Under the Stars, Saturday, July 8
and
Sandy Harsin Wytiaz Fine Arts Center in DeTour Village, Saturday, August 19**



DeTour Reef Light Station 1931



DeTour Reef Light Station 1997 before restoration



DeTour Reef Light Station Restoration 2004



DeTour Reef Light Station today

Boat Donation Sought



One of the many difficult tasks in maintaining and operating public programs on an offshore lighthouse is transportation to and from the Light. The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) had for many years benefited from the support of Ivan Gable (Sturgeon Bay Charters) in transporting maintenance crews, volunteer lighthouse keepers and tourists between Fort Drummond Marine and the DeTour Reef Light. Last year Captain Gable decided to retire from this part of his business.

DRLPS has been unsuccessful in finding a replacement operation. Accordingly, the Light Preservation Society is seeking an appropriate boat to operate between to and from the Light – a distance of 3 miles. The boat must be capable of accommodating six passengers, their “stuff” (baggage and food for a weekend), and two crew. An enclosed boat about 23 feet in length would work well. DRLPS is an IRS 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible. Email DRLPS@drlps.com or call 906-493-6609 for more information.



Water Taxi Services, Request for Bids:

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) requests proposals to provide water taxi services between Fort Drummond Marine and DeTour Reef Light to support keeper program, tours and occasional maintenance. Bidding is requested on a per trip basis, but DRLPS will accept proposals on other methods of payment. Trips anticipated are:

Keeper Program: One trip on Fridays at 2pm June 17th to Sept. 2nd.

Keeper Program: Return Trip on Sundays at 1pm June 19th to Sept. 4th

Tour Program: One trip on most Saturdays at noon June 18th to Sept 3rd. Tour length is 2 hours. Maintenance: 4-6 trips per year on an irregular basis.

Please reply to DRLPS, PO box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726; DRLPS@drlps.com, or 906-493-6609.

KEEPING THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Shining Bright Celebrating 25 years (1998-2023)

By Jeri Baron Feltner

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is celebrating 25 years of “Keeping The Light On For You!” thanks to the dedicated, talented volunteers, members and organizations along the way who have restored, preserved, and shared the historic lighthouse for all to enjoy.

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 beams 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. The DeTour Reef Light Station was included in the list. Government regulations allowed non-profit organizations to obtain ownership of lighthouses for the purpose of preservation and education.

THE SOCIETY



The original DRLPS Board of Directors in 1998 – Jim Charles, Denny Bailey, Dick Moehl, Jeri Baron Feltner, Bob Jones and Barb Snider

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 DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) was established as an all-volunteer nonprofit 501c3 organization, and dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Lighthouse and the sharing of its history for generations to enjoy.

Nationwide attention was received when the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Michigan’s historic lighthouses, with DeTour Reef Light being their prime example, to their 1998 *List of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*.

With government grants, and public and private donations, DRLPS significantly restored the Lighthouse in 2004. 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 the Federal Government 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. A Michigan Historical Marker honoring the Lighthouse was erected on M-134 near DeTour Village in 2013.

(cont’d on page 4)

(Cont'd from page 3)

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

It takes a lot of support and 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 15 grants from government and private organizations totaling over \$1.5 million. These grants, coupled with generous donations from DRLPS members and the public for matching grant funds, have enabled DRLPS to restore the Light and keep it shining for the public's enjoyment.

The DRLPS is very 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. 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 – see www.michigan.gov/sos/vehicle/license-plates/collector-plate-options). Also, State, Federal and private grant agencies have continued their support with grant funds to preserve the Lighthouse and educate the public on its history.

A dedicated and determined all-volunteer group manages DRLPS and works diligently on ongoing fundraisers, restoration, maintenance, and operation of the Lighthouse programs.

(cont'd on page 7)

Mark Your Calendars 2023

Light Keeper Weekends

(Maximum 6 people per weekend)

Friday thru Sunday

Weekends - Father's Day thru Labor Day Weekend

For more information contact:

Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169

Email: KeepersandTours@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/tour-the-lighthouse/>

DRLPS 25th Anniversary Celebration

Sandy Harsin Wytiaz Fine Arts Center

DeTour Village, MI

Saturday, August 19, 2023

4:30 to 6:00 PM

Check DRLPS.com for updated information



Evening Under the Stars

Big Dock Hangar, Drummond Island Yacht Haven

Saturday, July 8 at 5:30 PM

For more information contact:

Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169

Email: StarsEvent@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/evening-under-the-stars/>

Nordic Bocce

Drummond Island Township Golf Course

Sunday, August 6 at 3 PM

For more information contact:

Joe Henne 906 630-5093

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/bocce/>

Annual Meeting

Drummond Island Township Hall

Tuesday, June 20, 4:00 PM

For more information contact:

Russ Norris 906-440-4574

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

2023 New Old Power System

By Brad McGann

Here's a challenge: You live on a small island and someone has cut the power to your house, but you have guests coming to visit in just a few weeks. Yikes! After a few sleepless nights, the volunteer engineer realized "hey, this is just like living off the grid boondocking in my camper every winter in Arizona!" So, we're off to the races.

Go study the camper and see what can be replicated at DeTour Reef Light, keeping in mind that the DeTour Reef Light is a miniature island in Lake Huron. OK, water heaters in all campers operate on propane. Not a problem; replace the existing electric water heater at the Light with a propane one, and install a pair of redundant propane tanks up on the deck just like the camper has. CHECK!

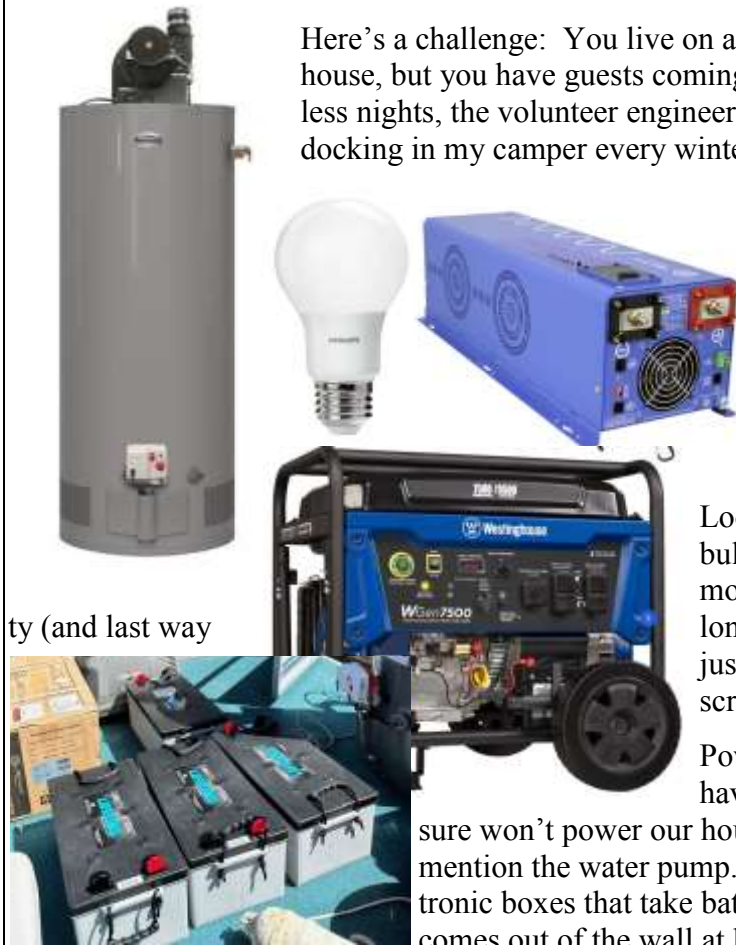
Look at the lighting system in the camper—hmm, all LED bulbs. Well, that's certainly not a problem, everyone is moving to LED bulbs because they use 90% less electricity (longer) than incandescent bulbs. They can be purchased just about anywhere and replacement is as easy as just unscrewing the old bulbs. CHECK!

Power. OK, a little more involved. Most campers only have a 12 Volt DC battery operated power system, and that sure won't power our household refrigerator and microwave at the light, not to mention the water pump. But many newer campers have inverters, nifty electronic boxes that take battery voltage and convert it into 120 Volts AC just like it comes out of the wall at home. Great, now we just need some batteries and an inverter—not a problem, we just need to carry about **600 pounds of lead batteries** out and up the light—CHECK!

Clockwise from upper left: Propane water heater, LED Bulb, Inverter, Generator, and 600 pounds of lead batteries

Just one minor(?) detail, we have to charge the batteries. Some inverters have built in battery chargers, but where is the electricity coming from? In our original proposal the electricity was to come from a large diesel generator with a big fuel tank and several solar panels to help reduce fuel consumption. But the original proposal didn't pan out for 2023, and remember all those guests soon to be knocking at the door?

(cont'd on page 6)



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Little Light of Mine

DRLPS has received a request to purchase our Little Light of Mine. We are sold out. Do you have one that you'd be willing to give or sell to the requestor? This is the only light that they are missing from the entire series so it's a very special request. If you have one available, please contact DRLPS at DRLPS@drlps.com.

(cont'd from page 5)

We need a generator on wheels that we just plug in to that inverter, then plug the inverter into the existing electrical system at the light, and a few gas cans later we have our power back for Summer 2023. CHECK!

Well at least it all works in the camper, and the keeper quarters at the light are a bit like a big camper. All we need to do is quickly round up the equipment and float it out to the light, plumb and wire it all in, and do some testing—before the first guest keepers come to visit in June. But right now, if all goes according to plan, by June the only difference keepers who have been to the light previously will notice is that the foghorn will not work (WAY too much power required), and there will be a generator running outside for up to 4 hours or so every day—and they will be responsible for fueling the generator. The kitchen fridge will still work, the microwave, a hot plate, and the lights. All the comforts of home—including hot and cold potable water.

But remember we're now camping, and everyone who has been out in a camper boondocking (without hookups) knows that water and power are precious and used conservatively. There is plenty of water in the lake, but the power to pump it and sterilize it depends on power conservation. At this point we can't say just how conservative the keepers will need to be. However, the important thing is that keepers will return to DeTour Reef Light in the summer of 2023. Welcome home!



Left: Heading to Light loaded with power equipment—Brett Tompkins of White Shoal Light talking with Dave Bardsley about the work ahead.

Above the crew: Dave Bardsley, Brian Nettleton, Russ Norris and Jon Norris with Brett Tompkins behind the camera.

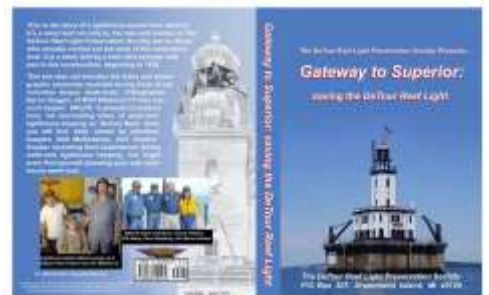
DeTour Reef Light 2 DVD Video Available

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 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 \$19. Mail your order to:

DRLPS Video

P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726

or Email DRLPS@DRLPS.com. Charge cards are accepted.



(Cont'd from page 4)

DRLPS has become a highly regarded, 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 OVERNIGHT KEEPER PROGRAM

Since the summer of 2005, DRLPS volunteers have conducted guided tours to the Lighthouse. Two to seven overnights are available through the Keeper Program. On the Light you can walk in the footsteps of the former keepers and learn of the history of the Lighthouse and of 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 is a great place to share the memorable experience with family and friends.

THE NEXT GENERATION KEEPING THE LIGHT ON

For 25 years, the awesome volunteer DRLPS Team has worked hard from day one to generate a devoted constituency and support of public and government funding. They have demonstrated 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, 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 25 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! Visit www.DRLPS.com.

IT TAKES A TEAM EFFORT TO KEEP THE DRLPS GOING STRONG

Current Board of Directors and Key Supporting People include:

DIRECTORS: Dave Bardsley (Treasurer, Co-Chair Keeper Program), Terry Breiler, Mary Chamberlain (Evening Under the Stars Chair, Tour and Overnight Keeper Program Co-Chair), Ann Method Green (Tour Co-Chair, Web Maintenance), Joe Henne (Vice-President, Public Relations, Stars Auction Co-Chair, Tour Guide), Mike Horton (Keeper Program Co-Chair), Brad McGann (Passages Newsletter Co-chair), Brian Nettleton (Lighthouse Preservation and Maintenance Chair), Russ Norris (President), Hallie Wilson (Secretary, Tour Guide)

KEY SUPPORTING PEOPLE: Jeanette Alguire (Contractor Bookkeeper), Paula Bardsley (Membership Chair, Database Administrator, DRLPS coordinator), Jeri Baron Feltner (Founding Director Emerita), Clif Haley (Director Emeritus, Legal Advisor), Chris Henne (Stars Auction Co-Chair, Special Projects), John Orr (Special Projects), Matt Sawyer (Webmaster), Darlene Skinner (Evening Under the Stars contractor support), Jim Woodward (Honorary Director).



Above: DRLPS volunteers Dave Bardsley, (State Representative Jason Allen), Chuck Feltner, Jeri Feltner, and Paula Bardsley at the State Capitol 2005 accepting the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

Below: Safety harness used to get Lighthouse visitors up and down the 20' ladder to the DRL deck. Mike Hershberger, Candis Collick, and Ren Farley 2005.



(cont'd on page 8)

(Cont'd from page 7)

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The first celebration to honor DRLPS 25th Anniversary will be held at the DRLPS annual *Evening Under the Stars* event July 8 on Drummond Island. For more information, please visit <http://drlps.com/news-events/evening-under-the-stars>, or contact Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169. To donate a Silent Auction item, contact Joe Henne 906-630-5093.

A second celebration will be held in DeTour Village at the Sandy Harsin Wytiaz Fine Arts Center on Saturday August 19. It will an afternoon of friendship and celebration.

JOIN THE TEAM TO PRESERVE THE LIGHTHOUSE

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the continued preservation of the Lighthouse in honor of the DRLPS's 25th Anniversary, please send a check or credit card information to DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726. For more information, please visit www.DRLPS.com. Thank you!



Dear DRLPS Members,

Greetings! I hope you are all well and looking forward to the much-anticipated arrival of summer. There is much to report so I will get directly to it.

Our plans for repowering the light without the benefit of shore power are well underway, and we hope to have it completed by the second week in June. The Keepers Program is back, and we have visitors scheduled for every weekend from June 16 to September 1. Our annual membership meeting will be on June 20th this year at the township hall on Drummond Island. Stars will be on July 8th this year and will commemorate the society's 25th year anniversary. We will also have a celebratory gathering on August 19th in DeTour at the SWH Fine Arts Center. Details and additional information will be provided on our website, www.drlps.com, as they become available.

This has been an extremely challenging year and I would be remiss not to offer special thanks to the DRLPS board of directors for their dedication and hard work this past year. We have incurred additional expenses in this process and if anyone wishes to contribute directly to these efforts just specify "Repowering the Light" on your contribution and we will see that it is properly allocated. Thank you again for all your support and I hope to see many of you this summer as we celebrate a momentous year!

Sincerely,
Russell Norris
President, DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
Keeping The Light On Since 1998!

Renew Your Annual Membership

And support the continuing preservation effort of the DeTour Reef Light

To renew your annual membership (Basic - \$30, Patron - \$50, or Keeper - \$100) by mail, please send your check or credit card information to DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726, or you can call our Membership Chairperson, Paula Bardsley, at 906-493-6609. Please include any changes in your address(es), phone number(s) or email address(es). Also, please consider upgrading to one of the lifetime memberships at this time (Lifetime - \$500, Grand Keeper - \$1000).

In addition to helping with the cost of continuing preservation, your membership includes discounted Keeper Weekends and Tours.

Evening Under the Stars 2022
Fun, Food, Fundraising and Entertainment!



Clockwise from Top: Some of the Silent Auction items; .Anne Alimoney all smiles with 50/50 tickets; the view— an amazing sunset; the party getting started, the entertainment—Nick Meier, Julia Meier, Barbara Taylor; chatting—I to r Chris Henne, Joyce Anderson, Dixon Gerber, Rob Anderson, Susie Hayes



**One of this year's
 Silent Auction Items
 Fireworks Over DeTour Reef Light
 By Norris Seward**

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society
 Is celebrating 25 years!
 Please join us

Evening Under the Stars

Saturday July 8, 2023
 Drummond Island Yacht Haven
 Big Dock Hangar, Water Street
 Drummond Island, MI

Cocktails at 5:30
 \$75 per person includes:
 Cocktail, Hors d'oeuvres,
 Dinner and Music
 Silent Auction

RSVP by June 10, 2023

Questions:
 StarsEvent@DRLPS.com
 Or 517-879-9511

\$25 is tax deductible as allowed by law

6th Annual Nordic Bocce and Brat Fest

Come join the fun!

August 6, 3PM

Drummond Island Township Golf Course

Pre-register your 4 person team with Joe Henne at 906-630-5093 - \$60 for the team registration.

Official DRLPS Nordic Bocce shirts are available for a \$15 donation. Come dressed for the competition.

After cash prizes are awarded to the winners, all profits will go directly to restoration and continuing maintenance of the DeTour Reef Light.



2022 Champs
Whitney Bay Bombers



Thank You For Your Contributions To The DRLPS

Captain Ivan Gable has been our boat captain since 2006 and, according to Dave Bardsley, co-chair of the Keeper program is “reliable, professional and the best small boat handler I have ever experienced.”

Enjoy your retirement! Leave some fish for us.



Dawn Gibbons has been our accountant since October, 2002.. We could always count on her to keep us on financial track. Jeanette Alguire of Bayside Bookkeeping will be taking over Dawn’s responsibilities

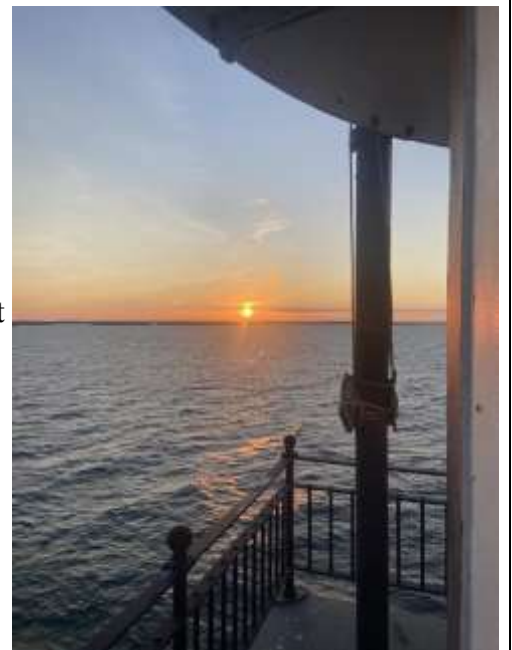
DRLPS Keeper Program Summer 2023

We are very excited to have our Keeper Program running again this year. We are looking forward to having Keepers on the Light each weekend from Father’s Day through Labor Day.

With the underwater cable no longer powering the Light, our DRLPS Board has been working hard to put together generator power that will be similar to a camper like experience. Keepers will have basic amenities but will have to be aware of limits and conserve power.

We are still looking for transportation to and from the light. See the information on page 2.

There are a few spots still open this summer for Keepers. Look on our DRLPS website or contact Keepers@DRLPS.com to fill out an application and book your weekend now!



Sometimes We Win and Sometimes We Don't

By Dave Bardsley

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) has been fortunate in receiving grant assistance in the past for restoration of the Light. Last fall, we applied for another Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant to repower DeTour Reef Light (DRL) following failure of the underwater cable that has powered the Light since the late 1930s. Over the summer of 2022 we investigated methods and the cost to repair or replace the cable. Repair on the very old cable was determined to be unadvisable and replacement approached a million dollars.



The DRLPS board voted in the fall to repower DRL in a manner close to the original 1931 configuration of diesel generator and a large battery bank. Although not consistent with 1931 technology, a supplemental solar panel charging system could be added to reduce the need for large quantities of diesel fuel to be hauled to the Light each week. A system was designed by board member Brad McGann that was close to the original 1931 plan. Cost estimates assuming professional installation were about \$100,000. The costs for the supplemental solar panel charging array were excluded from this estimate as it was not historically accurate and not allowable under the MLAP grant rules. (Note, MLAP grants are capped at \$60,000 and require a match of at least 1/3 of the total project cost).

The MLAP program is funded by purchase of 'Save Our Lights' license plates and DRLPS was one of many applicants. Awards this year were for two projects that are more visibly restoration and protection:

Rock of Ages Lighthouse, Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society (\$46,000, match: \$23,000).

Hire a contractor to rehabilitate the 132-foot-tall lighthouse by cleaning and painting the tower exterior. Situated on a tiny island of rock two miles off the coast of Isle Royale, Rock of Ages Lighthouse was last painted in 1985. This project will prevent future water intrusion and allow interior restoration efforts to continue.

Eagle Harbor Light Station, Keweenaw County Historical Society (\$60,000, match: \$39,000). Hire a contractor to rehabilitate the lighthouse tower. Proposed work will include replacement of deteriorated brick and selective repointing of the tower, repairing damaged plaster on the tower interior, roof and wall water diversion, and deck and lantern room repair.

While not receiving a grant, DRLPS is proceeding with a smaller program to provide minimal power to the Light with a gasoline generator and four large batteries. This program will provide lighting, power for a microwave and refrigeration, and water pressure. Potable water and a propane hot water heater are in the plan but not guaranteed. Until a more robust power system can be provided, we are offering a "rustic" lighthouse keeper program that asks keepers to bring drinking water and possibly take cold showers (should they choose).



Mark your calendar! A book on the DeTour Reef Light and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (1998-2023 - Celebrating 25 years) has an estimated publication date of May 2024. Price will be \$19.95

DETOUR REEF LIGHT STATION: History, Restoration, Preservation, and Public Access of an Offshore Michigan Lighthouse, by Jeri Baron Feltner and the DRLPS Team

DeTour Reef Light Pin

Updated to Celebrate DRLPS's 25th anniversary

The pin shown below will be given to the attendees of the DRLPS 25th Celebrations—

Evening Under the Stars

Big Dock Hangar, Yacht Haven, Drummond Island
Saturday July 8
and

25th Anniversary Celebration

SHWFAC Center, DeTour Village
Saturday August 19

See the calendar on page 3 for more information



Your Name On A Star

As part of the DRLPS 25 year celebration you can be a **Star**
at Evening Under the Stars

and

DRLPS's 25th Anniversary Celebration

\$250

Donations are tax deductible

Contact Mary Chamberlin

StarsEvent@DRLPS.com

Or

517-879-9511



Approximately 2 feet tall

Keeper Adventure - August 2021



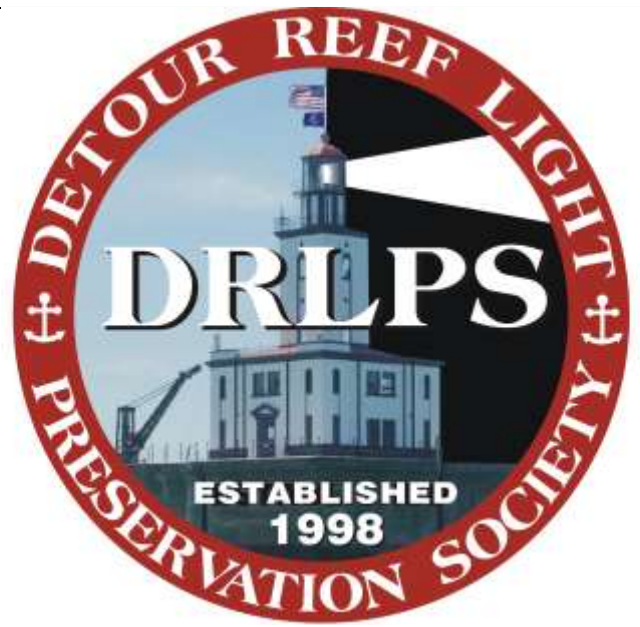
If you would like to share pictures from your DeTour Reef Light adventure, please send them to us: DRLPS@drlps.com



DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 307
 Drummond Island MI 49726
 www.DRLPS.com Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

President: Russ Norris
Vice President: Joe Henne
Treasurer: David Bardsley
Secretary: Hallie Wilson
Directors: Terry Breiler, Mary Chamberlin, Ann Method Green,
 Michael Horton, Brad McGann, Brian Nettleton,
Founding Director Emerita: Jeri Baron Feltner
Director Emeritus: Clifton Haley
Honorary Director: James S. Woodward
Public Relations: Joe Henne, Ann Method Green
Keeper/Tours Chair: Mary Chamberlin, *KeepersandTours@drlps.com*
Membership: Paula P. Bardsley
Stars Event: Mary Chamberlin, *StarsEvent@drlps.com*
Passages Editor: Brad McGann and Ann Method Green
Preservation: Brian Nettleton
Special Projects: John Orr, Brad McGann
Historian: Open
Sponsor A Step: Jeri Baron Feltner
Webmasters: Matt Sawyer and Ann Method Green
Boat Captain: Open
Legal Matters: Clifton Hailey
Accounting: Jeanette Alguiree

**DRLPS MEMBERSHIP:**

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

All memberships include the family.

DRLPS@drlps.com Subject Membership * 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: DRLPS@drlps.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!