



THE HARBOR BEACH LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

December 2009

November 10: After 5 years of negotiations, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the City have come to agreement on a bottomlands use agreement for the lighthouse!

The Society and DeTour Reef lighthouse worked with the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance to negotiate a final document with MDEQ, and the City Attorney has approved it, so the Council will aim to agree to language at their Dec 7 meeting. **We are looking towards a transfer of the lighthouse to the City next summer!**

As president of both the Society and of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, with over 100 lighthouses throughout Michigan, I can tell you this issue froze the whole lighthouse movement for years. Getting it completed is a huge relief. **After 27 years, our original mission of returning the lighthouse to our local community is finally going to happen!** Thanks for all of your support over the last couple of years as this looked like it may never happen.

Our hearts go out this holiday season to Bob and Penny Letts, our Society's Co-Secretaries. Penny has lost family members this past year, and now Bob is in the hospital after suffering a stroke. We pray for them and wish them the best of luck!

Another work season is in the books, and our lighthouse continues to be improved! See Restoration Director Ron Klebba's update on the work accomplishments in this mailer for the lengthy list of continued improvements and restoration to the structure this past year. Ron and the crew, Doug Howard, Dennis Kammerer, Dale Baur, Dixon Kuhn, Bob Letts, Ron Kociba, Chuck Roberts and Geoff Blain, spend most Wednesdays during the summer out at the lighthouse working on a long "to do" list. Coffee, donuts, a sense of humor and a willing attitude make for fun yet very productive mornings!



One noticeable improvement many of you may have experienced this past summer was the replacement of the old landing dock on the breakwall with one that was custom built for us over the past winter, seen here in the spring at the marina prior to being installed. (Left) A recent surprise donation of a 20 ft



pontoon boat (Above right) from a friend will make the Weds work crew trips, with all their needed supplies and tools, a whole lot easier.

When writing this letter to you, we reviewed last year's text and noticed we had said a new dock would cost a couple of thousand dollars. Well it cost a couple times a couple of thousand dollars, times 3! But it's wider, longer, very well designed and made, and should last a long time.

As you can see, we are always working to improve our lighthouse and the peripheral assets needed to get the job done. The pontoon boat will need some work to make it usable not only for the work crew, but for the possible start of tours.

We need your help again. Please consider not only a payment of annual dues as noted below, but if you have anything extra you can spare in a very tough year, consider sending it our way. The pontoon will need repairs and possibly a new motor. We would really appreciate whatever support you can give!

We would like to offer a very special thanks to the family of Conde Hackbarth, a Resorter who passed away this year and was one of our biggest and most generous supporters over the years. They asked that the lighthouse be a place where friends could make donations in Conde's memory, and the response was so significant that we are nearly even with where we were before this past summer's large expenses. Conde was a wonderful woman who loved the lighthouse very much, we will miss her.

Buzz Hoerr, President; Skip Kadar, Vice President; Dixon Kuhn, Glen Townley, Treasurers; Bob Letts, Secretary, Ron Klebba, Restoration Director

2009 Maintenance/ Restoration Progress by Ron Klebba, Restoration Director.

The 2009 lighthouse maintenance/restoration season involved some on-site as well as on-shore work sessions.

We began our season in May with the construction of a new floating dock. Our old dock was a donation from the Harbor Beach Marina. It served us well for many seasons, however due to its age and the occasional severe weather conditions out at the lighthouse the dock began to deteriorate and literally fall apart.

We took three bids on a new dock and eventually contracted with Holdwick Metal Working Design and Fabricating for a metal frame, and the Lighthouse maintenance crew added the composite decking, docking posts, cleats and apron skirting.

Thanks to Tom Mehringer for towing the new dock to the lighthouse and securing it to the breakwall. The new dock performed very well all season and was enjoyed by all involved in lighthouse activities.

The maintenance/restoration crew spent 18 work sessions on-site out at the lighthouse. Our main focus this summer involved painting. The lighthouse windows were re-glazed, caulked, primed and painted. This was all exterior work. We re-painted the safety chains surrounding the crib that was installed a year ago. The steel plates that reinforce the crib were all given a fresh coat of gray paint along with the stairway that bridges the gap between the lighthouse crib and breakwall. The three cast iron wood burning stoves that were brought on-site a year ago were all "piped" into the main chimney with new stovepipe. The stoves were also given a fresh coat of flat black paint.

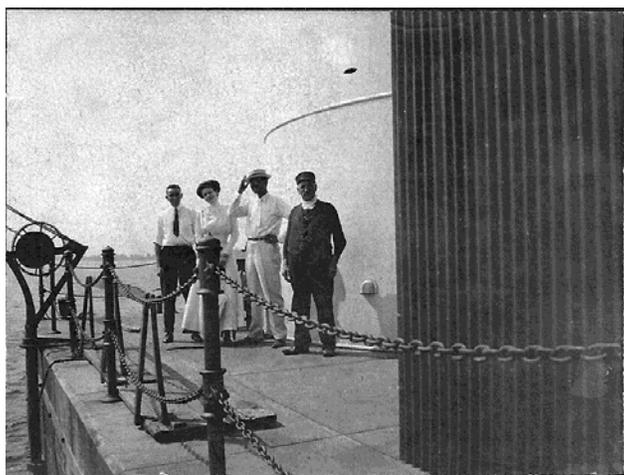
Late in the summer the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Society was presented with a gift that we found difficult to turn down. One of the Harbor Beach Marina seasonal slip renters, John and Bev Daniels, donated a 20 foot pontoon boat to the Society. We picked up the Pontoon this fall and now have it stored in one of our members' garage. We will be doing some re-fitting of the pontoon this spring in preparation for a early May launch date.

I would like to give some special recognition to three of our crewmembers and their wives that had to deal with some serious health issues. In the early summer Geoff Blain suffered a heart attack and with Sheila's help has bounced back very well. Dale Baur, a long time member had a heart attack late in the summer. Dale is recuperating very well and is

looking forward to volunteering next season. Bob Letts who is our Society secretary and a maintenance crewmember suffered a stroke in November. Fortunately Bob is a very determined sort of guy and is also recovering well. Let's keep Geoff and Sheila, Dale and his wife Beverly and Bob and his wife Penny in our thoughts and prayers.

Notes From Harbor Beach
Skip Kadar

SUMMER VISITOR: We had an interesting visitor this last summer. Mel Trescott, great grandson of Captain Loren Trescott spent a week at the Harbor Beach Marina. He enjoyed seeing the lighthouse and the work the Society has accomplished. Captain Loren Trescott was the Lighthouse Keeper at the Sand Beach /Harbor Beach Harbor of Refuge light from 1878 until 1898. Mel provided the Society with these photographs of his great Grandfather at the Harbor Beach Lighthouse.



Captain Loren Trescott with visitors at the Lighthouse. Courtesy of Mel Trescott.



Captain Trescott, Keeper from 1878 – 1898, standing on the Gallery deck. Courtesy of Mel Trescott.

EMAIL: Your Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society is sending this newsletter to as many of our supporters by email as possible to help to keep printing costs down. If you know of someone who would enjoy reading about the progress the Society is making in the restoration of the lighthouse please forward this or print this and send it on to them. Email us at karenkadar@hotmail.com with email addresses of others so we can add them to our list.

SOLAR LIGHTING: Since the electrical cable from shore to the lighthouse was again disabled member Ron Kociba has installed two solar collector panels on the Gallery deck. The panels feed a bank of batteries in the basement which light the new LED Floodlights lighting the tower at night. Thanks Ron!

PONTOON BOAT: With the donation of the Pontoon boat we have a need of a pontoon boat trailer. Does anyone have one or know of one that could be donated or purchased at a reasonable price?

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse
Preservation Society
P.O. Box 8
Harbor Beach, MI 48441

A look into the past. The Fog signal building interior



Views from inside the Fog Signal Building. About 1950



The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society would like to someday rebuild the Fog Signal building.



The compressor and air tanks to operate the foghorns.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2009 / 2010 Membership Dues ... \$25.00

Please help the **Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.** by renewing/joining as a member. **Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.** is a registered 501 c 3 corporation, and all donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

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