

# The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

## 2011... A Year of Transition



### **A message from: Skip Kadar, 2011 Elected President**

This has been an exciting year of positive change for the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society (HBLPS)! I would like to call this year our "Year of Transition". To start us off, we elected new members of office to lead us in our year of transition. I am so humbled to be elected as the President of the Society replacing our long-term President, Buzz Hoerr. I know that I have some big shoes to fill but I am up for the challenge! Other new members of office were elected including: Pam Semp as Vice President, Glen Townley as Treasurer replacing Dixon Kuhn, and Bob Letts was re-elected as Recording Secretary. The Society also made an organizational change by establishing a Board of Directors that includes: Buzz, Dixon, Pam, Glen, and I. As a team we hope to continue to drive change for our Lighthouse Society this year. In addition, Ron Kociba was named the Restoration Director replacing our Director of many years, Ron Klebba who recently moved to Oregon. We are thrilled to have Ron lead us with our future restoration projects and help us to preserve the many projects that have already been completed.

As we continue to restore the lighthouse and keep up with the necessary maintenance, we are going to put more energy into sharing our beautiful lighthouse with the public. The Society has always had a strong relationship with the city of Harbor Beach, but this year we saw it expand with the introduction of organized lighthouse tours. The city, through Recreation Director, Ron Wruble, hired the charter boat "J-Lyn" to transport guests to the lighthouse and the city acted as the fiscal agent for the ticket sales. We are planning to increase the number of tour guides for next year. This year we had a core group who entertained almost 300 guests. Next year we hope to double this amount and have over 600 guests so we will definitely need some more tour guides on board with us!

We know that marketing the lighthouse is extremely important for the future. We are currently exploring ways to promote our lighthouse and create venues for fundraising. We hope to start selling lighthouse related merchandise to our tour goers and promote our tours more heavily throughout Harbor Beach. I am excited that we have Pam Semp on board with us as she has many years of marketing experience and will help us reach these goals.

To help us reach our future goals and to continue to transition our gem we are going to need more volunteers. We are always looking for people to help in all aspects of the Lighthouse Society; maintenance and restoration, tour guides, marketing, grant proposals, communications, antique procurement and lighthouse and maritime research, just to name a few. If you would like to volunteer in any way we can always find something for you to do! I ask you to please talk to friends and neighbors and invite them to join us in preserving a piece of history right here in our own backyard.

We are going to have a very exciting year ahead and I hope to see many of you out at the lighthouse whether you are just visiting with your family or friends or picking up a paintbrush and getting to work!

Thanks to all our generous donors, members and friends for your continued support!

Skip Kadar, President; Pam Semp, Vice President; Glen Townley, Treasurer; Bob Letts, Secretary; Ron Kociba, Restoration Director

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## **A message from Society Vice-President: Pam Semp Summer 2011 Lighthouse Tours**

A beautiful stretch of summer weather graced the thumb of Michigan in 2011. While it appears the area is still struggling with the economic woes prevalent in many areas of the United States, the Lake Huron shoreline community of Harbor Beach experienced a new burst of excitement and enthusiasm. The summer was highlighted by the inaugural season of tours of the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. A continued effort of more than 25 years of restoration and renovation by the HBLPS finally resulted in the first official tours of this historical structure. Tours were offered on Saturdays from 10am to 1pm, with a chartered boat ride by J-Lyn Charters and a guided tour of the break wall and lighthouse, costing \$20 per person.

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse is being restored to the 1900-1915-time period and also houses furnishings appropriate to that time. Guides provided guests with abundant information, helped with photo opportunities, including the favorite "through the porthole" shot on the observation deck and were able to answer questions about the harbor and the historic shoreline.

Almost 300 visitors took part in the Harbor Beach Lighthouse tours this season. Guests came from afar including; Texas, California, Massachusetts and Florida just to name a few! We also had guests from states nearby including Ohio, Indiana and from all parts of the state of Michigan. Many remarked that they had been waiting for this opportunity, with ties to the area, or a devotion to lighthouses; this was an opportunity that they savored. A family from downstate Michigan noted that they had seen our tour information in a "Sky Mall" magazine on an Air Tran flight to Florida. However if we can spread the word, the universal interest of lighthouses in general and specifically our historic Harbor Beach Lighthouse will ensure the tours to be a popular attraction for the City of Harbor Beach and the HBLPS for many years to come.

For additional information about the 2012 Light House tour season and tickets, please call **989-479-9707** or email us at [harborbeach.lighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:harborbeach.lighthouse@gmail.com). Remember a 2012 tour ticket makes the perfect gift for someone special!

Your Light House paid tour ticket is also good for one free admission to the [Grice House](#). The Grice House will provide you with a great history of the harbor and the local area, as well as hosting the original 4<sup>th</sup> Order Fresnel lens that was in the lighthouse for almost 100 years. We invite you to come see the amazing restoration work at the Lighthouse as our tour guides tell the story of how the light guided numerous ships to safety. The tour will take you back to the period when our Lighthouse was fully operational and give you a glimpse of how the keepers lived and maintained the light. It's an experience you'll never forget!

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## **A Message from 2011 Restoration Director: Ron Klebba 2011 Lighthouse Preservation Society Summer Maintenance Program**

This past summer we made more trips back and forth to the lighthouse than ever before! Several of those trips however had nothing to do with the actual "hands-on" maintenance work. We started our summer maintenance schedule with our usual routine of towing the floating dock out to the breakwall, installing the bracket bolts and putting the dock stairway in place. However, within a few weeks we were once again towing the dock back to shore for repair since one of the brackets securing the dock to the breakwall had a broken weld. The weld was repaired and once again the dock was towed out to the breakwall. Nevertheless within a few weeks we were once again towing the dock to shore for repairs. The broken weld had once again failed. This time the entire bracket was replaced. Success! Thanks to Ron Wruble and the city maintenance crew the dock was repaired and made it safely through the summer tour season.

Our onsite maintenance consisted primarily of painting, cleaning and installing the original foyer entrance door. I restored the door early in April and we installed it in June. We were fortunate enough to keep about half of the original door to the lighthouse. Ron Kociba designed and took charge of the installation of exterior lights on the gallery deck focusing on the lantern room. They are an excellent addition and it allows one to view the upper part of the lighthouse tower from shore after dark.

In addition our crew completed painting the ceiling of the workroom as our major painting project for the summer. Overall, we accomplished a lot of maintenance and restorative work on the lighthouse this summer and I hope that the hard work continues in the years to come.

As most of you probably know my wife Nadine and I moved to the Pacific Northwest in August. We are currently living in Portland, Oregon and have enjoyed being near our two children. We do however plan to spend our summer in Harbor Beach visiting family and hanging out with our fellow "marina rats". We'll return to Portland in the fall. I look forward to once again working on the Harbor Beach Lighthouse and enjoying some of that great "2 Hearted Ale" with friends at Smalley's bar in good old Harbor Beach.

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## **A Big Thanks to Ron Klebba for His Many Years of Service!** **- Buzz Hoerr**

One of the most fortunate occurrences in the history of working to restore the Harbor Beach Lighthouse was when Dixon and I met Skip and Ron Klebba many years ago out on the lighthouse one afternoon. Restoring a lighthouse that is situated a mile offshore had been a daunting challenge for us. But for Ron it simply became something that could and had to be done. He sorted out all of the problems our Lighthouse faced after many years of neglect, and played the key role in bringing her back to being fully watertight and artfully restored to a time period of nearly 100 years ago. To us this is an achievement of the highest order.

Carpenter, engineer and craftsman are all fully within Ron's skill set. But what really sets him apart from others trained in those skills is the synthesis of all of them at a very high level, combined with his vision and passion for the project. Ron has always been committed to restoring our Lighthouse to the very highest structural and aesthetic levels possible.

This year, the lighthouse moved from worksite to public venue, a change that was anticipated, but perhaps not fully appreciated until it took place. We realize that with Ron's leadership, we are now truly in a "maintenance only" mode for years to come. All the work that Ron planned and executed with his dedicated staff of volunteers is providing a truly unique experience for the public to learn more about the maritime heritage of Harbor Beach.

We speak often of the dedication of the first citizens of Sand Beach who seized an opportunity and worked hard to bring the harbor project to their community. They created a legacy that has lasted nearly 140 years. Ron is in many ways like his forbears. He taught us the right way to restore a lighthouse, a way that will last. He has forever transformed the Harbor Beach Lighthouse into an historic treasure that will be around for generations to come. Words cannot express our gratitude for Ron's efforts.

Ron and Nadine have now moved to Portland, Oregon to spend more time with their children and we wish them the best of luck in their new life. Many thanks for all that Ron has done!



Ron Klebba receiving his thank you plaque for his many years of service to HBLPS from Buzz Hoerr

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## Annual Membership Dues Request:

Thank you for your previous support of The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society. We ask that you continue your support by renewing/joining as a 2012 member of The Society (See Below). By becoming a member you will directly help with the upkeep and preservation of our Lighthouse. Donations beyond the membership level are also accepted and greatly appreciated. They will go directly to the restoration and upkeep of the lighthouse. If you would like to purchase a membership gift certificate for a friend or family member for 2012 please see the second form below.

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

*\*\*\*Please **Copy/Paste** the link to your web browser to become a member or donate via PayPal or send your membership payment or donation to the following address:*

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=FRYNNZPSFZD7Q](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=FRYNNZPSFZD7Q)

### MEMBERSHIP FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

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Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2012 Membership  
Dues: **\$25.00**  
Please enclose your check made payable to **HBLPS, Inc.**



NAME

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ADDRESS

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CITY

STATE

ZIP

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TELEPHONE

EMAIL

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Mail to: HBLPS, c/o The Harbor Beach Agency, 128 State Street, Harbor Beach MI 48441

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### GIFT MEMBERSHIP FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

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Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2012 Gift Membership  
Dues: **\$25.00**  
Please enclose your check made payable to **HBLPS, Inc.**



YOUR NAME

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YOUR TELEPHONE

YOUR EMAIL

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RECIPIENT NAME

& TELEPHONE

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CITY

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Mail to: HBLPS, c/o The Harbor Beach Agency, 128 State Street, Harbor Beach MI 48441

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