

# The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. 2012... A Year of Community Development



## A message from: Skip Kadar, President

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society had another successful year! Progress was made in the restoration and maintenance of the tower and we had more tours of the lighthouse than ever before. We have our many volunteers to thank for this success. It's the people and their diverse skills that make the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Society stronger year over year.

A big thank you to Buzz Hoerr who represents our Society and keeps us informed on state and national lighthouse news, Restoration Director Ron Klebba, Maintenance Director Ron Kociba, and the Wednesday morning work crew made up of Dale Baur, Doug Howard, Dixon Kuhn, Pat LaPine, Stu Haskell, Bob Bodis, Geoff Blain, Bob Letts. We would also like to thank Dale who donated our new picnic table. This provides a great place to have lunch with a view!

We extend our appreciation to our tour guides who give up several hours each Saturday morning to provide our guests with a memorable experience. Toni O'Neil took the lead in organizing and running the tours this year and we thank her for her dedication.

I would like to extend our warmest gratitude to Glen Townley who continues to keep us in a strong financial position, Steve Schwab who is the brain behind the new Society website, and Pam Semp our director of marketing who promotes our lighthouse through souvenirs and novelty items both on site and online. It is said a chain is only as strong as its weakest link and I am proud to say we are strong!

I hope to see many of you out at the lighthouse next summer whether you are just visiting with your family or friends or helping us continue the restoration and maintenance work. Thanks to all our generous donors, members, and friends for your continued support!



Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller pays a visit The Harbor Beach Lighthouse

**New Website:** [harborbeachlighthouse.org](http://harborbeachlighthouse.org)

We have a new website! Steve Schwab from Schwab Solutions worked with Pam Semp, Skip Kadar and Buzz Hoerr to create the new website. It was launched just before the tour season started. The site features a virtual tour of the lighthouse, news items, photo galleries, history and links to other important sites. A key feature is the ability to register and pay for a lighthouse tour.

Visitors can also become a member of the Society, donate, or subscribe to the newsletters. Plans for the future include a gift shop where visitors can buy the same items that are available in the lighthouse. The site will continue to evolve so go to [harborbeachlighthouse.org](http://harborbeachlighthouse.org) and check it out.

Skip Kadar, President; Pam Semp, Vice-President; Glen Townley, Treasurer; Bob Letts, Secretary; Ron Kociba, Maintenance Director; Ron Klebba, Restoration Director; Toni O'Neil, Tours Director; Steve Schwab, Website Director

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## **Society Presentation at Michigan Lighthouse Alliance May 2012 Conference and Update on Replica Lens Project**

Buzz Hoerr, Society Board Chair and President of Michigan Lighthouse Alliance

The Society was well represented at the biennial Michigan Lighthouse Alliance Conference in Traverse City last May, cosponsored with the Michigan Port Collaborative. The theme for this event was "Lights and Ports: Building Our Future." Members from both MLA and MPC talked about how the symbols of harbors and also those lighthouses that connect them as "pearls on a string" can work with Michigan's ports to foster economic development and tourism and return attention to Michigan's "front door". A feature presentation was made by our very own Thumb Lights Alliance members, including Bill Bonner from Pointe Aux Barques, Lou Schillinger from Port Austin and Pam Semp from Harbor Beach.

Our Thumb alliance has drawn thousands of visitors to our region from around the US and Canada, as well as some from other parts of the world, and this helps bring attention to our beautiful and enterprising communities and added revenue for local businesses. The importance of pioneering regional lighthouse initiatives to combine forces in attracting these tourists was presented by our alliance members, with the added layer of working with the local governments, chambers, service clubs and other groups like the Grice House to create "critical mass" that makes a visit to the area richer and more complete.

We also met with the Commander Scott Smith, head of US Coast Guard Aids to Navigation to discuss the replica lens issue at the conference. The MLA has already succeeded in getting our good friends in the offices of Senators Levin and Stabenow, who are very supportive of the lighthouse movement, to open a Congressional Request with the CG to determine why they were not willing to allow lighthouses to install replicas of the original Fresnel lenses. They are now available from a supplier in molded acrylic form at far lower cost than the original glass lenses, which are either in conservatorship like ours in the Grice House or still in some lighthouses and need to be taken out and conserved. Commander Smith is from the Traverse area and is a big lighthouse fan, and continues to assure us it's a top priority for him and his staff.

Allowing replicas would solve the problem of the community's resistance to their lenses being removed, as lighthouse enthusiasts and most citizens really respond positively to the bright flashes and sweeping beams the original lenses provided. They are, after all, known to all of us as Lighthouses! The current high efficiency "blinkers" are pretty meek in comparison and don't inspire much interest. Harbor Beach has already been approved for a grant from the state and local donations that will pay for the installation of the virtually maintenance free and solar powered modern version of the original Fresnel 4th order. Port Austin is nearing the end of a similar application as well. We are working with several lighthouses throughout the United States that would like to do this, but bureaucracy moves slowly and the Congressional Request, a very strong tool that must be addressed and responded to and which has helped a lot already, will keep the process moving along. It's our goal in Michigan and throughout the US that we could see lenses installed by spring. Keep your fingers crossed!

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### **2012 Marketing and Souvenir Sales**

Pam Semp, Vice-President

Sadly, another summer in Harbor Beach has come to a close....but, The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society had another fine year of tours in spite of the continued lackluster and soft economy. We added a few souvenir/gift items and they were generally well received and generated income of \$842 dollars. Actual sales out at the lighthouse were \$546 dollars, souvenirs sold in town (from the former Corner Store) were \$121, sales from the Point Aux Barques Lighthouse Festival and Huron County Museum Days were \$175.

Lacking a dedicated sales location (gift shop) on land, we selected a few items for this year that we would have room for in a cupboard out at the lighthouse. They included a mug, shot glass, foam coaster set, magnet, tack pin, window cling, oval and diamond sun catchers and framed sun catchers in oak and

whitewash finish and the 3 Light Puzzle (Harbor Beach, Pte Aux Barques and Port Austin). In some cases, we ordered just minimums to see how much we could actualize in sales, and in the case of the glassware, we ordered a few more to get a better price. Consequently, we have product left to sell into the holiday season and will have it online shortly and available for ordering at [harborbeachlighthouse.org](http://harborbeachlighthouse.org). Make sure to check it out and consider giving Harbor Beach Lighthouse souvenirs for holiday gifts and other special observances.

The visitor's response to our souvenir line was enthusiastic and we plan to continue our "giftshop" with additional items in 2013. Look for shirts, hats and a unique blown glass lighthouse. Postcards, stationary, and Christmas ornaments are also possibilities. If you see an item that you think we could use or would like to purchase a gift certificate, please contact me at [pamsemp@gmail.com](mailto:pamsemp@gmail.com). I'd love your input! I wish you a wonderful winter and please start THINKING SPRING immediately!

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## 2012 Tour Programs & Summer Maintenance

Toni O'Neil, Tours Director  
Ron Kociba, Maintenance Director

The 2012 Lighthouse Tour Season was a definite success. There was an increase in the number of tours since last year. We had visitors from 17 states that ranged from California to Texas to Maryland. Michigan visitors came from 69 cities.

We had 15 guides that worked the 13 tours. Of those 15, nine were new to the job and all are looking forward to returning next year. We were able to have six or seven guides per day therefore covering all lighthouse floors and guides did not have to run up and down the stairs multiple times. Many of the guides spent their own time researching the history of the lighthouse and the maritime history of the area to bring even more information to the visitors. The lighthouse guides received many compliments from the visitors for their enthusiasm, knowledge and friendliness. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a lighthouse guide for the 2013 season, please contact Toni O'Neil at [tntoneil@speednetllc.com](mailto:tntoneil@speednetllc.com).

To enhance the authenticity of the tours we are looking for the following items for the 2013 season. All items must be from the 1900 – 1915 time period and we would greatly appreciate you helping us find the items or donating them. We are looking for a small table for the second deck, antique tools for the work room, porcelain sink with hand pump, 1900 - 1915 calendars, and men's clothing from the period plus any personal men's accessories from the time period. If you are able to help find or donate any of these items please reach out to Skip Kadar [karenkadar@hotmail.com](mailto:karenkadar@hotmail.com).

For additional information about the 2013 Light House tour season and tickets, please call **989-479-9707** or visit [harborbeachlighthouse.org](http://harborbeachlighthouse.org). Remember a 2013 tour ticket makes the perfect gift for someone special!

### Maintenance & Restoration: An Ongoing Goal for the Harbor Beach Lighthouse

The 2012 maintenance season began as usual with towing the floating dock out and attaching it to the breakwall. Because of the low water levels, we had to add a step to the stairway and secondly, we later had to relocate the brackets fastening the dock to the breakwall.

The steps from the breakwall to the lighthouse level have been deteriorating over the past few year with cracks continuing to progress to the point of being a concern for safety. We have replaced the steps with new steel plates that now function correctly.

There have been two cords running across the gallery deck that have been a tripping hazard. These cords have been relocated and placed inside conduit so they are now hidden and removed from the deck surface. Our pontoon and Otto boats both required service a couple times this year. There was an overheating issue which was resolved with a new water pump and there was a starter issue that was resolved with a new primer solenoid. The dock has been removed for the winter and the boats have been pulled on land for the winter.

In addition, we'll be looking to rebuild the boat shed out at the lighthouse next year. If anyone would like to help contribute or donate roofing and/or hardware material they can contact me at [klebbarn@gmail.com](mailto:klebbarn@gmail.com).



View of the Red Bricks around the crib painted this past summer



Sally and Jack Lilly from St. Louis visit The Harbor Beach Lighthouse

## 2013 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 2013 member of The Society. 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.

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 join/renew as a member or mail in your membership payment. Remember it makes a great holiday gift!*

[www.harborbeachlighthouse.org/join](http://www.harborbeachlighthouse.org/join)

### 2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. **2013 Membership**

Dues: **\$25.00**

Please enclose your check made payable to **HBLPS, Inc.**



**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

**TELEPHONE**

**EMAIL**

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

**Voluntary Donations (Over \$25.00):**

**2013 DONATION FORM: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN**

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Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. **Donation**

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose your check made payable to **HBLPS, Inc.**

**NAME**



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**ADDRESS**

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**CITY**

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