



## 2019 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *Another Year of Progress*

The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society has had another successful year in preserving the maritime history of the area. Guests visiting the lighthouse continue to enjoy the narrated tours by our knowledgeable docents and the gift shop proudly offers many unique items specific to our lighthouse. The restoration and maintenance reports will provide details of this year's efforts but I can attest we are moving ahead.

Work on the fog signal building interior is moving along to the point banners featuring Harbor Beach nautical history are already displayed. The tragedy of the floundering of the Daniel Morrell was featured this last summer and future displays will include the influence of the Life



**Skip Kadar,  
President**

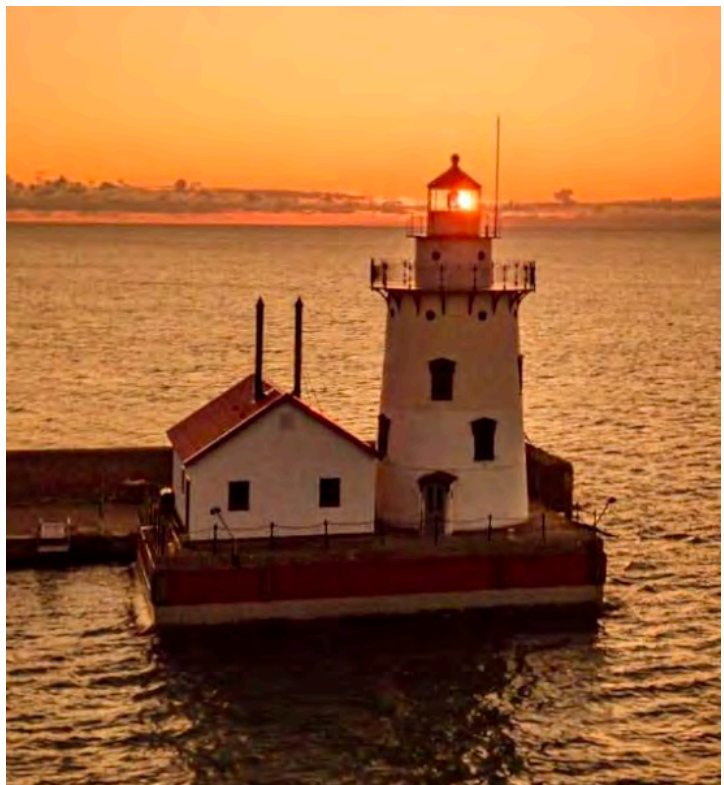
Saving Service and Coast Guard had on our community, past commercial fishing in the area, the changes to the lighthouse over the years and keepers of the light.

The Society has received several items to be displayed in our Fog Signal / museum. Decedents of Otto Both, light keeper 1935 – 1940, donated a clock which hung in the lighthouse and was presented to Keeper Booth at his retirement. A family in Port Huron donated a set of oars from an early Life Saving surf boat. The oars are engraved with "HB". A fish net float, circa 1920's, was donated by Becky Elzinga. A set of port and starboard navigation buoy Fresnel lenses were donated by the same family that donated a pendulum clock that was once used at Harbor Beach fog signal building for electronic navigation. Herb Phelps, one of our preservation crew, donated a framed print of the Edmond Fitzgerald and antique sailboat rigging

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blocks, an old weathered barrel, and other nautical antiques have also been donated.

For children visiting the lighthouse we currently offer a four question quiz of what they learned on the tour. Upon completion, they receive a gift at the gift shop. We are also working on a children's center in the Fog building where they can learn maritime terminology, knots and other nautical related items.

We anticipate having the fog signal museum stocked with displays for the 2020 season but it will be a never ending project with new displays being added each year.

Yes, the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society has made great strides but none of this could have happened without the selfless efforts of our volunteers. We are extremely thankful for the time and talent they donate each year. We also could not have been so successful without our financial benefactors whose generous support is gratefully appreciated.



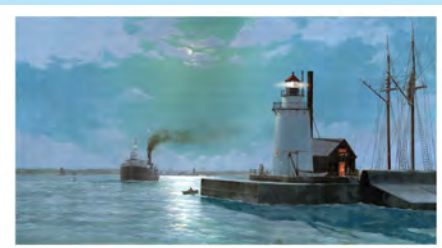
## HARBOR BEACH LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION SPECIAL FUNDRAISER

BY BUZZ HOERR, BOARD CHAIR

The Society is completing its capital restoration project this fall with the refinishing of the main tower and completing the interior of the fog signal building to ready it for next year's tour season!

In order to fund the completion of these projects we are making available a limited edition set of sketches and stretched canvas prints of the painting donated by famed local artist Bob McGreevy to the Society:

"After the Storm;



Harbor Beach Harbor of Refuge"

The following signed prints and sketches are available for donations to close out the capital restoration fund to complete the project:

Fresnel Leadership gift: 5 individual sketches \$1,500 each

Lantern Room gift: 4 large stretched canvas prints \$1,000 each

Lightkeeper gift: 8 smaller stretched canvas prints \$500 each

Fog Horn gift: 10 smaller paper prints \$250 each

The \$18,000 total amount raised will go towards completion of the restoration project and for historic



**Buzz Hoerr,  
Board Chair**

exhibit development and installation in the fog signal building. This will include working replica fog whistles on the roof and several banners inside that will recount nearly 140 years of harbor and lighthouse history.

Please join us as we complete over 35 years of full restoration at one of the

most iconic lighthouses in the Great Lakes. Your support will be much appreciated and acknowledged on a special plaque inside the fog building! Please contact Pam Semp or Bill Rands as co chairs of the campaign to make your selection and complete your gift: [pamsemp@gmail.com](mailto:pamsemp@gmail.com) and [sagres@worldnet.att.net](mailto:sagres@worldnet.att.net)

# 2019 PRESERVATION/RESTORATION REPORT

BY RON KLEBBA, PRESERVATION/RESTORATION DIRECTOR

The primary focus of our volunteer group during the summer of 2019 was the completion of the fog signal building. This work involved installing the two smoke stacks on the roof, completing the ceiling trim, completing the interior wall sheathing boards and applying three coats of paint to the floor. We also built shelving in our storage room. Two of our volunteers built two "plank" style doors, one for the storage room and one for the bathroom. Volunteers also replaced some rotten flooring in the lighthouse workroom. The lighthouse also had its entrance door replaced by a new replica door. Unfortunately after about 15 years of



**Ron Klebba,  
Preservation/  
Restoration Director**

use the old door was severely rotted. During this winter some of our volunteers are also making benches from the left over beams used in the construction of the fog shed. They will be a nice addition to the space for our summer tourists to take a break, sit and enjoy the great scenery out there!

Painting of the lighthouse tower resumed in July. Scaffold was erected surrounding the tower and Al Brandow and crew went back to work.

Unfortunately problems with the two part epoxy paint bonding to the tower became an issue. The topcoat was flaking off of the primer coat. After much frustration on Al's part he decided to postpone the paint job

until next summer. Al is currently trying to determine exactly what the problem is. Hopefully the paint issue can be resolved this winter and painting can resume next summer.

Next summer our volunteer crews will continue finishing out the interior of the fog shed and prepping it for the installation of historic displays. We also plan to install the brass fog whistle on the roof of the shed and work on whatever has to be done to make it functional. Another item on our list will be to build functional shutters for the windows of the fog shed. We can close the shutters during the off season months to preserve the new windows.

Thanks again to our great Preservation / Maintenance people for an amazingly productive summer! We couldn't do it without you! See you in the spring!



# 2019 MAINTENANCE/PROJECTS REPORT

BY RON KOCIBA, MAINTENANCE/PROJECT DIRECTOR

Skip Kadar and I officially opened the Lighthouse and raised the flag for the 2019 season on April 17, 2019. Then after several weather delays, the dock was towed out and mounted to the break wall on May 24th. An interesting point was the fact that no steps were used between the dock and the break wall landing because of the very high-water levels. If water levels rise much further, some modification of the dock mounting brackets may be necessary.

We purchased two new solar panels and mounted them to our solar tower bringing the total number of solar panels to 6. To accommodate the wind loads of the additional panels, new braces were fabricated, welded and anchored



**Ron Kociba,**  
Maintenance/Project  
Director

to the break wall. As part of the solar upgrade a new High Quality “Morningstar” solar controller was installed to replace the aging and somewhat unreliable one that was used to power the beacon and the security camera system. Eventually, the other system controller should be replaced. The storage battery system needs to be upgraded as well.

A support beam was added to support the conduit between the break wall and the Lighthouse crib. This was necessary to prevent the conduit from being damaged by sagging.

The vent piping for the composting toilet has been installed. It vents into one of the new stacks on the roof of the fog signal building. Early next season, we plan to have the composting toilet functional.

Three sets of lighting tracks were installed on the ceiling of the fog signal building to provide lighting in the new building. By the end of the season the wiring was completed and we had functioning interior lights. Led Spotlights are installed to light future displays. They are moveable to accommodate display requirements.

We closed up the lighthouse and fog signal building for the season on October 8th. We removed the dock and towed it into the Marina for the winter on the same day. The pontoon boat was covered and placed in storage on October 14th.

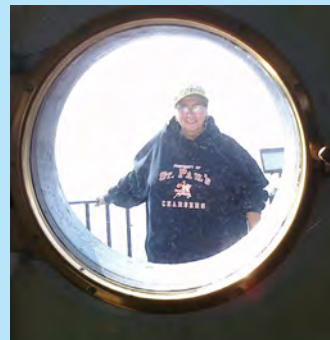
Thanks to Lenny Gajewski, Herb Phelps, Jim Brancheau, Stu Haskell, Jerry Henry, Gary Erb, Scott Richardson, Ron Klebba, Skip Kadar, and Karen Romzek for the help on the many projects this year. All of the activities and projects for Maintenance and Restoration really are group efforts.

## 2019 TOUR PROGRAM UPDATE

BY ANNETTE SWEET, TOUR DIRECTOR

Another season has come and gone. The Harbor Beach lighthouse stands as a reminder of the history of this small community. Although our season was short this year, we were still able to share it's beauty with many guests. The boat ride to the lighthouse was always pleasant and comfortable on the J-JLyn charter. While captain Janice was at the helm Captain Ken shared some of the local highlights of the city. Upon arrival to the breakwall, guests were informed of the construction and duration of

the building of this huge structure. It is still known as the greatest man made harbor on a fresh water lake. Each level of the lighthouse has a docent that will share the uniqueness of that room. The galley is spacious in comparison to other lighthouses. The sleeping quarters provide privacy to those off duty.



**Annette Sweet,**  
Tour Director

The workroom displays items used in that time period. Of course the gallery provides a 360° breathtaking view of the area. Construction of the fog signal building continued during this time and hopefully, next season it will be open and ready to share artifacts and photos of previous years. We

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# 2019 GIFT SHOP ON WHEELS

BY PAM SEMP, MARKETING DIRECTOR

For those of you that haven't seen the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Giftshop, just remember it's a very nice enclosed trailer on wheels. And guess what? 2019 made sure we knew that was important! With all the improvements and delays at the marina site, our normal location was not available to us. We simply pulled the giftshop to the other side of the marina...over on the north side...and reopened! Our shortened season did impact our sales totals, but \$1516.50 was generated from the Saturday morning tours. With the limited number of tour dates, it was decided that our present inventory would be adequate. Our guests enjoyed the selection and remembrances of their Harbor Beach Lighthouse tour. In planning for 2020, we have some new items already in the queue that I think will excite our guests and fill

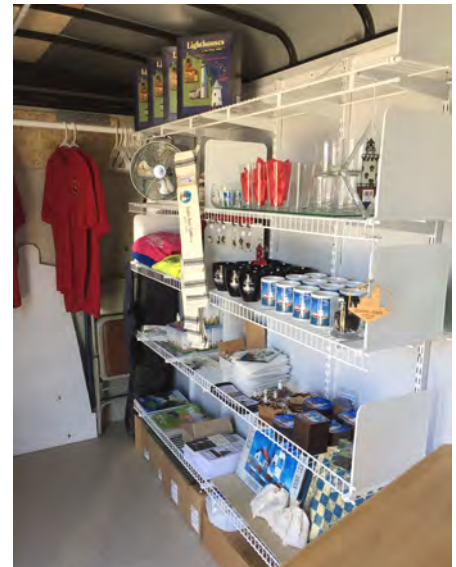


**Pam Semp, Marketing Director,  
with Buzz Hoerr**

the shelves once again. It really was a great year to clear out some old and make room for new. Being back in our "south side" location, will also be a plus!

Thanks to all who worked the giftshop in 2019. If anyone would already like to sign up for a Saturday shift, just email me at [pamsemp@gmail.com](mailto:pamsemp@gmail.com). We are also happy to have

additional volunteers...we appreciate your support! Have a wonderful holiday and winter season and we look forward to 2020....see you "AT THE LIGHT"....and the Giftshop.



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are anxious to display this building as it restores the lighthouse to its original appearance. One of the things that makes the Harbor Beach lighthouse special are the docents. They not only share the information, but do so in an enthusiastic manner. Their love of the lighthouse shows in each of them. We are excited to have new docents this past season and welcome more volunteers. If you are interested in preserving the history of this wonderful structure, please feel free to contact me, [sweetannette6829@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetannette6829@yahoo.com). Plan a trip to the thumb next season and visit this beautiful lighthouse. We are proud to share it.



# 2019 Scrapbook Memories



# CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION SPECIAL FUNDRAISER

Progress continues at the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. This last summer guests touring the lighthouse not only received an outstanding narrated guided tour but also were able to get a glimpse of what is to come in the newly rebuilt fog signal building museum. Next summer more displays featuring the rich maritime history of Harbor Beach



and the Great Lakes will be installed to add to the experience of our guests. However, maintaining and preserving a 134-year-old piece of history a mile off

shore is an expensive endeavor, one that we couldn't do without the generosity of many.

We invite you to participate with us in any amount you are able to donate. With gifts of \$50 or more please provide your name or someone you would like to honor and that will appear on a donor list that will be installed in the building. A donation form

and receipt are found below. The Society is a 501 c 3 and thus your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK OR FILL OUT AND MAKE YOUR DONATION  
ON LINE AT: [harborbeachlighthouse.org/fog](http://harborbeachlighthouse.org/fog)**

Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. is a registered Michigan 501 c 3 corporation.

- \$1,500 - Fresnel Leadership Gift     \$500 - Lightkeeper Gift  
 \$1,000 - Lantern Room Gift         \$250 - Fog Horn Gift

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



**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

**TELEPHONE**

**EMAIL**

**NAME ON DONATION LIST:**

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

## RECEIPT FOR YOUR RECORDS

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## 2020 TOUR DATES

Saturdays -  
Please check website for  
complete schedule.

First tour departs at  
9:20 a.m.  
and last tour  
departs at noon.

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



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