

The Friends of Point Betsie

LIGHTHOUSE Beacon



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Fall 2017

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Amy Ferris

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MISSION

*To support
Benzie County
in the restoration
and maintenance of the
Point Betsie Lighthouse
facility through
advocacy, fundraising
and volunteers.
Our goal is to promote
related educational
opportunities for the
benefit of all, while
maintaining the historical
and environmental
integrity of the site.*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is hard to believe that fall is here and we have just closed the doors at Point Betsie for the season. We extended our season this year to the end of October and the entire season celebrated many record breaking days. Attendance was up, sales in the Gift Shop were up and the apartment was booked for the season! We are grateful to have a wonderful staff. Dan, Debbie, Denise, Maryellen and Ruth were a wonderful team. They did a great job of serving our visitors and working with our volunteers. We thank them all for creating such a wonderful environment for our visitors. Our volunteers added much to the visitors' experience at the Lighthouse. If you would like to join us a couple of hours a week, please let us know by calling (231) 352-7644 and leaving a message.

Our annual event in August was a birthday party for the Friends of Point Betsie. We celebrated with some 200 community friends the completion and restoration of all the historical buildings and the building of the new Boat House, all accomplished in 15 years! While there are still tasks to be done, this was a time to celebrate all that has been done so far.

In this issue, we will celebrate all the donors who have contributed to our success and pictures from many of our activities from this past season. We hope you find yourself among them. If not, make a point of joining us next year.

- Nancy Weir, *President*

POINT BETSIE ROAD END/PARKING PROJECT

We're awaiting the results of the grant application to the Natural Resources Trust Fund. The grant awards are expected to be made on December 6th. If awarded for the project, the grant with match will provide the preponderance of the expected cost for the road end and parking improvements. We're currently preparing a grant application to the Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Zone Management Program for the Boardwalk to the beach extension of the project. We're working with Benzie County who will be the sponsor of the application. It is due in mid-December and would be awarded next fall about

the time the project is underway if we are successful with the Trust Fund grant.

The preliminary cost estimate for the project is in excess of \$700,000. The Road Commission is also looking at restoring the remainder of Point Betsie Road with part of their millage funds. We're partnering with them on the project and we are looking at them contributing in an option of ways. Some may ask why the Road Commission is not funding the entire project. Their responsibility, however, is to address the

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POINT BETSIE ROAD END/PARKING PROJECT *continued*

road surface and shoulders but not to provide for a turnaround, designated paved parking, or sidewalks. That is why a multitude of agencies have to be involved in this endeavor.

The Friends remain focused on raising an additional \$200,000 toward the project. We already have a substantial amount set aside along with our grant opportunities. If the Trust Fund Grant is awarded, we want to move quickly at the start of 2018, have sufficient funds in place, and get the final plans and specifications prepared. Once the contract is bid out

and awarded we plan on targeting early fall of 2018 for construction.

We have come a long way in the planning and early fundraising for this project and the potential is there for it to be realized. We respectfully request that you, as our long time donors and friends, assist us in our goal of raising the capital necessary to accomplish the improvements needed for safety and convenience at the end of Point Betsie Road.

Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



BRAD STEFFENS | Born and raised in the suburbs north of Chicago, Brad graduated from University of Illinois (Chicago) with a BA in Accounting. A few years later he completed his study, receiving an MBA in Finance from Rosary College. For the duration of his 35 year career, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry—first in Chicago, then in Japan, and finally on the East Coast (New Jersey/New York). Prior to retirement, in 2013, he was Controller and Director of Finance for the Animal Health Division of Pfizer.

Brad moved to Frankfort in 2014 with his wife, Nancy, whose family has been vacationing nearby for over 60 years. He is the proud father of 2 sons who share his love for both the outdoors and sports (go Cubs!). Besides hiking, running, and biking, he is an avid woodworker—always eager for a new project.



MERCEDES MICHALOWSKI | Originally from St. Louis, MO, she grew up in Muskegon and lived all over the midwest. She moved back home to Michigan and has worked for the Oliver Art Center since 2013. She has a Master's of Fine Arts in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma and has worked in the non-profit/museum sector for almost 20 years. She was a docent at the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum, then Assistant Curator at the Schmidt Museum of Coca-Cola Memorabilia in Kentucky, and finally director of the OZ Museum in Wamego, KS. She lives with her daughter, Julia, and their dalmatian, Captain America, in Frankfort.

Looking toward the future and the possibility of sending your newsletter by email, we are gathering addresses. If you are interested in this service, there is a place near the bottom of the remittance envelope, above the “OUR MISSION” statement, where you can write your email address.

You can send it to us in this manner or by calling our lighthouse manager, Dan Smith, at 231-631-1749 or sending it to his work email address, pointbetsie@gmail.com

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of...

<i>Alice Hollenbeck</i>	Pat & Peter Harkness
<i>Bonnie Warren</i>	Marcy Day
<i>Bridgit & Harrison "Tip" Miller</i>	Mike Wilson
<i>Elizabeth Glenn</i>	Dee & Eldon Miller and family Ruth Ann & Jim Millikan Elsa & Andrew Verrill
<i>Florence & Everett Shaw</i>	John S. Deeming
<i>Herb & Betty Carter</i>	Pierce Chamberlain III
<i>John A. Krugh</i>	Mary Jane Krugh
<i>John H. Wake</i>	Kathleen & Jeffrey Bell
<i>Pat Burton</i>	Dee & Eldon Miller and family Ruth Ann & Jim Millikan Elsa & Andrew Verrill
<i>Stewart, John, and Marie Louise Bates</i>	Carolyn Bates
<i>Tony & Doris Belknap</i>	Frances & Julian Lo

"IN HONOR OF" CONTRIBUTIONS

In Honor of...

<i>Adele L. McLaren</i>	Ann McLaren & Bud Helstad
<i>Joy Potts Braun</i>	Virginia & Vernon Potts
<i>Maura VanNess</i>	John P. Walters

POINT BETSIE LIGHTHOUSE - 2017 MEMBERS, DONORS, AND SUPPORTERS

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POINT BETSIE LIGHTHOUSE - 2017 MEMBERS, DONORS, AND SUPPORTERS

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Avonne Lee Knecht	Judy & Bob Norris	Susanne Schroer	Elsie Walton
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Deana & Tom Leinberger	Karen & Gene Pettinelli	Barry David Smith	Susan Wenzlick
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Sharon McKinley	Nancy & John Repp	Christine & Bill Toole	
Ann McLaren & Bud Helstad	Victoria & William Richmond	Shirley & Gary Tranquill	

"FRIENDS" CELEBRATE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

More than 200 people gathered under clear and sunny skies in early August to celebrate the birthday of the Friends of Point Betsie, a non-profit organization formed 15 years ago to restore, preserve and maintain the lighthouse and its grounds.

Lighthouse tours, live music from Phil Deloria and friends, and games highlighted the family-friendly event. Local food trucks provided food for purchase, with birthday cake, cupcakes, and lemonade donated by the Friends of Point Betsie. Current Board President Nancy Weir and Past Presidents Jim

Radabaugh and Jon Hawley were on hand to blow out the candles on the birthday cake.

The event, free and open to the community, recognized the many volunteers who have been "Friends" of Point Betsie.

"We wanted to celebrate the many people who serve as good stewards of this historic landmark, and who are devoted to preserving it for future generations," said Weir.

Lesla Huget, *Secretary*



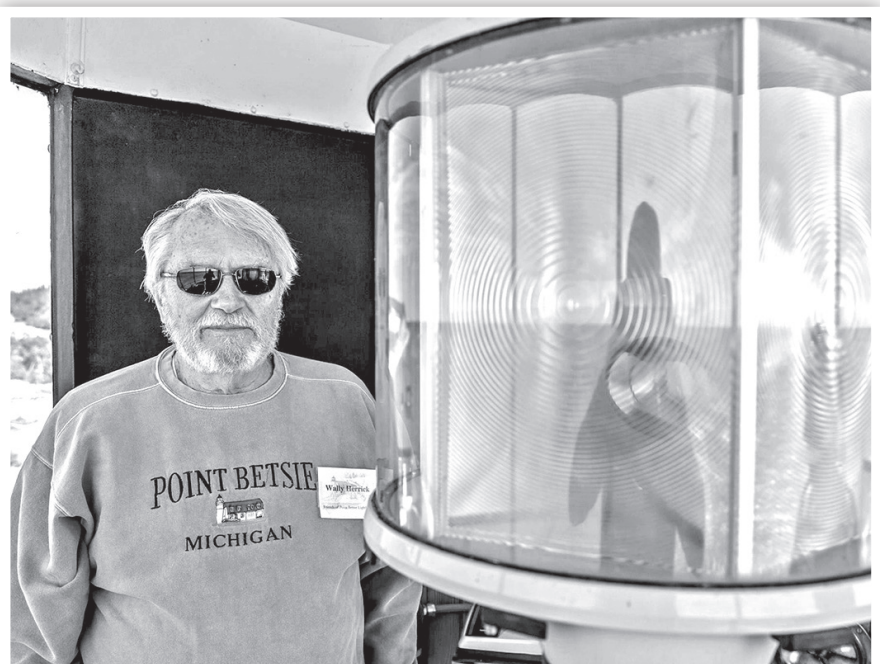
The Gift Shop provided many treasures and mementos for sale.



Docents like to use the map of Lake Michigan for visitors unfamiliar with the area.



Young visitors in nautical garb enjoyed visiting the tower in June.



Walley Herrick educated the public on the lighthouse tower.

DONOR INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER MAILING BY EMAIL

Email newsletters are being sent to a group of about 100 members in order to evaluate this method of distribution. For those receiving these newsletters by e-mail a facsimile of the information part of the donor envelope is provided in a separate attachment. When returning a donation by check and mail please print this section, fill it in, and send it to Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, Inc.; PO Box 601; Frankfort, MI 49635. Everyone receiving a newsletter either by regular mail or e-mail can optionally submit a donation by credit card through our website, www.pointbetsie.org.

The Friends of
Point Betsie
LIGHTHOUSE, Inc.

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Celebrating
15 YEARS OF
“Friends”



*Above: “Phil Deloria and Friends”
provided up-beat music for the event.*

Left: Local friends attended our “Birthday Party.”

*Right: Docents welcomed folks in for free tours of
the lighthouse.*