

# The Friends of Point Betsie

# LIGHTHOUSE Beacon



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[www.pointbetsie.org](http://www.pointbetsie.org)

Spring 2017

## BOARD

Nancy Weir  
*President*

Dick Taylor  
*Vice President*

Lesa Huget  
*Secretary*

Chuck Clarke  
*Treasurer*

Peggy Burns

Bill Herd

Steve Loveless

Judy McQuilkin

Susan Wenzlick

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Amy Ferris

Jon Hawley

Jim Radabaugh

## 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

Spring is in the air in Benzie County and that means Point Betsie Lighthouse will be open soon! The staff and Board are already busy making plans and getting the grounds and buildings ready for the 2017 season. We are all looking forward to our opening on Memorial Day weekend and hope to see many of you visiting during the season.

This past winter, four of our long-term board members retired: Jim Radabaugh, Roger Dewey, Kathy Fishburn and Dave Jahr. Together they represent more than 35 years of service to Point Betsie! While they reached their eligibility to serve on the board, they will all be helping with committee work that they have been so instrumental in starting. We deeply appreciate all they have contributed to Point Betsie over the years.



Kathy Fishburn, Roger Dewey,  
Jim Radabaugh, and Dave Jahr

We have four new board members who have joined us over the course of the past year. Dick Taylor has been working on our strategic plan and helping with our fundraising, endowment and marketing issues. He is currently serving as our vice president. Lesa Huget has been involved with our fundraiser, our hiring committee, and is currently serving as secretary. Susan Wenzlick has been moving us forward in the social media and website world and we are learning a lot from her. Steve Loveless is using his talent and his camera in recording all the events at Point Betsie. We welcome them aboard and appreciate all the talent that they bring to our board.

At this writing, Board members are busy with moving our Road End project forward, hiring new staff and planning our summer event which will be held on Tuesday, August 1. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, give us a call and we will be in touch.

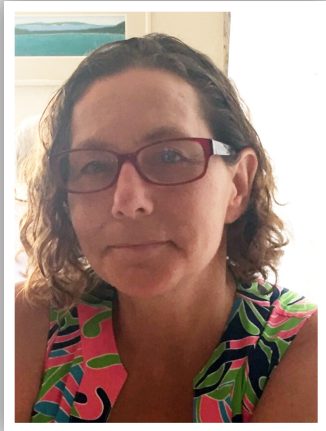
There are always needs for lighthouse guides, gift shop personnel and event planners. Call us at (231) 352-7644 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

- Nancy Weir, *President*

SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Point Betsie Lighthouse Event

## FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN THE RANKS

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*Lesa Huget*

Lesa is former investigative reporter whose work appeared in dozens of newspapers and publications. For two decades she also worked as a freelance writing coach and as a speechwriter for the Ford Motor Company executive team. A self-proclaimed “serial volunteer,” Lesa has served on numerous non-profit Boards. She has a special interest in communications, marketing, public relations, fund development, and event planning. Lesa was introduced to Point Betsie in the late 70s by her husband Mike, who spent his childhood summers on the south shore of Crystal Lake. Lesa and Mike, an attorney, now divide their time between Ann Arbor and their home on the north shore of Crystal Lake. They have two grown daughters, Hailey and Hannah.

Steve is a native of Northwest Michigan, born and raised in Traverse City. He graduated from Northern Michigan University with a BFA in Cinematography. He works primarily as a landscape photographer but has done some commercial photography as well. He and his wife, Ann, own a small gallery and custom frameshop in Benzie County in downtown Beulah. They live just outside of Frankfort on Crystal Lake.



*Steve Loveless*



*Susan Wenzlick*

Susan is a writer for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and a grant writer for arts and humanities nonprofits. She is a volunteer grant reviewer for the Michigan Council on Arts and Cultural Affairs, an editor for the Michigan Museums Association, and manages social media for Point Betsie. She blogs about community at [www.ordinaryvirtues.com](http://www.ordinaryvirtues.com). Susan’s son Reidar will graduate from MSU in May. She lives in the Cadillac area with a pit bull and a dachshund.

Dick was raised in Bloomfield Hills, MI, went to Cranbrook School, and then graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1980. He moved to Chicago, and was a trader on the floors of the Chicago Board Options Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade for about twenty years. He has since traded off-floor, and has been involved in angel financing and private placements for 15-20 companies. His family vacationed for many years at Watervale on Herring Lake, and they built a cottage there in 1971. Dick and his wife Melanie moved there permanently in 2011, and have been pleased with that decision ever since. They have two adult children, and their daughter was married at Watervale this past September. Dick enjoys spending time in the out-of-doors and especially fishing and hunting. He is honored to have been asked to serve on the Friends of PB Board.



*Dick Taylor*

## ASK A HISTORIAN....

Do you have a question about Point Betsie for which you have not been able to find an answer? The Point Betsie staff and History Committee are eager to help you. We suggest you email your question to [pointbetsie@gmail.com](mailto:pointbetsie@gmail.com). If the staff cannot point you to an answer, they will pass your query on to the History Committee and we will look into the issue. Of course, not every question has a knowable answer but you will be surprised at how much information is available.

Today's question – I was asked last season, perhaps lightheartedly, why they made the hatch openings in the tower so small. Actually there is a very good reason why the hatch covers and openings were designed to be on the small side. From the time the tower was built until the mid 1920's, the light was produced by an open flame. Lighthouse towers were designed to not only raise the height of the light but also to facilitate the steady combustion of the flame inside the lens. The tower was designed with a chimney above the lens for the hot air and gases to escape and with adjustable vents on the wall to supply just the right amount of replacement air even on the windiest nights. A sudden gust of wind from opening the door at the base of the tower would make the flame flicker, creating soot on the inside of the lamp's chimney, and could damage the trim of the wick(s), reducing the brightness of the lamp. To limit these wind gusts, partitions were added with a hatch cover that was kept closed whenever the lamp was burning.

In most lighthouses there are two partitions which create a room just below the lantern room which was usually called the watch room. Both hatch covers would never be open at the same time, preventing any big gust from reaching the lantern room. Any time the keeper would go up or down the tower after the lamp was lit, he/she would have to lift the hatch cover and lock it in place or balance it while moving through the opening. Often the keeper was carrying oil or cleaning supplies with no handy place to set them down while opening the hatch. The partitions were made of steel so they would last for many years. Keeping the opening small reduced the amount of air movement and, equally important, the weight of the hatch cover the keeper needed to lift and balance each time.

Perhaps as we negotiate one of these small openings when we climb the Point Betsie tower, it will remind us of the attention to details the keeper and the Lighthouse Service took not just to keep their lamps burning from dusk to dawn but to keep them burning as brightly as possible.

- Bill Herd, *Historian*

## ASSISTANT KEEPER'S RENTAL APARTMENT

Short term and weekly rentals are still available.

Visit our website, [www.PointBetsie.org](http://www.PointBetsie.org),  
for pictures and details.

Here are a few quotes taken from  
the guest book in the apartment this past season.



*Ahh... what a time we had. Add this to our list of happy places!!!*

*I think there is nowhere on earth more peaceful, rejuvenating, or magical than the Michigan shoreline. Staying here, I can almost imagine being part of the early lighthouse keeper's family. I'd choose to stay here forever if I could.*

*Last night on the beach we had an eagle feeding to our left, the lighthouse to our right, a rainbow at our back, and the sun setting into the lake in front of us. What a show!!! Can it get any better than that?*



## ROAD END/ PARKING PROJECT

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We're making excellent progress on the Point Betsie Road End and Parking Project. We met several times over last fall and winter with Benzie County Parks & Recreation Commission and Road Commission representatives and finalized a conceptual plan. We hired an Engineering firm, Beckett-Raeder, Inc., who had been working on the designs since 2002 to make refinements to the 2011 approved plan. It was presented by Parks & Rec at a Public Hearing in December. We also presented the plan to Lake Township at their December meeting.

The Friends prepared a grant application to the Natural Resources Trust Fund which was approved by Parks & Rec and Benzie County and submitted at the end of March. The request is for \$300,000 with a \$300,000 match. We believe we have an excellent package and are very competitive for a grant from the Trust Fund. Their grants are not awarded until late November.

The preliminary cost estimate for the project is in excess of \$700,000. The Friends are planning on applying for two additional grants through Benzie County and are hoping to partner with other agencies

in reaching the funds needed to supplement any grants received for the project costs. The Road Commission is also looking at restoring the remainder of Point Betsie Road. In the interim, the Friends are focusing on raising \$200,000 this year toward the project. We already have a substantial amount set aside along with our grant opportunities, but 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 it is close to being 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 at the end of Point Betsie Road.

- Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

## DONOR INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER MAILING BY EMAIL

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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](http://www.pointbetsie.org).

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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Find information about Point Betsie Lighthouse quickly on our easy-to-navigate web page, [www.pointbetsie.org](http://www.pointbetsie.org), or our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pointbetsielighthouse](https://www.facebook.com/pointbetsielighthouse). You'll see our hours, contact information, history, things to do and see, and lots of great Point Betsie photos. Follow us on Facebook and you'll get three or four photos a week, including a historic photo and story each Thursday, in your newsfeed.



## ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

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Carol & Robert Henderson	Ellen & Dave Petrick	

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### In Honor of...

Bonnie & Greg Kistler .....	Linda & Ted Hansen
Harold & Marsha Case.....	Charlotte Putney
Jim Radabaugh.....	Ruth Ann & Jim Millikan
Jim Ryan's birthday .....	Dori Turner
Jodi & Doug Blair.....	Linda & Ted Hansen
Pete & Nancy Weir.....	Suzanne Voltz
Suzy Voltz.....	Betsy & Carl Anderson

# The Friends of Point Betsie LIGHTHOUSE, Inc.

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Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse Beacon

SPRING 2017

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### *In Memory of...*

Bill & Libby MacGreevy .....	Rep. Annie Kuether
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