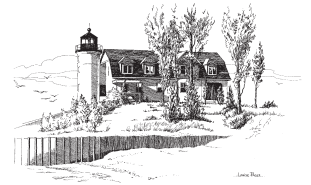


The Friends of Point Betsie

LIGHTHOUSE

Beacon



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FALL 2015

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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

The Friends had another great season this year at Point Betsie. I would like to extend our warmest gratitude to all the staff, volunteers, members, and others that helped make the 2015 year a success. We are fortunate to have your support.

2015 marked a big step forward for our organization. During the past two years we experimented with using college interns to help supplement our volunteer staff. This year we expanded our efforts by hiring a manager and 5 other paid employees. This larger staff made it possible for us to expand our operations to as many as 6 days a week in the peak season. The response was enthusiastic, with over 8000 paid visitors during the course of the season, a substantial increase over last year.

We were very fortunate to have our new manager, Mara MacKay, join the Friends' team. She comes to us with a depth of experience in historical interpretation and educational programming. We are looking forward to developing joint programs with the local schools to extend our outreach into the community and to recruit a new generation of Point Betsie supporters among our local youth.

Based on the success of the new museum exhibit in the Boathouse these past two seasons, we are hard at work planning improvements to the visitor experience in the Lighthouse, as well as contemplating additional uses for the Fog Signal Building. More to come in 2016.

Thank you to all who participated in our Time Capsule Program to promote the Beacon Endowment for Point Betsie Lighthouse. This program resonated with our supporters because of rich family memories surrounding the Point Betsie experience. The purpose of the Endowment is to protect the investment we all have in preserving Point Betsie for future generations. We still have a way to go to achieve our goal, but we are very grateful to all those who have helped us bring the Endowment to reality.

Have a great winter, and see you next year.

- Jim Radabaugh, *President*



Photo by Julie Pray

BONNIE WARREN

Many persons supportive of Point Betsie Lighthouse knew Bonnie Warren, a longtime member of the Friends board, who succumbed to cancer this past spring after a courageous battle.

Bonnie was a person who did not want to miss any opportunity to serve, and no one appreciated that characteristic as clearly as I did during my time as a founding board member and its president. I recall the weeks when, with minimal financial resources, several of us framed the photographs which yet hang within the lighthouse to help visitors understand our history. Bonnie had a key part in that activity, as she also did in another early interpretive mission, the production of two large bas reliefs which depict the lighthouse in its original form and the adjacent Point Betsie US Life-Saving Service station.

When we had the opportunity to obtain the beautiful Coast Guard lighthouse tender which now is the heart of our museum in the new Jim and Molly Rogers building, Bonnie was quick to volunteer. She not only worked many hours on the boat's restoration, but also served as the scheduler of our crew members' individual participation.

Through the years, Bonnie made certain that Michigan's Welcome Centers were supplied with cards informing potential visitors of our hours, etc., and she assisted me in various leadership tasks even while she was also committed to other wonderful local projects, such as the development of the Betsie Valley Trail, the rehabilitation of the Garden Theater, and Frankfort's Tree City initiative.

Point Betsie Light Station was a vital place of service, and we remember Bonnie Warren among its faithful supporters.

- Jon Hawley



Photo By Andrea Frost, "foreman" of the lighthouse tender restoration crew.

PLEASE NOTE ...

For those donors who wish to contribute to the Friends for operational, membership or general purposes and also to the endowment, we respectfully request that you do so in separate checks. The general purpose check should be made out to the Friends of Point Betsie and sent to our PO Box 601 in Frankfort. Any checks designated for the Endowment Fund should be made out to Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation and sent to 250 E Front Street, STE. 310; Traverse City, MI 49684. Of course, you can also send those checks to us and we will pass them along to GTRCF.

- Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

INTRODUCING MARA MACKAY

For the last several years, Point Betsie has been moving toward longer hours of operation which has been made possible, in part, by hiring staff to help work in the gift shop and to serve as docents, and to augment our loyal and dedicated volunteer staff. For the first time this summer we hired a full-time, on-site manager, Mara MacKay.

Mara brings a rich, varied background of experience to the job as a seasoned community organizer, award-winning author, and cultural tourism specialist. Her combined nonprofit and heritage tourism experience makes her a good fit at Point Betsie Lighthouse. She credits an early love of history and art to her grandparents, who shared their passion for both of those by founding the Art of the Lakes Gallery in Battle Lake, Minnesota, her home state.

Mara is excited to be a new resident of Beulah where she lives with her two teenagers, Saige and Aiden. She

hopes, with their help, to involve more young people as Point Betsie volunteers in the future.



Mara MacKay

AN IMPORTANT ARTIFACT

In visiting the exhibit room in the Rogers Boathouse, you may have noticed a remarkable set of oars mounted above the doors on the west wall.

We are grateful to be able to display these impressively long and heavy oars, which were made for use by life-savers whose duty required them to row a large surfboat. They are particularly distinctive because they bear identification marks of both the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Thus, both before and after the modern Coast Guard's establishment in 1915, Point Betsie's surfmen likely pulled them in drills and actual rescue operations.

The Coast Guard's guidance to its station captains who trained their boat crews were characteristically explicit: "A good oarsman in a well drilled crew sits erect on his thwart, feet together on his stretcher, hands together on handle, with backs of hands up, oar level with rail, blade trimmed with blade of stroke oar."

"At 'Give way together,' the first motion is to lean well forward, keep back straight, shove both arms out perfectly straight in front, point blade forward and down, and turn it so that as it is about to enter the

water. The flat part of the blade is perpendicular. The second motion: With feet on stretcher, eyes looking straight aft (not watching blade), keep arms perfectly rigid, and lean back beyond the vertical. Always lay back on your oar and pull it through the water. Do not attempt to pull with arms alone, but always bring the muscles of the back into play. The third motion is known as the 'recovery'. When leaning back beyond the vertical, by bending the arms quickly, the blade is pulled through the water and a sudden force is applied to the oar; this is the most efficient part of the stroke. The oar is withdrawn from the water, and the wrists are dropped until the blade is parallel to the water. Take the next stroke without stopping."

Of course, among some more general rules, is the following instruction: "Paddling and slouchiness in a station boat shall not be permitted."

You might want to keep these pointers in mind when you're out for a row next summer, or come to see these formidable "tools of the trade" in Point Betsie's unique boathouse.

- Jon Hawley

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Bonnie Warren.....	Mary & Jon Armstrong Mary & Preston Dilts
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