

Photo By: Aaron C. Jors

**A Letter from Board President Nancy Weir:**

The falling leaves and crisp air are sure signs that Point Betsie Light Station has completed another season. Most days were record breakers in terms of visitors and gift shop sales. We thank our many volunteers and our great staff – Maryellen, Ruth, Denise, Matt and Leo – for making this summer season a memorable experience for our visitors. We could not have done it without your dedication and commitment.

We are currently completing a documentary film about the life-saving legacy at Point Betsie. This is being produced by local film talents Liv and Sam Buzzell and will feature our own Jon Hawley and Bill Herd. This work is made possible through a generous donation from Point Betsie friends Joe and Beth Fitzsimmons. We will begin using this film for training, marketing, and educational purposes during the 2019 season.

The Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, the nonprofit organization that oversees lighthouse operations, is kicking off a \$1,000,000 capital campaign. Point Betsie Road is crumbling, parking is challenging, and access to the beach from the road end is impossible for visitors with disabilities. Our water barrier, installed in the early 1940s, needs maintenance so it can continue to protect our shoreline and the lighthouse from erosion. We expect this to be our last capital campaign for many years and hope you'll contribute to this important project. With your help, we will begin these projects in the near future.

Thank you all for being loyal visitors and supporters of Point Betsie.

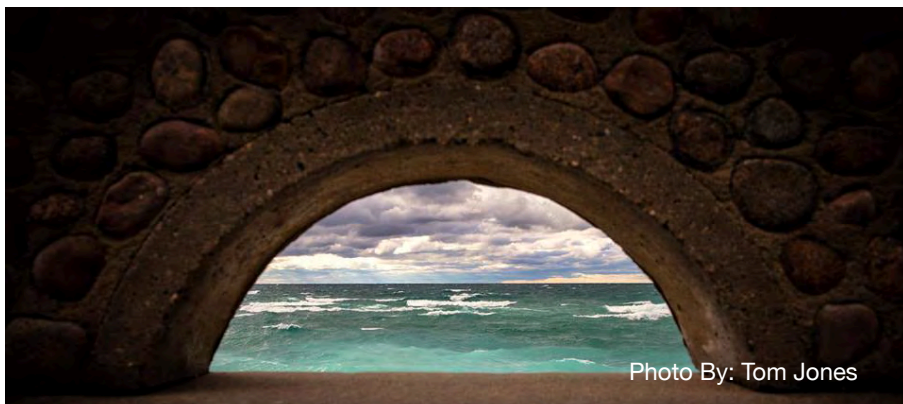


Photo By: Tom Jones

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.*

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**The Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse**

3701 Point Betsie Road | P.O. Box 601  
Frankfort, Michigan 49635  
(231) 352-7644 | [www.pointbetsie.org](http://www.pointbetsie.org)



## Our 2018 Season in Review

### Facility and grounds

The restoration of the four historic buildings on the Point Betsie Light Station began in 2006. Like any buildings, however, they require regular upkeep to maintain their historic character. The Friends are responsible for that task.

This year we completed a number of restoration projects. The lighthouse and wooden storage building have cedar shake roofs, which typically weather and fade after about five years. The roofs of both buildings were cleaned and freshly painted red this past spring. The lean-to kitchen off the Assistant Keeper's Quarters and the vestibule for the handicap lift also have wooden shake exteriors. After being power-washed, these two extensions of the building were down to bare wood so they were given a fresh coat of white paint. The decaying trim on the second story windows were replaced. Friends Board member Brad Steffens repainted some of the bricks. The lighthouse looked great as we began our 2018 season!



This fall we are repairing the brick at the base of the Fog Signal Building using a masonry process that includes a new concrete coating, followed by a coat of white paint.

Next spring we plan to paint the lighthouse's brick and wood trim, as well as the siding on the wooden storage building and the oil storage building. The exterior door to the tower is also rotting and must be replaced.

Mihm Enterprises, the firm that did our original restoration, performed much of the contracted work for us this summer.

To maintain the beautiful area that surrounds our lighthouse, we depended once again on our strong partnership with the Nature Conservancy. Their team of talented plant specialists worked alongside our volunteers throughout the summer to remove invasive species such as Baby's Breath and Knapweed, in order to encourage the growth and spread of valuable native dune plants such as Pitcher's Thistle. We deeply appreciate the work of the Conservancy, who since 1988 have been stewards of the Zetterberg Preserve that surrounds the lighthouse. To find out more about what they do, visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).



### Gift Shop and Keeper's Quarters

Our Gift Shop continues to grow. This year, Manager Kathy Fishburn commissioned local artist Ruth Forrest to create a coloring book featuring Benzie County landmarks. You can purchase the coloring books at the gift shop or order it through our website. Gift Shop proceeds are vital to helping us maintain Point Betsie as the national treasure it is!

The Keeper's Quarters apartment was rented almost every week of summer and during many of the weeks in the spring and fall to vacationers who want to experience life in the lighthouse. The Keeper's Quarters are in the eastern half of the lighthouse (the section that was added in 1895). The apartment sleeps up to six people, has a full kitchen and comfortable living room, and offers front-seat views of The Sleeping Bear Dunes, the North and South Manitou Islands, and breathtaking Lake Michigan Sunsets. We're already taking reservations for 2019, so if your summer vacation plans include a few days or a week at Point Betsie Lighthouse, you can make a reservation at [www.pointbetsie.org](http://www.pointbetsie.org), click on "Reserve," and then on "Keeper's Quarters." You can also email us for availability at [pointbetsie@gmail.com](mailto:pointbetsie@gmail.com), or call us at 231-352-7644 for help with a reservation.

*Continued on Page 4...*

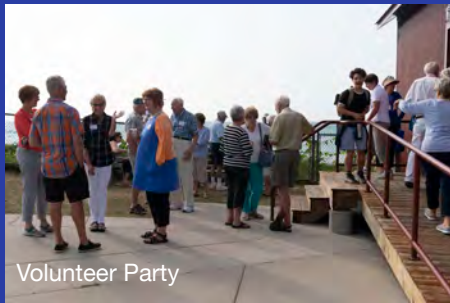
# Attention Photographers!

Point Betsie is often called the most photographed lighthouse in Michigan. Have you taken a favorite photo of the lighthouse? Are you an amateur or professional photographer interested in some competitive fun? This spring and summer we will host a juried photography competition that will culminate in an August 2019 exhibit of the best submissions. You will be able to find all the details in the spring newsletter or on our website. Until then, get out your cameras and start shooting! The only requirement: a portion of the lighthouse must be visible in your shot. Photographers of all ages are encouraged to participate.



Photo By: Melissa Watkins Clark

## 2018 Season in Photos...



Volunteer Party



Board Member Genie Wolfson



Service Dog, Betty



Volunteer Party



Inside the Lighthouse

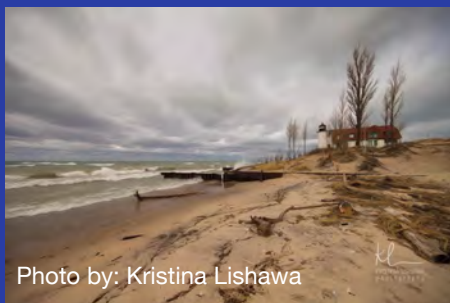


Photo by: Kristina Lishawa



Photo by: Neil Weaver

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Photo by: Mark Bowyer



Photo by: Selector Jonathan Photography

## Season in Review Continued...

### Exhibits and Programming

This year we acquired a rare Life Saving Service black powder box for our Boathouse exhibit. This type of box stored gunpowder for the Life Saving Service's Lyle Gun, a small cannon that could be wheeled to the beach. The Lyle Gun shot an 18-pound projectile with a light rope attached to it. When the projectile passed over a distressed boat, the rope fell onto the vessel. Rescue equipment could then be hauled out to sailors or passengers to help them safely reach shore. The copper box is a great addition to our lifesaving exhibit, which includes a Lyle Gun and an actual beach cart from the Point Betsie station!

We're currently working on updates to exhibit labels inside the lighthouse. The new labels will be more informative and easier to read. Look for these when you visit in 2019.

### Outreach

You've likely noticed that our newsletter now shows all the beautiful colors of Point Betsie! This is part of our ongoing attempt to improve communications with Point Betsie friends. We update our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pointbetsielighthouse](http://www.facebook.com/pointbetsielighthouse), at least three times a week with lighthouse news, beautiful photos of the lighthouse contributed by professional and hobby photographers, historic photos, and lighthouse stories. Website updates have been ongoing through the summer and will continue this fall. Visit [www.pointbetsie.org](http://www.pointbetsie.org) to check out what we've been up to.

### Finances

Point Betsie tour ticket and gift shop sales have increased steadily the last two years. We are so grateful for the support of visitors and donors, since this income helps keep the lighthouse open to the public and maintains this beautiful, historic place now and into the future. We're starting a \$1,000,000 capital campaign to pay for the last phase of improvements to the lighthouse and beach – new parking, access to the beach for people with disabilities, and repairs to the water barrier that protects the lighthouse from Lake Michigan's powerful waves. More information is coming soon. Stay tuned!

We'd like to hear what you think. What would you like to see more of at Point Betsie? What do you want to read about in the newsletter? Please drop us a note at [pointbetsielighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:pointbetsielighthouse@gmail.com).

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**Stewart E. H. Bates...** Carolyn Bates  
**Tim Marks...** Dominique King  
**Joan Weir Stradel...** Karen Crossen and Jeff May

## In Honor of...

**Amy Ferris...** Robert Ely  
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**Jim & Pam Radabaugh...** Dee & Eldon Miller and  
 Family.

**Jim Radabaugh...** Jerry Jehle  
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