

The Friends of Point Betsie

LIGHTHOUSE

Beacon



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Spring 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

2014 was a great year for the Friends of Point Betsie. 2015 is shaping up to be even better.

If you haven't seen the new Boathouse building at Point Betsie, you need to come out and visit. It blends in so well with the rest of the campus that people remark it looks like it has always been there. Besides housing a great new home for the Gift Shop and public restrooms, the building now has a professionally designed Exhibit Room, with a full complement of displays and artifacts to appeal to lighthouse enthusiasts of all ages. The response from visitors last season was very enthusiastic.

An important, but perhaps subtle change this year, is the addition of several paid employees to the staff. The Friends will always appreciate and depend upon the support of our dedicated volunteers in the Lighthouse and Gift Shop. These new employees will allow us to extend our operations in peak season to 6 days. It has always been amazing in past seasons how many people linger near the gate, even on days we are closed. Expanded operations at the Lighthouse will allow us to make the Point Betsie experience available to more visitors all summer long.

Over the years, we have been blessed with an extraordinarily passionate group of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and care of Point Betsie. We have come to the point in the development of our organization where we need the continuity of full time management to

properly coordinate all the activities of the Friends. This season we are very pleased to announce the hiring of our first manager, Mara MacKay. Mara comes to us with an impressive background. She is an educational author and heritage tourism specialist with a passion for arts, culture and history. We are excited that the talents and ideas she brings to the Friends will help us reach a broader audience at the Lighthouse. Please introduce yourselves to Mara when you get a chance.

This year we will wrap up our Beacon Endowment Fund Campaign, capped off by the conclusion of our Time Capsule Program and the sealing of the capsules on Tuesday, August 4. This campaign seeks to ensure that all the work done over the past 12 years at Point Betsie is preserved in perpetuity. Many thanks to those who have already helped us grow the fund. We still have a way to go to reach our \$ 1 million goal, so if you have not yet had a chance to donate or make a pledge, please help us match these early pace-setting gifts.

Thank you very much for your generous support and for all you do for Point Betsie. We hope to see you there this summer.

- Jim Radabaugh, *President*

BOATHOUSE ACHIEVES LEED GOLD STATUS

In February, the Friends were notified that the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification to the new Point Betsie Boathouse. The USGBC letter states in part, "LEED certification identifies Point Betsie Boathouse as a showcase example of sustainable design and demonstrates your leadership in transforming the building industry."

Boathouse features include: a geothermal heating and air conditioning system with year-round temperature and humidity control necessary to preserve sensitive historical artifacts; an outside-air heat exchanger; widespread use of low-energy LED lighting; low-water-usage fixtures in ADA-accessible public restrooms; and energy efficient spray foam insulation throughout, as well as other low-maintenance construction features. The Boathouse is thoroughly modern, yet its exterior appearance still effectively complements the historic buildings of the Light Station.

NEW EMPLOYEES

As mentioned in the President's Message, Mara MacKay joins the Friends as our first Manager. She will oversee the daily functioning of activities at the Light Station, participate in and supervise tours, and specifically delve into expanding educational programs among other roles.

Also welcome Laura Stanwick, Cari Howard and Maryellen Paull. Laura brings her congenial personality to the Gift Shop where she will work part-time. Cari brings an accounting background and will serve in a number of capacities including alternating in the Gift Shop as a tour guide, and assisting in the accounting function. Maryellen comes from eight years at the Park Service in Empire and has a passion for history and education. She will be in the Lighthouse as a tour guide.

- Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation funded the LEED efforts by a grant restricted to that purpose. Construction and LEED certification of the Boathouse required major design work by our architect, Quinn Evans Architects of Ann Arbor, and herculean efforts from all of our contractors, led by Grand Traverse Construction, over one of the most brutal winters on record.

A plaque to commemorate LEED Gold status (the second highest level) will be mounted in the Boathouse foyer this summer. The Friends should be extremely proud to have built the third LEED certified building in Benzie County and the first to be county-owned.

-Roger Dewey, *Construction Chair*

HONORING POINT BETSIE WOMEN



Susan Hawley Thomson holds her quilt honoring the women of Point Betsie.

In recognition of women who have lived at the light station throughout its long and illustrious history, Susan Hawley Thomson has created this beautiful quilt for use in the lighthouse's rental apartment. Titled "Remember the Ladies," her quilt contains the names of many of the women who resided at Point Betsie and honors all of the women who lived at the light station through the years.

The Friends hope Susan's work will inspire others to help identify the spouses of our lightkeepers during their Coast Guard service at the Point. This will enable us to appropriately commemorate their vital place in our history .

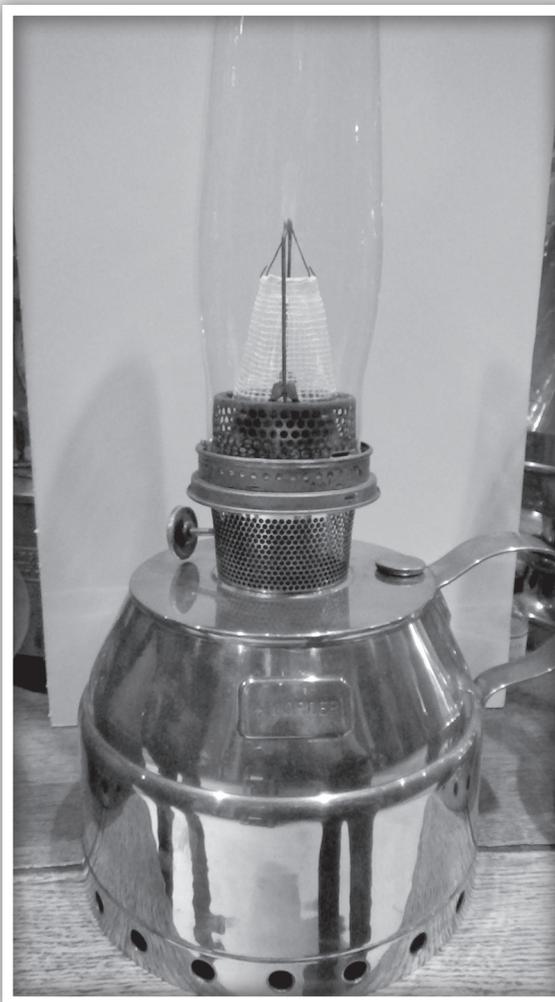
MISSING ITEM ACQUIRED FOR POINT BESTIE

An important item essential to the operation of the lighthouse has been missing from Point Betsie. This is not surprising as this particular item is absent from almost every lighthouse museum I have had the opportunity to visit or read about.

Here at Point Betsie we are fortunate to have many of the historic structures and items indispensable to the operation of the lighthouse. We have the tower, with its spiral staircase, and the lantern room. We have the keepers dwelling, the fog signal building, and a vintage storage shed. In addition we are fortunate to have the fourth order Fresnel lens on loan from the U.S. Coast Guard.

We also have on loan a variety of brass oil cans, funnels and measuring vessels which the keeper used to transport and fill the lamp. But the one item that was missing, and the one item that is missing from most lighthouse museums, is the lamp used inside the Fresnel lens. The very lamp which provided the light is the most crucial element for a lighthouse.

At a board meeting last fall, it was reported that after completing the new boathouse and its exhibits there was still a little bit of money remaining in that project fund. The question was asked if there was a particular item that the Friends of Point Betsie should acquire. Without hesitation, I responded that we should try to acquire an historic lamp like the one that was used inside our fourth order lens. There is a reason that few lighthouses have this type of specialized lamp. They are very rare and the museums and collectors who have one treasure it and are not willing to let it go. But so much of the daily operation of the lighthouse focused on the maintenance, cleaning, filling, adjusting and



Fully restored incandescent oil vapor lamp acquired for Point Betsie.

monitoring the lamp that it is vitally important to have one to show the public - especially to younger members of the public who have little familiarity with oil lamps.

After considerable searching we finally found a collector/restorer right here in Michigan that had two restored lamps of the exact type used at Point Betsie. They were manufactured by Funck and Heap around 1892 and were supplied to all lighthouses with fourth order lenses. One of the lamps was an older model which used a single wick to transport kerosene up to the flame. The lamp we acquired for Point Betsie is a later modification called an incandescent oil vapor lamp (IOV). It is complete, fully restored and in working condition. Like a modern Coleman camping lantern, this IOV lamp sends vaporized kerosene to a cloth mantle.

Just as a Coleman lantern is much brighter than a single wick kerosene lamp, the incandescent oil vapor lamp was several times brighter than the older model. The board chose to purchase this newer model because it shows the changing technology that the U.S. Lighthouse Service used to get the brightest lights.

Our new incandescent oil vapor lamp is an important addition to our collection and it will help folks, both young and old to better understand the work of the lighthouse keeper and his family, and the technical support they received from lighting experts. Eventually the new lamp will be exhibited in the room with the Fresnel lens along with the other oil cans and measuring vessels used by the keeper in maintaining the lamp.

- Bill Herd, *Historian*

IT WAS JUST ONE NIGHT'S AND A DAY'S WORK

On an early May night in 1884, Surfman Leonard Rohr left the Point Betsie Life-Saving Station right after midnight to perform the routine four-hour south patrol. The weather was dark and hazy, looking like a storm might be coming. Having hiked only about a quarter of a mile down the beach, Rohr suddenly thought he saw a light from the water directly abreast of him, but then he was quickly enveloped in a sudden snow squall.

He groped his way a bit further, his eyes searching for the light, but was startled by something coming close to the beach right in front of him, its sails flapping. He called out, and a man jumped off the boat's bow and sloshed to the shore. The man was so cold and wet that he needed assistance, so Rohr helped him to the station where he was given dry clothing and warm drinks. Frank Smith was the captain of a small schooner, the *Hope*, operating out of Grand Haven but that night he was sailing to Milwaukee with a load of scrap iron and rags. Fortified, Smith then returned to his vessel to secure its sails and rigging for the rest of the stormy night.

First thing in the morning, Surfman Ralph Heater hiked to Frankfort to alert the operators of a tug to be on hand as soon as the sea subsided. The tug *Hall* arrived on the scene after dinner. The Point Betsie life-savers, under the command of Keeper Thomas E. Matthews, ran all the lines and hawsers to the tug and unloaded the cargo of about five tons of rags and iron. After about four hours, the crew had the vessel afloat. Matthews and Surfman Andrew Larson went to Frankfort with the schooner to retrieve the station's lines.

Thus reported Keeper Matthews in his May 2, 1884 log, his crew having saved the 14-ton *Hope* from destruction. It was just one of many such rescues through six decades by Point Betsie's life-saving crews... not dramatic, yet essential to sailors earning their living on Lake Michigan's frequently perilous waters.

- Jon Hawley

FINANCIAL STATUS

It is with a great sense of responsibility that the Friends have handled and spent the funds entrusted to us by our many donors since we were formed in 2002. In our initial years, the emphasis was on collecting sufficient amounts to match grants that provided for the restoration of the historic buildings and other improvements on the Light Station. Later it included the anonymous donation for the funding of the new Boathouse building. In the future, there will be the need to match grants for the Road End/Parking and Water Barrier capital projects. Maintaining the buildings and supporting the operations where Point Betsie is open to the public has generally been supported by revenue earned through the Gift Shop, tours, and the Apartment rental. Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation has assisted us by initially providing the account where grant match funds were sent (reverted to the Friends in 2013) and providing an Endowment Fund for the long term support of Point Betsie.

The Friends are very conscientious about the proper spending of all of its funds. The Board approves all expenses, monthly reports are provided where checks and balances occur, and for the past two years we have asked for, and received, audits in order to verify that our funds are spent properly as well as to refine and improve our financial management procedures. The Auditors confirmed that our funds are appropriately accounted for and our expenses are made in a proper manner.

The bottom line is that the Friends' finances are in excellent shape, the accounts have sufficient balances and reserves, and the better news is that our financial assets are growing in preparation for Point Betsie's future.

- Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

 MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of...

Adele McLaren.....	Dorothea & David Jeggle Dee & Eldon Miller and family Ruth Ann & Jim Millikan Elsa & Andrew Verrill
Asa H. Case, Sr.	Elisabeth Case
Barb's parents John D Ball & Sue A Mann.....	Barbara & Brian Seretsky
Bill & Libby MacGreevy.....	Rep. Annie Kuether
Blanch & Earl Rogers.....	Mary T. & James R. Rogers
Bridget & Harrison Miller.....	Linda & Ted Hansen
Cecil Pryor	Jan, Melissa, Cecilia Pryor
David & Nancy DeVries	Annie & Mike DeVries
David B. Love	Ruthanne & Bruce Love
Harold Armstrong.....	Dr & Mrs James Albright The Dean Davis Family Sandy Downie Barbara Hack Lorie & Mike Krieger Dee & Eldon Miller and family Phil, Sarah & Ellen Torrens Marsha & Harold Case Pierce Chamberlain Gwen Rogers Ruth L. Potter Suzanne M. Hilgendorf Josephine Vaughan Lucie Keating Barbara & Rudy Macander Diane Young-Sptizer & A.L. Spitzer Martha L. & David V. Frank Gull Lake Friends Virginia & Vernon Potts Charles Parkinson Thomas Armstrong Marianne Samper Steve Walton James R. Turner Martha & Nelson Rodes
Helen Anderson Herman.....	
Herb & Betty Carter.....	
Hugh Rogers	
John & Jo Lukens.....	
John A. Heald.....	
Julie Vaughan & Laura V. Shockley	
Lee Keating.....	
Lucy Dobbins.....	
Lyman Spitzer.....	
Margaret S. Lacy	
Marian Hartsuff.....	
Mr & Mrs Russell J. Potts.....	
Ray Kimpel.....	
Richard W & Harold R Armstrong.....	
Robert Samper	
Robert Walton.....	
Sally Freeburg.....	
Ted and Mary Ann Lauder	

 "IN HONOR OF" CONTRIBUTIONS

In Honor of...

Charles R. Parkinson.....	Edith & Thomas Bletcher
Dee Miller.....	Connie & Irv Zitlow
Jon & Peggy Hawley.....	Helen & Roger Dewey
Kathy Fishburn.....	Edie & Bob Molumby
Pete Weir's Birthday.....	Joan Stradal
Sandee Greene	Mary & Bob Scholl

A complete list of annual donors will appear in the fall newsletter.

BEACON ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN *Time Capsule Program*

We had another exciting year at Point Betsie in 2014, with the dedication of the Boathouse and completion of the new Exhibit Room. The response from the visiting public has been enthusiastic. 2015 is lining up to be another great year. Thank you very much for your continued support of the Friends.

We are proud of all we have accomplished together over the years. Now is the time to make sure the progress at Point Betsie is secured for the long term. We will wrap up our Beacon Endowment Fund Campaign this year. With the help of some generous donations, we are half way to our goal of \$1 million.

Our challenge to you is to help us match these pacesetting gifts. You can do this by making a cash donation, by pledging a donation over a period of years, or by remembering Point Betsie in your estate.

Last year we announced our Time Capsule Program as a way to promote the Endowment. This is an opportunity to pass along memories and stories for future generations. We offered the opportunity to leave a “message in a bottle” along with a small



Time Capsule bottle

personal memento. We also offered the opportunity to write a full page note, perhaps including a photo, explaining what Point Betsie has meant to your family.

In an effort to make this program available to as many Point Betsie supporters as possible, we are broadening the appeal. This year we are offering those donors who pledge a minimum of \$500 over five years the opportunity to participate. Space is limited. We’ve enclosed a pledge form, or you can pick one up at the Gift Shop. Bottles can be picked up and dropped off at the Gift Shop as well. Give early and make sure you reserve your spot in the time capsule.

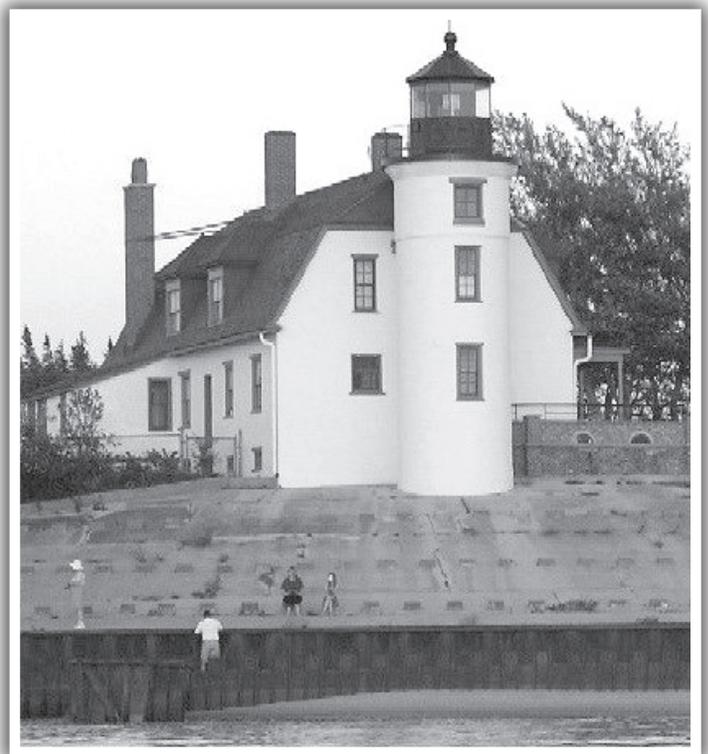
We wrap up the Time Capsule Program and Beacon Endowment Campaign this summer with a closing ceremony on Tuesday, August 4. At that time the Time Capsule will be sealed, to be opened upon the occasion of Point Betsie’s 200th anniversary in 2058, some 44 years from now.

Please help us meet our goal for the Beacon Fund, and ensure the light shines on forever!

POINT BETSIE JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA

The Point Betsie Lighthouse has a new presence in social media! Pinterest, with its focus on visual images, was the natural place to start. Our profile at www.Pinterest.com/ptbetsiefriends features great photos of our beautiful lighthouse, weddings and events, historic photos, views of our rental apartment, Point Betsie art, our restorations in 2006 and 2008, and more. You can follow us on Pinterest and you’ll be notified when new photos are pinned to our boards.

We also have a Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/pointbetsie.lighthouse. We’ll post news about our hours, opening day, booking the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper’s apartment, and events at the lighthouse. We are incredibly grateful to have many friends already, from Iceland to Chile and Alaska to Italy! Please “friend” us on Facebook to keep up with our news, events, and even more photos.





Where a donor's wish lives... Forever

Beacon Endowment for Point Betsie Lighthouse

Endowment Giving enhances an annual grant available to benefit the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse while also ensuring that support for the Lighthouse is available for generations to come.

If you wish to support the Point Betsie Lighthouse through endowment giving, your gift is made to the Community Foundation for the benefit of the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse. This can be done with a gift to the Beacon Endowment for Point Betsie Lighthouse. You may also consider a gift to the Community Foundation to establish a new Named Fund that would honor you and your family while still benefiting Point Betsie.

Current Use Giving supports meeting current needs of the Point Betsie Lighthouse and your gift is available to be used in its entirety at the time it is made.

If you wish to support only the current needs of the Point Betsie Lighthouse, your gift is made to the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse.



Beacon Endowment for Point Betsie Lighthouse

I would like to support Point Betsie with my gift to the Community Foundation for the Beacon Endowment for Point Betsie Lighthouse. *Community Foundation EIN: 38-3056434*

One Time Endowment Gift: \$ _____

Annual Pledge up to 5 years: \$ _____ x _____ years = \$ _____

I wish to remember Point Betsie in my estate plan, with a gift to the Community Foundation for the benefit of Point Betsie, in the amount of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/ZIP: _____

Summer Add: _____

Home Phone: _____ Summer Phone: _____

Email: _____

The Friends of
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Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse Beacon

SPRING 2015

Are you interested...

- ... in volunteering in the Lighthouse Gift Shop?*
- ... in volunteering in the Lighthouse as a Docent?*
- ... in renting the facilities for a small wedding?*
- ... in renting the Lighthouse Keeper's Apartment?*

Call (231) 352-7644 and leave a message.

ASSISTANT KEEPER'S
RENTAL APARTMENT

Short term and weekly rentals are still available.
Visit our website, www.PointBetsie.org,
for pictures and details.



Rental Apartment's Private Entrance