

South Fox Island Review



www.southfox.org

Bi-Annual Newsletter prepared by FILA - Fox Island Lighthouse Association PO Box 452 Northport, MI 49670 info@southfox.org



Winter 2009

From the President by John McKinney

Fox Island Light Station is special. We invite everyone to be part of our effort to save this priceless maritime heritage site. The property is state owned so we all own it and have responsibility for it. **The Fox Island Lighthouse Association (FILA)** has for five years been working to clear, repair, clean, recover and improve accessibility to the seven buildings on the 115 acre southern tip of land on South Fox. If you have an interest and some time or other resources which might help please contact me or any FILA member. For a really enlightening view of what has been done and what could be done go to the FILA website www.southfox.org or call me 231-947 1926 (my e-mail is mckinne8@msu.edu).



First trip to this island of '09

Pictured from left to right: Ken Scott, Sean Mauney, Dick Parker, Harold Carlton and John McKinney.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2009

FILA

ANNUAL POTLUCK

Saturday Dec. 12

5-8pm

Great Lakes Children's Museum

13240 S.W. Bay Shore Dr. Traverse City
MI

Please bring a dish to pass, and stories to tell!

We promise to have a few of our own. Also AVAILABLE: Ken Scott Photograph Prints from South Fox.

Cool South Fox hats and hoodies! Just in time for Christmas.



www.kenscottphotography.com

Please check out the beautiful pictures Ken Scott took during the first trip of '09.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kenscottphotography/>

Photos are for sale, proceeds to benefit FILA

A Visit to the Island

by Sandra Bradshaw

It was a late in July morning, haze hanging low over the water of Grand Traverse Bay. Gathered together were myself, my collie, Laddie, FILA webmaster Joerg Rothenberger and FILA captain George Carpenter. Eagerly joining us were first time visitors to the island Willy and Carole Lee and Marcia Billings. For weeks we had exchanged e-mails covering all the bases preparing for our five day island trip. No amount of haze would dampen our excitement.

Much work was accomplished, even in the rain, during the time we spent on the island. We are happy to welcome the Lee's and Marcia as new FILA members. They enjoyed their time on the island so much, and it's great to know, despite all the work there is, all three of them eagerly await their next trip! Our web site keeps track of FILA trips and other news. Be sure to keep checking back to it at www.southfox.org



8 Work Sessions = Big Results

FILA's boat, the Lightkeeper, captained by Phil von Voigtlander and George Carpenter made fifteen trips out to the island transporting workers and supplies. There were 8 work sessions with volunteers camping on the island for days at a time, starting early and ending each day tired and happy. On this page you can see the amazing results of Jerry Spears and Chris Young moving tons and tons of rocks around the boat house, for the first time in decades the path is finally clear! If you are interested in signing up for a 2010 work crew please contact Phil vonVoigtlander at: Philvon@chartermi.net, or join us at our annual meeting Dec. 12. in Traverse City.



Volunteer Bill Lee – Pitching in early on



SPECIAL THANKS

Please support our supporters!

List of island project in-kind contributors:

Bay Harbor Company, neighborly assistance with transportation
James Schiffer, civil engineer, advice on seawall
Northport Bay Boat Yard, hauling and winterizing Lightkeeper
Gull Island Marine, storage of Lightkeeper
Richard Parker, builder, advice and plans for boathouse project
Jerry Spears and Chris Young, excavators & landscapers
Harold Carlton, communications consultant and donor
Village of Northport, dockage

2009 Update

For the past four years, FILA volunteers have worked on the island through the summer to revive the station. Bit by bit progress is being made. Projects for the 2009 year included: re-roofing the Workshop using new hand cut cedar shingles consistent in type with the original shingles. Walkways were cleared of over fifty years of overgrowth. Tons of rocks were cleared around the boathouse, which was repaired over the previous years. See the results at www.southfox.org/gallery



Special thanks to volunteers!

FILA, on behalf of all of its Board and membership, would like to thank all who have contributed time, supplies and donations. A special thank you to the Leelanau State Park and Ranger Al Ammons for the Third Annual Fall Festival and Silent Auction to benefit the light station, along with a special thanks to the many merchants and individuals who have contributed gifts and volunteered their time.

FILA needs volunteers to help in 2010: Trim and paint the boathouse, Complete the boathouse frame repairs, Maintain the Light Station grounds, Clear brush under Light Tower, Paint the new trim on the Shop, Paint the Watch Deck metal trim. please contact Phil vonVoigtlander at:

Philvon@chartermi.net,

Much work is ahead in saving the South Fox Island Light Station. Please join us in this effort! Members, volunteers and funding are needed. Your tax deductible contributions may be sent to: Fox Island Lighthouse Association FILA, Attention Eric Thibo, Senior Relationship Manager, Fifth Third Bank, 120 N. St. Joseph Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682 Visit our web site at www.southfox.org for further information.

Historic Structures Report

Our Next Step...

There is a need for a historic structures report in order to move forward with stabilization of the 7 structures on the South Fox Station. Since 2007, the boat house and Carpenters shop have had the most attention, new roof, structural repairs, painting, clearing tonnage of rocks, etc. (see more on our 'gallery' link www.southfox.org) We would like to move forward with attention to the 1867 Lighthouse and the Assistant keepers building but we need to attain a Historic Structures Report. The Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) awarded \$19,166 to the Fox Island Lighthouse Association earlier this year to conduct an Historic Structures Report (HSR) and to re-roof the Workshop at the Light Station. FILA provided \$9,584 in matching funds and services for the grant. This grant pertains ONLY to the 1867 building. To do the entire station is estimated at \$30,000- we are \$10,000 short and are looking for donations to do a complete HSR so as we move forward it is with a 'full picture' perspective.

Looking Ahead.....

Please consider donating time, materials, or money to this worthy cause. The Light Station belongs to ALL the people of Michigan. It's up to us to take care of her. Thank you!

FUN FACT: Since 2007, In addition to the gear, tools and supplies for each team (~ 500lb/trip) :we have hauled:

- 2007 - 700lb OSB
 - 200lb 2x4
 - 500lb treated 2x4
- 2008 - 200lb 30 foot flag pole
 - 400lb full dimension 2x4
 - 1200lb OSB
 - 1500lb Asphalt roofing
 - 200lb cedar trim
- 2009 - 900lb cedar roofing
 - 800lb full dimension 1x8 roof boards
 - 800lb full dimension 1x12 wall boards
 - 1200lb full dimension framing lumber
 - 400lb replacement tracks for excavator
 - 600lb materials for temp dock

All of that was loaded off into a 10' inflatable and ferried to shore and carried in by hand.!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Consider being generous, our efforts help to preserve the Maritime History for generations to come.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other

_____ I would like to join a work crew. Dates I will be available _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Comments: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY DATE Rcv'd _____
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Basic membership includes email subscription to "Fox Island Views" Newsletter

I would like to receive newsletter via email SAVE PAPER!

Please check this box if you would like to receive the book.

Donations of \$50 or more: *The Fox Islands, North and South* by Kathleen Craker Firestone

Please complete and mail to: South Fox Island Lighthouse Assoc. PO Box 452 Northport MI 49670 231-947-1926

**Limited
Quantities**

NEW for 09. Cool South Fox Hat! Chose either
_____ cream colored with blue embroidery or _____ Navy Blue with red embroidery
\$25 each.. Copy on hat reads "South Fox Island Light Station"



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PO Box 452 Northport MI 49670

NAME ADDRESS ETC
