

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

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FILA is a 501c3 Non Profit supporting to the preservation of the South Fox Island Light Station. Supported by volunteers and lovers of the lighthouse.

FILA OFFICERS

President – John McKinney
Vice President – Cathy Allchin
Treasurer – Phil von Voiglander
Secretary – George Carpenter

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Bob Zwemer
Anne Brasie
Sandra Bradshaw
Pamela Nickerson

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Joerg Rothenberg

ADVISORY COUNCIL

John Wells

MLAP GRANT

AWARDED to FILA

The Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) has awarded \$19,166 to the Fox Island Lighthouse Association (FILA) to conduct an Historic Structures Report (HSR) and to re-roof the Carpenter's Shop at the South Fox Island Light Station. The Historic Structures report will identify and prioritize repairs needed on the building. This is an exciting project. You can follow the progress at the FILA Website, www.southfox.org.



May 2009 First Island Trip Successful

After weather delays for several weeks, the Fox Island Lighthouse Association (FILA) found a window on May 30-31 to travel for an overnight trip to the Fox Island Light Station seventeen miles offshore from the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum (GTLM) at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula. The crew needed to assess how well the Station made it through the winter, install an emergency radio contact system, transport donated equipment, and begin the season's work.

Landing on the island was a bit rough due to a freshening SW wind and close encounter with a thunder storm but we managed to get all the personnel and gear ashore from the FILA boat "Lightkeeper" without incident. Other than further collapse of the lean-to addition to the 1867 lighthouse, and a few missing ridge tiles from the Assistant Keeper's roof, the Station survived the winter well. The lean-to is beyond repair and will collapse soon.

We had a big crew. Photographer Ken Scott took a number of photos including the one on the back page of the June 4 Enterprise. The emergency radio system, donated and installed by Harold Carlton of Grand Traverse Mobile Communications in Traverse City, consists of a radio transmitter and direct link to the Leelanau County 911 radio tower. The system is powered by the previously installed camera system that sends a video signal back to GTLM for visitors to see on a monitor. Last year, Dick Parker, of Parker Stark Builders, had saved the Boathouse from collapse and this year he planned the final repair of the front wall of the building. Phil von Voiglander, John McKinney, Sean Mauney, and George Carpenter cleared stones from concrete paths, cleaned eaves on the Assistant Keeper's Building, and moved, split, and stacked logs.

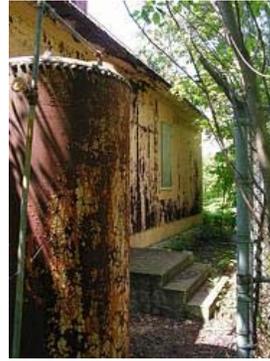
To learn more about the South Fox Island Light Station, go to www.southfox.org.

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

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

Marker Mystery Solved!

The mystery of the markers in the Graveyard appears solved. An iron flag holder marked GAR 399 (which stands for "Grand Army of the Republic" Civil War Veteran Post 399 (Northport Post)) is probably in honor of Keeper William T. Lewis. Lewis died in a fall in 1885 while painting the 1867 Lighthouse tower. A small handmade copper cross marked with the name "Leader" is in honor of a hunting dog owned by Keeper Allen Cain. Cain was the last resident Keeper of the South fox Island Light Station and left when the light was automated in 1958.



2008 Review

Considerable progress was made on several projects during the 2008 field season. The 1897 Boathouse was repaired and resingled and windows, sills and frames were repaired at the Carpenter's Shop, which also received a new coat of paint. "Team Nickerson" accomplished the above shingling and painting. On June 28, 2008, a new flagpole built by Phil von Voigtlander was installed on the old stanchion and the American and FILA flags were raised. In future, the flags will be flown whenever a FILA crew is on the island. A camera and radio transmitter were installed in the 1934 Skeletal Light Tower and the images were sent back to the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum where they were displayed on a monitor. Funded by Rotary Charities of Traverse City and the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation, camera system images will eventually become available on the internet. Sea Scout Crew 11 from Charlevoix worked to clear stone from around part of the boathouse and an additional 200 feet of concrete walks were cleared of soil and vegetation. Altogether, it was a good work year.

South Fox Light Station WEB CAM @GTLM

Thanks to project management from GTLM and grants from Rotary Charities of Traverse City and the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander, a remote camera system was purchased and installed on the 1934 light tower at South Fox Island. Images captured by the camera are transmitted back to the Education Room at GTLM where live pictures are displayed on a monitor. The intent is to eventually make these images available on the FILA Website (www.southfox.org).

Special THANKS to Partnership with Grand Traverse Lighthouse & Museum

FILA enjoys its partnership with GTLM and joint projects are being developed for 2009. We hope you will visit GTLM, see the FILA display, visit and interact with the FILA website to watch for projects and schedules, and get involved in our lighthouses. The partnership needs you. Please visit the GTLM August 18 for South Fox Island Day and the Fall Harvest Days State Park, Sept 22, 23 Northport MI

Welcome New Board Members

The Fox Island Lighthouse Association held its Annual meeting on December 13, 2008 at the beautiful Britten Banners, Inc. facility in Traverse City. A presentation of accomplishments for the year was shown and two new Board Members (Anne Brasie and Pamela Nickerson) were welcomed along with new officers for 2009 (President: John McKinney, Vice President: Cathy Allchin, Treasurer: Phil von Voigtlander, Secretary: George Carpenter.



Winter on the island.
**Photos from Web Cam Feb 2009*

VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU THANK YOU! Many companies have come forth with support of materials needed to continue work on the island. New items include: A 36 foot extension ladder, wheelbarrow, hand truck, 600 feet of braided rope, a 24 inch wide magnet sweep to collect the nails pulled while removing shingles, gloves, shovels, and brush and tree pruners. During 2008, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources 15 true dimension 2 X 4s and will donated true dimension one inch thick planks of various widths to be used in repairing the roof deck of the carpenter's Shop before it is reshingled.

NOW we need helping hands, bodies, workers, smiling faces and lighthouse lovers! Are you willing to be an ACTIVE supporter? Volunteers needed for 3hr time slots at the following events:

FILA will be THERE Come join us!	August 18, South Fox Island Day Grand Traverse Lighthouse Northport
	Michigan Schooner Festival MHA Sept 11, 12, 13 Traverse City
	Fall Harvest Days State Park, Sept 22, 23 Northport MI
WORK CREW On the Island	Have a couple of hearty friends and want to do something good TOGETHER? Work crews being formed for 2009 season. Please contact Phil @231-947-1926

WISH LIST 6 gallons of white oil based paint primer and 6 gallons of white latex exterior paint to repaint the Boathouse; a steel fire pit ring; hardware and lumber for a picnic table; and three quarts of black and two quarts of red rustoleum paint to "touch-up" the 1867 Lighthouse iron cupola.

2009 Island Projects

- Chip, prime and paint 1867 Lighthouse stairs and deck overhang.
- Repair roof leak on east side of Lighthouse quarters.
- Clean debris from inside of Lighthouse and other buildings.
- Paint exposed wood work of Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters.
- Repair front end structure and door frame of Boathouse.
- Paint exterior of Boathouse.
- Reroof Workshop and repair rear door sill.
- Remove stones from Boathouse ramp and rear entrance.
- Clear all walkways of Lighthouse Complex.
- Cut back brush overgrowing walkways and around buildings.
- Replace or shutter windows of Tower and close it up.
- Clean up stairs, lantern room and deck of 1934 Tower.
- Trim or remove trees that block web cam views..
- Remove litter and debris from Lighthouse Complex site.

Please visit the website www.southfox.org for more updates on trips and news!

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH A FRIEND! Please pass along the membership form! The more the merrier.

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

_____ I would like to contribute to the FUEL FUND \$ _____

_____ I would like to put together a work crew and can come on _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Comments: _____

Basic membership includes email subscription to "Fox Island Views" Biannual Newsletter

I would like to receive newsletter via email SAVE PAPER!

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

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

OFFICE USE ONLY DATE Rcv'd _____
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Please complete and mail to: South Fox Island Lighthouse Assoc. PO Box 452 Northport MI 49670 231-947-1926