

South Fox Island Review



www.southfox.org

FILA P.O. Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685

Summer 2010



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.

To learn more about the South Fox Island Light Station, please visit: www.southfox.org.



SEE US AT THE FESTIVAL!

FILA will have at booth at the following events:

Inland Seas Education Association Festival – July 17th in Suttons Bay.

Maritime Festival of Tall Ships September 10th – 12th in Traverse City (Michigan Schooner Festival)

Harvest Days, Northport September 25th at Leelanau State Park - pancake breakfast and silent auction.

We are committed to sharing the experience of South Fox. If you know of any groups or organizations that would like a presentation, please contact Catherine Allchin miboatlady@gmail.com 231-883-7645



2010 Season Starts Early!

An early warm summer encouraged our first trip May 16, to the Fox Island Light Station seventeen miles offshore from the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum (GTLM) at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula. Longtime FILA members Gill and Nina Collins hosted a crew that included: Phil and Barb VonVoigtlander, Andy Thomas and Sean Mauney. A review of the grounds found everything weathered the winter well and a 'working list' was created. The first WORK trip was made May 22 by Cathy Allchin, Harold and Laura Carrolton, Jed Mooney, Jerry Spears, Phil von Voigtlander, John and Karen Wells and Chris Young. Work included: grounds maintenance activity: wood was cut up and stacked, the lawns were mowed and raked, the new brush cutter was assembled and put to use clearing lilac suckers along the walks, walkways were cleared, swept and edged, and the latrine and campsite were cleaned up. Since then, 3 more trips to the island have happened with further work crews scheduled for August. There is painting and maintenance that still needs to be done. If you are interested in working at the station, please contact Phil at philvon@chartermi.net and you will be added to the list.



HSR FUND PROGRESS

At the end of last year we were presented with a challenge. To raise additional funds for a critical Historic Structures Report for the entire station. The initial quote for doing JUST the 1867 Lighthouse was \$25,000. For an additional \$13000 the report would include ALL 7 structures and grounds in the report. An HSR is a blueprint of the original construction and historical background of the facility. This is critical as it will provide a PLAN for future repairs and restoration of the buildings.

Thanks to a generous donation of \$8333 from Mike Dow – "A lighthouse enthusiast" we were off to a strong start. As of this printing we are so very close to meeting our goal! Only \$3000 more and we can complete an important step towards preserving this jewel of the great lakes. Please consider supporting us. Donations can be mailed to: FILA P.O. Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685 Or go to our website and use PAYPAL. Your support is appreciated!

2010 aerials are online at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/101203421139633758224>



Safe Harbor /Seawall Status

In January FILA approached the MDNRE with a request to build a working dock and safe harbor out at the station. Since then they have moved forward with a Work Item Proposal (WIP). This is an involved process and is still ongoing with preliminary drawings and project estimates being reviewed.

National Registry of Historic Places

Lisa Gamero with the DNRE has begun the application for the station to be listed on the NRHP. This is important to support our efforts in future grants to be used to restore the buildings. Thank you Lisa for your continued support!

Material Support comes from across the country!

Brooms, shovels, gloves, safety glasses, an extension ladder, ½" braided rope, brushing cutting tools, and a used wheelbarrow. These are some of the \$3,369.00 worth of goods donated to FILA from November 2008 to March 2010. Companies like **Wal Mart, Fiskars Garden Tools, Home Depot, Target, Cyalume Technologies, Fairbanks Material Handling Company, Zee Medical, Walgreens** and many others make volunteering on South Fox an easier and safer task. **A total of 28 companies** recognize the valuable efforts of FILA and the important work on South Fox Island. Local retail and wholesale businesses along with national manufacturers and distributors contributed. A trucking company from **South Dakota** donated a substantial discount on a freight bill to transport goods from **Chicago** to Traverse City. Without the discount, the shipping charges would have been prohibitive. One small item donated locally was worth about \$10.00 another came from **Washington State** and valued at over \$1,000.00. A **Northwest Michigan** construction company gave a "slightly" used wheelbarrow and two sledge hammers. Emergency signaling items were donated by companies from **Connecticut and Indiana**. First aid supplies came from west **Michigan** companies. Four 55 gallon plastic barrels for storing some of the donated equipment were delivered to Traverse City. By having its own tools and equipment, FILA will be in a better position to make volunteers time better spent on South Fox this season. **A big THANK YOU to all who donated.**

Oral History Work Session Trains FILA Volunteers Interviewing Skills

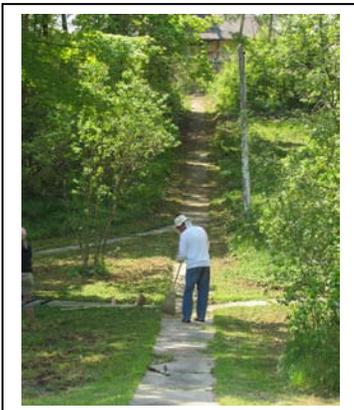
On April 27th, five members of FILA participated in a workshop, learning how best to conduct oral history interviews. The two hour session was presented by the Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan. Ann Magoun and Nancy Doughty lead the group through a series of practical learning exercises. The Fox Island Lighthouse Association has conducted several oral history interviews with former residents of the island. These are very important! They provide a 'picture' of life as it was in a way that could not be written and has to be shared verbally. More oral history interviews with former residents of the island are planned. If you know of anyone who may have a story to tell about "days gone by" on South Fox, please contact FILA at our P.O. Box. We arrange to interview the person.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS COMPLETED

First aid kits and a dedicated two-way radio link to the 911 Leelanau County Sheriff Department have been added to South Fox Island. Because cell phone contact is very sporadic to nonexistent on South Fox, a dedicated, dependable link to local emergency facilities is necessary. Thanks to **Harold Carlton of Grand Traverse Mobile Communications**, and a grant from the **Oleson Foundation**, a radio hook up to Leelanau County 911 Sheriff's Department is in place. In an emergency, a quick radio call can be made and the proper authorities dispatched to South Fox. First aid kits are now available on both South Fox and Lightkeeper. Following recommendations from the American Red Cross and others, the kits were assembled and will be available for volunteer use. A 50 piece kit containing a variety of bandages, cream, wraps and other first aid components will be available on South Fox. From splinters to minor accidents, the first aid kits will add a safer island for all.



Bk: Laura and Harold Carrolton, John Wells Front: Karen Wells, Jed Mooney





MRAP Community Service Award

The Michigan Recreation and Parks Division (MRPA) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) have awarded FILA the MRPA Community Service Award for our partnership and assistance with maintaining and preserving the South Fox Island lighthouse complex.

These awards are given to individuals or organizations that show outstanding support to public and park recreation programs in local communities. "We are proud to honor you for your sponsorship and partnership with us, for the numerous fund raising events held by your organization, and the countless volunteer hours," wrote Ronald A. Olson, Chief of the DNRE Recreation Division.

FILA President, John McKinney, accepted the award on March 10, 2010 at the MRPA Community Service Award Night held in East Lansing. We certainly are proud to have received this award and that the MRPA and the DNRE recognize and appreciate what FILA is accomplishing in saving this once lonely light, abandoned and neglected for over fifty-five years. Thanks to all of our members and volunteers in helping to make this happen!



MYSTERY CORNER!

Most interesting: it was under the shingles against the roof soffit face-board at the extreme SE corner of the roof; it was discovered along with a 9lb window sash counterweight; very rusty; "Major" printed on one side, other side unintelligible; the reference screwdriver head bit holder is 2.25 inches long; either single shot, low caliber (less than 22) or cap gun but I favor the single shot - the hammer had a point on it; and nickle (?) plated.



THE LIGHTKEEPER WONDERS

The light I've tended for 40 years is now to be run by a set of gears. The Keeper said, and it isn't nice to be put ashore by a mere device. Now fair or foul the winds that blow or smooth or rough the sea below, it is all the same. The ships at night will run to an automatic light.

That clock and gear which truly turn are timed and set so the light shall burn. But did ever an automatic thing set plants about in early spring? And did ever a bit of wire and gear a cry for help in the darkness hear? Or welcome callers and show them through the lighthouse rooms as I used to do?

'Tis not in malice these things I say all men must bow to the newer way.

But it's strange for a lighthouse man like me after forty years on shore to be. And I wonder now-will the grass stay green? Will the brass stay bright and the windows clean? And will ever that automatic thing, plant marigolds in early spring?

Edgar Guest

Born 8.20.1881. Died 8.5.1959
Guest was made [Poet Laureate](#) of Michigan, the only poet to have been awarded the title.

The 7 Structures On South Fox Light Station





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PO Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685



We are challenged to become caretakers of our past in order to preserve our future.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH A FRIEND!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE _____

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

_____ I would like to contribute to the Historic Structures 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" 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 \$100 or more: *The Fox Islands, North and South* by Kathleen Craker Firestone

Please complete and mail to: South Fox Island Lighthouse Assoc. PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685

President John McKinney 231-947-1926

VP C. Allchin 231-883-7645

OFFICE USE ONLY DATE Rcv'd _____ _____

