

South Fox Island Review

www.southfox.org

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

Summer 2011



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.



Photo circa pre-1940

Boathouse Doors taking shape!

It has been a long time coming. Work began on the boathouse in 2004. Since then, a new roof, support, and paint have brought longer life to the building. Final push is for new doors.

DOOR UPDATE: Plans are being created and will be submitted to SHPO and DNRE for approval, and then we are ready to go! Custom cut hemlock wood was ordered from **Lake Ann Hardwoods, Andy Batteiger from Old Town Construction, Traverse City**, will assemble the doors and **Dan Nickels from Black Rock Forge in Traverse City** will make the hinges maintaining historic integrity of the station.



West side beaches



2011 Projects

At the Station: Continued Ground Maintenance. Seek solutions to transport work crews to station. Prepare and plan for 2012
On the Mainland: Participate in local festivals and group presentations. Increase use of social networking and web presence – broad band for web cam.

The week of July 11th - weather permitting, Lisa Gamero (DNRE) has arranged for Marine Archaeologist Wayne Lusardi from the DRNE to spend 3 days at the station to explore and document the harbor area. Wayne will bring an associate and be supported by 3 FILA volunteers. Until the completion of the Historic Structures Report (HSR) major projects like the lean-to on 1867 Lighthouse, the roof on the Fog Signal Bldg and the cat walk across to the Steel Tower will have to wait till end of season or next year -2012.



Picture courtesy of Kathie Snedeker; left to right: Capt Phil, Andy Batteiger, Jack Snedeker

FIRST TRIP OF THE SEASON THANKS TO FILA MEMBERS!

By Island Project Mgr Capt Phil

Thanks to Jack and Kathy Snedeker for their generous donation of 'boat time', a day trip to S Fox Island finally got our season underway. Sunday (June 5) provided the perfect weather for a smooth passage aboard their lovely express cruiser, Turiya. Kathie and Jack had prepared for the trip by taking the Piping Plover identification course at the National Park Service. So the primary purpose of the trip was to assist the DNR in gathering data concerning any evidence of this species on the Lighthouse property. They kindly offered to take Andy Batteiger and I along for other FILA projects. Andy took the measurements for the construction of the boathouse doors and assessed the details of the door frame for the design and anchoring of the hinges. I was along to checkout the over winter condition of the property (just like we left it!) and the priority of projects (time to mow and a few downed trees need to be cut up). I also reinstalled the FILA sign and yes, serviced the latrine. Kathie will report their survey directly to the DNRE (Lisa Gamero) but the bottom line is that no signs of Plovers were observed. Lots of photogenic Sandpipers though! And several Bald Eagle sightings. Thanks again to the Snedekers for making this season opener happen.

Ask and Receive

In the Fall 2010 issue of the *Fox Island Review*, we listed a hand tool Wish List. The request was for new or "gently" used hand tools for South Fox Island. Thanks to **Auto Value and Bumper to Bumper Parts Stores**, FILA now has 21 of the 23 tools we "wished" for! Most the volunteers who spend time on the island bring their own personal tools and equipment. But having this "Wish List" almost complete will now allow island volunteers to have an on site set of tools to make their work and time even more productive.

POWER UP!!!

These tools would normally be enough for one donor to give to any small non-profit. But there is more! This **same company**, last fall, donated a portable generator! The ETQ Propane Generator Model #PG60B12 is a 6000 watt unit that will provide 120 volt power for projects on the island. The unit has a ETQ Sine Power alternator for "clean power" for sensitive electronic items like battery recharging units, computers and other delicate electronic items. It is powered by propane. Two propane tanks have been donated by a Traverse City propane dealer. Saws, drills, recharging of cell phones and portable battery powered tools, work lights and other equipment now are at home on South Fox thanks to Auto Value and Bumper to Bumper Stores. Thanks should also go out to Jerry Spears for the use of his personal portable generator over the past few seasons. Thank you Jerry!

ABOUT 1867 LIGHTHOUSE

- Year light first lit: 1867
- Year deactivated: 1934
- Construction: Schoolhouse type, square tower, cream brick painted white with red trim
- Light height: 39 ft above base, 68 ft above lake level

LEARN MORE visit FILA Booth at:

July 16 - SUTTONS BAY

4th Annual Inland Seas Summer Fest

Sept. 9, 10, & 11 - TRAVERSE CITY

Michigan Schooner Festival

Sept. 22 - NORTHPORT

Harvest Fest in Northport



ORAL HISTORIES



The above photo is of Zane Bourisseau, great grandson of Lewis Bourisseau, first native American lightkeeper. Zane lives in Ohio now and with the help of the Lake County History Center will provide an oral history of his life on the station where he lived till he was 16. We are blessed to still have the opportunity to hear his adventures and look forward to the report. This will be the 6th interview from people who have 'been there'. By their accounts we are able to more accurately work to recreate what once was and still is an important part of our maritime history.

Excerpt from #4 Robert and Betty June
Mr. June was station at South Fox in the Coast Guard during the mid 1950's for 2 ½ seasons. Mrs. June recounted a garden they had planted about 25' west of the Assistant Keepers Quarter where they lived. The garden measured "about 50 feet square" according to Robert. Many vegetables were "canned" by Betty, a skill she learned from Mrs. Alan Cain, wife of current Keeper.

If you have or know someone who has a story about the island from past years please contact John Wells at 231-933-0125



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

get a picture of station.

VP Catherine Allchin had another full house for a South Fox power point presentation on March 10th. The audience was the Troop Leaders of the Bay Trails District of the Boy Scouts of America. The evening was a chance for the District Leaders to get to know and understand FILA and our Mission. The Bay Trails District serves Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau Counties. Mark Ewing, the District Director, was very supportive. It is hoped that the coming volunteer work season will bring some Scouts to the island to learn local maritime history, hone their camping skills and assist with approved work projects for the light station. After the 25 minute presentation, questions came from the Leaders. Logistics of transportation, weather, island safety, island facilities (and the lack there of) were talked about. The possibility of an Eagle Scout Project(s) could be on the horizon. The evening was a great learning experience for the District Leaders and the three FILA representatives on hand.

If you would like to sponsor a ride to the island please call: Phil 231-640-0054

STAYING A FLOAT

Safe travel to and from South Fox has always been a #1 concern for FILA. Thanks to **Absolute Outdoor of St. Cloud, MN** and their generous donation of life vests. These life vests will afford a more comfortable fit, greater flexibility, and still provide personal floatation as required by FILA and the U.S. Coast Guard. Thank you Absolute Outdoor for your support!

PLEASE RENEW!

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. Your donations make a big difference in the success of the mission.

www.southfox.org

PayPal



WISH LIST 2011

TIME TO CUT THE GRASS, TIME TO CUT THE GRASS, TIME TO CUT THE GRASS...

One of the ongoing, never ending tasks at the station is maintaining the grounds. If you have a good running **RIDER LAWN MOWER** and/or a **PUSH LAWN MOWER** please contact John Wells **231-933-0125**

BOAT PEOPLE Hey buddy can I get a ride? Looking for a destination to visit by water this season? Tired of the same ol' ports? Sign up! Get on THE list to be a shuttle to the station for volunteers. Stay for the day and gets some hands on experience - Learn the history and become a part of the future! Trips are scheduled the week before with weather watch determining exact date/time/length of trip. You may be taking out DRN reps, carpenters, PR (tv crews, writers, artists) boy scouts, or any other combination of enthusiasts - Guaranteed to be memorable. Call Phil to discuss details at **231-640-0054**

Or post on our website or facebook. www.southfox.org

If you have a BOAT you would like to DONATE contact Catherine Allchin at miboatlady@gmail.com or call 231-883-7645

Volunteer **Gary Stauffer** has been very instrumental in gathering many donations this year. GOOD JOB! Some companies that donate do not want to be recognized – we always ask and respect that. When asked how we could show our appreciation, **John Syring**, of Autowares AutoValue, MI, the company who provided tools, and more this year, he responded this way:
"I think you need to recognize Auto Value, Bumper to Bumper Parts Stores and Certified service centers of Michigan. They are Michigan based company, providing jobs to the local people and trying to keep Michigan growing. The money stays here in Michigan. Without them, I would not have been able to do this. I also would like to thank your group, for their time and dedication to keeping Michigan history alive. Without your groups' dedication, this beautiful part of history would not be preserved. ! Great Job by all & have a Spectacular Summer! Thanks, John

WOW! Since November of 2008, FILA has acquired \$5,261.00 worth of donated hand tools, general supplies, emergency medical items, safety equipment, rope and maintenance items. **Thank YOU!**



Photo taken 1953



Matt Speyer posted on South Fox Island Lighthouse Association Michigan's Wall.

"Took a tour this past weekend, everything looks great, really appreciated the brochures in the boathouse..."



Lean-to back of 1867 Lighthouse



Access door to steel tower. Missing catwalk to fog signal building.



Where's Elmo? Last season after big storms Elmo washed up on shore. We cleaned him up and set him 'guard' on dock. If you get there, please let us know how he's doing! *as of 6-6-11 visitor reported - doing fine!
www.southfox.org



FILA

Fox Island Lighthouse Assoc.
PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685



MEMBERSHIP FORM DATE _____

___ New ___ Renew
Name (please print)

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Phone

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other

Membership includes subscription to "Fox Island Views" Newsletter and the opportunity to join work crews on the island, participate at festival events.

Please check this box if you would like to receive the book: *The Fox Islands, North and South* by Kathleen Craker Firestone.

*Donations of \$100 or more please

Mail to: **FILA**

PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685
President John McKinney 231-947-1926

www.southfox.org

HELP WANTED

FILA group needs your talents and support!

Membership Coordinator responsibilities include updating database, sending renewal notices and encouraging new membership
Contact
John Wells
231-933-0125
kjwells@speednetllc.com

Financial Manager
Monitor expenses vs. budget, over all cash flow.
Bookkeeping.
Contact
Pres John McKinney
231-947-1926
Mckinne8@msu.edu

Web Designer
Contact VP Cat Allchin
231-883-7645
miboatlady@gmail.com

Thank you!

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