

South Fox Island Review

www.southfox.org

FILA P.O. Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685 FILA is 501c3 Non-Profit Donations Tax Deductable

Summer 2012

FILA is a 501c3 Non Profit



The Fox Island Lighthouse Association, in conjunction with other sources, will restore and assist in the over-all management of the South Fox Island Light Station and connecting grounds for the public good, while maintaining good stewardship.

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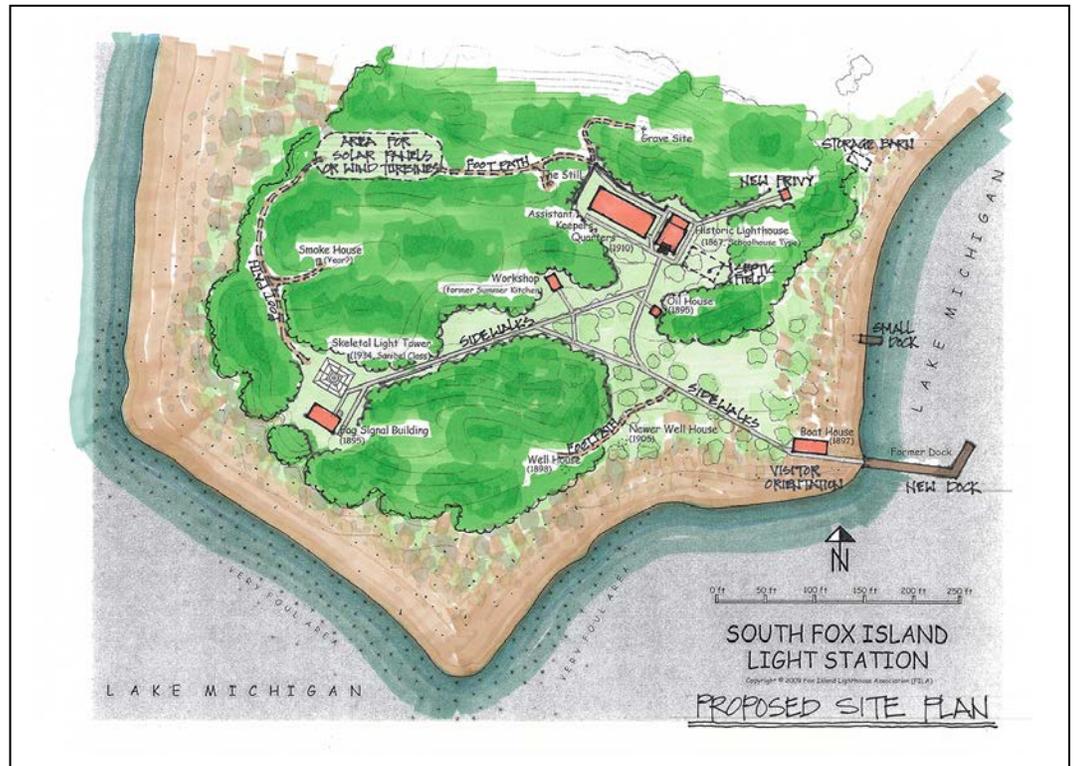
Don Stauffer

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Trillium Alliance

FILA

P.O. Box 851
Traverse City, MI 49685

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



Historic Structures Report Completed!

FILA is pleased to announce we have received the coveted, finalized Historic Structures Report (HSR). It was completed this spring under the careful guidance of Project Manager George "Carp" Carpenter, former FILA board member. George worked hard to see this accomplished and we all thank him!

FILA and George worked closely with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). SHPO approved the report in late February of this year. The 200-page report, which cost approximately \$34,000, was meticulously conducted over many months by Ken Czapski of the U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc (UPEA) in Marquette, MI. Much of the cost was funded by the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP). The remaining funds were raised by FILA.

The importance of this document can not be overstated. It is the plan for the future and brings life to the station for all to enjoy. It's a daunting task. Estimates for work approximates 1.5 million - but the way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time and we know that with the support of our volunteers we can save the station from decay and create a place of history and beauty for all to enjoy. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement! This is YOUR station. You DO make a difference.

"The South Fox Island complex is a rare intact collection of buildings, including both a lighthouse tower and a skeletal tower," said SHPO architect Bryan Lijewski. "South Fox is remote. The fact that it lacks a docking facility makes the transportation of materials and equipment a greater challenge than usual, but I know the committed volunteers will make it happen."

2012 Season Projects



The completion of the HSR is a major accomplishment for a small group like ours. Now we have a mapped out plan to work with. Projects of major concern this summer include repairing the roof on the Assistant Keepers building and addressing the drainage problems around the 1867 building that is quickly deteriorating the foundation. We still need help with transportation to the station. If you have a boat and group of friends and would like to sponsor a work trip please contact Phil V. – Island Project Manager at: 231) 640 0054 Philvfon@chartermi.net



Migratory Birds and Butterflies visit South Fox. Some Just Once. Some Twice Yearly.

At the 2012 Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation Conference & Michigan Ports Collaborative Meeting in Traverse City on May 22-24, a new facet of island visitor was brought to our attention. Mr. Joe Kaplan, a biologist and director of Common Coast Research & Conservation, lead a talk on migratory bird flight patterns and the effects of bird populations descending on lighthouses. As it turns out, South Fox Island is a major destination stop over rest area for song birds migrating in the spring and fall seasons. The birds travel at night, navigating by established lights and stars, landing at dawn to eat and rest. It seems South Fox has been a “popular” stop over for many years for these small winged visitors.

As a side note, large populations of Monarch Butterflies have been seen by volunteers on South Fox in late summer and early June. Perhaps they know a good resting area when they see one!



Among the many visitors to the island, surprises often come to light. It was discovered this spring while scanning a Traverse City Record Eagle newspaper article from 1983, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln spent a night on South Fox. Apparently she was traveling on a steam ship stopping at the island to refuel with wood supplied by the Roe Wooding Station. The same article mentioned a visit at another time by Andrew Blackbird, Chief of the Ottawa Indians. The exact date of both visits was not disclosed.



FILA Joins GuideStar

FILA is now listed on the web with Washington DC based GuideStar, a public charity that provides information, transparency and best practices with regard to non profits. The format allows FILA to list its IRS Form 990, reviews from friends of the light station and other data. Thank you GuideStar for having us on board!

www.guidestar.org
search fox island lighthouse



FILA has been nominated for a “Stay Classy” Award. Read more about it on our home page www.southfox.org

FILA Festivals for 2012

July 19 Beaver Island Museum Week– as presenter

July 21 Inland Waters Seas Festival Suttons Bay

Aug. 10/11 Port Oneida Fair
Sept 22 Leelanau State Park Fall Harvest Festival

If you would like to help please contact Don
231-233-1965

donauldstauffer@yahoo.com



Search South Fox Light Station
Become a FAN Bring a friend.

SEARCH: [A Walk Through S. Fox Island](#)
Walk visually around the grounds and buildings.

By Heather Landis

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2F2L-4VL1I&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PLD9B94DFE4D67E39E

In July 2010 while working on the island, Heather Landis decided to make a little video. Heather was on South Fox working on the Historic Structures Report compiled by UPEA (Upper Peninsula Engineering and Architects). She was a Graduate Student Intern from Eastern Michigan Universities Historic Preservation Masters Program. Working with Ken Czapski, from UPEA, her specific tasks were to gather paint, wood and other chip samples for analysis. Careful documentation of locations of the samples within the building complex was necessary. She was on the island about 3 days. "All work and no play" makes for a boring island visit. With some extra time on her hands, she started her video at the Boat house and shoreline. And for 5 minutes and 40 seconds you are taken on a "trip": around the outside of the buildings of the light station. The camp site, concrete sidewalks, restoration work, etc. is all captured by Heather and her roving lens. The story starts and ends at the shoreline. A brief interior shot of the Carpenter's Shed is included. No sound accompanies the video, but it is not necessary. The beauty, unique charm and historic significance of all seven buildings and the light station grounds says it all.

The video can be seen on YouTube searching for: A Walk through S. Fox Island. Take a look and see the progress at the light station. This is a good chance to have glimpse at what so many of our friends, members, donors and special partners have accomplished in the form of painting, damage from trees and overgrowth, cleared off walkways, etc.



Creative Project with NMC students

This past fall FILA board member Catherine Allchin had the opportunity to work with NMC students Blake Harrigan, Jason Helbig, and Courtney Duhaime in developing a branding package for the light station. The end result was new logo concepts and a 5 minute visual presentation that can be seen online at YouTube:

search: **Fox Island Lighthouse Association Slide Show.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwUWJkswsXM>

The experience was very rewarding and we look forward working with them again.

Boat house hinges forged and ready!

Dan Nickels of Black Rock Forge in Traverse City has amazed us by forging the hinges for the boat house doors. We are so very close to completion and plan on a late summer install. Follow us on Facebook for more progress.

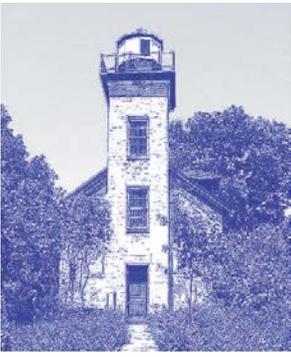


2012 First Trip

On June 5, the first trip of the season was made. We found the station in good order but the grass in need of mowing and got a good part of that done before the old mower needed a rest (ran out of oil). We also picked up brush and swept the sidewalks. Importantly, we determined that the power system is operating by testing the radio 911 call box. The new dingy worked great!

It's amazing.

Last fall we made an appeal to raise money for tools for the station and a new dingy. We not only met our goal but exceeded by 15%! The life of this group is dependent upon YOUR support and we are grateful that so many of you believe in the cause. Thank you for your continued support. You DO make a difference, and are greatly appreciated.
THANK YOU!



FILA

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

www.southfox.org

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.

Mail to: FILA

PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685

President John McKinney 231-947-1926

www.southfox.org

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Contact Phil
(231) 640 0054

Philvon@chartermi.net



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Does the company you work for have a "Contribution Match Program"? The dollar you give to FILA may be matched with another dollar from your employer. One dollar becomes two dollars instantly! Many large and small corporations offer this program to full time employees. Check with your Human Resources Department for program details.