



# South Fox Island Review

www.southfox.org

2013

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



501c3 Non-Profit Donations Tax Deductible

*The Fox Island Lighthouse Association will work to restore and assist in the overall management of the South Fox Island Light Station and connecting grounds for the public good, while maintaining good stewardship.*



"Friends of the DNR"

To learn more about the South Fox Island Light Station, please visit:

[www.southfox.org](http://www.southfox.org)



Search South Fox Light Station



**PLEASE Support!**

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

[www.southfox.org](http://www.southfox.org)



*Top left Arched wall next to walkway towards fog signal building, Top rt: 1934 steel tower. Bottom left: 1910 Assistant Keepers Quarters Bottom right: low lake levels early June 2013*

## 2013 Low Low Water Levels

First trip to the station was May 26, and the water levels were too low to take advantage of the small crib for unloading. June 11, the DNR crew came out and the trip was short and sweet. We anchored just east of Phil's mooring in about 9' of water. Took the dingy in and unloaded on west side of old dock. We still had to step out of the boat into shallow water and at one point Ham Hobson had a Youtube moment when he stepped out of the dingy, got his foot stuck in the line and almost did the splits while trying to get out of the boat, fortunately no camera was rolling but he was the first to 'take a dip' out at the station this year! During following trips to the station the boathouse rails were painted, boathouse windows taken down to brought back to mainland for repair. Grounds were maintained but little actual work was able to be done on the buildings due to lack of organized crews. We have a boat but no driver. Please come to our annual meeting Dec. 8 and help us keep life going at the light.

# Memo from the President

Dear Friend of South Fox Island,

FILA has had a quiet 2013 season given the uneven weather and the grant funds pullbacks. We do still hope to put in place the doors and windows of the boathouse - they are built and ready awaiting transport out.

We hope everyone is following activities on Facebook and Website pages as we lay the ground work for bigger conservation work. And as always more interested friends are welcome. Specific needs include boat captain and builders. Please contact me if you are interested in working at the station.

Great place out there. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,  
John McKinney, President FILA  
231-947-1926 [Mckinne8@msu.edu](mailto:Mckinne8@msu.edu)

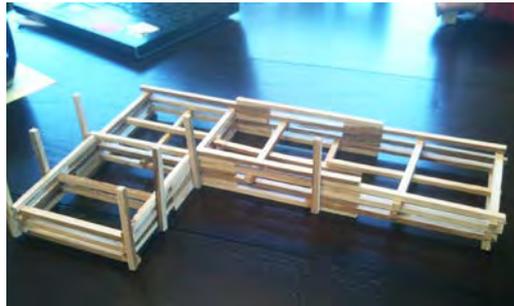
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday Dec. 8**  
**FILA Annual**  
**Pot Luck**  
**Traverse Area District**  
**Library**

## DNR "Friends" Summit

Friends of the DNR are groups of caring citizens who are prepared to work hard at maintaining the state parks we all enjoy. There is no pay for the position, but plenty of support and encouragement.

On May 3-4 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake State Park Cathy Allchin, John Wells, Karen Wells and Ham Hobson, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Grawn Field Office, attended the DNR "Friends" Summit.

The purpose of the summit was to share information amongst the various friends groups associated with State Parks and DNR properties. Anna Sylvester, Northern Michigan Section Chief for the DNR, was the keynote speaker. Anna has visited the island and is a strong supporter of FILA.



Scale model for crib construction

## FILA receives \$20,000 Grant

As a Friend of DNR, FILA qualified for a Materials ONLY grant up to \$20,000 to be used on specific project. The construction of a dock/crib set up is in the works and hopefully will be completed next summer. This is 40' crib with connecting dock to shore will enable boats to pull up to and unload materials safely. \$45,000 for labor still needs to be raised.

## FILA signs 25 year lease agreement



On June 11, DNR representatives and FILA board members made a trip to the station to review conditions of the buildings and grounds of the station. It was the first trip for DNR since 2005. All were impressed by the care and accomplishments achieved thus far. This trip was the final detail to be completed in the decision to sign a lease with the state. After working at the station for 10 years as a "Friend of the DNR" FILA officially signed a lease agreement with the state of Michigan DNR that confirms our commitment to and continuing work at the station for many years to come. While signing a lease doesn't change our work load or schedule, it does show commitment and will open up opportunities for grants that otherwise would not be available.

Stone wall built by Chris Young and Jerry Spears. 2010

Photo by Heather Landis 2013





Boat House as found in 2004



Boat House 2012



### *In Focus with Kimberli Bindschatel – The Fox Island Lighthouse*

*Fox Island Lighthouse Association Vice President Catherine Allchin shares her passion for the historic light station on South Fox Island, and talks about the progress her organization has made in preserving this unique regional resource. For decades the light station served a vital role in northern Lake Michigan history. After years of abandoned neglect, big waves, and Michigan winters, the treasured landmark was steadily disappearing. Now, thanks to FILA, the light station and its history are coming back to life as they document, preserve, and restore a place that Allchin convincingly describes as magical. Produced by Poinsett, D. 30 min.*

<http://upnorthmedia.org/watch/upnorthtv.asp?SDBFid=5505>

### **Boat House Doors and Windows ready for delivery.**

DNR crew steps up to the plate to finish assembly of the boat house doors and are ready to be primed, painted and delivered.

The windows for the boat house have also been given new birth. Special thanks to Michael Park of Suttons Bay (Millwork) and Mary Jane Cotta of Traverse City, the windows are now restored to like new condition. Jim Haase of Traverse City supplied the wooden interior stops. Mr. Park restored or crafted new rails, stiles and muntins for both wooden windows. Ms. Cotta, certified in historic window restoration, provided her glass glazing handiwork. All three donated their talents to the project. After drying the glazing compound, the windows were primed and top coated to match the Boat house paint. Thanks to all who contributed to their many talents to this effort! Many hands do make light work.



C. Allchin stands next to one door. 11'x6.5'



Mary Jane Cotta Glazing windows



Hand forged hinges by Dan Nichols.



### **Station part of study in Living Building Challenge**

On Oct 24, Corinne Bodman will present at the District DNR meeting, Cadillac, an introduction to the Living Building Challenge, a sustainable design initiative which raises the bar of performance above anything like its kind. There are seven "petals" or requisites to meet the challenge, which include net zero energy, net zero water, and a very restricted list of acceptable products. To quote from the design initiative, "It calls for the creation of building projects at all scales that operate as cleanly, beautifully and efficiently as nature's architecture." we will focus on the needs of the Fox Island Lighthouse project and will tailor the discussion on how the two goals of sustainability and historic preservation can become one.



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

**MINI 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, as well as knowing that YOU are a part of preserving this historical treasure. Thank you!

**Mail to: FILA**

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

**www.southfox.org**

**HATS FOR SALE**



**Light color tan with blue lettering. One size fits all.**

**\$20 ea.**

**Plus \$5 SH**

Contact

Pres John McKinney

231-947-1926

[Mckinne8@msu.edu](mailto:Mckinne8@msu.edu)



**FREE TREE to Supporters of FILA!**

FILA is once more offering balsam fir and spruce trees as well as cedar for holiday decorating. We have all sizes of trees including some up to 16 feet. All free to friends and supporters of FILA.

Call Phil at **231-386-7922** or by e-mail [philvov@chartermi.net](mailto:philvov@chartermi.net) to arrange pick up or delivery.



**231-947-2626**

**231-943-3113**

Traverse City, MI 49684

Saving the world from bad pizza since 1980  
 Family Owned – find us on FACEBOOK  
*We Deliver\**