



South Fox Island Review

www.southfox.org

FALL 2015

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



501c3 Non-Profit Donations Tax Deductible

MISSION: The Fox Island Lighthouse Association will work to 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.

Special Mention

FILA would like to thank the DNR, MHPN and SHPO for funding and hosting the windows workshop; to the FILA volunteers and other "down state" Michigan participants who worked hard at a hot and dirty job for the preservation of the 1867 Lighthouse windows. And a very special thanks to John and Karen Wells for organizing the workshop and the 100+ hours you have put into restoring the windows.

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A season to remember....

This year we have seen the fruition of years of preparation...**after 3 years – finally moved over 9,000 lbs. of wood, 2-8'x16' boat house doors, gutters, and misc. materials to the island; after 56 years – first Keepers at the station; after 10 years – reconstructed the deteriorated lean-to on 1867 lighthouse; after over 60 years – windows repaired and re-glazed and brought to new life. After 30 years the boathouse is restored including new doors and reconditioned windows.** Windows for the 1867 lighthouse are in the process of restoration and light now floods every room in the 1867 Lighthouse and the views are amazing. It has been a momentous year of firsts. Special thanks to the DNR, National Park Service, Volunteers and Supporters who continue to believe in the importance of preserving this national treasure. Thank YOU for your support and please remember to renew or sign up for membership. Your contributions help make all this possible. Every dollar and positive thought and action matters.

Keepers at the Station... First time since 1959

For the first time since 1959, the lighthouse station had regular staffing this summer. Kathy and Bruce Rollins from Bullard, TX resided at the Light Station for a month-long stay. They were busy giving tours to visitors and doing grounds maintenance along with other tasks. It's a rustic experience. They tent camped for the month; filtering their water from Lake Michigan, cooking on a propane stove, and using their solar panels to recharge cell phones and flashlights. They experienced sunsets, swimming at the beautiful west beach and visits by interesting people who were glad to see the Station open. Per Kathleen, "we left the island with relief and regret, and lots of laundry." And, more importantly, they are already talking about next year. Are YOU interested in being a Camper Keeper at the Station? If you would like more info, please write to philfvon@gmail.com- minimum stays of 2 weeks.

Photos: TOP Kathy and Bruce Rollins about to leave for the island. MIDDLE: Gear for the month. BOTTOM: Kathy on freshly swept stairs in 1867 Lighthouse.



Windows Get New Life...

After last fall's window sash construction workshop, the window sash were returned to the island this season for reinstallation in the 1867 Lighthouse. Plywood sheeting has covered the vacant window frame openings since last fall.

The September 2014 workshop was sponsored by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the DNR Field facility at Grawn. The instructor was Mr. Steve Stier. Fifteen wooden sash were stripped of paint and old glazing, reconditioned, glass panes replaced as necessary, new glazing installed, primed and painted. Each finished sash has been reinstalled in its original location at the Lighthouse. Much of the original "wavey" glass from the 19th century is in-tact and returned to its original window sash. The first window sash installations occurred on the July 9 day trip.

A second "windows" trip occurred August 5-9 to install and/or recondition ten additional windows. Many people contributed to this effort. We had help from Maritime Heritage Alliance volunteer, Jed Mooney, who planed lumber to size for replacement "stops." Cathy Allchin scoured trash piles for discarded "old" glass to replace broken panes. Two local glass companies cut glass for us. And, of course, our boat captains played a role

On August 29, the last 7 sash were removed from the lighthouse and brought to the mainland where John and Karen Wells continue the restoring process and hope to finish installation next spring.



Photo ABOVE: Phil Van Voigtlander, being creative in getting restored sash safely to shore. **RIGHT** shows the first of the west windows installed. **MIDDLE** Gary Stauffer scraping sash on 1867 lighthouse. **BOTTOM** John and Karen Wells glazing on site.



Photo LEFT First new window installed view from the outside.

Literally TONS (4+) of Material Finally Make It to the Island

Getting materials to the island has always been a challenge. In the past, we've managed some incredible feats offloading via moored boat to dinghy. But, this year, we needed something special. Through a cooperative effort of the National Park Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we received special delivery via landing craft of the Boat house doors, lumber, construction materials, power and hand tools, portable electric generator and roofing materials for a total of over **4 tons** of goods. With these goods, several projects will be addressed this season:

- Tear down and new construction of the lean-to at the rear of the 1867 Lighthouse.
- Gutters and down spouts in several locations.
- Three doors for the Boat house: two large front doors and one smaller access door.
- Various roof projects around the Station.

The boat house doors loaded to go are shown below. The flat bottom boat was then towed behind the primary Park Service boat. Phil Von Voigtlander and the camper keepers, Bruce & Kathy Rollins, did beach prep work for the hauling ashore of the construction material and other items. (Photo credits Don Stauffer, Cathy Allchin)



“Lean to” reconstruction

On August 9, the contract work crew arrived to begin demolition of the lean to in preparation for the exterior rebuild later this summer. Stay tuned for our next newsletter for news on their progress.



We're hoping to do the interior work next summer using volunteer experienced woodworkers. This role would involve rustic camping for 1 to 2 week stays during the 2016 season. If you are interested and can accommodate a flexible schedule for transit scheduling, please contact us.



Photo ABOVE Unloading materials at the island.
BELOW Photo of lean-to 3 years ago.





Est. 2004

PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685

FILA - 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

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Connect with FILA

We've been busy getting out to local fairs and festivals again this summer. We manned a display at the Inland Seas Festival in July. There are more opportunities to connect with us. Come to **our Annual Pancake Breakfast/Brat Lunch Fundraiser at Leelanau State Park, in Northport, September 26, 9 – 3** or stop in during our **Annual Meeting Monday, Nov. 9th 6-8pm, at Traverse Area Library** where we will share photos and stories from the 2015 season.

Northport Harvest Festival
Leelanau State Park - Grand Traverse Light



Breakfast
Start 9am



Lunch
Start noon

Sat. Sept 26, 9am-3pm

Join Us for Our 2015
Annual Meeting

MON. NOV 9

Traverse Area Public Library

6-8pm

Come see and hear firsthand about the work done at the station by volunteers who have been there!