



South Fox Island Review

www.southfox.org

Fall 2017 Fox Island Lighthouse Association – FILA, P.O. Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685

www.southfox.org



The Spirit of the Light Lives on!

www.southfox.org

Annual Meeting Presentation and Potluck!

Leland Library Annex
203 Cedar St E, Leland, MI

November 11

from 3 to 6 p.m.



501c3 Non-Profit



Questions? Comments?

We would love to hear from you.

southfoxlady@yahoo.com

Open Board meetings are held at 5:30 on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Great Lakes Children's Museum. 13240 S W Bay Shore Dr, Traverse City

Surprise Visitor!



Long distance paddle boarder stops at S. Fox on way to Beaver Island.



2000+ Volunteer Hours 22 miles offshore

This newsletter will highlight some of our "off the charts" season where our volunteers completed a wide variety of projects that involved all of our 7 major structures. You will see a small portion of how these great volunteers, whose time "on island" ranged from 1 day to 4 weeks make such a difference. In total, we had the station staffed for 10 weeks during the summer, a new record. They do it for the adventure, the uniqueness, the meaningful work, a love of lighthouses, a passion for restoration, enjoyment of nature and an experience they'll have for the rest of their lives.

It's a big commitment. Once you've been dropped off, you're "in" (short of a major emergency) until the next scheduled boat. Cell phone connectivity is spotty. Water is hauled up from the lake. We use solar power and a generator for energy and there's no refrigeration.

While some volunteers are retired, nearly half took off work to contribute their efforts. We used a wide range of expertise: woodworking, metalworking, window restoration, cement work, painters, organizers, roof cleaners, building cleaners, gardeners, landscapers and tour guides. It takes a balance of both skilled and less skilled labor to maintain and restore the station. Their efforts are appreciated now and for all generations who, in the future, will visit the station.

We are truly thankful for all who contributed to this great season.

FILA BOARD



Brush cleared from base of tower



View of west side shoreline from top of tower



End of Season Wrap Up

While many projects were completed this summer here are some of the highlights:

- The near completion of the Summer Quarters.
- The Light Tower window replacement which has now closed up the tower for the first time since the first windows were vandalized over forty years ago.
- Window and shutter construction and installation in the Lighthouse and Assistant Keepers.
- Clearing the Assistant Keepers roof of moss and cleaning out and repairing eaves and downspouts.
- Clearing under the Tower and on various trails.
- Repairing and painting Oil House roof and touching up paint around base.
- Painting bedrooms in Lighthouse and Assistant Keepers.
- Transplanting various plants around 1867 Lighthouse.
- Digging out Lighthouse stairwell and building and installing a solid deck over it.
- Installing new outhouse.
- Reorganizing lumber piles currently stored in the boat house to accommodate the Fog Signal Building roofing and lumber.
- Hosting visits from sailors, Inland Seas and even a long distance paddle boarder.

To see all of the projects please visit our facebook page for stories, photos and current news.

Thank you... Volunteer Summer Keepers 2017

The following is a list of those who spent extended days at the station working long hours and leaving a lasting imprint on the station., Bruce and Kathy Rollins (3rd time Keepers) John Heneghan, Ursula Kadadu and Tuck Maxwell, Tony Rizk, Keith & Ally Lang, John and Karen Wells, John McKinney, Catherine Allchin Don Stauffer & Phil von Voigtlander

2018 Summer Keeper Positions Reserve Your Spot Early!

Application available on our website.
www.southfox.org/#campers



Summer Quarters/Lean-to

Our new Summer Quarters (historically called the "Lean to") are ready for use. Nearly every team this summer contributed to this project. We now have totally lead-free living quarters with a bunk, table, chairs and solar lights. Wow what a difference a year has made!



Assistant Keepers Room is ready

Our spring team had restored the bedroom window allowing summer teams to complete lead remediation and painting (Ally Lang shown painting). We now have multiple lead-safe sleeping rooms for our volunteer teams.



Special Recognition

We'd like to recognize the support that goes into our project. David Nobles, John & Karen Wells, and Ham Hobson & his DNR crew helped us with assessments, research and logistics support for the summer's projects. Boat captains Phil vonVoigtlander, Don Stauffer, Doug Noren and Joerg Rothenberger made huge commitments getting teams safely out and back. Other volunteers manned festival booths and helped in team "send offs" (thanks Sandy.) We're also thankful for spouses, family and friends who help mind lawns, houses and pets while our volunteers were "on island." And, we thank you, our members and friends, who contribute the financial support to purchase materials, keep boats running and keep the Station open. We could not do this without you.



Safety Deck Cover on Stairwell 1867 Lighthouse

One of our safety concerns has been the deteriorated stairwell headed down to the basement. The masonry sidewalls remain but the stairwell cover and steps are long gone. A temporary cover was constructed until we can restore the steps, masonry and basement door.



Before



After

Fog Signal Roof Update

Weather delays and backordered items have pushed this project back a year, however all material have been ordered. A method of delivery to the station has been secured and weather permitting, we will start as early as possible in 2018. Patience is key when planning projects, especially when the windows for opportunity are short and you are working 22 miles offshore. Thank you for continued support of the restoration and preservation of this unique structure.

Assistant Keepers Roof Cleared

Volunteer Tony Rizk takes the cake for some of the most physical work done at the station this year. He was the lead player in pulling over 300 lbs. of moss off the Assistant Keeper's roof.



Fun Fact *How big is the island?*

The whole island is 3,315 acres with 2,204 being privately owned and 1,111 acres owned by the State of Michigan. The Light station is on the southernmost portion of the island on a 115 acre parcel. There are 2 separate lights, one brick built in 1867 and a second steel tower, from Sapelo Island, GA, erected in 1934.



Tall ship - Inland Seas sets South Fox as Regular Destination Point.

We again welcomed visits from Inland Seas student STEM teams arriving via tall ship, hosting three visits over the course of this summer and twice last summer. The final group, was a group of young women from the Chicago area.



New Door for 1867 Lighthouse

A new front door is on its way, a project several years in the making. Long-time supporters: Thomas & Milliken Millwork have built an exact replica of the historic 5-panel door to replace the deteriorating front door. The door and frame are scheduled for shipment to the island for installation in 2018.



PO Box 851, Traverse City MI 49685

SAVE THE DATE!

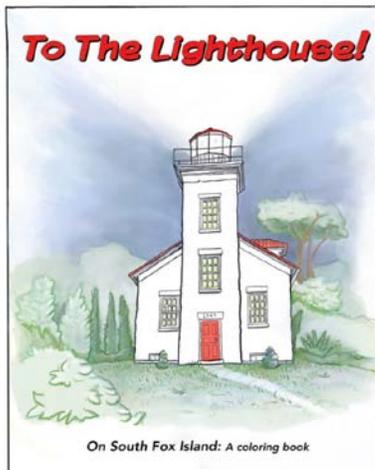


Annual Meeting Presentation
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Illustration of Assistant Keepers Quarters from FILA coloring book



MINI MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE _____ New _____ Renew _____
 Name (please print) _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Phone _____
 General Membership _____ \$25 Supporting donation: _____ \$100 _____ Other

Mail to: **FILA, PO Box 851 Traverse City MI 49685** www.southfox.org

FILA's First Publication

Volunteer author-illustrator Susan Olcott created a coloring book intended to introduce children to the history of the Station. For more information contact Karen Wells Kwells612@gmail.com



Hordes of Monarchs Swarm the Island.

While the Langs were keepers, thousands of monarch butterflies made a stop at the station. The video by Allie Lang has been shared over 75 times including: Great Lakes Lighthouse News and History site, the Saginaw River Marine Historical Society, the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center.

Visit our website to see it live.

www.southfox.org

