



The Friends of Point Betsie LIGHTHOUSE



Beacon

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FALL 2016

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MISSION

*To support
Benzie County
in the restoration
and maintenance of the
Point Betsie Lighthouse
facility through
advocacy, fundraising
and volunteers.*

*Our goal is to promote
related educational
opportunities for
the benefit of all,
while maintaining
the historical and
environmental integrity
of the site.*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Here we are at the end of another successful season at Point Betsie. We had great weather throughout most of the summer, and more visitors than ever. The Friends would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our loyal volunteers, to those who brought friends and family to visit, to those who supported us financially, and to our dedicated staff. It takes a group effort to make this special place available to everyone.

This was the first full season for our new manager, Dan Smith. He and the staff did an outstanding job of taking care of our visitors and providing the level of support we needed to operate six days a week during peak season. Make a point of introducing yourself to Dan when you come to visit next year.



*Jim and Pam Radabaugh
enjoyed an artistic experience.*

We held a well attended event in August, titled "The Intersection of Art and Nature," in collaboration with our partners from The Nature Conservancy. Helen Taylor,

State Director, shared her vision of the Conservancy's role in Northern Michigan. Our friends from Painting With A Twist guided 60 enthusiastic adults and children through a session of painting the Lighthouse on their own canvases. As so often happens, we were blessed with a beautiful summer afternoon, and lots of smiles to go around.

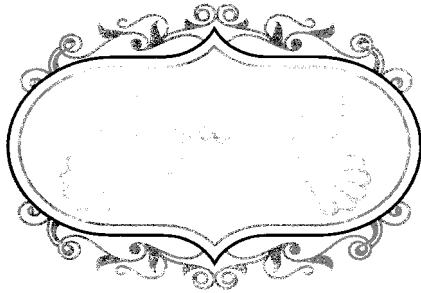
I am encouraged to report we finally seem to be making progress with the Point Betsie road end project. As you know, the condition of the road has been a continuing challenge for ease of visitor parking and safety of pedestrians. As of the time of this letter, the Friends, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Benzie County Road Commission have agreed to a conceptual plan. The next step is to seek concurrence from the appropriate State agencies prior to making application for a funding grant. A public hearing will be scheduled for early December, which will be publicized in the Record Patriot. This process takes time, but if all goes well construction could begin as early as the fall of 2018. We don't have a final cost estimate for the project yet, but you can expect us to launch a fund raising appeal next year to help raise the required matching funds for the grant.

This is my final message as President of the Friends. We should all be very proud of what we have been able to accomplish together over the past four years. I particularly wish to thank the members of our Board, our wonderful volunteers, and all of you who have supported our efforts since the beginning. I am confident the light at Point Betsie will shine for generations to come.

- Jim Radabaugh, *President*

POINT BETSIE CREATES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFE TIME

Point Betsie is becoming a destination for weddings that are looking for an historical setting. It is a perfect venue for ceremonies of 50 guests or less. Needless to say, the views are spectacular and each couple chooses its own way to stage its ceremony. Some couples choose the dunes or the period rooms, but all create their own personal ambience. Many like to stay in our apartment during their wedding week, and all tell us that they will return often to celebrate their anniversaries. For more information regarding weddings at Point Betsie, check out "weddings" on our website. www.pointbetsie.org



Kelsey and her attendants in the Bride's Room.



*Bethany and Jesse
Newlyweds!*



Ella and Daren pose in front of the Fresnel Lens.

A FUNDRAISER 'WITH A TWIST'

More than 250 people gathered on a sunny day in early August to celebrate Point Betsie Lighthouse and the protected land that surrounds it.

"The Intersection of Art and Nature" included lighthouse tours, local food and beverages, live music, and a special opportunity to create a painting of the lighthouse, thanks to Traverse City's "Painting with a Twist."

The Aug. 2 event was the first joint fundraiser held by the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse and the Nature Conservancy, which works to preserve the freshwater dunes system. Proceeds supported preservation efforts at the lighthouse and its grounds, including enhancements to an exhibit about the work of the Conservancy, according to Jim Radabaugh, president of the Lighthouse Board of Directors.

"People know of our mission to preserve the building and artifacts at Point Betsie, and our commitment to educate the visiting public on the historic significance of this local landmark. They are generally not as familiar with our commitment to promote stewardship of the lakeshore, watershed, and local environment," said Radabaugh. "The Friends have had a natural partnership with the Nature Conservancy since our inception. We saw an opportunity here to forge partnerships with other local non-profit organizations in an effort to build a stronger overall community."

Many thanks to all our volunteers, and to Frankz in Frankfort for providing such delicious food for our guests. Live music was provided by Floyd & Them Other Pluckers - What a great event!!

- Lesa Huget



ROAD END/PARKING PROJECT

As Jim discussed, we're moving forward on the road end/parking project in cooperation with Benzie County Parks & Recreation and Road Commission. We have also kept the neighbors updated and they have contributed to the discussion. We will soon bring Lake Township into the process. Right now we're focused on getting the conceptual plan and other pertinent details finalized and conducting a Public Hearing in preparation for a large dollar grant application to address much of the funding for the project. The deadline for the grant is April 1, 2017 with grant-awarding not being made until late November of 2017 and finalized in early Spring 2018. Hence, project construction will not occur until after the 2018 open season. We have already communicated with the granting agency and we believe we are highly competitive to be considered for a grant.

Obtaining a grant for this high-dollar project will be necessary for construction but will not cover the entire cost. Grants require matching funds as with our prior renovation projects. The Friends have accumulated a reserve over the years to address the remaining capital projects, but depending on the eventual cost, we will need to raise substantial additional funds to be ready to start. We are hopeful of partnering with other agencies for the matching funds as the road end serves more than just the Lighthouse. The Road Commission would also like to resurface the rest of Point Betsie Road if that can come together. We are heartened that long needed improvements and safety considerations are on the horizon for Point Betsie Road.

- Chuck Clarke, *Treasurer*

Looking toward the future and the possibility of sending your newsletter by email, we are gathering addresses. If you are interested in this service, there is a place near the bottom of the remittance envelope, above the "OUR MISSION" statement, where you can write your email address.

You can send it to us in this manner or by calling our lighthouse manager, Dan Smith, at 231-631-1749 or sending it to his work email address, pointbetsie@gmail.com

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