



Photo By: Aaron C. Jors

A Letter from Board President Dick Taylor:

As the newly elected president of the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse Board of Directors, I follow in the footsteps of our very capable and hardworking previous presidents—Amy Ferris, Jon Hawley, Jim Radabaugh and Nancy Weir. For more than 15 years, they have worked tirelessly with staff and volunteers to lay the foundation upon which we continue to build. Their leadership has allowed us to repair and renovate the Lighthouse for the benefit of the community and the many visitors we welcome each summer.

Unlike many not-for-profits, we are fortunate to be cash-flow positive. This isn't enough to cover all the costs of restoring an aging lighthouse, however. That's why we are embarking this spring on a capital campaign to raise money for two major renovation projects:

- ◆ Repairing the Shoreline Protection System in front of the Lighthouse itself. It was first constructed in 1869, with the last major reconstruction completed in 1944. It is clearly in need of repair.
- ◆ Improving the end of Point Betsie Road near Lake Michigan to enhance safety, access and parking.

I'm excited to be leading these efforts. We'll be in touch in the weeks and months ahead regarding the projects, both of which will require the generosity of the Point Betsie Lighthouse community to complete successfully. See the article on Page 3 for more information.

Also, be sure to read about this summer's photo contest in the article on Page 5 of this newsletter. Maybe you even have a photo of your own that you'd like to enter.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Lighthouse this summer!

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.

Board of Directors

Dick Taylor, President
Brad Steffens, Vice President
Lesla Huget, Secretary
Chuck Clarke, Treasurer

Gayle Brown
Bill Herd
Steve Loveless
Michael Perry
Genie Wolfson

Gift Shop Manager

Kathy Fishburn

Staff

Leo Bevington
Ruth Paris
Maryellen Paull
Jay Peregrine
Debbie Street
Vincent Strelczuk
Cheryl Taylor

The Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse

3701 Point Betsie Road | P.O. Box 601
Frankfort, Michigan 49635
(231) 352-7644 | www.pointbetsie.org



Friends of Point Betsie Launch \$1M+ Campaign to Fix the Road End and Protect the Lighthouse

Point Betsie Lighthouse, perched on a fragile dune environment, is buffeted year-round by the harsh Lake Michigan climate. Rain, snow, wind and ice all combine in a perfect storm of wear and tear on our historic landmark and its surroundings.

For the past 17 years, renovating and protecting the historic facility and the land on which it sits has been the responsibility of Benzie County and its partner, the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Friends Board of Directors is now asking for substantial donations to a capital campaign that will enhance and protect Point Betsie for the next generation of visitors.

The \$1 million-plus campaign will fund two much-needed projects, says Board President Dick Taylor: repairs to the crumbling Shoreline Protection System, which prevents erosion in front of the Lighthouse; and safety and access improvements to a widened Point Betsie Road end.



The Shoreline Protection System extends from the Lighthouse into the waters of Lake Michigan.

The road end-improvements provide 33 new parking spots, including 20 set on an angle (two of which are for people with disabilities); sidewalks; a vehicle turnaround area; and a stable, handicap-accessible walkway that will lead to our popular beach. No more getting stuck on the sandy shoulders! (See photo below.)

The “road end” project has been under development since 2003. A joint committee of the Friends, Benzie County Parks and Recreation and the Road Commission formed in 2016 to advance the plans. The plans are subject to change to comply with state and local permits.



Taken in Summer of 2018 ... unfortunately a common scene at Point Betsie.

The Shoreline Protection System project was incorporated into the campaign because its deteriorating condition demands major attention.

Although the Friends are applying for local, state and federal grants in cooperation with Benzie County, matching funds are the responsibility of the Friends through support from individual donors and family foundations.

“Since 2002, the Friends have raised funds for the restoration of the historic buildings, which are now completed,” said Taylor. “In 2014 we completed a new building that houses a Gift Shop, Exhibit Museum and public restrooms. This capital campaign is one of the final major steps in our renovation, and we hope you will support it with a generous one-time contribution.”

To donate, please visit www.pointbetsie.org/support/. For more information or to inquire about other (non-digital) ways to make a gift, please email Dick Taylor at rrtaylor57@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting Point Betsie Lighthouse!

Volunteers and Staff Ramp Up for the 2019 Season



Past President Nancy Weir and staff member Ruth Paris stock the Gift Shop prior to opening day in 2018. Want to join the fun? See the article below.

Planning to visit Point Betsie Lighthouse this year? We're getting ready for you! The winter was long and cold, but we began preparing for the 2019 season as soon as the snow and ice started to recede. When you visit us on a perfect summer day, remember that we've been busy checking chores off our "to do" list throughout the spring.

People ...

- ◆ Complete hiring of summer staff, both veteran employees and new faces
- ◆ Renew commitments from volunteers. Interested? See article below.
- ◆ Build staff and volunteer work schedules
- ◆ Train staff and volunteers

Places ...

- ◆ Major spring cleaning ... the Lighthouse, Gift Shop, Museum, Keeper's Apartment and Fog Signal Building
- ◆ Tidy up the grounds (weed, mow and plant)
- ◆ Contract with vendors for painting and repairs

And Things ...

- ◆ Order, receive, prepare, price, code and display gift shop inventory (more than 120 boxes on average)
- ◆ Distribute several thousand Point Betsie informational panel cards to locations throughout northwest Michigan
- ◆ Inventory the Apartment and repair/replace items
- ◆ Create and distribute our spring newsletter
- ◆ Replace all exhibit labels in the Lighthouse
- ◆ Clean exhibit cases
- ◆ Launder the dress-up clothes in the beach patrol exhibit
- ◆ Update our website

... and much more!

Help Wanted! (We Need You)

Want to share your love of the Lighthouse with our many visitors this summer?

Then please consider becoming a volunteer docent at the Point Betsie Lighthouse or a volunteer in the Gift Shop (or both).

Spend your volunteer shift helping Lighthouse guests make the most of their visit, or sell tour tickets and beautiful merchandise in our Gift Shop. It's wonderful to feel the excitement from people of all ages during their visits to this special place!

Shifts are each two to two-and-a-half hours, and you may volunteer for as many or as few per week as suits your schedule. No prior experience is necessary. We will train you! Please contact staff member Maryellen at pointbetsie@gmail.com to volunteer.

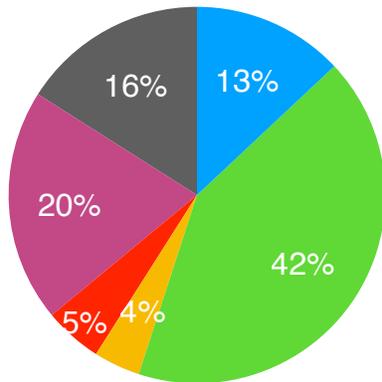


Volunteer docents enjoy this bird's eye view of the Fog Signal Building and Sleeping Bear Dunes shoreline when they work in the Lighthouse tower.

Become a Friend of Point Betsie Lighthouse

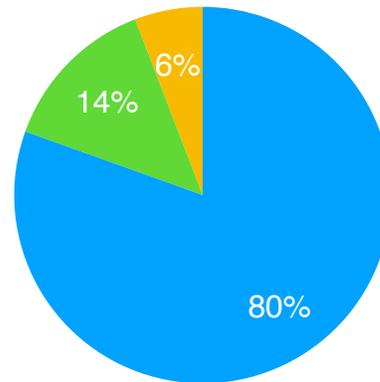
By becoming a Friend of Point Betsie, you are doing your part to preserve Benzie County's most iconic and historic treasure. Annual memberships, as well as memorial and honorarium donations, fund our program services, which support our day-to-day operations. This includes the regular maintenance that protects and stewards Point Betsie. Please consider returning the enclosed envelop or use our secure online system via www.pointbetsie.org/support/. Thank you for your help!

2018 Income



- Contributions/Memorials & Honors/Memberships
- Gift Shop Merchandise Sales
- Other (Interest, Insurance Refunds)
- Endowment Distribution
- Tour Tickets
- Apartment/Wedding Rentals

2018 Expenses



- Program Services
- Mangement, General Administration
- Fundraising

Recent Contributions in Memory Of ...

Bill & Libby MacGreevy ... Annie Kuether
Bonnie Warren ... Marcy Day
Bridget & Harrison "Tip" Miller ... Bonnie Kistler
 & Jodi Blair
Bridget & Harrison "Tip" Miller ... Mike Wilson
David DeVries ... Annie & Mike DeVries
Doris & Dick Howe ... Darcy Howe & John Black
Dr. David Grant ... Judy Grant
Elsie Walton ... Steve Walton
Fred Anderson ... Kathleen Chinavare
Fred Anderson ... Myra Elias
Gerald Margetson ... Sandra & Frank Slater
Herb & Betty Carter ... Pierce Chamberlain III
 & Karen Underhill

Joan Olsen ... Kristine Drake
Joan J. Olsen ... William C. Olsen
Joan Weir Stradal ... Kristi & Tom Weir
John C. Reid ... Gerald Jordan
Kathy Borgeson ... Brad Borgeson
Katie Millikan Schultz ... Ruth Ann & Jim Millikan
Michael D. Potter ... Patsy & Bill Beck
Nelda Christ ... Inge & Michael Gerber
Richard & Adele McLaren ... Susan McLaren
Richard Trent ... Jane & Vincent Perna
Robert M. Michels ... Elizabeth & Mark Michels
Robert Samper ... Marianne Samper
Sharon Mullally ... Katie & Chris Vaughan
Tony McDonald ... Peter H. Wollenberg
Wendy deMonchaux ... David MacWilliams

In Honor of ...

Joanne & Gerry Grossman ... Mary & Kent Burgener
Liza Barnard & Jim Ryan ... DeAnne & Todd Frank

In Honor & Memory of ...

The Robertson Family ... The Rozanne & David
 Robertson Jr Family

Share Your Best Point Betsie Pics and Compete for Cash Prizes in Our Photo Contest!

Calling shutterbugs of all ages and skill levels to compete for cash prizes (and bragging rights!) this summer during our first-ever Point Betsie juried photography competition and exhibition.

Photos must feature the Lighthouse and will be accepted now through June 7 via www.CallForEntry.org. You will be notified by June 12 if your photo has been selected for the second stage of the competition.

Selected photographs are to be framed under glass by the artist and delivered to the Point Betsie gift shop between June 23-29.

The public exhibition begins in the Fog Signal Building on July 3. Any visitor who purchases a tour ticket during the month of July may vote for their favorite photograph.

The top vote getters (\$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$100 for third place) will be announced Aug. 6 during our annual summer event. A three-member panel of professional photographers will select one overall \$1,000 grand prize winner.

For more information, including specific submission guidelines and entry fees, please visit the Call for Entry website, www.CallForEntry.org. Good luck!

Photogenic Point Betsie ...



Kristina Lishawa Photography



Abrietta V. Hope Photography



Heather Higman, Snap Happy Girl Photography



**The Friends of Point
Betsie Lighthouse**
3701 Point Betsie Road
P.O. Box 601
Frankfort, MI 49635
(231) 352-7644

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 4
FRANKFORT, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



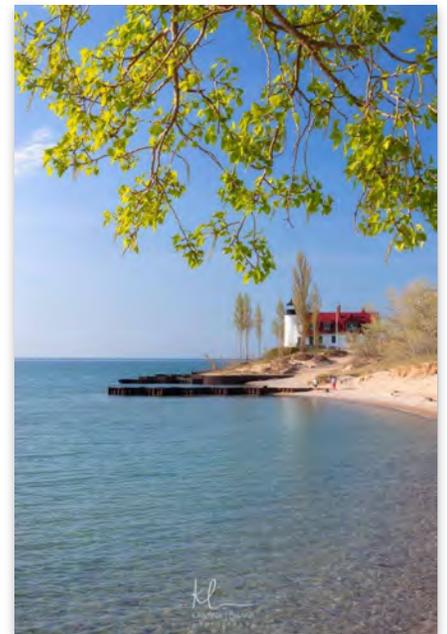
Mark Lindsay



James Eye View Photography

OPENING DAY IS MAY 25

**For our full season schedule
please visit us at
www.pointbetsie.org**



Kristina Lishawa Photography