South Fox Island Light Station

LOCATION
Part of the Archipelago Islands
South Fox Island is approximately 5 miles long, 1.5 miles wide at its widest point, with a total size of 3,300 acres. The Light Station is located on a 115 acre parcel owned by the State of Michigan and is accessible only by boat.
History

1867 Light House – 1895 Oil House – 1895 Fog Signal Building
1897 Boat House – 1897 Work Shop – 1910 Keepers Quarters – 1934 Steel Tower

South Fox Island Light Station

45° 22′ 41″ N, 85° 50′ 18″ W
FILA
Est. 2004

What we found.....

1867 Lighthouse in 2006.
1867 lean-to in 2007.
Boat House in 2006.
Workshop in 2006

.....and what we did

1867 Lighthouse in 2013.
Rebuilt lean-to in 2015.
Boat House in 2015.
Workshop in 2015
Word is getting out that this is a unique destination for the adventuresome
2016 Biggest Year for Visitor to station

Island Visitors

- 70+ visitors from 5 states

Each were given personally guided tours by Camper Keepers.
Educational Resource
Inland Seas Tall Ship visited with 9 Chicago STEM students
Strong, Productive work teams!

Island Keepers

- 7 weeks “on island”
  - 1 week work team in May, our earliest ever
  - 6 weeks of camper keepers (mid-July – Aug)
Camper Keepers 2016
Lorinda and Eric Maki… Kathy and Bruce Rollins
Workshop
Re-glazed windows
Painted trim & exterior
Boathouse

Installed small door; final task of our 10 year complete restoration! Exterior painting on east side.
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Assistant Keepers

Started window restoration on first apartment
Spec’d out missing portico support
1867 Lighthouse
Completed window restoration
1867 Lighthouse
John and Karen Wells are Window Wizards
1867 Lighthouse
Built easily-removable winter window covers
1867 Lighthouse
Installing New Shutters
1867 Lighthouse
Installed doors on “lean to”
Maintain the Grounds
Keep Grass Cut and Planted Herb Garden
Cleaning Up

• Grounds
  – Removal of construction waste leftover from “lean to” project
  – Ongoing brush removal, including opening east trail
Transporting Materials

- Began staging lumber for lean to interior
- Acquired/transported 2 more pallets of historic brick
- Transported large ladder for roof projects
- Deliver chairs for keepers quarters.
DNR Visit
DNR Visit and Material Delivery with help from Nat. Park Service
Edgewater Resources site visit
Fundraised for 2017 Fog Signal Roof Project

$15,000
2017 Plans

- Fog Signal Roof
  - Have applied for materials grant
  - If successful, can replace rather than patch roof
  - Will match with funds raised to date for contracted labor

- “Visitor Amenities” Project
  - Potential for another $5K+ materials grant
  - Includes
    - Outhouse
    - “Lean to” completion and outfitting as host accommodation
    - Picnic area enhancements – table & grill
    - Signage – upgrade worn existing signs plus our first interp sign
  - Match primarily with volunteer labor

- Ongoing camper keeper program
2017 Plans

• Additional volunteer projects
  – Continue window restoration on Assistant Keepers – goal to get 4-5 windows functional
  – Clean up & ready Assistant Keepers for tours
  – Begin lead paint remediation in 1867 lighthouse
  – Continued brush clearing
  – Painting – “lean to” interior, outhouse, possibly begin interior trim in 1867 light
  – Address roof leak on Oil House
  – Re-establish cloth lines (missing pole found in poison ivy bed last year!)

• Completion of DNR Dock Study
2017 Celebration

June 17
• Lighthouse Celebration Day – held at Leelanau State Park. Join us for historical presentations and festivities

August 19
• Pancake Breakfast – Join us for our 7th annual event and start your day out right!

November 1
• Sesquicentennial – After 150 years the station is being reborn through generous efforts of supporters.
Where you come in…

- Island transport remains a bottle neck
  - Talking to someone about running a boat for us
  - Still could use other volunteers – even one trip per year could help

- Need volunteers with specific skills
  - Could use a second carpenter for a week in early June
  - Need volunteers able to organize projects (ex. figuring out skeleton tower lantern room needs; engineering drawing for 1867 lighthouse front door, etc.)
  - Plastering skills – begin patching 1867 lighthouse interior
  - Brick laying skills – complete “lean to” foundation work and replacing damaged brick on 1867 light

- 2017 Camper Keepers – 2 week “on island” commitment

- Volunteers both on & off island
  - Day trippers – must have schedule flexibility and willingness to do whatever tasks are assigned
  - Construction projects “off island”
  - Lighthouse celebration & pancake breakfast need volunteers

Help us get the word out about this great place and our needs!
Attitude of Gratitude

- Volunteer Boat Captains
  - Phil von Voightlander, Don Stauffer, Joerg Rothenberger, Doug & Gwen Noren

- Camper Keepers
  - Bruce & Kathy Rollins, Eric & Lorinda Maki

- Work trip volunteers

- On shore carpentry projects
  - Bob Hanson, Phil, John & Karen

- Brick trip to Muskegon
  - Dick Zaebst, John McKinney, John & Karen Wells
More thanks…

- DNR Dock project liaison
  - Cathy Alchin
- DNR & SHPO liaisons
  - Cathy Alchin, John McKinney
- Grants & Fundraising
  - John & Karen Wells
- Website
  - Joerg Rothenberger
- Membership, financials, filings & thank yous
  - John McKinney, John & Karen Wells
- Camper Keeper program coordination
  - Phil von Voightlander
- Pancake breakfast leadership
  - Pamela Nickerson, Sandy Bradshaw
- Newsletter Layout/Graphics work
  - Cathy Alchin
- Donors – our extended 70+ member family who make our work possible
- Board members
- DNR
- Grand Traverse Lighthouse
- National Park Service…
Merry Christmas