

Please Join Us for

Potluck & Pictures



*PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND A REVIEW OF
THE FOX ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS FOR 2007
FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF ASSOCIATION MEETING*

**FILA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 12:00 noon**

GREAT LAKES CHILDRENS MUSEUM - CONFERENCE ROOM
13240 S. WEST BAY SHORE DR., TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



www.southfox.org

2007 Annual Report

FILA has made good progress over the past season. The Fox Island Light Station continues to benefit from our efforts to protect and stabilize the various buildings. Notably, the east end of the Boathouse was cleared of rocks and the structure trued and temporarily supported by 2 interior shear walls. These will assure the integrity of the building while it is subsequently re-roofed and repaired. To start with, rotted roof boards were replaced and the wall section that blew out last winter was reinstalled. The adjacent pier and walkways were also cleared of stones that had been forced in by the ice in earlier high water years. Elsewhere in the complex over 100 feet of additional sidewalks were cleared of overgrowth and humus.

The completion of the painting of the oil house was the benefit of our painting projects. Both the metal roof and door and the brick exterior are once again protected from the elements for the first time in 50 years. We also started work on the Paint (a.k.a. Carpenters) Shop. After clearing more of the brush from around the building, it received a priming coat of paint and replacement of a rotted threshold. In addition, the front door was rebuilt, several windows re caulked and temporary repairs to the roof completed.

The Fog Signal Building also benefited from our attention. The upper story of the building had suffered extensive water damage from the poorly secured door that formerly led to the Light Tower. This has now been bolted closed against a reinforced jam so that it cannot blow open again. On the main floor, two broken windows were replaced. Thus the structure again has a higher degree of weather tightness.

This year we gained access to the Light Tower for the first time. Initially this involved clearing a path through the brush that had grown up around the tower base. Then with the help of an extension ladder we got up to the entrance level. Once within the tower we assessed its condition and determined the logistics for the installation of the web cam, power (solar and batteries) supply and transmitter. This system will provide real time views of the southern end of the island and thus increase the security of the Station and provide for virtual tourism through our website and a monitor at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum. To accomplish that, sightlines needed to be opened between the top of the tower and the other buildings. This involved the trimming and clearing of several trees and has the added benefit of opening up the view of the tower from the ground.

Thus our work during the 2007 season sets us up well to continue and to complete substantial projects in the coming year that will assure that this historic Light Station will remain intact and start to return to the condition that it was maintained to so many years ago.

*We thank our members, volunteers,
the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum
and the DNR for making this possible.*



www.southfox.org