You’re INVITED!
Monthly board meeting
5:30 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month, at the Great Lakes Children’s Museum,
13240 S W Bay Shore Dr,
Traverse City, MI

Interested in a work session out at the station? Please contact Phil at philvon@gmail.com
231-640-0054.

FILA BOARD MEMBERS
John McKinney, President
Catherine Allchin, VP
Pam Fordyce, Treasurer
John Nelson
Hans Joerg Rothenberger
Sandra Bradshaw
Phil von Voigtlander

Grounds cleared in front of the 1910 Assistant Keepers Quarters by YouthWork teams exposing the south side of building for first time in over 25 years.

Benchmark season starts late.

Cold temperatures and wet weather contributed to a late start to the 2019 season. Though our season was short, we made up for it in the intensity of work accomplished and diversity of our teams and visitors. Volunteers ranged in age from 10 to 70+. YouthWork teams cleared grounds and DNR staff and National Park Service were able to deliver long awaited new sign, front door to 1867 lighthouse, the replacement toilet as well as new grill, and picnic tables. We even had celebrity guests: author Kathleen Stocking and entomologist David Roubik, who was surprised to find one of the “most concentrated populations of Monarchs outside of Mexico” during his August visit.
10 yr old saves the boat!

On Sept. 1st, the *Lightkeeper* was riding out two-foot waves at the Boathouse mooring. For safety reasons, the situation was checked from the beach every half hour. Right between two of those checks, 10-year-old Tom Denton, son of FILA volunteer Shawn Denton, was exploring the beach when he noticed that the boat was slowly drifting away from the buoy in the northbound waves and wind. He immediately reported his observation to the captain, who hunted the boat down by dinghy. By the time the engines were started to pull her off the shoal, the beach was only about 100 away. A few minutes later she would have run aground.

Mapping the mooring area

Captain Joerg added large areas to his underwater mapping. This bathymetry will be a great help for safe near shore navigation and any future harborage development.

10 yr old saves the boat!

Inland Seas bring students from Hope College in Chicago

Stone ground cover moved to under skeletal tower

Tongue and groove paneling in the Fog Signal staircase

Youth teams bring high energy and skills!

YouthWork is a part of Traverse City Child and Family Services and engages young adults age 16 to 26 in meaningful projects in the community. Three teams camped on the island for up to five days each accomplishing clearing in front of the Assistant Keepers Quarters, the path and area around gravesite and fire control projects, installed tongue and groove paneling in the Fog Signal staircase and landscaping the Skeletal Tower base with stone. This was a great experience both for the teams and for FILA with all they accomplished. We’ve started meeting with project leaders and grant writers to expand this partnership further in 2020. Please consider donating to support this group.

Dark Skies

Visitors sometimes ask whether we have plans to relight the lighthouses on South Fox. Probably not: our pristine night sky is pretty unique. A recent study by Fabio Falchi of the Light Pollution Science and Technology Institute in Italy identified areas with less than 1% “artificial brightness” finding only four states in the eastern U.S. had areas that qualified; Michigan, Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin. *South Fox Island* is identified as the southernmost site of them all.
Looking ahead.
AK – Assistant Keeper  OH – Oil House  FSB – Fog Signal Building  BH - Boat House

Projects for 2020 to include but not limited to:
1. Clear stumps from AK front yard, level ground and rake in grass seed.
2. Complete clearing of OH hillside, level and rake in grass seed.
3. Clear and edge sidewalks.
6. Clear base of AK retaining wall.
7. Clear above wall back to gravesites preserving hop and selected black berry.
8. Assemble mower barn N of FSB and transfer garden tools and mowers there.
9. Construct level trail from AK to W beach.
10. Scrape and repaint BH exterior.
11. Construct lumber racks in FSB.
12. Sort and transfer lumber from BH to FSB.
13. Interior painting: yellow topcoat in LH dorm room, transparent white stain to FSB stair ceiling...
14. Repair lantern windows and clean up skeletal tower.
15. Replace planks on old picnic table.
16. Finish whitewashing 1867 tower.
17. Safety FIRST.
A far-sighted donor gave us funds to help improve fire control. We've begun a program to reduce risk by clearing brush around buildings, adding additional fire extinguishers, maintaining a shovel and buckets at the fire ring and installing a grill with a concrete footer to provide a safer cooking alternative.

Seasoned volunteers manage the details.
The first work team of August was a team of six, including two first-time carpenter volunteers from South Bend, IN, concluded an intense 5-day work season that included installing restored window sash, rebuilding a basement window frame, installing window and shutter hardware, painting, plaster stabilization and other projects.

Initial plans to recreate the door for 1867 Lighthouse were first developed in 2016. Thomas & Milliken Millwork agreed to build and donate the door in 2017. After a year of transport delays, long time supporter Andy Thomas personally made the install this year with the assistance of Cathy Allchin. Thank you!
You are Invited to the
Annual Meeting
Sun. Dec. 15
3-5pm
Leland Library, Leland MI

Are you a Keeper?

On land or island, preservation of the station depends on the physical and financial support of many. Thank you for believing in what we do. Please help keep the spirit of the light going.

Everyone counts! Become a supporting member.

You can sign-up online at
http://southfox.org/contrib.htm
#Membership

Order Online! T-shirt, Long Sleeved, Sweatshirt, or Kids sizes. 3 colors to choose from.

NEW FOR 2019!

Be a Keeper! Show it proudly!

Yes! It’s a fundraiser to support the YouthWork (YW) program. Our goal is to sell 50 units. Will YOU be wearing one of the limited? All proceeds to help pay for YW return to the station in 2020. Order online and have shipped directly to you!

Order your cool Keeper wear here
bonfire.com/fox-island-light-house

LIKE/SHARE

History is everyone’s story.