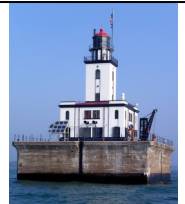




# PASSAGES



\* PO Box 307 \* Drummond Island MI 49726 \* [drlps@drlps.com](mailto:drlps@drlps.com) \* [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) \* 906-493-6609 \*

Issue 12

*We'll Keep the Light on for You!*

Fall 2007

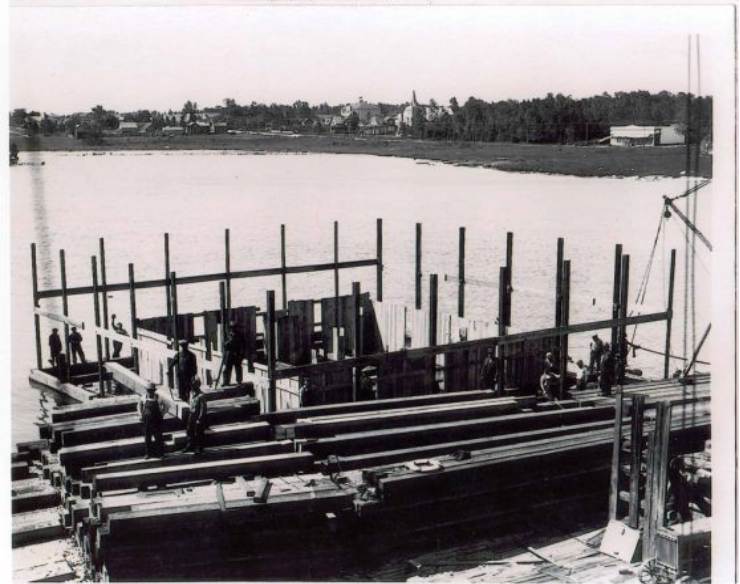
## DeTour Reef Light Crib Model Now on Display on the Light

By Jeri Baron-Feltner and Ann Method Green

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) has recently completed a wooden scale model of the historic DeTour Reef Light Station's unique crib foundation. Working on an idea conceived by DRLPS Historian Chuck Feltner of Drummond Island, Michigan, the DeTour Reef Light's wooden crib model built in 1:12 scale (5' wide by 5' long by 2' high) was painstakingly built by DRLPS volunteer John Covell of Belmont, Michigan, and Drummond Island, Michigan. Covell and Feltner, both longtime builders of models, worked together for most of the winter of 2006 to finish this spectacular project. Covell, a tour guide on the lighthouse tours, is especially pleased that we can at last show people what is holding the lighthouse up. He says "It's the one thing we can't show folks when they come out to visit the lighthouse. Now we can have an accurate model of the crib which was built using original U.S. Lighthouse Service drawings of 1930. We hope it's the first in a series of models that will be on display in the lighthouse." Wood for the project was generously donated by Brian and Jerry Nettleton of Nettleton Wood Products in DeTour Village.

This beautiful crib model has been placed on permanent display at the Lighthouse, resting comfortably in the basement for all who come to visit and admire. When it is seen up close, one can truly begin to appreciate the work that went into creating the crib for the lighthouse and the work it must have taken to accomplish putting it together and placing it off-shore. The model itself is a work of superior craftsmanship and also makes one marvel at the work that goes into wood working on this scale.

DeTour Reef Light Station (DRL) is an offshore lighthouse located in Northern Lake Huron and is situated on a submerged rocky reef a mile off the southeastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Built by the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1930-1931, it includes a light tower and keepers' quarter's superstructure on a concrete pier atop a crib foundation. The DRL is a unique example of the crib foundation lighthouse type. It sits atop a 60' by 60' square by 22' tall box-like wooden crib built with 180,000 board feet of lumber. This crib was assembled onshore at DeTour Village and towed to the lighthouse's designated location. Once there, it was sunk onto a 75' by 75' square leveled bed of crushed rock. The crib's interior compartments were filled with rock and the outer ones with concrete. Additional concrete was poured around its base forming an apron, and rock riprap was placed on top and beyond the concrete apron to further protect the structure.



*Original crib being built at DeTour Village in 1930*



*Chuck Feltner, Sunny and John Covell with DeTour Reef Light crib model in 2007*

Make plans to come and see this rare model of a crib foundation at the DeTour Reef Light. For more information about the model, please contact John Covell at [johncovell32@comcast.net](mailto:johncovell32@comcast.net).

## Mary Rogers Completes Ten Years as Membership Chairperson of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

By Ann Method Green

At a recent meeting, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) presented Mary Rogers with a Ten Year Service Award.

Mary, of DeTour Village, has been the DRLPS Membership Chairperson and a very dedicated volunteer since the DRLPS' first official meeting in January 1998. As membership chairperson, Mary has been the personal interface with the membership of DRLPS. She participated in the growth of the DRLPS, from a small group of local citizens to a membership of over 350 members across the United States. She also has coordinated and represented DRLPS at numerous local community events.

The service award consisted of a glass window pane salvaged during the restoration of DeTour Reef Light. The image of the restored Light has been etched on the pane and brilliant blue stained glass serves as the border. A plaque was attached to the frame stating "With gratitude and appreciation to Mary Rogers for Ten Years of volunteer service." Dave Altmaier of Cedarville designed the custom stained glass around the pane. Harbor View Framing of DeTour Village did the framing and plaque.



*Mary Rogers displaying her ten year award.*

Mary stated that she has been honored to work with the Society and especially directors Bob Jones, Jim Charles and Jeri Baron-Feltner.

Mary retired from the Huron Valley School System in 1995 as an elementary teacher since 1964. She graduated from Western Michigan University in 1964. Mary also contributes her time and talent to several other community organizations. She is an active member of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, and vigorously pursues her passions of walking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and yoga. She and her husband, Bob, have lived in DeTour Village since 1996, and they both enjoy spending time with sons Phil and Jason and daughter-in-law Lori and their two grandchildren Carolina and Christian.

### SAVE THE DATE in 2008

*for the*

### ***10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

*of the*

### ***DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society***

*on*

***Saturday, August 30, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.***

*at*

***EUP Fine Arts & Cultural Center***

***DeTour Village, Michigan***

[www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com)

***Keeping the Light on for You for Ten Years—1998-2008***

DRLPS · PO Box 307 · Drummond Island MI 49726 · [drlps10@drpls.com](mailto:drlps10@drpls.com)

*For more information contact Sandy Wytiaz at 906-297-6801*



## 8th Annual Evening Under the Stars

By Ann Method Green

It was a perfect summer evening on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> when eighty supporters of the DeTour Reef Light and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) gathered at the water's edge of Drummond Island's Bayside Dining at the eastern end of Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula.

Joyce Buckley, Stars chair, stated that the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Evening Under the Stars was "a great success, and it was the largest attendance we have ever had. It tied with 2003 in ticket sales."

DRLPS members James and Barbara Gusfa greeted each guest and presented them a wineglass etched with the image of the DeTour Reef Light. The image was created by local artist Sandy Ledy, and Joyce Buckley etched each glass.

Bayside Dining Executive Chef Kelly Johnson and her staff prepared a lavish meal for the guests. Appetizers were oysters with a minuet sauce, shrimp with cocktail sauce, ham rollups with scallions and herb dressing and filo cups with goat cheese and black olives canapé. A salad of strawberries, apple, onion and spinach with hot bacon dressing was followed by the main entrees of hand-carved prime rib and pan-seared halibut with asparagus, pan-seared tomatoes and lemon butter sauce. A vegetable assortment of zucchini, yellow squash, and green and yellow beans complemented the entrees. Dessert was a fabulous triple chocolate torte. "I enjoyed working with the DRLPS and Joyce to plan Stars and look forward to next year," stated Chef Kelly.

Robert Johnson and Debbie Fogell of "The Generations" were back by popular request with their guitar, vocals, drums/vibes playing a variety of jazz standards and light pop during the evening. The silent auction was lively and donated auction items included: from James Kelley, a loon themed lamp and a DeTour Reef Light picture; from Ann and Ron Green personally embroidered golf shirts with the winners choice of design; from DRLPS, two lighthouse tours; from Jeanne Tubman, her original painting of the DeTour Reef Light; from Joyce Buckley, a wine carafe and four wine glasses and a laundry hamper with a sailboat theme; from Jeri Baron Feltner, pillows in red, white and blue; and from Jim and Barb Gusfa, a handcrafted gold cedar bough necklace.

Candis and Barry Collick generously donated bottles of Lighthouse wine for each table.

A 15-carat gold Lighthouse pendant, designed and made by Dr. James Gusfa DDS, was raffled and won by Lynn Spiher.

The DRLPS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all profits from Stars will be used to continue the work on the Light and to "Keep the Light on for You." The 9th Annual Evening Under the Stars event will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2008.



*Joyce Buckley and the DRL stemware*



*Sheila Sawyer, our new DRLPS Passages editor, and her husband Matt, our new webmaster.*

*Bayside Dining Executive Chef Kelly Johnson hand carves prime rib*



## DRLPS Tenth Annual Father's Day Cruise Dedicated to the Memory of Jim Charles, Founding Director

By Ann Method Green

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) held their tenth annual Father's Cruise on June 17, 2007. The cruise was dedicated to the memory of Jim Charles of DeTour Village, a founding director of the DRLPS, who had been on every previous cruise enthusiastically selling DeTour Reef Light memorabilia. Jim's support of the efforts of the DRLPS helped build the DRLPS and get the original restoration moving forward.

On a bright sunny Sunday morning, the Soo Locks Boat Tour (SLBT) vessel *Le Voyageur*, piloted by Captain Jack Cork and his crew Maynard Adams and Charlie Lampman, left DeTour Village at 10 AM and headed out to DeTour Reef Light. John and Sunny Covell, dressed in lighthouse keeper uniforms, presented a vivid description of the interior of the Light via a hand-held marine radio that was then relayed onto the boat's speaker system. After the boat circled the Light and provided many picture opportunities for the cruisers, the weekend Light keepers waved and shouted encouragement from the pier deck and sent them on their way up the St Mary's River.

The Cruise then proceeded upriver and through the Soo Locks with narration by Wayne Sapulski, a noted Lighthouse author from Livonia, MI and Maynard Adams of SLBT. The trip through the Soo Locks was a first time experience for many of the passengers.

The cruisers were treated to a brunch of pastries and fruit, a buffet luncheon with many selections of cold meats, cheeses, and salads, and an afternoon snack of cheeses, crackers, and cookies. Again, this year, Stan Todd and Carol Martin did a fantastic job putting together the food for the cruise.

In honor of Father's Day, prizes were presented to the father with the most children: Rog Slagter of, Hudsonville, MI; and to the grandfather with the most grandchildren, Bernard Grooters of Jenison, MI.

Additional door prizes were awarded to several cruisers. From Drummond Island, the Islander Shop donated a limited edition print of the DeTour Reef Light; the Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center donated a gift certificate for two rounds of golf; Sune's Dry Goods and Grocery donated an etched wine decanter and glass set accompanied by a bottle of wine; and Gourmet Galley donated DeTour Reef Light socks. From DeTour Village, the Mainsail Restaurant donated a gift certificate for dinner; and the Timberdoodle donated a merchandise gift certificate. Soo Locks Boat Tours donated a ticket for their tour of lighthouses on the St. Mary's River.

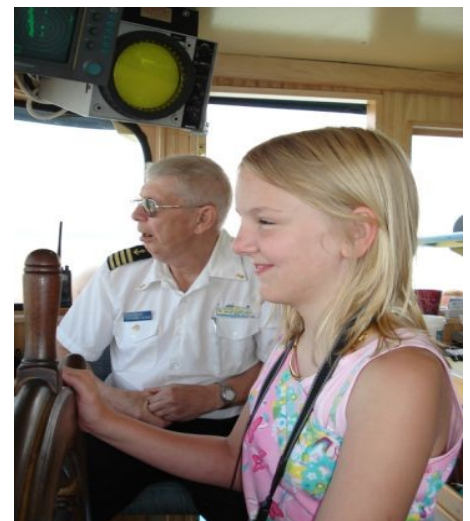
*(Continued on page 5)*



*Weekend Keepers Randy & Jo Lane and Leslie & Richard Westbury greet the cruisers*



*Winning fathers Rog Slagter and Bernard Grooters smile for the camera*



*Samantha Smith keeps the boat on course with the help of Maynard Adams*



***Father's Day Cruise... (Continued from page 4)***

After the entertaining and educational tour, cruisers boarded buses at the SLBT docks in Sault Sainte Marie and arrived in DeTour Village at 6PM.

Anne Stafford, the Father's Day River Cruise chairperson, thanked the volunteers Paula Bardsley, Rita Carleski, and Ann Method Green for helping make this years cruise a success.

Plans are in process for next year's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual DRLPS River Cruise, scheduled for Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, 2008. To sign up for this popular event, please visit [www.drlps.com](http://www.drlps.com), or contact [rivercruise@drlps.com](mailto:rivercruise@drlps.com), 906-297-6051.



***John Covell waving to the cruisers from the lantern level of the DeTour Reef Light***

**Mark your 2008 calendars:  
11th Annual Father's Day River Cruise Sunday, June 15  
9th Annual Evening Under the Stars, Saturday, July 12  
DRLPS 10th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, August 30  
Tours and Lighthouse Keeper Programs in June, July and August.**

### **Membership List on Website**

If you haven't visited our website ([www.drlps.com](http://www.drlps.com)) recently, please do so when you get a chance. We are constantly updating and improving it. One of the new features that will be coming soon is a listing of our current membership. (Names only, no other information will be published.) It is the support from our hundreds of members that enables the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society to continue to restore and maintain the Light and make it available to the public. Remember that your membership is a tax-deductible donation to the Society that keeps you on our mailing list for *Passages* as well as members-only mailings and entitles everyone in your immediate family to a \$20 discount on Tours of the Light and Keeper Program stays on the Light.

If you would prefer not to have your name listed on our website, please send an email to [membership@drlps.com](mailto:membership@drlps.com), or call the Membership Chairperson, Paula Bardsley, at (906) 493-6609.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join DRLPS, simply print the membership form from our website, complete it, and mail it to: DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI. If you are unable to print it from the website, please send an email to [membership@drlps.com](mailto:membership@drlps.com) or call (906) 493-6609.

## DRLPS In The News.....

*The following article, written by Peter Payette, news director at Interlochen Public Radio, appeared in the August 2007 issue of Traverse magazine.*

### Dimming the Light

#### **Restoration groups say state rules hurt their efforts to keep lighthouses part of our landscape.**

Not many historic sites require you to wear a harness for entry. But the DeTour Reef Light does. That's because the lighthouse sits on top of a 20-foot concrete platform nearly a mile out in Lake Huron near Drummond Island. If you're lucky, there won't be three foot waves tossing the boat around as you step from the boat to ladder. If you go, you'll be treated to something remarkable in the Great Lakes. DeTour is one of the about a dozen lights built offshore in the early part of the 20th century so the pilots of large freighters could steer clear of the shallow reefs. But among them, only DeTour has found new caretakers since the Coast Guard abandoned and automated lighthouses in the 70's.

The DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society raised and spent more than a million dollars, most of it state grants, bringing the structure back to the life and opening it for tours. Like some other restored lighthouses, DeTour has a keeper program that allows you to stay for the weekend. It's booked into next summer—even though part of the deal requires you to clean up the seagulls' mess. The group knows of no other reef-based lighthouse in the United States that allows overnight visits. The restoration has received a handful of awards and put the lighthouse on the National Register of Historic Places.

But despite such success, the group's work has brought it into dispute with the state. That's because the bottom of the lake is public property, owned by the people of Michigan. And if you want to own a building on public land you need an agreement with the state. But years of negotiations have not produced one. DeTour's attorney, Clif Haley, says no lighthouse preservation group will take over an offshore light on the state's terms because they are unfair.

Some of the requirements Haley objects to on principal, like paying \$200 rent every year. Others he says they can't agree to, like providing liability insurance or promising to remove the lighthouse if the preservation society dissolves. Haley doesn't think anyone in Lansing is trying to thwart historic preservation efforts. Lighthouses are generally recognized as the most prominent icons of Michigan's maritime heritage. He does, however, resent that many of the terms being demanded of the nonprofit group are identical to what the state would require of someone who wants to stick a commercial dock into one of the Great Lakes. He thinks the state fails to see his group for what it is, a bunch of volunteers taking care of a public resource that can help the local economy. Without volunteers, he says, lighthouses would crumble into a pile of rubble for the state to clean up. "The volunteer citizen group has simply replaced the federal government, or Coast Guard, as stewards for the preservation of this structure."

Haley believes the state has discretion to waive the requirements. The deputy director of the Department of Environmental Quality, Skip Pruss, disagrees. "We've not at liberty to make up the law here." Pruss says liability insurance is required whenever the state signs an agreement, and the state constitution says the people of Michigan will be compensated by anyone using state land. A previous attempt to accept token compensation in a comparable situation was rejected in court.

Pruss says his office wants to encourage this work, and hopes they'll soon figure a way to iron everything out. But exactly how is unclear. Legislative proposals have been in the works for years to no avail. One preservationist says he participated in a phone conference with 18 state and federal attorneys and finally, after three hours, told the attorneys he didn't understand what they were talking about and hung up.

It's hard to say how much the stalemate is hampering preservation efforts. So far, two lighthouses resting on state bottomlands have been restored — DeTour and the near-shore Harbor Beach, in the Thumb. Both groups have leases from the Coast Guard.

Whether the other dozen offshore lighthouses in Michigan waters could deteriorate beyond repair during the standoff is an open question. The DeTour Reef Light, for instance, has a structural crack in its concrete deck, but it appears to be stable. There are people interested in restoring some of the other reef-based lights—a few are miles from shore— but they are waiting to see how the titles issues are resolved. Dick Moehl, president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, fears that people will just give up because the challenge will be too great. "All you got to do is look at a house on a street, and if its sits vacant without and owner for two or more years it turns out to be a ramshackle mess."

## Don Gries Elected to the Board of Directors of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

By Ann Method Green

### Preservation Chair is Busy with 2 New Grants

At the annual meeting of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) Donald A. Gries was elected by the members to the Board of Directors. Don has been the DRLPS Restoration Chair since 2006, and this newly formed Board position demonstrates the importance that the society places on the continuing restoration of the DeTour Reef Light.

Don comes well qualified for the position. He is the son of a college professor and grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He attended the University of Wyoming and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and then attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas receiving a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Don joined the Aircraft Engine Division of General Electric in Cincinnati, Ohio and was involved in the design of jet engines for a variety of military and commercial aircraft. In the early 1970s he moved to the Turbine Division of Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan where he designed components for turbine engines for heavy trucks. After this short lived division closed, he returned to Cincinnati and rejoined General Electric.

In 1978 he sold all his worldly belongings and sailed a 43 foot ketch throughout the Caribbean. While on this adventure he discovered that he had a work ethic, needed to be productive, and thought about starting a business. One of his business ideas consisted of buying a small tramp cargo vessel and hauling empty bottles from the islands back to the breweries. Luckily good sense prevailed, he said.

After a year of sailing, Don returned to Michigan and joined Williams Research, a small company in Walled Lake, Michigan. Williams Research became Williams International and Don moved from engineer to Manager of Design to Director of Engineering Sciences and, for the last ten years, the Vice President of Engineering. During this period Williams became the leading designer and manufacturer of small gas turbines in the world.

Don and his wife, Nella, enjoy back packing, kayaking and flying their small Cessna airplane. They have two grown sons who are both engineers working in the Mid-west.

Don retired in early 2006 and moved to Drummond Island in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. He quickly filled his retirement time, finishing their home, participating in the Lions Club and helping the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society. In 2006, Don was named Preservation Chair of DRLPS. During this past summer, he has led the effort to prepare the second deck crane on the DeTour Reef Light for restoration by removing the pillar from the light station's deck. The restoration grant, prepared by DRLPS volunteer Clif Haley, was awarded by the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) and is a matching fund grant administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Don also recently submitted a second grant request to MLAP for the original DeTour Reef Light foghorn to be in operation at the lighthouse.



## Student Welders Work Well Together

By Russ Norris

“They make a pretty good team,” says Brian Nettleton, the shop teacher at DeTour High School, “Andy will design something and lay it out and then Brandon will weld it. He’s one of the best welders I’ve ever had”.

Andy Dyal and Brandon Barrette were both students in Mr. Nettleton’s welding class this past year and they had a special project to work on at the end of the school year, steel ladders for the two bunk beds going to the DeTour Reef Light this

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Tours and Lighthouse Keeper Programs for 2008

By Dave Bardsley



Once again in 2008, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society will be offering exciting opportunities for the public to share in the beauty and history of the DeTour Reef Light.

DeTour Reef Light tours include a spectacular boat ride to the Light followed by a two hour guided tour to all areas of the Light: the mechanical rooms, the Gallery area, the Keeper living area, the tower room and the lantern floor. The tour ends with light refreshments and the opportunity to talk with the resident keepers of the Light.

Each tour is limited to six individuals and assures personal attention by the tour guides. Visitors must be physically capable of climbing and descending the 20-foot ladder to reach the lighthouse deck. During ascent and descent of the ladder each person will wear a safety harness, which requires visitors to be at least 50 inches tall and weigh less than 300 pounds.

Tours for 2008 will be on the following dates:

June 7, 14, 21, and 28

July 5, 13, 19 and 26

August 2, 10, 16, and 23

Through the Lighthouse Keeper program lighthouse enthusiasts can enjoy a unique experience on the DeTour Reef Light. This program provides the opportunity for four to six keepers to be in residence for 3 days and 2 nights. Keepers will assist with light maintenance and interact with the people touring the Lighthouse. A spectacular 360 degree view of the St. Mary's River provides views of sunrises and sunsets beyond description. The DeTour Reef Light is the only off-shore lighthouse that offers an overnight program. The keeper program typically runs from 1 PM on Friday to 5:30 PM Sunday (although there can be modifications at the request of the keeper group). Cost for the weekend is \$200 per person (members), \$220 (non members), and keepers provide their own linens and food.

Keeper weekends are planned for every weekend between June 13th and the end of August. This program has been highly popular since starting in 2005 and applications are now being taken for the 2008 season on the following weekends:

June 13-15, June 20-22, June 27-29

July 4-6, July 11-13, July 18-20, July 25-27

August 1-3, August 8-10, August 15-17, August 22-24

For information on tours or the Lighthouse Keeper program, go to [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com), for a detailed description of the programs, articles by past volunteer keepers, an application to become a lighthouse keeper and photographs of the lighthouse keeper experience.

### A Message from DRLPS President Russ Norris

One of the most enjoyable aspects of working with a non-profit organization such as the DeTour Reef RLPS is seeing the willingness of individuals to donate their time and resources to a cause they consider beneficial to their community. Whether it is the enthusiasm of two students to use their new found welding skills to build ladders for bunk beds or the countless hours a retired teacher spends creating an intricately detailed display model of the crib that the light sits upon, the contributions of our supporters has been a source of constant amazement to me. Grant applications, maintenance, fundraising activities, the keepers program, public tours, legal advice, the website, public relations work, and even this newsletter are all the direct result of the willingness of people to engage in community service. As I reflect back on the summer of 2007 I think that we have been particularly fortunate in this area as we welcome two new members to our Board of Directors and many new volunteers and members to our organization. The success of the Keeper's program has also been a remarkable development as nearly 60 people participated in the program this year. I was fortunate enough to speak with several of them personally and I was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm and appreciation for the DeTour Reef Light. There is still much to do as we continue to enhance the displays on the light and try to promote it to a wider audience, but with such a talented and diverse group of individuals supporting the mission, our future looks very bright. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make 2007 an outstanding year for the DRLPS. We'll keep the light on for you!



## Second Crane Removed from the Light for Restoration

By Jeri-Baron Feltner

In April, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) received approval for matching grant funding of \$30,000 for the restoration of the second deck crane on the lighthouse from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program. However, due to a state budget crisis, grant funding was frozen. Through DRLPS Preservation Chairman Don Gries innovative thinking and with the Society's own money, in July the second crane was removed from the lighthouse deck in preparation for restoration.

Don hired Drummond Island contractor Vince Klamerus' barge and tug; and, with local business man Dave DeGood's construction equipment, along with DRLPS volunteer Dave Bardsley and Don's efforts, the crane was removed and placed on Don's tandem trailer waiting to be hauled to Sault Ste. Marie for restoration.

Funding has recently been made available for this approved grant application which was prepared by DRLPS volunteer Clif Haley, and Don is in touch with bidders so work can commence and the rest of the crane project completed.

DRLPS is looking forward to seeing the DeTour Reef Light with two arms again!



*Removing the crane from the barge below.*



*Special equipment on a barge below is used to remove the deck crane.*



*The crane leaving the lighthouse deck for the first time since it was installed in 1931.*

### **Student Welders ....** (Continued from page 7)

summer. The beds are close replicas of the bunks that were on the lighthouse originally but the society was unable to locate ladders to go with them so an idea for a student project was born. Working from drawings created by DRLPS vice-president

Dave Bardsley the students created steel ladders that are not only authentic looking but functional as well.

"They're pretty strong," says Andy as he climbs up on a rung and bounces. "It's pretty cool to know that something we built will be used on the lighthouse".

*Student Welders Andy Dyal and Brandon Barrette*



## Memorabilia Order Form—DeTour Reef Preservation Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (very important) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Price Each	Color	Size	Quantity	Total
1	Decal with Society Logo	\$1				
2	Bumper Sticker with Society Logo	\$1				
3	Cup with Society Logo	\$3				
4	Embroidered patch of DeTour Reef Light— 2 3/4 inch square	\$6				
5	DeTour Reef Light Collectors Pin— 1 1/8 inch	\$6				
6	Hat (khaki, khaki/blue, or wheat/pine) with Lighthouse Crest	\$15				
7	Visor with Lighthouse Crest (navy)	\$10				
8	T-Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (stone blue or light green — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$20				
9	White Golf Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$32				
10	Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$39				
11	Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (stone — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$28				
12	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (birch — S, M, L, XL, 2XL)	\$35				
13	Sterling Silver Charm of Lighthouse	\$20				
14	Tote Bag with Lighthouse Crest (natural/red trim or natural/navy trim)	\$28				
15	Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 — 50 sheets per pad)	\$2				
16	Note cards, ivory, showing Lighthouse in 1931 (10 cards & envelopes)	\$8				
17	8x10 Color Photo of 2004 Lighthouse	\$10				
18	8x10 Black & White Photo of 1931 Lighthouse	\$10				
19	DVD video of the Lighthouse before/during/after restoration	\$20				
20	2007 Ornament (tear-shaped glass etched with Lighthouse image)	\$16				
21	1931 Limited Edition Lighthouse Window Pane (9 1/4 x 11 x 1/4 inch) w/Etching of Lighthouse	\$300				
22	Custom Framing for item #20	\$150				



*Thank You  
for your  
Support!*

*We'll Keep the  
Light on  
for You!*

Value of Order	S&H
Up to \$10	\$4
\$10.01—\$25	\$5
\$25.01—\$45	\$7
\$45.01—\$65	\$9
\$65.01—\$85	\$11
\$85.01—\$150	\$13
Over \$150	\$15

Merchandise Total	
<b>Tax 6%</b> (Michigan Residents Only)	
<b>S &amp; H (see chart)</b>	
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	

*Please allow up to 21 days for delivery.*

**Mail order form & payment to:**  
DRLPS, PO Box 307  
Drummond Island MI 49726  
906-297-6801  
www.DRLPS.com  
memorabilia@drpls.com

Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

 Check or Money Order Payable to DRLPS VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Dedicated DRLPS Volunteer Jim Charles Died

By Jeri-Baron Feltner

Jim Charles who passed away at his home in DeTour Village, Michigan, on April 11, 2007, will be sadly missed by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) team.

Since 1998, Jim was very dedicated to the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light. He devoted his heart and soul to making the DRLPS a success as founding Director, Vice-President, and Memorabilia Chairman, for nearly ten years.

A man of great integrity, he shared his hard work and enthusiasm at many DRLPS meetings and events, including the annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena where he could be seen smiling behind the DRLPS booth keenly intent on selling lighthouse-logo merchandise and extolling the value of being a member of the elite organization.

He was also an ever-present personality on the annual DRLPS Father's Day St. Mary's River Cruise, and the 2007 Cruise, the 10th Anniversary, was dedicated to his memory.

Jim always made sure that the organization's memorabilia items were varied and of good quality. He worked diligently at procuring and selling these DRLPS-logo merchandise to lighthouse enthusiasts and businesses.

He was a man of many talents and embodied the generous spirit of service to numerous organizations in the Eastern Upper Peninsula community.

DRLPS has lost a valued team member and is very grateful for Jim Charles' contributions. He has left a legacy for "saving the Light" that will always remain, and the DRLPS will keep the Light on for Jim!



*Jim Charles at DRLPS Board Meeting in 2005*

## DeTour Reef Light has visitors from all parts of the Globe

After a visit to the DeTour Reef Light, this letter was sent to the Drummond Island Digest:

I've been to Drummond Island 5 times. It was my first time to visit the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. I was filled with excitement when I took a boat and going to the lighthouse.

It was very scary for me to climb ladder from the deck of a boat, but when I got to the lighthouse, I forgot to be afraid! I was impressed with the beauty of the lighthouse!!!!!!

It was much larger than I thought. I thought it must have been very, very hard work to build such a huge and beautiful lighthouse in 1931.

I love the beautiful view from the top of the lighthouse and nice breeze from the lake.

I really wanted to stay there longer. I hope I can join the lighthouse keeper program and enjoy staying there some day!!!

Shiho Utsumi

Note: This was Shiho's ninth trip to Michigan since the mid 1990's. She is a nurse in Japan and was a guest of John and Sunny Covell.



*Shiho at the top of the DeTour Reef ladder*



## Ladies of the Light 2007

by Candis Collick

“My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint.” ~Erma Bombeck

Lucky for the Ladies of the Light there isn't an iron or ironing board to be found on the DeTour Reef Light – and the only reason no one hit their head on the top bunk was simply because no one elected to sleep on the bottom bunk!

But with all of that said, what did happen over the two days the Ladies headed out to the Light for their annual spring clean fling is just short of astounding:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 🔧 peeling paint scraped                                | 🔧 supplies inventoried            |
| 🔧 walls, windows and floors lantern-to-cellar vacuumed | 🔧 DRLPS memorabilia inventoried   |
| 🔧 walls, windows and floors lantern-to-cellar scrubbed | 🔧 Office re-organized             |
| 🔧 bathroom scoured                                     | 🔧 Tasty treats eaten              |
| 🔧 kitchen scoured                                      | 🔧 Adult beverages consumed        |
| 🔧 all cabinets cleaned and reorganized                 | 🔧 Stories told and laughs shared  |
| 🔧 bunk beds put together                               | 🔧 Views savored                   |
| 🔧 linens put on all beds                               | 🔧 Freighters hailed by giddy gals |

This year's worker women, under the command of Nancy Kleiner, consisted of Dottie Witten, Pooh Wilson, Nella Gries, and yours truly – Candis Collick. And while we may look old and wise to each other out in the real world– out on the Light for that short period of time together – we were still in high school enjoying each other's company and the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. Oh, and the adult beverages didn't hurt!

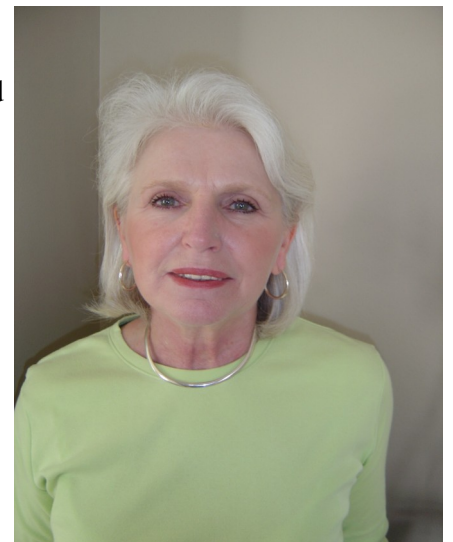
## Sandy Wytiaz of DeTour Village Named to DRLPS Board of Directors

By Ann Method Green

At the May meeting the Board of Directors of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS), voted unanimously to appoint Sandy Wytiaz to fill the Director's position left vacant by the death of Jim Charles. Her appointment marks an exciting addition to the DRLPS team, and ensures that Jim's legacy will continue.

Sandy Wytiaz is a native of Upstate New York and a graduate of NYU with a degree in accounting. She has lived in DeTour Village for the past 10 years with her husband Bob. She is the owner of Complete Business Designs, a company that designs benefit plans for small to midsize businesses in northern Michigan and has been a licensed insurance agent for the past 17 years. In addition to operating a full time business she also is very active in the community. Sandy was one of the founding members of the Fine Arts Council. She is a past President of the DeTour Village Friends of the Library, has served as a volunteer for Hospice for the last 9 years, sponsors a luncheon each summer to raise funds for the DeTour Botanical Gardens, and is appointed to the DeTour Village Zoning Board of Appeals. Sandy has also become involved in two additional businesses this past year, the Pilot House that is an artist's cooperative and the Timberdoodle Mercantile, a retail shop.

DRLPS is gaining a valued member of the team and looks forward to the many and varied talents that Sandy brings to the Society.



## Guys on the Light

By Don Gries

“Guys on the Light” occurred on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with Clif Haley, Dave Bardsley, Don Gries and Chuck Feltner. Ivan (Mead) Gable provided transportation and help retrieving the mooring lines.

Clif cooked the meals; broiled lobster for dinner and “sticky buns” and quiche for breakfast.

The primary effort was to winterize the Light by draining the water system and winterizing the waste system. All memorabilia and other things that could be damaged by cold or moisture were removed. Ventilation was set up to minimize condensation. The crane motor was removed as it was damaged in previous winters. Dave did the diving to secure the moorings and bring the mooring lines in for the winter. Two leaks in the Lighthouse deck were found and repaired for the winter.

The parts from the original foghorn were laid out and photographed for an upcoming restoration grant application.

When the wind and waves started building the effort was terminated early. A subsequent visit was made to finish a few critical items.



*Clif Haley cooking lobster in the DeTour Reef Light kitchen.*

## The New Face behind the Pages of Passages

When the need arose back in July for a new Passages editor, Sheila Sawyer, wife of Matt Sawyer, the new DRLPS webmaster, decided it was time to get involved with volunteering, much like her husband had earlier in the year.

Sheila grew up on the water in Algonac, MI and has always been intrigued by the maritime industry. At a young age, she learned to identify freighters by a profile on the horizon, spent weekends with her family on the boat, and vacations at places that involved locks and lighthouses.

In the early summer of 2005, Sheila was reading the latest news Great Lakes and Shipping website, also known as boatnerd.com, and saw an article about DeTour Reef Lighthouse having opportunities to stay on the light for the weekend. With some apprehension because of the unknowns, then fiancé Matt agreed and off they went to Drummond Island. Their experience on the Island and the lighthouse left them wanting to be able to help, even though they lived several hundred miles away.

In April 2006, Matt and Sheila got married and jetted off to a honeymoon cruise. Later that year, Matt decided to volunteer his time rebuilding the DRLPS website and they decided to do as much as they could from a distance. When the opportunity came about to do the newsletter, Sheila thought it would be a good way to offer her time.

As this issue of Passages goes to the printer, Matt and Sheila are expecting their first child....any day in fact. Their new baby will be a welcome addition to their family and has a room all ready. It would only make sense that the room is decorated as a maritime room, complete with lighthouses, sailboats, and all things nautical.





**DETOUR REEF LIGHT  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

PO Box 307  
Drummond Island MI 49726

drlps@drlps.com  
www.DRLPS.com  
906-493-6609

Nonprofit Organization  
**US Postage Paid**  
Drummond Island, MI  
49726  
**Permit No. 11**

**Officers & Directors:**

**President:** Russ Norris, [russnorris@drlps.com](mailto:russnorris@drlps.com)

**Vice President:** David Bardsley, [bardsley@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:bardsley@stanfordalumni.org)

**Treasurer:** Charles E. Feltner, [cfeltner@starband.net](mailto:cfeltner@starband.net)

**Secretary:** Glenn Lahti, [glennlahti@lighthouse.net](mailto:glennlahti@lighthouse.net)

**Directors:** G. Dennis Bailey, Clifton E. Haley, Richard L. Moehl,  
Donald A. Gries, Sandy Wytiaz

**Honorary Director:** James S. Woodward

**Founding Director Emeritus:** Jeri Baron Feltner

**Chairpersons:**

**Membership:** Paula P. Bardsley, [paulabardsley@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:paulabardsley@stanfordalumni.org)

**Stars Event:** Joyce Buckley, [starsevent@drlps.com](mailto:starsevent@drlps.com)

**Passages Editor:** Sheila Sawyer, [newsletter@drlps.com](mailto:newsletter@drlps.com)

**Webmaster:** Matt Sawyer, [msawyer91@drlps.com](mailto:msawyer91@drlps.com)

**Tours:** John & Sunny Covell, [tours@drlps.com](mailto:tours@drlps.com)

**Preservation:** Don Gries, [dgries@alphacomm.net](mailto:dgries@alphacomm.net)

**River Cruise:** Anne Stafford, [rivercruise@drlps.com](mailto:rivercruise@drlps.com)

**Ornaments/Special Projects:** Dotty Witten, [upwitten@lighthouse.net](mailto:upwitten@lighthouse.net)

**Accounting:** Dawn Gibbons, [dgibbons@alphacomm.net](mailto:dgibbons@alphacomm.net)

**Public Relations:** Ann Green, [PR@drlps.com](mailto:PR@drlps.com)

**Keeper Program:** David Bardsley, [drlps@drlps.com](mailto:drlps@drlps.com)

**Memorabilia:** Dotty Witten & Sandy Wytiaz, [memorabilia@drlps.com](mailto:memorabilia@drlps.com)

**DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society**

DRLPS is a volunteer nonprofit 501c3 organization established in 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. Donations are welcomed and are tax-deductible (EIN 38-3387252, MICS 27001).

The Light was automated in 1974. In 1997, the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships, and the Coast Guard's not having the funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines. In January 1998, local citizens joined together to save the Light.

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The structure rises 83 feet above the water and marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River.

The DRLPS received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**PURPOSE:** the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is to establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

**PASSAGES** is the official publication of the DRLPS and is published irregularly. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of DRLPS, its officers or members. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for publication and to publish material which is felt to be in the best interest of the DRLPS. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, DRLPS, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated.

**MEMBERSHIP**

\$30 Basic (includes family members), \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper. Memberships include family.

For a membership application please contact DRLPS via one of the following:

[www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) \* [membership@drlps.com](mailto:membership@drlps.com) \* 906-493-6609

or by writing: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726