



# SABLE POINTS BEACON

Volume 4, Issue 2  
Summer, 2009

[www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org)

## President's Message

Our keeper season is underway, and our seasoned keepers are excited to be back! I would like to welcome all our new keepers. I hope all of you have the time of your life during your tour as a keeper for our lights.

Our gift shop has taken on a refreshing new look. Thanks to Jamie, Carmen, Dorien, and Robert for all their hard work. I know that furniture refinishing and carpentry took place to make the original keepers' quarters look more authentic.

We have a huge challenge before us: Our BSP seawall is in need of repair. The board, at its June meeting, will be discussing options and fundraising efforts to save our light. If you would like to help, please call the SPLKA office.

At our annual meeting in May, the membership elected three new board members. Starting in January 2010, Marcia Martin, Doug Buikema, and Chris Van Antwerp will each start a 3-year term on the SPLKA board. On behalf of the membership, welcome and thank you for your willingness to serve.

Thank you again to all of our members and keepers for your continued support. We would not be as successful today without your help.

As always,  
Ceil



As part of the preparation for another season at Big Sable Point, keepers help Henry into his uniform. From left: Patricia Patterson, gift shop manager Jamie Dillingham, Julie and Gerry Koviack, and Patric Patterson.

### Items of Interest

- ?? President's Message
- ?? Report of the Annual Dinner Meeting
- ?? Weather News
- ?? Meet the Keepers
- ?? Take a "Friend" to a Lighthouse
- ?? Lighthouse Travel Tips
- ?? SPLKA on the Air
- ?? July 18, August 15, & September 19 : Bus Days at Big Sable Point
- ?? July 21 (BSP) & August 5 (LSP): Todd and Brad Reed Photography Mini-Workshops from 7:30—8:30 P.M.



Gathered at SPLKA's annual dinner meeting, incoming members of SPLKA's 2010 Board of Directors (l to r): Doug Buikema, Chris VanAntwerp, and Marcia Martin

# Annual Dinner Meeting



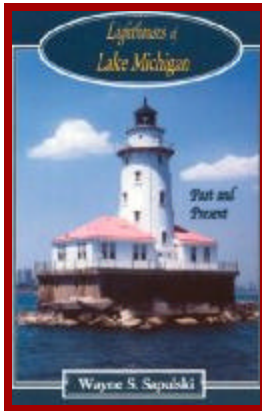
Wayne Sapulski

highlight of the evening was a presentation on Michigan lighthouses by author, photographer, and lighthouse historian, Wayne Sapulski. The silent auction to benefit Big Sable Point's Seawall Fund was well received, with lively bidding on all items, including a copy of Wayne's book, *Lighthouses of Lake Michigan: Past and Present*,



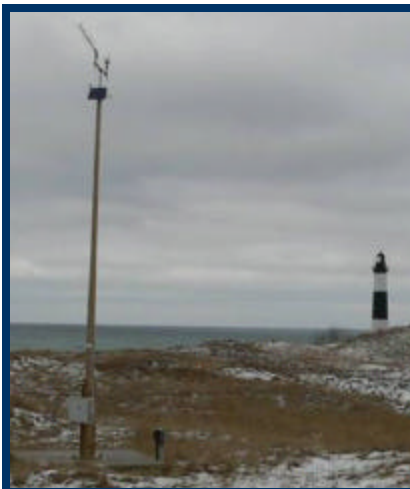
Sam Dains and Jamie Dillingham join in on the evening's fun

SPLKA's 2009 Annual Dinner Meeting took place on Saturday, May 2, at Harbor View Marina, in Ludington. The



It wouldn't be an annual meeting without Bob Sperling there to make all laugh!

which he kindly donated. If you'd like to purchase a copy of Wayne's book, stop by the Big Sable gift shop. Thanks again to all bidders, and special congratulations to SPLKA member Malinda Bell for winning the coveted B&B weekend at Big Sable Point! The autumn issue of the Beacon will have information on the 2010 annual meeting.



## Big Sable Weather Notes

Standing on a rise above the shoreline not far from Big Sable Point Lighthouse is a weather station owned by the National Weather Service. The station, BSBM4, sends its data every ten minutes, day in and day out. While wandering the Web, visit [http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\\_page.php?station=bsbm4](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=bsbm4) for your update on Big Sable weather!

### Station BSBM4 - Big Sable Point, MI

- Site elevation: 184.4 m above mean sea level
- Air temp height: 2.7 m above site elevation
- Anemometer height: 10 m above site elevation
- Barometer elevation: 185.9 m above mean sea level

## Meet the Keepers

This May, new SPLKA volunteers Tamara (Tammy) Howell and Manuel and Nancy Gonzalez exemplified how dedication and courage keep our lights shining. Although they were brand new to SPLKA's resident keeper program, they still happily stepped up to work a difficult tour to fill—the week-and-a-half-long first tour of the season for Little Sable Point Lighthouse—after already having committed to other tour dates.

The Gonzalezes, from Saginaw, MI, have been married for forty years. They are retired and enjoy visiting lighthouses whenever they get the opportunity, meeting new people, and working with the public.

“The experience for me has been pretty awesome so far,” said Nancy. “Everyone from SPLKA has been so helpful and friendly. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of this.”

“I found my calling. I can ‘bloviate’ to a captive audience while I stand in front of the hatch to the stairway, like an armored guard, so no one can escape,” joked Manuel.

Tamara Howell, from Lakewood, OH, has a passion for lighthouses, but Little Sable Point has been her favorite since she first saw it.

“I emailed Carmelitta, asking to help keep LSP, and was privileged to get to stay twice in one year,” she said.

Tammy and her husband Jim will be back for the Labor Day week tour at Little Sable Point,



Greetings from LSP's Gallery Walk from our opening tour keepers at LSP and LNBL! From left- John Hansmann (LNBL), Tammy Howell (LSP), Gloria Melton (LNBL), Nancy Gonzalez (LSP), Jane Hansmann (LNBL), and Manuel Gonzalez(LSP).

and the Gonzalezes will return for back-to-back tours in July at LSP and the Ludington North Breakwater Light.

It takes a very special person to be a volunteer, and these three certainly are... keepers!

### Take a Friend to a Lighthouse

Where in the world have our lighthouse friends been since last we visited with them in the fall?!? Alonzo Bear enjoyed touring the Pacific Northwest with Dave and Carol Rodwell. He then continued his “world tour” with Tom and Marilyn Knight as they took him to the land down under, Australia! Mark and Nancy

Hallenbeck took Homer Moose and Edith Raccoon on the Badger on their way to lighthouse touring on the Wisconsin shores of Lake Michigan. Photos depicting some of their travels can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Email a request to [nancyhallenbeck@q.com](mailto:nancyhallenbeck@q.com) or [bsplka@t-one.net](mailto:bsplka@t-one.net) for our “friends” to accompany you on your adventures.

## Lighthouse Travel Tips



Edith and Homer on the Badger

### Sunshine Sentinels

When the snow blows, it's time for sand in the toes! SPLKA members Pat and Jerry Biggs of Navarre, FL, share the following tower tour, Big Bend through the Forgotten Coast.

Two of America's showcase lighthouses are St. Augustine and Ponce de Leon Inlet, located ninety minutes apart, with Daytona International Speedway in between. Both lights are open daily and have busy gift shops. Navigators should triangulate on I-75, I-95, I-10 and Hwy. 98.

Departing from Daytona, continue to the lighthouse, taking in the wildlife and the beacon, which is currently being restored. The best lighting and view is in the morning from the back (east). Then head west on Hwy. 98 for an hour to the tiny town of Carrabelle. Just on from that is Carrabelle

Beach's Crooked River Light, which was recently restored and has a replicated Gulf-style keeper's house.

Motor west on Hwy 98 to East-pointe, Florida's oyster capital. Cross the causeway to St. George

Island and its transplanted/rebuilt Cape St. George Lighthouse. Return to 98 West, cross another causeway into historic Apalachicola for a step back in time to Old Florida. Take a walking tour of the town and decide which "cola" is for you—Apalachicola or the far more urban Pensacola, at the tip of the panhandle?

Westward ho for about half-an-hour to Route 30A. Turn left, continue through Indian Pass to signs pointing to St. Joe Peninsula and the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Your landmark will be a USAF sat/rad site. Go through the S-curve to a small USAF-lighthouse gate sign on the left. The restored skeletal tower and keepers' quarters sit aside Hurricane Alley. This is the fourth site of this light.

Return northbound on 30A. Well past Indian Pass, but before Hwy. 98, sits the topless,

transplanted (and privately owned) St. Joseph Bay Lighthouse. Get back on 98 and head west through Port St. Joe to Mexico Beach and Beacon Hill. Before being moved, the lighthouse sat where the current daymark stands. Its last job at this site was as a feed silo.

Head on to Pensacola via 98 to finish off that "cola taste test." There, visit NAS Pensacola, home of the Navy Blue Angels, the National Naval Museum, and the Pensacola Lighthouse, diagonally opposite the museum.

Pat and Jerry wish you happy trails!



Alonzo at the Point Hicks Light 450 km east of Melbourne, Australia



Alonzo at the Sydney Opera House

## SPLKA is on the Air!

On Friday, May 30, 2009, SPLKA's informational radio station, WQIV-322, operated in partnership with the City of Ludington, came onto the air. When you're in the Ludington vicinity, tune your radio to 1610 AM for information on SPLKA's three lighthouses. You'll hear important visitor information regarding the towers, plus human interest and historical pieces. Notice of SPLKA's special events will be broadcast, as well as city-sponsored events, and a welcome to Ludington. Information on both Ludington and Silver Lake State Parks will also be included in the content, which will change every couple of weeks. We're very excited to be working with the city for signage and promotion in order to make this a win/win for all involved!

## Volunteering in 2010?

Volunteer Resident Keeper applications for 2010 are now available! If you are volunteering as a resident keeper at one of the lights this season, Carmen will be giving you next year's application while you're here. If not, please email Carmen at [splkavol@t-one.net](mailto:splkavol@t-one.net), or call her at (231) 425-7510, and she'll get an application to you. The application deadline is October 1, 2009.



Homer and Edith at the Old Port Washington Light in Port Washington, Wisconsin

## Membership Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ New    \_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_ Donation

\_\_\_ Second Assistant Keeper            \$ 25

\_\_\_ First Assistant Keeper                \$ 50

\_\_\_ Head Keeper                             \$ 100

\_\_\_ District Inspector                     \$ 250

\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership                 \$ 500

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail check and completed form to:**

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

P.O. Box 673

Ludington, Michigan 49431

(231) 845-7343

Website: [www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org)



**Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers  
Association  
P.O. Box 673  
Ludington, MI 49431**

**Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association  
2009 Board of Directors and Staff**

**President, Ceil Heller**

**Vice President, David Hawley**

**Secretary, Mort Wiegand**

**Treasurer, Ed Pruden**

**Jack Buege**

**Doreen Kelly, Executive Director**

**Jamie Dillingham, Gift Shop Manager**

**Samantha Dains, Gift Shop Specialist**

**Shirley Mitchell, Bookkeeper**

**Katie Essex**

**Carol Rodwell**

**Jack Thornton**

**Grace Truman**

**Carmen Tiffany, Coordinator of Volunteers**

**Robert Sperling, Supervisor—Restoration**

**and Maintenance**