ENTER TO WIN

Tell us your story about how the Grand Haven Lighthouses have played an important role in your life for a chance to win a special Grand Haven gift package. The winning story and photo will be featured on our website as well as in our next newsletter – Enlightened.

How to Enter:

Send your story of 250 words or less along with a photo to

Marci Cisneros, GH Lighthouse Conservancy Vice President,
225 Franklin Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or mcisernos@visitgrandhaven.com
by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Include your name, city, state, and phone number with your submission.

The winner will be notified by Thursday, May 1, 2014.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Spring is coming but all this snow is overwhelming. The members of the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy have kept busy during this cold winter ensuring the completed and future work on the Grand Haven South Pier Entrance and Inner Lights meet the criteria of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Lighthouse Preservation. Consequently, the Inner Light is now lead free and has a bright red coat of paint. The windows in the lantern room will be new this season and the light will appear brighter for our maritime community. As work continues on the Entrance Light (Fog Signal Building) we expect the same bright red finish and new lantern room windows will be completed as soon as the weather warms.

The photo was taken shortly after the 52’ cylindrical tower was relocated some 600 feet east of its original position on the west end of the pier (c.1907). Note the wooden catwalk and pier, vent stack on the lighthouse, and of course the lighthouse keepers from the U.S. Lighthouse Service which maintained the lighthouses throughout the country until 1939 when the USLHS was merged with the U.S. Coast Guard.

~BMC David G. Karpin, Ret. United States Coast Guard
INTERVIEW WITH PRO-TECH ENVIRONMENTAL

Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc. was selected to do the preservation work on both the Entrance and Inner lights in 2013. Bernie Vlaming, President of Pro-Tech, was asked a series of questions about progress and predicted completion.

1. How long has Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc been in business?

Pro-Tech Environmental, Inc. was established in 1991 as an asbestos abatement contractor and when I joined my current business partner, Randy Egtvedt, in 1995 we expanded into other areas of environmental remediation and construction.

2. What other historic preservation jobs have you completed?

Pro-Tech has performed numerous lead abatement and painting historical projects, such as: Au Sable Lighthouse, Zeeland Historical School House, Exterior Restoration of 20 housing structures on the Manitou Islands, Environmental Remediation and SandBlasting of the Berkley Gay Condominiums, Interior Blasting of the Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven, plus numerous others.

3. What special considerations went into bidding this job?

Dealing with the extreme elements and distance from shore were first and foremost because of having to contain all of our sandblast media for the safety of the community and the environment. Also working on a structure so close to the water while it is still open to the public has its challenges.

4. What have you experienced on the Grand Haven south pier that you did not expect?

We did not anticipate the extreme deterioration of the structure around the lower section of the inner lighthouse after sandblasting, thus requiring special brackets to be engineered and professionally installed. This delayed the project by more than a month and prevented us from completing the entire project in one summer season, but the repairs were vital necessary for the longevity of the lighthouse.

5. What is the most common question asked by tourists while you have been working out there?

“Why are they painting it shiny gray color?” We answered that exact question 30 times a day after applying the primer coat, especially after removing the poly sheeting while structural repairs were being made. The public thought we were finished and tearing down.

6. When do you expect to finish this job?

We want to continue as soon as the elements will allow us to and try to beat the crowds on the outer lighthouse this year. The blasting and painting of the exterior capita and half of the entire interior structure has already completed on the outer lighthouse and new windows for both cupolas will be installed as soon as we can safely get back out there. Once again we would ideally like to be 100% complete before the Coast Guard Festival, and I see no issue with that whatsoever, but once again that will definitely be dependent on any additional structural improvements necessary to the outer lighthouse.

7. Will you be planning any lighthouse preservation work in your company’s future, or was this a once in a career type experience?

We will definitely be looking at doing other lighthouses around the Great Lakes and are currently talking to other cities and conservancies. We pride ourselves in going after the difficult projects that others tend to shy away from and love doing projects that entire communities get behind.

IN THE NEWS - Winter 2014

The Grand Haven Lighthouses drew an assorbtant amount of attention from January - March 2014. The excessive weather conditions, now known as the Polar Vortex, provided interesting and unique ice sculpture like creations of these already beautiful and historic structures. The lighthouses were visited and photographed by many over the stretch of a few months. The real buzzation, however, came after a few noteworthy images hit the associated press (AP) and went “viral” online. Our beloved lighthouse are two of the most recognizable and photographed in the state of Michigan and beyond, and this added element of extreme weather made them even more of an attraction.

Lighthouses in the News - Winter 2014

• Michigan.org (Pure Michigan)
• TripAdvisor.com
• Buzzfeed.com
• PM.com
• NewsCenterHaven(Arcata)
• USA Today
• Midwest Living
• The Weather Channel
• Plus, Numerous Local, Regional and State TV, Radio and Print News. As well as thousands of photographic websites, personal and professional blogs, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds nationally and internationally.

Photo Credit: Johnny Quinn, via Instagram Johnny Q photo

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO DATE

Luminary ($100K)
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Mary “Meine” vandenBerg Fund

Beacon ($50K)
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund
Jim & Dulce Doss

Guiding Light ($25K)
Boer Family Fund
Mart & Dottie Johnson

Lortit Foundation

Verplank Dock Company

Lumen ($10K)
100 Men Who Give
Matilda & Harold Crane Foundation
JSJ Foundation

Wicki ($5K)
Eagin Family Fund
Grand Haven DDA
Grand Haven, Spring Lake Holiday Inn
Mary C. Jacobson
Richard J. & Lisa Peters
Rotary Club of Grand Haven
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Verplank

Midge Verplank
Samuel L. Westerman Foundation
Warren & Nancy Wildeeman

5th Order of Lens ($800)
Edward D. & Diane Anderson
In Honor of Russ & Phyllis Bleich 50th Anniversary
By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vieu
Consumers Energy Community Foundation
Bill & Mary Creason
Martha A. Erickson
Gary E. & Renee Faircloth
Currie Marie Frifeldt
Tony & Kathy Gage
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Tip A Few Tavern
Joanne Unkovskoy
Tony & Monica Verplank
Kyle & Sam Verplank
Wharf Grand Haven LLC
Women’s Club of Grand Haven

6th Order of Lens ($8250)
John & Carolyn Angus

Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy

Through the generous support of our donors and those that purchased bricks, work will continue in the spring of 2014 to preserve Grand Haven’s historic maritime beacons.

Grand Haven City Hall | 519 Washington Avenue | Grand Haven MI 49417 | www.ghlighthouse.com

Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy