

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association Chronology

707 N. Huron Ave. PO Box 219, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 Tel: 231-436-5580 Email:info@gllka.com

1981

- Idea for a gathering of lighthouse keepers and aficionados proposed by Donn Werling, Diane Werling and Betty Moore Rinehart at Grosse Point lighthouse, Evanston, Illinois.

1982

- First informal meeting of 38 people held in Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan.

1983

- Steering committee formed to investigate formal organization.
- Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA) Articles of Incorporation registered with the State of Michigan and bylaws created.
- Second informal lighthouse meeting held in Port Huron

1984

- Donn Werling elected as Association's first President

1985

- GLLKA requests license from US Coast Guard 9th District to undertake restoration of St. Helena Island Light Station.
- Donn Werling composes song "Island Dream" about St. Helena Island light station.
- Dick Moehl elected as second, and current, GLLKA President

1986

- GLLKA receives 30-year license to restore and use St. Helena Island light station from United States Coast Guard (USCG) 9th District, assisted by James Woodward USCG lampist, historian and environmental specialist.

1987

- GLLKA obtains grant from National Trust Historic Preservation Committee to hire Henry and Lorraine Chambers to conduct architectural assessment of St. Helena Island light station and Tom McGrath, Jr. to investigate possibility of accomplishing a Historic Structures Report and present paper at GLLKA conference at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island.
- GLLKA publishes oral history book "Living at a Lighthouse" edited by LuAnne Gaykowski Kozma.

1988

- St. Helena Island light station added to National Register of Historic Places

1989

- Restoration work at St. Helena Island begun by Troops 4 and 61 of Ann Arbor and Troop 200 of Calumet.
- First annual Maritime Heritage Education Workshop (MHEW) held on St. Helena Island.
- \$20,000 grant from Bicentennial Lighthouse Fund to be matched with \$20,000 in cash and or in-kind labor that funded replacement of roofs, doors, and windows at St. Helena Light Station. Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 4 of Ann Arbor provided most of the in-kind labor for the required match.
- GLLKA publishes reprint of 1902 Lighthouse Service manual "Instructions to Light-Keepers."

1990

- BSA Troop 4 receives "Keep Michigan Beautiful Award" for restoration work at St. Helena..
- St. Helena video "Keepers of the Light" produced by Richard Brzozowski and assisted by Jack Edwards.
- Boy Scout Ben Wolfe of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout badge by planning and hosting a meeting of Directors of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Jim Getty of Troop 4 obtains Eagle Scout rank by building osprey platforms and bat houses at St. Helena

Chronology of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

- Boy Scout Jon Morrison of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by building accurate 1/8 scale model of St. Helena light station.
- Boy Scout Chris Morrison of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank through restoration of privy at St. Helena Island.

1991

- BSA Troop 4 receives "Take Pride in America" national award for St. Helena restoration efforts.
- BSA Troop 4 receives Midwest Living's "Hometown Pride Award" and \$1,000 for St. Helena restoration efforts and donates the \$1000 to GLLKA.
- First edition of Educational Resource Guide published.
- St. Helena oil house restored. \$2,500 for historic masonry labor and 1,500 bricks.

1992

- BSA Troop 4 receives President George W Bush's 630th "Daily Point of Light" that included St. Helena restoration.

1993

- Boy Scout Jay Howe of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by building hexagon picnic table by flag pole at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Karl Koto of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by designed, built and installed an information kiosk at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Steve Wise of Troop 4 initiates a beach cleanup project at St. Helena. Mentored by Jack Edwards, he creates a poster presentation which is presented to National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Center for Maritime Conservation that resulted into an invitation to the Third International Marine Debris Conference. The Only fresh water presentation among the 23 nations present.
- Girl Scout Dawn Dick of Troop 253 earns Silver award for creating an "I Forgot Box" of needed supplies at St. Helena.
- GLLKA publishes second edition of Educational Resource Guide.
- The well was cleaned to a depth of 43 feet and a hand pump installed. Deemed to be a good well by Mackinac Health Department. A number of water samples examined by St. Ignace Water Department seasonally.

1994

- Boy Scout Steve Wise of Troop 4 presents his poster presentation at the Third International Conference on Marine Debris, in Miami, Florida.
- Boy Scout Andrew Redies of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by restoring NE bedroom at St. Helena.
- Girl Scouts Lori Moore and Melanie Jones of Troop 253 receive Gold Award for their construction of solar powered showers at St. Helena Island. Grant for project received from Readers Digest magazine.
- GLLKA publishes second edition of book "Instructions to Light-Keepers."

1995

- Great Lakes Cruiser Magazine recognizes GLLKA for "Developing a new Generation of Preservationists"
- GLLKA signs "Memo of Understanding" with Hiawatha National Forest to assist in the restoration of Round Island lighthouse.
- BSA Troop 323 begins clean-up of Round Island lighthouse.
- GLLKA instrumental in getting U.S. Postal Service to pick and design 5 Great Lakes stamps and select Cheboygan to be the site of the June 17th First Day of Issue ceremony on board USCG Cutter Sundew.

1996

- BSA Troop 4 reconstructs 90' x 8' x 6' pier using 27 utility poles donated by Edison Sault and CMS Energy.
- GLLKA assists Hiawatha National Forest Service and installs a new 300 mm Tideland Signal optic and solar equipment in Round Island lighthouse and re-establishes the lighthouse as a Private Aid to Navigation. A white one second flash every 10 seconds.

1997

Chronology of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

- With invaluable assistance from Congressman Bart Stupak, GLLKA receives the quit claim deed to St. Helena Island lighthouse via Legislative Transfer. Bill signed into law by President Bill Clinton.
- Boy Scout Michael Redies attains Eagle Scout rank by designing and installing 8 stone monument interpretive signs and bird houses.

1998

- GLLKA publishes third edition of Educational Resource Guide.
- Boy Scout Jason Weaver of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by creating and publishing the brochure “St. Helena Island Light Station” and coloring book “A Lighthouse Worth Saving.”
- MHEW graduate Cindy Kimmel and Beaumont Elementary School raise \$500 to purchase tin ceiling parts for the Kitchen at St. Helena.

1999

- GLLKA begins narrating Shepler’s Lighthouse Cruises out of Mackinaw City.
- GLLKA holds small craft workshop at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Tom Laughlin of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by installing shelving and workbench in St. Helena
- Boys Scout Peter Wilson of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by restoring the summer kitchen at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Steve Wise of Troop 4 receives Silver Hornaday Award for reconstruction of the 12’ by 30’ assistant keepers dwelling at St. Helena and his beach cleanup that resulted in his poster paper presentation to the Third International Conference on Marine Debris in 1994. (At the time of receiving the award only 1,000 such awards had ever been awarded by the Boy Scouts.)
- Volunteer Michael Bruce Moehl builds life jacket rack at St. Helena.
- Volunteer Frank Switalska restores plaster throughout St. Helena dwelling.
- Volunteer Bob VandenToorn builds staircase banisters and railing for St. Helena dwelling.
- GLLKA establishes St. Helena Island Lighthouse Endowment with Straits Area Community Foundation

2000

- Boy Scout Andrew Supiano of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank through restoration of keeper’s office at St. Helena.
- Girl Scouts from Troop 272 in Lansing build picnic tables and seats at St. Helena funded by Home Depot.
- Kari Moore builds fish net drying rack at St. Helena.
- Dick Moehl receives the Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Service Award.
- BSA Troop 4 begins planning for the reconstruction of historic St. Helena boathouse.
- Pastor Budd Wagner of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Cheboygan partners with GLLKA to annually bring church youth groups to St. Helena for Servant Projects, including a group from Loves Park, Ill

2001

- GLLKA holds first “Lunch at St. Helena” event
- St. Helena Island, minus the light station islet that GLLKA received ownership of in 1997, purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy, protecting the island from any future development.
- BSA Troop 4 pours footings for boathouse at St. Helena.

2002

- GLLKA awarded Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant to install lightning protection on all buildings and four sets of double casement windows in the tower at St. Helena.
- GLLKA files for application for ownership of the Cheboygan River Front Range light (CRFRL) through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act 2000 (NHLPA.)
- BSA Troop 323 straightens and stabilize privy at Round Island lighthouse.
- BSA Troop 4 frames-in and installs shingle roof on recreated boat house on St. Helena.
- GLLKA purchases house in Mackinaw City to serve as new office after lease is not renewed at Henry Ford Estate.

2003

- GLLKA relocates office from Henry Ford Estate to new building in Mackinaw City.

Chronology of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

- GLLKA awarded Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grant to fund masonry repairs on tower, dwelling and chimney at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Spyros Pavlidis of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by extending pier to sidewalk at St. Helena.
- BSA Troop 4 installs clapboard siding on recreated boathouse at St. Helena.
- Boss Construction begins brick repairs on tower at St. Helena funded by CMI grant.
- GLLKA publishes third edition of book "Instructions to Light-Keepers."

2004

- Boss construction completes masonry repairs on tower, dwelling and chimney at St. Helena funded by CMI grant.
- GLLKA receives deed to CRFRL through NHLPA at Traverse City Lighthouse Conference.
- Volunteer Terry Pepper builds and installs two doors and five windows in recreated boathouse at St. Helena.
- GLLKA forms collaboration with St. James Township to consult in the restoration of St. James lighthouse.
- GLLKA & St. James Township involve 5th & 6th graders at Beaver Island School in identifying number of spalled bricks on St. James lighthouse tower.
- GLLKA publishes book "Reliving lighthouse Memories" written by Sandy Planisek and featuring oral histories conducted by Sandy, Dick Moehl and Terry Pepper."
- Schooner Highlander Sea visits St. Helena Island.
- GLLKA is awarded CMI grant to cast and install components for historically correct ten sided lantern at St. Helena.

2005

- Educator and graduate of St. Helena MHEW program Michelle VanderVelde receives Odyssey Award.
- Boy Scout Riley McCullagh of Troop 4 raises \$2,500 to purchase and install AED at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Dan Vandermade of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by restoring kitchen ceiling at St. Helena.
- Historically correct lantern installed at St. Helena funded by CMI grant.
- GLLKA Publishes booklet "Lighting the Straits" written by Terry Pepper as part of Harbor Lights Reunion on Mackinac Island.
- Volunteer Keeper program initiated at CRFRL. Lighthouse is open to public weekends and holidays.
- Volunteers remove paneling and carpet from CRFRL.
- Group of 9 girls and parents from Verona, Wisconsin Lutheran Church youth group remove paneling and ceilings from living room and parlor at CRFRL.
- Girl Scouts Kily Buta, Sami DiFranco, Danielle Draves, Hailey DuBreiul, Jessica Miller, Katelynn Reising, Sarah Rick from Troop 220, Dewitt MI, construct dish washing table and contemplation bench at St. Helena.
- Second floor bathroom removed at CRFRL. Evidence of long term leakage and wood rot is found.
- BSA Troop 4 finishes installing and sealing floor in recreated boathouse at St. Helena
- Volunteers pull thousands of nails from plywood which covered pine floor on second floor at CRFRL.
- GLLKA awarded MLAP Grant for conducting engineering study at CRFRL light to determine source of leakage and rot and to itemize exterior restoration tasks.
- US Forestry Service conducts nondestructive testing of timber frames at CRFRL.

2006

- Volunteer Terry Pepper creates shower room for volunteer keepers at CRFRL.
- Boy Scout Nick Yeatts of Troop 4 builds and installs rails for boat car in boathouse at St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Andrew Wardner of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank for completing restoration of lantern interior at St. Helena with Jim Woodward serving as mentor.
- BSA Troop 4 completes recreation of St. Helena boathouse.
- GLLKA publishes book "Icebreaker Mackinaw WAGB 83 1944-2006" written by Sandy Planisek.
- Schooner Highlander Sea makes first annual excursion from Mackinaw City to St. Helena Island.
- Executive Director Position created and Terry Pepper hired as first Director.
- The name of the educator workshop changed from MHEW to the Great Lakes Maritime Education Workshop (GLME) with increased emphasis on the Great Lakes to better align to the state curriculum guidelines.

Chronology of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

- As a direct result of GLLKA initiative, legislation passed to make historic lighthouses eligible to receive surplus Federal property. Senator Carl Levin was major sponsor of this legislation.

2007

- GLLKA assists Little Traverse Conservancy installing large “No Fire” signs on St. Helena Island.
- Building at 707 N. Huron Ave in Mackinaw City purchased to serve as new GLLKA operations center.
- Central Michigan University’s Biology Department establishes an academic collaboration with GLLKA on St. Helena Island. Two masters theses are initiated: amphibian and reptile studies and inventories.
- GLLKA applies for MLAP grant to rebuild lantern and gallery at CRFRL.
- Members of the Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps and Northern Michigan Amateur Radio Society participate in International Lighthouse Radio weekend event at CRFRL
- Interior of 707 N. Huron Ave prepared for construction through hundreds of hours of volunteer labor.
- Work begins on conversion of 707 N. Huron Ave from restaurant to first-class office center & gift shop.

2008

- GLLKA office moved to 707 N. Huron in Mackinaw City on April 1, after reconstruction completed.
- Boy Scout Michael Saunders of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by completing restoration of dwelling stairway, treads spindles and hand rail at St. Helena. From first to second floor.
- GLLKA awarded MLAP grant to undertake lantern restoration at CRFRL.
- GLLKA publishes second edition of “Icebreaker Mackinaw WAGB 83 1944-2006” written by Sandy Planisek.

2009

- Major upgrade to GLLKA website undertaken, including numerous resources and expanded online store.
- GLLKA partners with Emmet County, installs replica lantern and relights McGulpin Point Lighthouse as Private Aid to Navigation at 140th anniversary and relighting ceremony on May 30, 2009.
- GLLKA publishes booklet “McGulpin Point Lighthouse” written by Terry Pepper to commemorate relighting of McGulpin Point lighthouse.
- Property at 349 Gros Cap Road donated to GLLKA by executors of Jackson estate.
- GLLKA Vice President and Director of Education MaryAnn Moore receives National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) “With Our Youth” award for her work on St. Helena.
- Videographer Ric Mixter produces video short on Scout Troop 4 working at St. Helena, and donates it to GLLKA.
- Boy Scout Steven Kirsch attained Eagle Scout rank by design and implementation of an accessioning process and database for Mackinaw WAGB83’s documents and artifacts.
- Boy Scout Ben Kirsch attained Eagle Scout rank by designing and creating a database of digital images from scanned material on the restoration of St. Helena.
- Boy Scout Matthew SR Orr of Troop 4 attains Eagle Scout rank by building and installs replica boat car for St. Helena boathouse with Jim Woodward as mentor.
- Mihm Enterprises completes MLAP funded restoration of CRFRL lantern and gallery.
- GLLKA applies for MLAP grant to undertake foundation repairs at CRFRL.

2010

- GLLKA organizes and holds first annual Mackinaw Maritime Festival in Mackinaw City on May 7, 2010.
- GLLKA Publishes second edition of booklet “Lighting the Straits” written by Terry Pepper.