

Crisp Point Light Historical Society



**Newsletter # 25
November 2009**

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Don Ross, the President of the Crisp Point Light Historical Society, passed away October 21 after fighting a tough battle with cancer.

On a vacation in the Upper Peninsula in 1988, Don and his wife, Nellie, came across Crisp Point Light. At that time, it was abandoned and in disrepair. They fell in love with the spot and decided to try and save the light. In 1991, they founded the Crisp Point Light Historical Society. Rather than enjoy a quiet retirement in Ohio, they sold their home and moved to Paradise to live in a former restaurant called The Old Mill. Both Don and Nellie devoted themselves to dealing with all the red tape and obstacles to saving this light. Under their supervision, rock was installed to slow the erosion, the tower was painted, new glass was installed in the lantern room, the road was extended to a new parking lot, boardwalk was built, shrubs were planted and after 7 long years, they obtained a lease for the light.

After Nellie passed away in 2003, Don continued to lead the effort to preserve the light. CPLHS was able to acquire much larger rocks to place in front of the tower to protect it from the waves. New windows were installed in the tower and more boardwalk was built. The service building, which had been destroyed by the water in 1996, was completely rebuilt. A Fresnel lens and a buoy light were successfully leased by CPLHS for later display. This year, the new visitor center building was constructed, a replica of the original fog signal building, which also includes two bathrooms. From its humble beginning, the

CPLHS has grown to over 600 members and hosts an annual conference to which all are invited.

When Don and Nellie first began their efforts, Crisp Point Light was called the most endangered lighthouse in America by *Lighthouse Digest*. Thanks to Don & Nellie's persistence and hard work, Crisp Point Light became the first lighthouse ever to be removed from the list of endangered lighthouses.

Don loved the outdoors and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his mother, a brother, three sons, ten grandchildren, one great grandchild, four stepchildren, and his special friend, Lynne Carmody. Don also leaves behind a great many friends who were always welcome at his house. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Don's family has requested that memorials be made to Crisp Point Light Historical Society, 450 W. Marr Rd., Howell, MI 48855.



**Don Ross
1942 - 2009**

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13th Annual Conference

The CPLHS annual conference took place this year on Saturday, July 18 at the Whitefish Township School in Paradise. Approximately 60 people were on hand to hear all the latest news, visit with friends, bid on auction items and shop for merchandise. Rick Brockway updated us on all the latest happenings, especially our new visitor center building. Carl Jahn, in his authentic lighthouse keeper uniform, was our guest speaker. He told about the history of lighthouses and how they came to exist. Several CPLHS members received engraved brass plates in honor of their lifetime memberships.

During our annual auction we had some very nice items available, thank you to everyone who donated an item or bid on one! One of the items auctioned off was a chance to participate in the ribbon cutting for the new building. Bidding was heavy on this, and the two remaining bidders agreed they would both win. Elaine Watson and Stewart Warren were the lucky winners, paying \$100 each for the privilege. Also up for auction was a chance to flush the toilet in the visitor center for the first time. Mary McIntyre, visiting from New York, was the winner with a bid of \$50.

As always, we had plenty of delicious baked goods, fruit and coffee during the morning. After the meeting and auction were over, a wonderful lunch was served. We feasted on sandwiches, baked beans, veggies, and lots of desserts.

Quite a few people made the drive out to the lighthouse after the meeting, only to find the weather out there was quite chilly and very windy. We felt very fortunate that the new bathrooms were functioning and that we had the new building to provide shelter from the wind. Mike Warren cooked hotdogs and everybody enjoyed yet another great meal. Though it was cold, it's always beautiful out at the light and we hope a good time was had by all.



Elaine Watson, Rick Brockway, Stewart Warren

crisppointlighthouse.org

Don't forget to visit the website to see pictures of everything that is happening at Crisp Point Light. You'll also find the latest news, past issues of this newsletter, photos of CP merchandise, lodging information, driving directions, history and much more. If you'd rather keep your newsletter intact, you can also print the fundraiser form and the order form straight from the website.

GPS

If you use a GPS to guide you to the lighthouse, please do not start it up until you are already on CR-500. Then you are assured of following the standard route. Otherwise, you may find yourself taking an unpleasant trip down logging roads or snowmobile trails.



Mary McIntyre

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Hat Pins Now Available

We are pleased to announce that Crisp Point hat pins are now available. These pins were designed by Inge Spaulding and her daughter, Karen, and are already selling fast. They are 1 inch in diameter and have a military style pin on the back. Made in the USA, they are only available through CPLHS.

The price for the pins is \$3.50 each. Postage is \$2.00 for the first pin, and 50¢ for each additional pin. To order pins, **make your check out to CPLHS**, and send your request to:

CPLHS
Rick Brockway
450 W. Marr Rd.
Howell, MI 48855

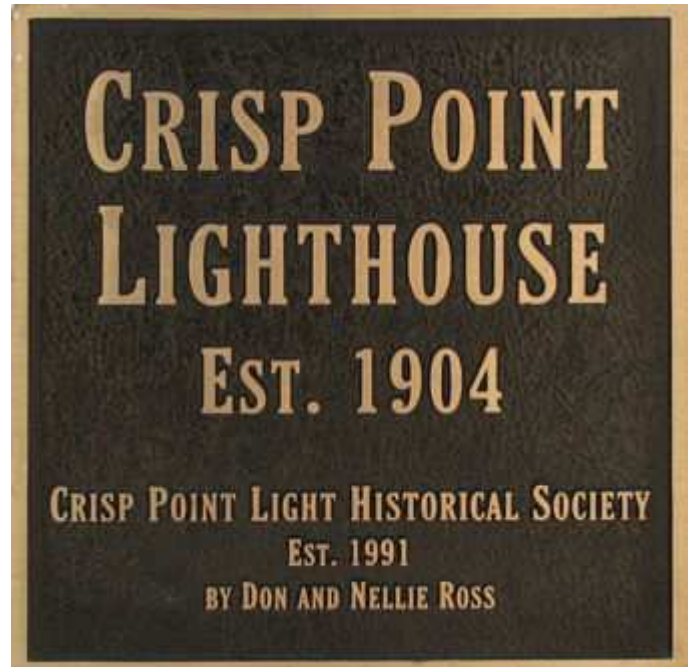
Don't forget to include appropriate postage. Any questions, call Rick at (517) 546-5283 or email cplhs@sbcglobal.net

County Roads

Just a reminder that CPLHS has no control over any County roads, including CR-500 and CR-412 leading to the lighthouse. If you would like to contact the Luce County Road Commission with your concerns, please call (906) 293-5741.

New Plaque

This plaque honoring Don & Nellie was recently placed on the west side of the service building. It was made possible by a generous donation from Bernie Hellstrom.



Lighthouse Keepers Program 2010

We are in need of keepers for next season, from mid May until October of 2010. This is a great opportunity to spend a lot of time at the lighthouse, greeting visitors, relaxing on the beach, and enjoying the sunsets. This year, we had many disappointed visitors who found the tower locked because there was no keeper.

RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN STARTING AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010. YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. DETAILS ON SIGNUP WILL BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Keepers will have a key to the lighthouse and will keep it open during the day. We ask that only one family or couple at a time participate in the program, so that you can enjoy quiet evenings alone. You may camp in a camper or tent, or stay in a motel and drive out each day.

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We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of time, expertise, equipment and labor.

Cloverland Electric of Dafer, MI for donating used electric poles to make a fence to protect the drain field and fire pit area from vehicle traffic.

Terri Brockway for all her hard work organizing the food for the annual conference.

John Raths for fabricating the pole and brackets to hold the solar panels, and ordering many materials needed for the system.

Gina Moore for painting the solar panel pole. (Sorry about where we chipped it!)

Craig & Gunnar David, John Raths and **Rick Brockway** for all their help with the well.

Chuck & Cindie Nearhood, Mike Warren, Rick Brockway, Jim Burlen, Dale Swartzlander, and Chuck Spaulding for all their help installing the pole and the solar system.

Chuck & Inge Spaulding, Stan & Mary Klein, Diane Raths, **Rick Brockway, Carl Jahn** and **Mike Warren** for all their help caulking, sanding and painting.

Ben Musielac for letting us use his sheet metal bender.

Tim Faber for helping to install the roof on the new building.

All the Keepers who took part in the 2009 Keepers program.

Bernie Hellstrom for donating the new plaque for the service building.

Inge and Karen Spaulding for designing and ordering the hat pins.

Mike & Aimee Allen, Rick Brockway, Cecil Streeter, Julia Rawlings and Jayne Mulloy for helping with the new boardwalk that runs north from the visitor center building.

Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken for donating the baked beans and foil pans for the conference.

Terri, Rick, Sarah & Sophie Brockway, Dianne Sweeter, Matt Cameron, Kalei White, Dee Smith, Mary & Stan Klein, Elaine & Larry Watson, Margaret, Mike, Lindsey & Marissa Warren, Marcia & Carl Jahn, Inge & Chuck Spaulding for helping with the 2009 Annual Conference.

All those who have helped out financially. We could not do what we do without your continued support.

Thank You!



Engraving Help Needed

As part of our ongoing fundraiser, we are engraving sponsors names onto boards for the boardwalk. If you would like to help do the engraving, please contact Rick Brockway at (517) 230-6294.

Tower Hours

We've been getting a lot of comments from people who are disappointed that the tower was not open for them to climb. Just a reminder that we rely on volunteer keepers to open the tower. There are no fixed hours of operation. Though we would like to, it's not always possible to accommodate all visitors.

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Congratulations!

On August 15 of this year, one couple got engaged and another got married. Daniel and Jamie Titzer had their wedding on the beach, witnessed by friends and family. The same day, Nicole Vanderhoff and Jason Grashik became engaged to be married while at the top of the tower.



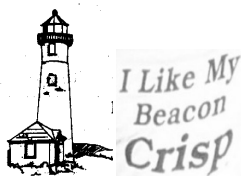
Nicole Vanderhoff and Jason Grashik

Replicas Almost Gone

If you'd like one of the Harbor Lights replicas of Crisp Point Light, this may be your last chance. These are only available through CPLHS and there are not many left. If you'd like to buy one, they sell for \$26.95 each, which includes shipping. Send a **check made out to CPLHS** to:

CPLHS
Rick Brockway
450 W. Marr Rd.
Howell, MI 48855

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Maurice E. Strong II, a member of CPLHS, who passed away on October 5, 2009.



Visitor Center Update

Great progress has been made on the new visitor center building. With the installation of brick on the outside, doors, windows and a red metal roof, it is now complete. A solar system was installed to power the pumps to provide water for the toilets. The bathrooms will be open during the season, but are now closed for the winter. The inside of the building has been painted, and a tile ceiling installed. A new length of boardwalk has been built which runs directly north from the visitor center to the beach. Sidewalks are in place on two sides of the building, making it handicap accessible. It is a very impressive building!

Rick Brockway has been the driving force behind all the construction and spent many, many hours organizing all the details. We can't thank Rick enough for all he's done.



Installing the solar system



The new building, tower and solar panel.

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Fundraiser Update

We are pleased to announce that donations to the fundraiser have reached \$10,000 as of the end of October. **Thank you** to all those who have contributed so far, we could not do it without you! Following are the names of our generous donors.

Sponsor a Window

Lynne Carmody
Inge & Chuck Spaulding
Scott Yurk / Yurk Construction
Larry & Elaine Watson
Larry Dinges
Jim & Carolyn Michael
Craig & Kari David

Sponsor a Board

James & Barbara Clickner
Roger Eberhardt
Dianne Sweeter
Judy B. Wilson
Bob & Ellen Ringle (2 boards)
Bob & Bonnie Bassett
John Rath
Joel & Sarah Massarello
Rick & Terri Brockway
Nick & Connie Nedry
Daniel & Elizabeth Friedhoff
Fred & Sharon Carpenter
Carter & Susan Rothrock
Wayne & Margaret Harris
Chuck & Diane Brandstetter
Sally Ouweneel / Karen Peters

Sponsor a Door

Chuck & Cindie Nearhood
Lee's Chicken of Plymouth
Larry & Dixie Farmer

\$100 Donation

Timothy & Maximina Zink
Virginia Bushong
Chuck & Diane Brandstetter
Wayne & Margaret Harris
Margaret Walbridge
Richard & Barbara Boerger
Richard S. Jackson Jr.
Terry T. Purnell
Richard & Doris Troll
Mary Eleanor Harris
William H. Lane
Roger Eberhardt
Debra Szajko & Paul Ardanowski

\$50 Donation

Ron & Brenda Hershberger
Timothy W. Zink
Nick & Connie Nedry
Karen Green & Leonora Forist
Daniel Weiler
Karen Harshman & Abbie
Frank Novak
Michael P. Brady
Becky Seitz
Ray & Nancy Duede
Roger & Rachel Seefeldt (2)
Marilyn J. Brown
Judy & Rob Carbary
James & Barbara Clickner
Shelley Guy

\$25 Donation

Chuck & Diane Brandstetter
Dorothy R. Litsinberger

CPLHS Membership & Merchandise Order Form

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ E-Mail _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership	New _____	1 year Single \$20.00 _____	2 year single \$35.00 _____
	Renewal _____	1 year family \$30.00 _____	2 year family \$50.00 _____

Donation I would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____
 (A lifetime family membership comes with a tax deductible donation of \$500)

Item	Size	Color	Quantity	Price Ea.	Total
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Crisp Point T-Shirt "I Like My Beacon Crisp" on back, silk-screen lighthouse artwork on front

S-M-L-XL	gray-white-navy-stone blue-dk orange-sage green			\$15.00	
XXL	gray-white-navy-stone blue-dk orange-sage green			\$17.50	
XXXL	white-navy			\$19.50	

Crisp Point Sweatshirt Heavy duty 50/50 Lee top quality, embroidered letters plus silkscreened artwork of light

S-M-L-XL	navy			\$42.00	
XXL	navy			\$45.00	
XXXL	navy			\$48.00	

Crisp Point Long Sleeve T-Shirt Heavy duty, with embroidered lettering

S-M-L	blue-gray-bright orange			\$29.00	
XL	gray-bright orange			\$29.00	
XXL	gray-bright orange			\$32.50	

Crisp Point Denim Long Sleeve Shirt Top quality, embroidery at front pocket

S-M-L-XL	denim			\$37.50	
XXL	denim			\$39.50	
XXXL	denim			\$45.00	

Crisp Point Windshirt

S-M-L-XL	black			\$42.00	
XXL	black			\$45.00	
XXXL	navy			\$50.00	

Crisp Point Embroidered Bucket Hat

S/M or L/XL	khaki			\$14.00	
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Crisp Point Denim Cap embroidered, made of stonewashed denim

one size	blue- green- burgandy			\$12.00	
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CPLHS

MAIL TO:

CPLHS
 Rick Brockway
 450 W. Marr Rd
 Howell, MI 48855

Napkin Holder		\$10.00	
Architectural Survey Book		\$22.00	
Coffee Mug		\$10.00	
Black Metal Silhouette 15" x 20"		\$25.00	
Black Metal Silhouette 21" x 28.5"		\$35.00	
"Crisp Point Landing" print by R. Mersino		\$10.00	

ADD \$5.50 SHIPPING FOR EACH ITEM

	X \$5.50	
TOTAL		

(517) 230-6294 or (517) 546-5283
 e-mail: cplhs@sbcglobal.net