

# Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society

## 2010 Annual Report

Chairman: Matthew McMullen

### **Opening**

2010 has been nothing short of an amazing year for the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation society, (also referred to as society) many new goals have been set and already many of the society's goals have been reached. These goals and accomplishments are a direct result of the contributions of our hard working board members, active society members, and concerned citizens that have taken an interest in the Round Island Lighthouse. With all that has already been accomplished this year, it is hard to imagine that even greater things are in the works for 2011; however this organization is one that strives for improvement and for the chance to top its previous year's accomplishments. There is no doubt in my mind that 2011 will mark another year filled with even greater accomplishments and goals than that of previous years.

### **Brief History of Round Island Lighthouse and the Societies involvement**

The Round Island Lighthouse is and has always been owned by the United States and currently is the responsibility of The United States Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest (also referred to as "the Forest Service"). Since the 1995 the Forest Service has had a relationship with Freeland Boy Scout Troop 323 to maintain the grounds and do maintenance projects on the Lighthouse. This is how the founding members of the Round Island Preservation society became involved

In 2008, the founding members decided to approach the Forest Service to discuss the possibility of the formation of a non-profit corporation whose purpose is solely for the benefit of the Lighthouse. After much discussion, a decision was reached to move ahead with the creation of Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

On January 14, 2009, the Society became a Michigan non-profit membership corporation. On January 24, 2009 an organizational meeting was held, board members were elected and a group of close friends with a dedication passion of preservation of the Round Island lighthouse officially formed, organized, and met to discuss it's first actions as a preservation society.

### **Current Board of Directors**

Currently occupying board seats are five hard working & extraordinary people:

Matthew McMullen  
Patricia Eckenstakler  
Ann Doyle  
David Mack  
Brad Mrozinski

Of these board members listed below are current positions board members are occupying.

Matthew McMullen	Board Chairman
Patricia Eckenstakler	Society Secretary
David Mack	Society Treasurer
Ann Doyle	Member At Large
Brad Mrozinski	Member At Large

### **Summary of 2010**

In the early spring before any trips to the lighthouse took place the society purchased a used ten foot inflatable boat to use in addition to the one currently used by the society to transport persons and equipment. This boat will ease bottlenecks and speed the transportation of persons and gear.

In June the first work trip of the year was held, during this trip the lighthouse was cleaned by Boy Scouts in preparation for the July open house. Also Scouts patrolled the grounds cleaning trash and other debris. Weather for the weekend was calm, warm and sunny. Some of the major jobs accomplished during the first work trip include the fixing and reinforcing of the chain hand rail posts that surround the lighthouse. Posts locate on the south side of the lighthouse where welded, or completely resunk into place with the help of Dave Mack's 3" core drill and welding outfit. Marigold flowers where planted in the lighthouse's planter barrel, as is a tradition carried on by the scouts set in place by the late Jewel Fowler a Scout mom that loved the lighthouse.

The second weekend of July marked the 4th annual open house and the second year hosting the open house under the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. The open house was an outstanding success. Weather proved to be one of the major contributing factors to the success of the weekend due to light winds and very calm waters. Also contributing was the hiring of Halcyon Charters to transport persons from Mackinac Island to the offshore waters of Round Island. Additionally with the purchase of an second inflatable boat the loading and unloading of guests was nearly flawless with no bottlenecks. The Scouts, The Society, and Forrest Service where blessed with hundreds of lighthouse enthusiast visiting the lighthouse. Along with persons being transported by Halcyon charters, many additional countless persons managed to provide there own transportation to the island and stopped in for a visit. Again weather was a key to this happening. In the end the goal of the society was accomplished. To provide access to the lighthouse and educate the public to the history and importance of preservation of the lighthouse.

In August a major milestone and goal was achieved by The Society. On a cloudy somewhat foggy day Board Members of the Round Island Preservation Society along with representatives from the United States Forrest Service, Hiawatha national Forrest, as

well as members of the Round Island Preservation Society, representatives of the Friends of Round Island Lighthouse, dignitaries, and other important guest met on Mackinac Island's Windermere Point to sign a memorandum of understanding. This set in writing and appointed the Round Island Preservation Society as the active preservation society of the Round Island Lighthouse. Countless hours of work and dedication from both society members and Forrest service personal went into this significant mark in the society's history. This agreement will help open the road to grants, funding, and many more opportunities. The society was overcome with emotions that day; on top of which during the ceremony that was held, it was announced by Tom Pfeiffelmann who was representing the Friends of Round Island Lighthouse. That there organization had decided to disband. They closed all accounts, totaled the monetary assets together and present a check to The Society. As if the day that had unfolded could not have gotten better the society was approached by Dale Gensman whose father Frank Rounds built the lighthouse with an offer of artifacts and a possible location for a museum. Dale announced to the society that he wanted to give all the artifacts that he has from the lighthouse to the society for a museum and for further preservation. Dale also offered a room in the Stewart House museum on Mackinac Island as a location for a Round Island Lighthouse Museum that tourists visiting Mackinac Island could explore and learn more about the lighthouse and its role in history as well as that of the role of The Society.

In late August with much regret a major change came to the board of directors when Ann Doyle chairman of the board stepped down due to unforeseeable and personal reasons. Ann was to retain her board seat but not hold the duties of the chairman. At this time myself (Matthew McMullen) accepted the position of the chairman of the board until which time reelection came. This unforeseeable event had one major positive outcome for the society. This tested and proved that the society could withstand and overcome a sudden and major change, and it also proved the soundness of the societies bylaws.

In October the Society participated in the Great Lake Lighthouse Festival. 2010 was the year in which Round Island Lighthouse was selected as the festivals featured lighthouse. This brought much more attention and fanfare to the society and its cause. At the festival the society took the opportunity to participate in round table discussions with other preservation societies in hopes of learning more and at the same time helping out other emerging societies and groups. Money was raised and again the societies goals of public education of the history and importance of preservation of the lighthouse where accomplished. Also during the ceremony Boy Scouts From troop 323 made the drive to Alpena each day to participate in the flag ceremony. During the ceremony it was unofficially announced to the Board Chairman that with the help of Chuck Eckenstakler, the architecture firm Faney Howey would assist the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society with a site assessment plan. This marked another major step in the preservation of the lighthouse.

## **Looking Toward 2011**

It is my belief that 2011 will once again mark a momentous year for this organization. Already plans are in the works for the annual July open house. There are plans for two work trips instead of one. Board members have also set in place objectives to increase society membership, and Boy Scout Participation.

The Museum on Mackinac Island should become a reality this year, and with help from Faney Howey and the possibility of grant funding the society will come ever closer to a site assessment plan. I would like to thank each board member for all the countless hours, and other self sacrifices they have made to this cause. I have said this countless times before and I will say it once again. It is amazing what a dedicated group of friends can do when they come together for a common cause in which they are passionate for. This society is and will continue to be a welcoming friendship for those that want to raise awareness, teach the history, and promote the preservation of the Round Island Lighthouse for future generations.