

Turn Point Light Station

Annual Newsletter

March 2019

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Rare sighting of a Sperm Whale at Turn Point

Another great year!

Turn Point Lighthouse just becomes more popular with the boating public every year. It seems like each year we have more visitors. A big thank you to all those who responded to the public comment period for the San Juan Islands Draft Resource Management Plan. We sincerely hope your comments concerning long range management of our lighthouse will help. No major projects were under taken this year but the board stayed busy with supporting the docents and keeping the operation running. With our partner, the BLM, we were able to contract and have asbestos removed from unit two, thus making it safe for further restoration work. TPLPS was contacted by a member, who wished to remain anonymous, about donating money for another bench. Jim Bergquist built it from local wood, that was furnished by TPLPS member Kent Sooter. The bench was installed alongside the roadway heading down to the lighthouse. We now have another rest stop for visitors making that long climb up the hill.



2018 Docent Program

Many thanks to our docents for volunteering their time and the hard work involved. We had docents that came from many different states and all enjoyed the special place that Turn Point is.

The docent program has become so popular that we now have a 5 – 6 year waiting list and are not actively recruiting volunteers. If you are willing to wait, you can submit your name to the docent coordinator at info@tplps.org. Three docent couples so enjoyed their time that they made very generous donations to TPLPS upon completion of their tours of duty.

We ask that 2 docents be on duty each week. The museum is open from 11 AM till 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. One docent will give scheduled tours in the main keepers quarters and the other will man the museum. We change out the docents each Monday. Docents are at Turn Point from Monday before July 4th until the end of the Labor Day weekend.

Once again a heartfelt thanks to all those who served as a docent!

Ed Freedman & Lori Carraway



Kevin & Kealan Connors



Lisa & Lee Hoffman



Judy & Peter Gray



Masha, Kecianne & Merry



Teresa Hansen & Eileen Anderson



Gail Hammer & Curtis Colvin



Jemma Tory & Luke O'Neill



Jon & Sally McQuiston



The Corinthians Bring It Again in 2018

By Pam Spencer

What a beautiful day! We all arrived at the County Dock Saturday June 23 promptly at 9 am to be transported to the lighthouse courtesy of Stuart Islanders, Jim and Linda Bergquist. (Thank you to those who towed some of us who did not have power!) We were briefed quickly and set off to work in various parts of the lighthouse station: washing down the two museums, cleaning the 1st keepers' quarters, taking up old flooring in the 2nd keepers' quarters, measuring, cutting, and laying down plywood for the new flooring, and cleaning the docents trailer in preparation for the summer opening. It is amazing to see the progress and the amount of effort that has gone into preserving the lighthouse station, the keepers' quarters, the period furniture they have obtained, and the history that has been put together and displayed. Absolutely stunning! If you haven't been there recently put it on your list of Islands to visit this summer. There were no

whales to be seen this trip, so we all have to go back next year!! Erik and Erin Green on Miren, Karen and Mike Reed with Diaz on Islander, George and Cynthia Boggs on Trine, Greg Hartgraves and friend, Larry Sasser, on Blue Skies, Mike and July Kirkland with granddaughter, Grace, on Shockwave, Pam and Steve with Darwin on Telos, Bruce and Cindy Henninger with friends on Mental Floss, Mike & Margaret Jonas, Chip & Wiley Clough, Marcia de Chadenedes, members of the Lighthouse Preservation Society, also joined us, and Warren flew in on his plane!

With such a great turnout the evening potluck around a fire overlooking Prevost Harbour was spectacular! Bruce Henninger did a great imitation

of a whale communicating for one of the Trivial Pursuit questions! Next time we will ask him to tell the whales to come by the lighthouse! Thank you all for coming and helping out!



Our New Display

Stuart Island's Turn Point has some very old trees. When a few were cut down, slices of the trunk were sent to the University of Washington for analysis. Member Victoria Atkins did further research and wrote the verbiage for the display. Monument Manager Marcia deChadenedes and board member Jim Bergquist built the framework and the slices were attached along with a commercially printed sign. It is now on display in front of the barn and has received many favorable comments.

The display points out the impact of forest fires, both natural and man-made, as well as the wet and drought years impacts. Native Americans understood the use of forest fires. The white marks on the wood slices are years when major fires burned the tree. The oldest fire affecting these trees occurred prior to 1650 A.D.



Marcia's Musings

A benchmark year for the lovely Turnpoint Light!! Under the mindful care of TPLPS, Upon turning 125 years, the light station was officially turned transferred to the Bureau of Land Management per Public Land Order No. 7865 promulgated 29 May, 2018. Now, some of you know that this action has been underway for at least eleven years. When I came to the islands in 2014 it was clear that the gummed up process needed some tending. I liked to say that paperwork had been moved around so many times the ink was practically wiped off. So HOORAY for everyone! You might wonder why it was such a big deal, things seemed to be going pretty well. I can assure you that in the DC five year plans for maintenance, we didn't have standing. And with the smaller projects, it depended on who was signing the checks, how quickly we were able to move planning processes along, and find dollars to support the great work underway!

We also had a very successful public comment period for the San Juan Islands Draft Resource Management Plan. Over 1200 public comments were offered to

support the 20 year management foundation plan for the monument. TPLPS has had to sit on their hands and wait for the eventual outcome, hopefully September 2019, before they can learn if they will be able to have docents, volunteers, or guests stay in the keepers quarters. They did a super job of mustering hundreds of names to a petition in support of that use, and submitted those along with their own strong presentations of the best use and management for the light station. This is in fact one of the driving purposes of TPLPS board member Mike Jonas being on the Monument Advisory Committee for the past four years, and his re-nomination to the committee was accepted this year - another major accomplishment!

Then there are the things you don't see, like the deft management of hazard trees around the docent's domain, many thanks to the Bergquist's watchful eye, and support from WA State Park rangers. And the successful garnering of monies by our engineer and also our hazardous materials resource lead, this year, that will pay for nearly 1.5 million dollars in maintenance and repair to the

site this year. Those grants come about because those BLM folks see the need, and feel engaged. They have lots on their plates all over the state, but are stepping up to reflect back a matching investment to what you all have made possible!

I often say that this monument is extraordinary, with the unbelievable degree of public support to its care taking. Last year 92% of all of the BLM WA's volunteer hours were right here in the islands. You all are wonderful! Wonderful to work with, inspiring to know, and exemplary in your accomplishment! We are grateful daily, cheers to you all!



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Ideas and Plans for 2019

The biggest issue in 2019 will be awaiting the results of the BLM Long Range Management Plan following the result of the public comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan.

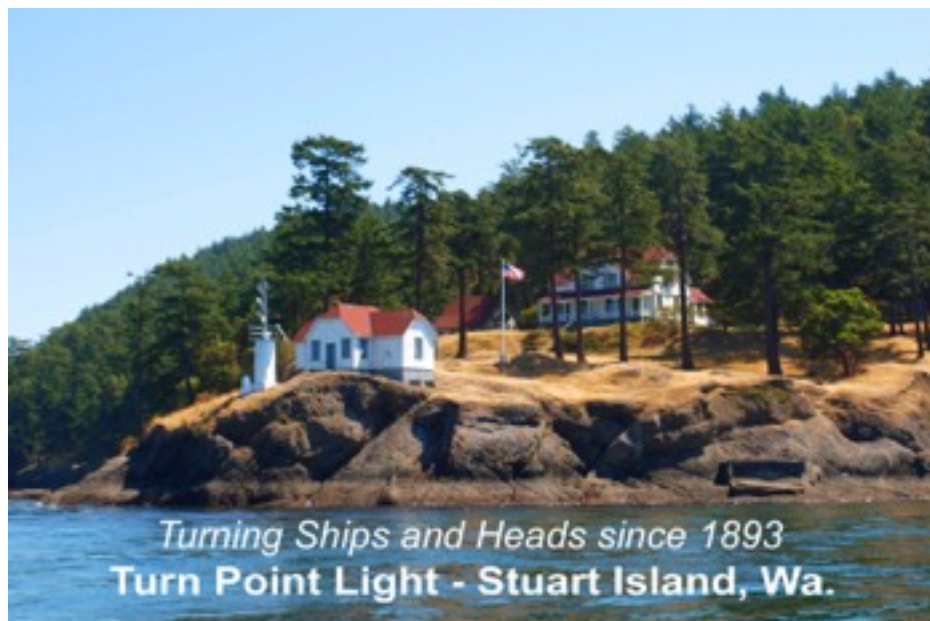
We will continue our restoration work in Unit 2, working on the kitchen counters and the floors. TPLPS will have an electrical plan for the keepers quarters prepared and forwarded to the BLM for approval.

TPLPS plans to engage a septic company to prepare a plan for our waste disposal situation.

TPLPS continues to discuss with the BLM as to the best way to provide a supply of fresh potable water.

TPLPS is looking for people interested joining the board. If you are interested, we will let you know what is involved.

Turn Point Light Station



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