

Turn Point Light Station

Annual Newsletter

February 2022

TPLPS 2019 – 2021 Newsletter

Turn Point is alive and well in spite of the COVID pandemic. In 2019 we were open for tourists and had plenty of visitors that took tours of the Keepers' Quarters and visited our museum. Then the pandemic hit and our board made the wise decision in 2020 to keep the buildings closed and not have docents on duty. This didn't stop visitors from coming to the light station. In 2021 we elected to open the station to visitors and have docents. We did this by instituting two important items; 1. All persons entering the buildings must wear a mask and 2. Hand sanitizer stations would be located outside the entry doors. The feedback we received from visitors reaffirmed our decision. Because the Canadian border was closed, our visitor counts were much higher than other years.

In other news we lost two Bureau of Land Management employees that were very involved in our success at Turn Point. First, Nick Teague retired. Nick really helped us get TPLPS going from the start. He was fun to work with and left his imprint on the station. Second, Marcia deChadenedes, our San Juan Islands National Monument Manager, took a job elsewhere in BLM. Marcia came onboard about 2013 and went to bat for us. Projects that had been on hold or rejected by previous BLM management were dusted off and approved. Neither job has been filled even though we had "Skeet" Townley in the San Juans for a while.



Marcia deChadenedes with a recognition plaque given to her by TPLPS



Nick Teague with that smile that could light up a room.

Both Marcia and Nick are welcome back at Turn Point. Marcia wants to be a docent after she retires from BLM. We will definitely make a spot for her.

Membership / Donations

We have over 100 current members and we appreciate every one of you. We also have donors that make sizeable contributions and even get matching funds from their employers. We use these funds for our docent program and restoration activities. Thanks everyone!!

NOTE: Your renewal notice will now be sent in either June or December. This should reduce the workload for our membership team.

Light Station Restoration Update

The Fog-Signal Building, the Mule Barn, and the Oil Storage Building are essentially done. Minor improvements can still be done but all three are not our focus. The Keepers' Quarters have three units. Unit #1 has been restored and furnished and is open for guided tours in the summer. Unit #2 is envisioned as a site for our docents that now must reside in a trailer up the hill from the station. Unit #3 we had hoped to rent out to visitors that wanted to experience life at a remote light station. Based on a recent inspection by BLM, Unit #3 would not be safe enough due to lack of emergency escape routes. Therefore, our focus has been on Unit #2.

Restoration of Unit #2 needs rewiring and plumbing. In addition, a source of water and a septic system is needed before it can be occupied. BLM has set aside money for drilling a well but without a Monument Manager, the project has made little progress.

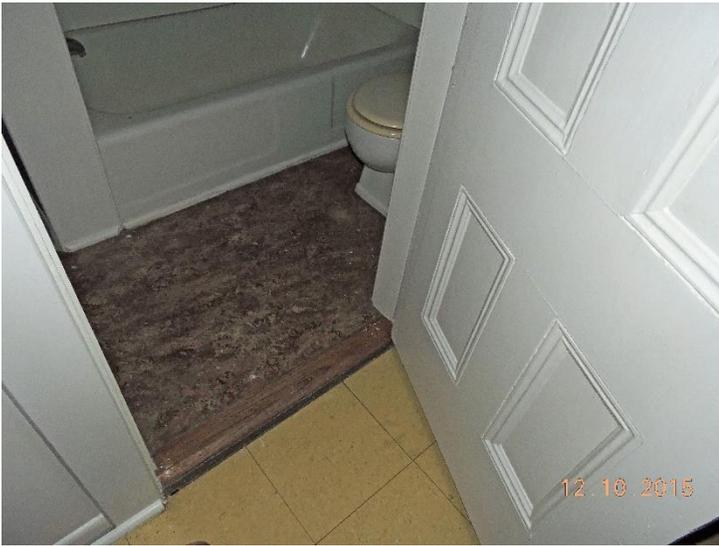


Here are some pictures of recent work in Unit #2:

Kitchen before – original countertop was overlaid with a speckled finish and floor tiles were missing.

Kitchen after – Countertop restored to match original installation and new vinyl flooring replaced asphalt tiles.





Bathroom before – Linoleum was compromised and dry rot under toilet

Bathroom after – New vinyl floor and dry rot gone



Museum Additions

Docent Madeline Renkins requested that a flag flown over the Nation's Capitol be sent to TPLPS. It is now on display in the museum.

A platter that had been at Turn Point until 1955 was returned by Gregory Ogletree, son of the Officer-in-charge. When the Coast Guard took over in 1939, they ordered anything with the Lighthouse Service logo be destroyed. This platter survived and is very rare.



Bellingham Corinthian Yacht Club Work Parties

For many years the Bellingham Corinthian Yacht Club has come to Turn Point on the 4th Saturday in June. This is just before the station opens to tourists with docents present. They provide a valuable service to TPLPS as they get the station looking pretty spiffy. We thank them for their service and dedication to Turn Point. Due to the pandemic, they were not there in 2020.



2021 Bellingham CYC Work Party

Docents

Docents are very important to TPLPS. They arrive on a Monday and man the station from Tuesday to Sunday (11:00 am to 4:30 pm) and leave on Monday as the next set of docents arrive. This has become so popular that we had to stop adding new ones to our list of volunteers. If they are not already members of TPLPS, they must join. We have had people from many parts of the United States and even from London, England.

2019 Docents



Week 1 – Rebecca Moore and Fielding McGehee

Week 2 – Lynn Heesen and JoAnn Jordan

Week 3 – Jane and Doug Slager

Week 4 – Mike and Ann Brewer

Week 5 – Marc and Nancy Adam

Week 6 – Joe and Myra Downing

Week 7 – Tammy Martin and Sandy Schroeder

Week 8 – Gerry and Maria Olund

Week 9 – Kathryn Lang and Andrea Coulson

2021 Docents



Week 1 – Ann and Bill Testerman

Week 2 – Greiter Family

Week 3 – Jo Evans and Art Freeman

Week 4 – Jeanie Brown and Nancy Hunting

Week 5 – Greg Clayton and Wynola Possenti

Week 6 – Bruce Anderson and Jamie Criddle

Week 7 – Joe Wolter

Week 8 – Judy Todd and Miriam Kasha

Week 9 – Denise and Jose Parra

Week 10 – Rebecca Moore and Fielding McGehee **

** Rebecca and Fielding were replacements for a last minute cancelation.

Looking Forward

There are several issues that are slowing down our progress at Turn Point.

BLM – Personnel

TPLPS would like to see the San Juan Islands National Monument Manager position filled soon and with another Marcia. That person needs to hit the ground running and be an advocate for our projects at Turn Point.

TPLPS would like to see the Recreation Planner position filled soon with someone who is knowledgeable of the uniqueness of the San Juan Islands and lighthouses.

BLM – Resource Management Plan (RMP)

The last RMP for the northwest was issued in the 1980s before BLM took possession of the lighthouses. A RMP that addresses the San Juan Islands and lighthouses has been in the works for many years. It was almost completed when the National Monument was created in 2013. It was stated then that it just needed to be updated to include the monument. That was eight years ago and now we are being told it will be finished by September 30, 2022. Once completed it will give us directions on how we can proceed.

TPLPS – Leadership

The leaders of TPLPS are aging and we need some youth to step in and carry the ball forward. It has worked fairly good with Jim and Linda Bergquist on Stuart Island close to Turn Point and Mike and Margaret Jonas on Orcas Island near the post office and bank. It will be hard to replace them. We are always looking for new blood to join our leadership team especially ones from the San Juan Islands.

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