

MLA E-Newsletter December 2007

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to another MLA E-Newsletter and Merry Christmas. Thanks to everyone for all your feedback regarding the lighthouse conference session suggestions for the upcoming Great lakes Regional Lighthouse Conference. It is truly going to be a great conference, we have put together a spectacular speaker program to help you with your lighthouse, more on that later. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep everyone informed of what is going on in the lighthouse community, including organization updates, state and federal issues and anything else related to the network of Michigan's lighthouses. The E-Newsletter is a publication just to keep the lines of communication open between all of us. If you have any news to share or updates to give, this is the venue to keep everyone informed. I hope everyone is doing very well and you are busy finishing up your holiday shopping. Please let us know how things are going and if you have any information to share. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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1. Great Lighthouse Conference, June-2008:

The Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, an affiliation of Michigan lighthouse stewards and stakeholders, will be holding a conference on lighthouse preservation, June 11-13, 2008. Conference sessions and panels will cover all aspects of owning, restoring, and preserving historic lighthouses. Themes include economic development, technical assistance, moisture control, insurance insights/problems, and organizational development. For those interested in obtaining a lighthouse or those that are already involved in lighthouse preservation, this conference will be an educational must. The National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act transfer process will be briefly covered for new stewards.

Speakers will represent a wide range of individuals, corporate, private business, federal and state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Our technical speaker program will consist of major issues facing lighthouse organizations, whether it be finance, management, gift shops, or technical restoration topics such as moisture control and peeling paint. Industry experts will be giving us their advice.

Attached to this newsletter is a PDF registration flyer for the conference that you can print and mail in your registration with. You may also register online at our new web site www.michiganlighthousealliance.org. An online conference registration form and electronic payment through PayPal will be available by January 3rd, 2008. Please reserve the date and register now! Plan on attending this advanced topic lighthouse conference. For more information or questions on the conference please contact Sally Frye at (231) 590-4004 or by e-mail at lighthsesally@charter.net. If you want to stay updated on the conference, please e-mail Sally and we will e-mail you updates as they are published.

2. American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee Meeting Announced:

The American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee (ALCC) has announced they will have an Executive Committee meeting during the MLA June 2008 Great Lakes Regional Lighthouse Conference. The ALCC is a national leadership council and forum for the American Lighthouse Preservation Movement. The ALCC took on the huge task of documenting and compiling a complete list of Fresnel lenses in America and continues to update the list. It is the only such list in existence. A new project on lighthouse lamps is being planned to compliment the lens list which will technically document all illuminating apparatus in the US. The ALCC also sponsors conferences and workshops on lighthouse preservation such as the Lenses and Lantern Room Workshop held in Buffalo, NY. We are thankful they have chosen our event for their meeting and we hope their presence will allow a unique networking opportunity for attendees.

3. Michigan Lighthouse Project Meeting Announced:

The MLP will plan on having a Michigan Lighthouse Project meeting in conjunction with the Lighthouse Conference being planned by the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance to be held in Traverse City, MI, June 11-13, 2008. Please mark these dates on your calendars and plan on attending the conference and the MHP meeting. More specifics on time and place of MLP meeting to follow in early 2008.

Happy Holidays,
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4. Consumer Product Safety Commission Home Lead Test Kit Information:

Since many of us have to deal with lead paint issues, here is some news regarding home test kits we might buy at the store and why we shouldn't use them for testing in lighthouses for lead paint.

October 22, 2007
Release #08-038

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

CPSC Staff Study: Home Lead Test Kits Unreliable

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) today announced the results of a special evaluation of consumer lead test kits. CPSC staff used commonly available test kits on a variety of paints and other products containing different levels of lead. Many of the tests performed using the kits did not detect lead when it was there (false negatives); some indicated lead was present when it was not (false positives). Of 104 total test results, more than half (56) were false negatives, and two were false positives. None of the kits consistently detected lead in products if the lead was covered with a non-lead coating. Based on the study consumers should not use lead test kits to evaluate consumer products for potential lead hazards. These findings are consistent with previous CPSC staff test results.

CPSC staff studied two common types of home lead test kits that are based on chemical reactions involving rhodizonate ion or sulfide ion. Most test kits were developed to detect levels of lead in household paint that are usually much higher than CPSC's regulatory maximum level of 0.06%. As a result, staff found that these kits may not be useful for detecting relatively low lead paint concentrations or for detecting lead in other materials, such as metal jewelry or vinyl products. Also, both types of kits may be affected by substances such as iron, tin, or dirt, or by paint colors that can cause the color in the test kit to change or hide the color change, thereby interfering with interpretation of the test results.

As part of the study of lead test kits, CPSC staff also evaluated the use of x-ray fluorescence (XRF) for screening for lead in paint and other products. Twelve of 13 samples were correctly identified as containing lead. The staff notes that this technology may be of use by a professional inspector for screening for the presence or absence of lead in products, particularly for surface level lead. However, XRF detectors are generally not available for consumer use. Further, use of an XRF device requires knowledge, training and consideration of its limitations. For example, XRF detectors have limited depth of penetration so, for certain applications such as children's metal jewelry, it is possible for the surface coating to mask the presence of potentially hazardous leaded base metal underneath.

Consumers should exercise caution when using these test kits to evaluate consumer products for potential lead exposures. False results can make it difficult or impossible for consumers to determine the proper course of action to take. In fact, CPSC staff has tested a number of other samples that had been identified by consumers and others based on their use of inexpensive test kits as having high lead levels. To date, none of these items has actually had high lead levels based on CPSC lab analysis. This is another indication of the poor reliability of the kits for this purpose. Testing by a qualified laboratory and trained personnel is the only way to accurately assess the potential risk posed by a consumer product that may contain lead.

Consumers can stay informed of lead-related recalls by signing up for email announcements at www.cpsc.gov. Consumers who suspect that their child has been exposed to excessive levels of lead, should immediately contact a physician.

The 6 page PDF report can be downloaded from this link:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/lead.pdf>

5. Committees and Volunteer Needs:

The MLA is still seeking to revitalize some of the committees it once had in order to continue on our mission. The following list below are the MLA committees needing people to help serve on. Please take a look at these and let John Gronberg or Jeff Shook know which committees you are interested in serving on. I know that we all have our own lighthouse organizations to attend too, but if you can spare a little bit of time, together we can accomplish the tasks needed to help each other out.

The committees are...

- Advocacy Committee.....(legislation, media, marking, outreach)
- Education & Technical Assistance Committee.....(materials, publications, resources, programs, funding sources, technical support to stewards manual)
- Finance Committee
- Membership Committee
- Programs Committee.....(workshops, conferences, speakers list)

6. Lighthouse Calendar:

Please let us know if you are having any special celebrations or activities in 2008. We want to get you as much publicity as possible. News items and events will be published on the MLA web site. You can send your calendar information to Jeff Shook at rescuetwo@aol.com. A calendar will be included in all MLA E-Newsletters. So lets get the word out and help each other out.

7. 2008 Michigan Lighthouse Schedule of Events:

January 14-June 27, 2008: Ladies of the Lights – Michigan Women in the US Lighthouse Service.

See announcement #9 below and attached press release for a new exhibit featuring Michigan's women lighthouse keepers in Lansing, Michigan.

June 11-13, 2008: Great Lakes Regional Lighthouse Conference.

See announcement #3 above and attached conference flyer.

8. Michigan Lighthouse Project Manager Report & Martha MacFarlane Faes has a baby girl:

Congratulations Martha! Martha had a baby girl on 11/21/07! She will return to SHPO around 2/15/07. In the mean time, here is some news prior to her departure for maternity leave she published at the end of November. In her absence, Brian Conway, the State Historic Preservation Officer, will still be available to handle any lighthouse questions or issues you may have. His direct number is 517-373-0511 and his email is ConwayBD@michigan.gov.

At this point, we are still working on the bottomlands issue in Michigan. We had a meeting of concerned parties back in August and Clif Haley with DeTour Reef light has produced a new draft of a potential bottomlands agreement between the DEQ and the lighthouse owners. I have just learned that the draft agreement is still under review in the office of the Michigan Attorney General. Carol Linteau, DEQ legislative liaison, has recently taken the lead on this matter for the DEQ and she informs me that she expects to hear from the AG's office very soon and sounded optimistic that the matter could be resolved by the time I return from leave. Even though I will be on leave, I plan to keep my ear to the ground on this issue and I know the State Historic Preservation Office will stay very involved.

The Michigan Lighthouse Alliance is planning a Great Lakes Regional Lighthouse Conference in Traverse City on June 11-13, 2008, so please mark your calendars! This promises to be a fantastic event.

I wish you all a very happy and productive autumn and all the best for the upcoming holidays.

9. Ladies of the Lights – Michigan Women in the US Lighthouse Service:

Michigan's Women Lightkeepers featured at the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame.

Lighthouse keeping in the 19th and early 20th centuries was a rugged life of long hours and hard work punctuated by periods of real peril. Not a profession for the faint-hearted, it was thought to be unsuitable employment for the "fairer sex." But at least 50 women in Michigan proved the naysayers wrong. Acting as both assistants and full-fledged keepers, these women served the sailing community with distinction for more than 100 years—often juggling their official duties with the demands of raising a family. And more than one woman gave her life for the Lighthouse Service. Stirring stories of dedication and determination may be found in this new exhibit, as well as hands-on activities for young and old! A full press release is attached as a PDF to this newsletter.

Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame

213 W. Main St., Lansing

Phone: 517-484-1880

www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

All of your comments are important to the success of the MLA. If you are looking to help out on the committees, or other areas, please let us know. You may contact [John Gronberg](#) or [Jeff Shook](#). Thanks for all your help and continued support.

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