

# Charity Island Excursions Newsletter

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*Charity Island Lighthouse Stairway*

## **Holy Cow!! What a Surprise!**

In April of 2006 we hired a company to set up a website for *Charity Island Excursions* that included an option for visitors to subscribe to our newsletter.

Our experiences with Big Charity island began 20 years ago and my wife and I thought a newsletter

would be a great way to share with people the information and stories we have about the island, its wildlife, and its maritime history.

We have been puzzled and disappointed that we have never received a single request from anyone for our newsletter so we assumed no one was interested in receiving it.

Until yesterday when my website guy, Larry, asked me why we have never responded to all the email requests we have been receiving for our newsletter.

“Are you kidding me Larry!?, I have never received one request from anyone , I exclaimed”! Larry then explained to me , as if talking to a child, those requests



do not go to my e-mail address, as I had expected, but rather to a certain place on our website that I had never been to before because I did not know it existed!

I was shocked to see 700 requests for our newsletter.

Some going back to 2006!!

So, better late than never, here is our first Charity Island Newsletter. Although the primary focus of our newsletter will be on sharing information on *the island and wildlife* as well as our efforts to get the **lighthouse restored** I want to begin this issue by reviewing our 2009 season.

*Today's Mighty Oak was once just a nut that held its ground!*

## 2009 IN REVIEW

### Coldest July on Record in Michigan

Hard to believe we just finished our fifth year doing Dinner cruises to Charity Island. It was coldest one since we started the cruises. What happened to Global warming? We cancelled more trips this summer because of high winds and cold weather than any other year

Our first day on the island this year was March 6<sup>th</sup>. I hired some fellas to take me to the island on an Airboat that day and I tapped 30 maple trees and made five gallons of Maple syrup in less than a week.

Also, in March of this year we received the “**Governor’s Award for Innovation in Tourism**” for our efforts to bring *out-of- state tour buses* into Northeast Michigan.

We were all very excited and proud to be recognized for our efforts to bring business into the State of Michigan.

This was the first year we scheduled spring birdwatching trips the first three weekends in May and had a lot of people sign up and then we had to cancel all but one of those trips because of high winds. We will try again in 2010.

We added a Pergola and had our Second official wedding on Charity Island this past Memorial Day Weekend. Congratulations to the new Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Flathau of Grand Rapids. What a beautiful couple.

We also renovated and converted an old log style building that sits on the Lightkeepers property into a small Gift Shop. See pictures on our website.

Finally, we had a new Dining Pavilion constructed near the lighthouse that seats 100 people just in time for our second and largest wedding of the Season.

We sent both boats to Caseville that weekend to pick up the wedding party of 90 People. They were able to sit and eat together and we even had dancing up there also.

*Scroll down to continue*



*Arrival on charity island March 6, 2009*

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### **Tapping Trees on Charity Island March 2009**

#### **Wedding Continued**

It was a mostly cloudy day, windy with intermittent rain but the Bride was radiant and we congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Dale Grifka and thank them for choosing Charity Island to be part of their wedding day.

With our new Dining Area we can now seat two full boats or up to 98 people and serve them all at one time.

We've had so many requests for our recipe for our Great Lakes Lightly Breaded Perch we have decided to package it and offer it for sale through



our gift shop and it will soon be available for purchase on our website.

We are getting ready to winterize the Lightkeepers home for the season and have been keeping an eye out for the two Snowy Owls we had hanging out on the island for about a week this time last year.

With as cold as it has been I thought they might show up early.

Unquestionably, the biggest event in the past 12 months for Karen and I was the birth of our Grand Baby, Fiona Claire Riley.



Karen and I want to thank everyone who has visited us supported us over the past five years by coming on the Dinner Cruise.

We are delighted that our guests have such a great time and we look forward to doing these dinner cruises for many years to come.

Now that we know people are interested we will be faithful in getting out this newsletter every month.

#### **Next Newsletter:**

- Some Great Charity Island Lighthouse History.
  - Pitchers Thistle
  - Big Changes for Charity Island
- For next summer
- Our Island Green Bean Recipe

**Until our next issue we wish good health to you all.**

**Robert & Karen Wiltse**

MONTH YEAR

## Order Gift Certificates Early

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