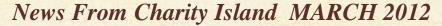
### **Charity Island Newsletter**







#### A LIGHT UPDATE

**Lighthouses** are important remnants of our maritime history and their ability to draw tourists make them important economic assets for those communities fortunate enough to have them, especially, in these tough economic times.

**During** the seven years our Dinner Cruises have been in operation the lighthouse on Charity Island has drawn over 14,000 visitors. Many have come from other states and even other countries.

**Built in 1857 and** abandoned in 1939, the Charity Island light tower passed from federal ownership into private hands in 1967. It was in an advanced state of decay when it was acquired by the Nature Conservancy, its current owner, in 2001.

An effort in 2003 by the Arenac County Historical Society to acquire and restore the tower stalled when the State of Michigan deemed the tower was not eligible for grant money because the newly built light-keepers home on the adjoining property was historically incorrect.

Year after year the elements continue to take their toll.

This summer it was discovered that the cast iron stanchions supporting the metal roof/ are so cracked and broken that heavy winds could bring it crashing down.

We knew something needed to be done and soon.

Labor day Weekend, 2011 – To the rescue, comes Jimmy Moore of Bay Marine Salvage & Services, and his crew from Caseville. They volunteered their time, expertise and money building a wooden scaffold structure under the dome that will hold the parts together while we seek a path forward that will ensure the tower's survival.

To get the ball rolling we offered to swap some of our property on Charity Island for the Light tower. The Nature Conservancy has expressed interest in our proposal, but discussion has been put on hold pending resolution of a lawsuit that was brought against the Nature Conservancy by a Charity Island lot owner over an unrelated issue.

We are hopeful the lawsuit will be dismissed this month allowing us to continue our efforts to restore the tower.

If we reach an agreement to obtain the tower, we've been advised to set up a non-profit corporation in which to vest ownership of the tower.

If we get to that point we will seek the help of qualified people to serve on a board of directors to help raise the funds needed to restore and manage the tower property



**New revenue** opportunities for tower restoration are now a reality through anticipated future wine & beer sales.

As mentioned in our fall newsletter, the dining area at the Charity Island Light keepers' property is now licensed to sell alcohol and we have some exciting new menu changes as well. Funny, how one thing leads to another.

As of last summer, Au Gres now has its very own Winery, Modern Craft Winery located on Saginaw Bay just a few miles from town.

The owners of Modern Craft Winery recently invited Karen and I to come and sample their wines. Scroll down to cont'd



**Finally,** we look forward to serving a Charity Island Beer.

# **WEEK DAY DEPARTURES Employer Appreciation Cruises**

Beginning in May we will be offering Employee/ Employer Appreciation cruises with Group Rates for companies interested in doing a company outing with their employees.

Whether it's the office or management staff or the whole company, call us for a quote we will be happy to custom plan a trip to fit any company budget.

## We currently have two options posted on our website.

#### Option 1.

#### **Charity Island Picnic Cruise**

Bring the staff on a afternoon Picnic Cruise. You bring the picnic baskets and enjoy a meal up at the light keepers house and we will have the cash bar opened on the boat and at the lighthouse.

#### Option 2.

Bring the employee or management staff and let us do the cooking. We will provide our *Signature Island Lighthouse Dining Experience* that now includes wine tasting

on the cruise to Charity Island and you and the staff just relax and enjoy the Day.



### **Employee Appreciation Cruises Continued:**

We can schedule the departure and return times time to accommodate your preferences. We can arrange for groups up to 130 people at one time.



Call Karen at 989 254 7710 for more details on our Employee appreciation cruises or click here



Jimmy Moore & Crew Thank You Guys! Great Job!

