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MICHIGAN CARES FOR TOURISM ANNOUNCES 2015 CLEAN-UP EFFORTS
Sturgeon Point Lighthouse and Fayette Historic State Park to host clean-up events

Grand Rapids, MI – The Michigan tourism industry is again coming together to support and breathe life into Michigan’s historic sites through volunteer clean-up efforts. The Michigan Cares for Tourism committee announced this morning at the Pure Michigan Governor’s Conference on Tourism, the 2015 locations for clean-up efforts – Sturgeon Point Lighthouse, May 18-19 AND Fayette Historic State Park, October 4-6.

“Our past two years of clean-up efforts have been met with such eagerness and enthusiasm by Michigan’s tourism industry. The committee, along with industry support, has decided to take on two projects this year,” said Patty Janes, Michigan Cares for Tourism Volunteer Event Director. “We are excited to make our way to the Northeastern Lower Peninsula to the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse in Harrisville this spring. This fall the industry will make their way to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to the Fayette Historic State Park in the Garden Peninsula.

Located along the coastline of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Harrisville, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse will be the location of the spring clean-up event, May 18-19. Built in 1869, the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse has assisted thousands of sailing vessels navigate Lake Huron. Still shining bright after 145 years, the lighthouse is now maintained by the Alcona Historical Society. The light tower, keeper’s quarters, and privy remain standing and open to the public as part of a maritime museum offering a glimpse of what life was like in this area during the 1870-80s.

Nestled on the Garden Peninsula and located along the shoreline of Big Bay de Noc, Fayette Historic State Park will be the destination for the fall clean-up event, October 4-6. Volunteers will be working on the 20 well preserved buildings and structures that exemplify a former industrial site that manufactured charcoal pig iron between 1867 and 1891. The townsite includes 11 buildings that house museum exhibits, a walking tour and scenic overlooks on this National Register of Historic Places site.

Over the past two years more than 500 Michigan tourism industry volunteers have come together to renew and refresh Detroit’s Belle Isle Park and the Waterloo Recreation Area’s Historic Mill Lake Outdoor Center in Chelsea. “Industry professionals from around the state have volunteered their time, talents, and efforts to help preserve and invest in our most sacred historic attractions,” commented Janes. “Our first two sites have conservatively estimated the labor and supply savings of our volunteers exceeded \$150,000. Over 70 organizations donated the needed supplies and materials to make these events a success. This truly is the ultimate tourism partnership, where we all come together to make a difference that would not have been possible otherwise. The industry should be proud of what we have accomplished thus far, and look forward to what we can accomplish together this year.”

Chartered by Grand Valley State University’s Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Travel Michigan, Tourism Cares, DRIVEN, and Indian Trails, Michigan Cares for Tourism coordinates vital clean up events at treasured Michigan tourism locations each year in need of revitalization. Michigan Cares for Tourism is a 100 percent volunteer, 100 percent give back organization with all proceeds solely designed to contribute to the clean-up of Michigan’s historic attractions.

For additional information about Michigan Cares for Tourism visit www.MichiganCaresforTourism.com or icare@michigancaresfortourism.com.

Michigan Cares for Tourism is a volunteer partnership between Michigan tourism organizations. The goal is to breathe life into historic sites through volunteer clean-up efforts throughout Michigan, to help sustain Michigan's tourism industry for the future.

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Editor's Note: Images are available upon request.