



Castle Museum of Saginaw County History
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www.castlemuseum.org

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LIGHTHOUSE EXHIBIT SHOWCASES IMPORTANT PART OF MICHIGAN LORE

With more than 120 lighthouses dotting its coastline, Michigan has more lighthouses than any other state. The Castle Museum of Saginaw County History is paying tribute to this proud history through an exhibit on display at the Museum Annex on the first level of the former Jacobson's department store at 201 S. Jefferson Avenue.

The exhibit features 150 large photographs taken by John Wagner, an East Lansing pilot who took the photos while leaning from his single engine Cessna. Mr. Wagner has authored a book documenting his experiences taking these breathtaking photographs, called "*Michigan Lighthouses: An Aerial Photographic Perspective*".

On Tuesday, May 26th, Mr. Wagner will be the featured speaker at the Museum's Lunch and Learn series, which begins at Noon with dessert and beverage provided. This event is free with general admission.

In addition to Mr. Wagner's work, visitors can explore artifacts from the Michigan Maritime Museum, which makes up the core of the lighthouse exhibit. Other artifacts are on loan from the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association and the Saginaw River Marine Historical Society, the group involved in preservation of our nearest lighthouse, the Saginaw River Rear Range Lighthouse. There also are items on loan from the Smithsonian Institute and private collections.

To commemorate Saginaw's connection to lighthouse history, museum volunteer John Heintz has constructed a large-scale model of the Saginaw River Rear Range Lighthouse that also is on display. Mr. Heintz has spent many hours recreating the building to give visitors a glimpse of what the lighthouse looked like years ago.

There is a full calendar of events planned around this exhibit, which will be on display until October 31.

Coming up is a private luncheon cruise aboard the schooner *Appledore* from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, June 15th. Reservations are required for this event. Please call Sandy Schwan at 752-2861, Ext. 309 for details. Participants will be able to view the lighthouse at the mouth of the Saginaw Bay. Cost is \$47 for Historical Society of Saginaw County members and \$55 for non-members.

From July 20 through September 12 we will welcome a traveling exhibit called *Ladies of the Light*, which will tell the story of women lighthouse keepers in Michigan and be incorporated into the Lighthouse Exhibit. *Ladies of the Light* is from the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

The Castle Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is located at 500 Federal Avenue in the central Saginaw area. The phone number is 752-2861. The website is www.castlemuseum.org

The Castle Museum is committed to serve the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation, and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage.

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