



# LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

Volume XV Number 4  
Winter 2009

## North Carolina to Become Lighthouse Climbers' Mecca

### Six towers will be open to the public by 2011

On October 16, 2009, in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., the Outer Banks Scenic Byway was named to the distinctive and diverse collection of America's byways. The nationally designated highway traverses one of the nation's and North Carolina's great coastal landscapes through Dare, Hyde, and Carteret Counties. The timing is perfectly in synch with ongoing restoration projects at Bodie Island, Cape Lookout, and Ocracoke Lighthouses. Within two years, the maritime trail from Currituck Beach Lighthouse all the way to Old Baldy and Oak Island will offer up six climbable towers and an assortment of other sound, river, and harbor lights to visit. Mixed into this trail of historic sites are life-saving stations, bird-watching areas, the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and several maritime museums.

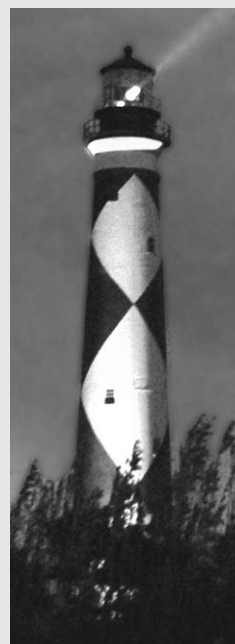
The Outer Banks National Scenic Byway's nomination emphasizes the unique maritime culture shared by 21 coastal villages that punctuate the byway route. That culture, says the nomination, is thoroughly linked to the byway's natural environment of barrier islands, capes and shallow sounds as well as nationally significant historic places. Add the beautiful southern areas that include Oak Island and Old Baldy Lighthouses, and anyone seeking a memorable coastal tour will be in heaven.

Stimulus monies coming out of Washington, D.C., are helping at Bodie Island, Ocracoke, and Cape Lookout Lighthouses. It is reminiscent of make-work projects during the Great Depression that brought improvements to roadways and coastal areas that proved a boon for tourism; indeed, it created the great Blue Ridge Parkway and its classic rock walls and overpasses. Since a large part of North Carolina's economy is based on tourism, stimulus monies couldn't have come at a better time. Bodie Island Lighthouse has been literally falling to pieces for decades. Ocracoke Lighthouse has needed stairs repairs for as long while the interior brick was deteriorating back into the original clay form. Cape Lookout's 150-year-old stairs are in dire need of restoration. It alone commands one of the most beautiful coastal wilderness areas in the world. Visitors will soon enjoy the view from the top, arguably one of life's greatest experiences.



### Bodie Island Lighthouse

A \$3 million restoration will render this historic site as one of the most beautiful lighthouses in America to visit. The 344 Fresnel glass prisms that have been cleaned by OBLHS volunteers are now in storage and will be re-assembled by the lens conservators and replaced in the lantern room after tower repairs are completed. The Bodie Island Life-Saving and Coast Guard Stations have been relocated to the entrance of the light station. Story page 5



### Cape Lookout Lighthouse

\$487,000 has been appropriated to open this lighthouse for climbing. An anniversary program celebrated 150 years of light at Cape Lookout in October. The original Fresnel lens may be coming home. See pages 6 - 8

# A Lighthouse Enthusiast's Dream

by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

For three exciting days in late October, Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) volunteers had the honor of cleaning and polishing the Bodie Island Lighthouse first-order Fresnel lens after it had been disassembled and brought to ground level while tower restoration is ongoing. A wooden "stage" was built around the lens so Lighthouse Lamp Shop members Joe Cocking, Nick Johnston and their assistants Logan and Nick Johnston, Jr. and machinist Randall Cox could work on the upper catadioptric lenses.

In an effort to keep the historic lens in place and prevent it from being taken out by then stewards US Coast Guard, OBLHS invited lens conservator Nick Johnston to inspect the 1871 lens as a volunteer project. Nick demonstrated to park staff that the floor of the lens room has continued to be pulled downward over 140 years by gravity; however, the lens remained bolted to the top of the lantern. In other words, the lens was being stretched by opposing forces, which has caused stress cracks in some of the prisms. If this condition were to continue, the lens would literally be pulled apart slowly over time. After being freed of these opposing forces, pressure on the lens has been released and it will receive conservation treatment. After tower restoration is completed, the lens will go back atop the lighthouse, planned to be less than two years. Alex Klahm will take care of extensive ironwork and Cullen Chambers, director of Tybee Island Light Station and experienced lighthouse restoration expert, will coordinate and inspect work quality.

OBLHS applauds NPS efforts to keep the lens "in situ" (preservation term meaning to "keep in place"). The Society has supported the concept that each Fresnel lens should remain in its own lantern room wherever possible; after all, the purpose of each lighthouse is to raise the light so mariners can see it. As lens conservator Joe Cocking believes, a lens is in its own museum when it is in its own lantern room at the top of the lighthouse.

Thanks go to Doug Stover, NPS Cape Hatteras Group Cultural Resources Specialist, for arranging for this event to happen for volunteers. I would like to personally thank the following people for getting to the scene on short notice and for giving of personal time and expense to help in this project: Dawn Beacham, Josh Lambert, Meghan Agresto, Diana Chappell, Janice Thomas, Bett Padgett, Sue Kelly, Frank Bamonte, Judy Moon, and Courtney Whisler. Thanks also to Judy and Ebb Rosson and Dawn Beacham for providing housing for volunteers. Diana and Janice served up great lunches each day, which was always a special time for us to relax and chat. See you all again in 2011 to clean the prisms and their frame before the lens is re-assembled in the lantern room of the lighthouse! In the future, OBLHS volunteers will be responsible to keep the lens sparkling.

---

*At lower left, in the foreground, a central panel of prisms awaits care while one of the upper catadioptric panels (background) is braced to have its underside cleaned and polished. Randall Cox is at left, Logan Johnston at right, Joe Cocking is in the right background. Janice Thomas waits until the central panel is situated and she can then work on it. At right foreground is Kim Fablen, photographer for Lighthouse Lamp Shop, who is working with BILH volunteer Sue Kelly. The big panels weigh about 150 pounds each. Total weight of the lens and frame is about 2,800. As you can see, there was quite a bit of bending and applying of elbow grease. Every phase of lens restoration is physically challenging. Picture by Diana Chappell*



# Care for an Irreplaceable Fresnel Lens

*Photos and information by Kim Fablen for Lighthouse Lamp Shop, Inc.*

Nearly two weeks of preparation were required before any actual lens removal happened. The central dioptric (refracting) panels were the first to come away followed by the lower catadioptric panels (“cats” refract and reflect) and finally the upper cats. At right, manhandling these upper cats takes four men with a rigged line to carry much of the weight—the larger, upper cats weigh about 150 pounds. What followed is the most difficult part of all maneuvers: getting the upper catadioptric panels from the lens room to the lantern level below. There are all sorts of obstacles made of metal that can cause severe damage to the crown-glass prisms being moved: the lens frame guides, doorknobs, iron railings. But the entire lens was disassembled, moved, wrapped, crated, and lowered to ground level by its own weight (below) without incidence. The lens panels were then transported to a site where OBLHS volunteers unpacked, cleaned, wrapped, and re-crated the panels for storage with the help and supervision of the Lighthouse Lamp Shop crew. Conservator Joe Cocking earned his certification as a Professional Associate by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) in 2007. Both he and partner Nick Johnston are retired USCG.







*Above, left, Diana Chappell and Janice Thomas display how much fun we all had. The triangular sections at the end of the bronze frame consists of red-lead putty that has fine wood shavings mixed in. Much of this substance, as well as other putty that holds the prisms in exact angles, will have to be renewed. Lens conservators create a special putty for each lens they restore that is based on the specific site's needs.*

Photos courtesy of Diana Chappell



*Above, right, Bett Padgett chats with NPS Cultural Resources Specialist Doug Stover. That's Kim Fahlen, photographer, in the foreground. Kim is a keeper of the Pt. Loma Lighthouse in San Diego, CA, and she pitched right in and worked with us with the enthusiasm of one who loves historic artifacts and the stories they have to tell us.*



*Above, left, Judy Moon works with Meghan Agresto, Keeper of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. Judy was known as our first "bag lady," because she was challenged with measuring and cutting bags that would envelop each cleaned prism panel. Janice took over the work on the second day. Above, right, is the "boss," Diana Chappell, as we lovingly call her. She worked closely with Randall Cox on uncrating of panels to be cleansed and then re-crating the panels for safe storage. These panel boxes are specially made to hold each panel so as to allow no movement. Their Z-lock frames seal out all moisture and even allow the boxes to float if necessary. Diana handled that drill for three days like a pro.*



# Bodie Island Lighthouse

*New View, Restoration, Relocated Buildings*

A new boardwalk and viewing area adjacent and behind the Bodie Island Lighthouse afford a classic view of the 1872 light station. North Carolina Senator Marc Basnight procured funding for the boardwalk. The beauty of this setting is evident as seen at right.



Photo by Bruce Roberts



Photo by Diana Chappell

At left is the two-story Bodie Island Coast Guard Station that was recently relocated to the entrance of the light station on Lighthouse Bay Drive. It was moved from its beachfront position just north of the Coquina Beach entrance on the east side of Highway 12 after sitting on the edge of the continent and withstanding all of Mother Nature's harsh elements since 1925. John Gaskill, lighthouse keeper's son and life-saving station keeper's nephew, once stated that it was not a matter of "if" but "when" a storm would damage all three structures. The coast guard station will find a new life and purpose after undergoing repairs and restoration.

At right are the 1878 Bodie Island Life-Saving Station and the 1916 boathouse. These and the USCG station were deeded to the National Park Service in 1953 when the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was officially established. All three structures were moved by Worth H. Hare and Son, House Movers, Inc. and a tractor driven by Sonny Jones. How good are these movers? Sonny can move buildings and not upset an open Coke bottle on the porch. At least one of the structures will likely serve as residence for park lifeguards and/or park staff. It is to be hoped the life-saving station will be the center for interpreting the history of the great service that saved countless lives in this part of the Graveyard of the Atlantic.



Photo by Diana Chappell

# The Cape Lookout Fresnel Lens May Be Coming Home!

## *\$20,000 Pledged for Effort*

*By Herb Stanford*

The Friends of Cape Lookout National Seashore, with the support of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society and the National Park Service, has been working for over a year to return the historic Cape Lookout Fresnel lens to the Cape Lookout National Seashore for permanent display. The Friends and OBLHS have each pledged \$10,000 to support this effort.

**History of the Lens:** Responding to long-standing complaints about the performance of the 1812 lighthouse at Cape Lookout, the U.S. Lighthouse Board began planning a new lighthouse in 1856 and ordered a first-order Fresnel lens from Lemonnier-Sauter, a French manufacturer. This large lens, about 8-feet-high and 6 feet in diameter, was specifically designed for use with seacoast lights. This lens was constructed to display a fixed light over a 270-degree arc; the landward quadrant was not lighted.

The Cape Lookout lens was completed in 1857 and shipped to New York, where it stayed in storage until being shipped to Cape Lookout for installation about August 1859. (Note, contrary to most accounts, this lens was never installed in the 1812 lighthouse. There were lighting upgrades to the 1812 lighthouse in 1856-57, but these did not include a Fresnel lens.) The lens was first lighted in November 1859; thus, the 150th anniversary is this year!

Soon after North Carolina seceded and joined the Confederate States of America, the newly created CSA Lighthouse Board sent instructions to all district superintendents to remove and safely store the lamps and lens from all coastal lights. Beaufort District Superintendent Josiah Bell had the lamps and lenses removed from the three lighthouses in his district (including Cape Lookout) by a local “machinist,” padded them with blankets, and placed them in storage in Beaufort in the late summer of 1861.

The expected Federal attacks on the barrier islands of North Carolina began August 1861. By the early spring of 1862, Federal troops had captured Roanoke Island, Elizabeth City, Washington, and New Bern. By late March, they were staging for attack on the large Confederate encampment at Morehead City and on Fort Macon. In anticipation of Union attack, Josiah Bell arranged for the lamps and lenses in his care to be packed and shipped by rail to Raleigh for safekeeping.

In early April 1865, Federal troops reached Raleigh and found, stacked head-high in the rotunda of the Capitol, a large pile of boxes and loose parts that were the lenses, lamps, and other apparatus from the lighthouses and harbor lights of coastal North Carolina, including the Cape Lookout lens. The lens was shipped to the Lighthouse Board’s lamp shops on Staten Island, New York, and then to its original French manufacturer for repair. In August 1866, the repaired lens arrived at the docks in New York and was re-installed at Cape Lookout in May 1867.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Coast Guard (which assumed operational control of U.S. lighthouses in 1939) began planning modernization of the Cape Lookout Light. In 1975, the Fresnel lens and its 1933 electric light source were removed. In their place, the Coast Guard installed two 1000-watt airport beacons that remain in use today. The Fresnel lens was sent to the Coast Guard Support Center at Portsmouth, Virginia, for display.

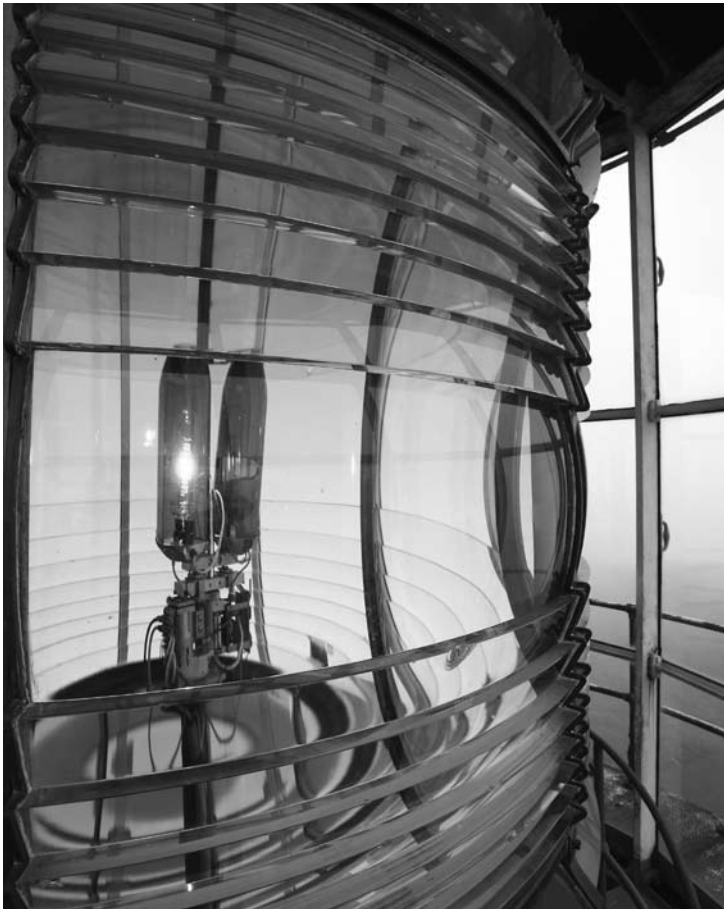
While the transfer of the lens was protested by citizens of Carteret County, the Coast Guard response stated that “...it is appropriate to retain this unique lens for display on Coast Guard property” (emphasis added). But, the importance of having the lens for display was later negated by Coast Guard operational needs.

In 1990, for environmental and safety reasons, the Coast Guard ordered the removal of the mercury bath upon which the 1929 Fresnel “bull’s-eye” lens at Block Island Southeast Lighthouse, Rhode Island rotated. This light was deactivated and a revolving aircraft beacon on a steel tower was installed (the inoperative 1929 lens was simply left in place).

Then, in 1994, after the Block Island Southeast Lighthouse was relocated away from an eroding bluff, the Coast Guard agreed to relight the tower. But, rather than modify the existing 1929 lens, the Coast Guard, claiming “operational expediency,” removed and stored that lens, installing the Cape Lookout lens in its place.

**Bringing the Lens Home:** With the initial help of Representative Howard Coble since April, we’ve made the rounds through the USCG Congressional Liaison Office, the District 5 Aids-To-Navigation group, the





*This is the original, fixed-first-order Cape Lookout Lighthouse Fresnel lens that now resides in Block Island Southeast Lighthouse. Efforts are ongoing to bring it home to Cape Lookout for display. Photo is courtesy of Kraig Anderson ©2009 www.lighthousefriends.com.*

District 1 Aids-To-Navigation group, and the Coast Guard Historian's Office. We are now talking with the USCG Headquarters Aids-To-Navigation group (CG-5413) and have requested that they take the steps necessary to implement the following plan:

1. At Block Island Southeast Lighthouse:

(a) Remove the Cape Lookout lens and transfer ownership of that lens to the National Park Service for permanent display at the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Removal of this historic artifact for display in an archival quality environment complies with the policy of the USCG Historian's Office.

(b) Install a new, energy efficient and long-lived LED light in accordance with current USCG policy.

(c) Place the 1929 Fresnel lens currently stored at Block Island Southeast Lighthouse on long-term loan to the Block Island Southeast Lighthouse Foundation for display.

2. At Cape Lookout National Seashore:

(a) The National Park Service will construct an archival-quality display facility for the Cape Lookout lens at Park headquarters at Harkers Island, North Carolina, within sight of its original home in the Cape Lookout Light Tower.

(b) Replace the existing 1975 aerobeacon lights with new, energy efficient and long-lived LED lights in accordance with current USCG policy. (While the NPS has owned the lighthouse since 2003, the light has remained within USCG hands. But, under this plan, responsibility for operation and maintenance of the light will be assumed by the National Park Service, also.)

*This plan will result in both lighthouses having the same modern optics as working aids-to-navigation, while each will have its historically correct Fresnel lens on public display.*

While we have Coast Guard policy on our side, there are two issues that must be addressed:

1. The Block Island Southeast Lighthouse Foundation (or, at least, its president) will undoubtedly object to changing the light at their lighthouse—apparently, they have concerns about a potential negative impact on their Historic Structure designation. (We have addressed these concerns with both the NPS historian who wrote Block Island's historic structure application and the USCG Historian's Office. Both concur that the light has no bearing on the structure's designation.)

2. The mechanics of transferring of the Cape Lookout light to the National Park Service must be resolved since there are potential liability concerns for the NPS if the Cape Lookout light remains an "official" aid-to-navigation instead of becoming a "private" aid-to-navigation (as at Bald Head).

*But, after almost 35 years, we're making progress toward returning the Cape Lookout lens to its historic home!*

Herb Stanford  
 Member, Friends of Cape Lookout National Seashore  
 Member, Outer Banks Lighthouse Society  
 Volunteer, Cape Lookout National Seashore



*Above, on the eve of Cape Lookout Lighthouse's 150th anniversary, the lighthouse is floodlit in celebration. The lighthouse beam seems to reach to a full moon that happened to be passing overhead. © 2009 Moonlit Diamonds by Bruce Roberts*

## 150 Years of Light at the Cape Lookout Lighthouse

*By Richard Meissner with Supt. Russ Wilson*

Knowing that the Cape Lookout Lighthouse would be marking her 150th Anniversary in 2009, Cape Lookout National Seashore started planning for a celebration. The U.S. Coast Guard, The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, and other groups joined the park in planning for the anniversary.

It was decided that all services which had called Cape Lookout home would be recognized. This included folks who had actually served and descendants of those who had served. The U.S. Lighthouse Service, the U.S. Life-Saving Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard were included. The most involved project was finding descendants (including those who had tended the 1812 lighthouse) and sending invitations and requesting copies of pictures and other artifacts and documents. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society was a big help in this project, especially Sandy Clunies, a certified genealogist and OBLHS board member, who was vital in finding descendants.

October 10, 2009, was chosen as the big celebration day. It was the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend, so it was hoped that more attendees would have time off to attend. A public celebration was held at the Lighthouse including a U.S. Coast Guard flyover, birthday cake, and the Atlantic Beach Fire Department Pipe and Drum Band. A dinner was given at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center for descendants. An art contest was held.

Between October 10 and November 1, lectures were given at various places in the county. Also, during this time the Lighthouse was lighted each evening with floodlights at her base. This proved to be a popular event. The view from Shell Point, Harkers Island, was spectacular! (Go to [www.carteretnewstimes.com](http://www.carteretnewstimes.com) and click on "photo gallery" for pictures.)

On Sunday, November 1, 2009, the actual date of her first lighting, the art contest winners were announced, a program of music and talks, and refreshments were served at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center. Then, at dusk, folks gathered at Shell Point for the ceremonial relighting of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, on her 150th birthday.





*Above, a USCG plane does a dramatic fly-over during celebrations at the lighthouse to recognize 150 years of service. Photo by Nicole DaVia*

*At right, the USCG Color Guard and officials arrive to give a patriotic salute to one of America's most faithful soldiers: the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Several hundred keepers' descendants were also present to observe the grand occasion. Sandy Clunies, OBLHS former board member and volunteer certified genealogist organized research to find as many keepers' descendants as possible.*



## Funds Approved for Cape Lookout Lighthouse Restoration

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and North Carolina Senator Kay Hagan announced in mid-October that \$487,000 was allocated for repairs to the 150-year-old Cape Lookout Lighthouse so that visitors to Cape Lookout National Seashore may climb to the top for a spectacular view of the area.

Both state and federal requirements are currently being met concerning the historic integrity of the tower. Structural and environmental studies have been completed.

The work will include repairs to the spiral iron staircase and the installation of a new handrail. The opening to the gallery will be improved, and new guardrails will be added to the gallery.

Bids will be let early in 2010, and work should be completed sometime next summer. There will be an admission fee that will be similar to other North Carolina lighthouses. Then, according to Park Superintendent Russ Wilson, "We will welcome park visitors to again climb the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to enjoy a unique view of this pristine area."



ADVOCATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA LIGHTHOUSES

November, 2009

Friends,

2009 has proven to be a wonderful year for the lighthouses in North Carolina. Currituck Beach Lighthouse has had more visitors than ever! Bodie Island Lighthouse is getting a complete restoration as well as the beautiful 1st order Fresnel Lens and Ocracoke is getting a "make over." Cape Hatteras celebrated its 10th year since its world-renown one-half-mile relocation. Cape Lookout is having its stairs repaired so it can be opened to the public for climbing! Old Baldy Foundation has taken on a project to restore the Cape Fear Lighthouse Fresnel lens, Oak Island Lighthouse had more visitors this year than ever...it's difficult to find enough volunteers to take care of all the visitors! This is remarkably GOOD NEWS, but it is not the end of the need for the funds for upkeep. The more visitors our lighthouses have each year, the more money is needed for maintenance. We are so glad that our towers are getting the much-deserved restorations they have long needed, but they will still need our help. This year OBLHS sent more than 100 children from Southport to visit Old Baldy Lighthouse. We also have committed a sizable fund towards the return of the original Cape Lookout Lighthouse lens to its home. We hope to do more.

For many, this is the time of year to remember our loved ones by donating to special causes. If you would like to help keep the lights of the lighthouses in NC burning for a particular person please consider a donation to the society. Our address is:

Outer Banks Lighthouse Society  
PO Box 1005  
Morehead City, NC 28557

We hope that this is a very enjoyable season for all of you and will be spent with family, friends, and those closest to you. We appreciate your love for lighthouses everywhere and wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Bett Padgett, President

---

## Annual OBLHS Keeper's Weekend in Review

by Robert DaVia

**O**n October 9, 2009, nearly 30 members of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society gathered in the parking lot of Fort Macon, near Atlantic Beach, NC, to kick off the 14th Annual Keepers' Weekend! Once everyone was together, we walked to the fort's entrance, and we were awed by the new visitor center that was dedicated and officially opened on October 31.

The group was met by Ft. Macon State Park Ranger John Fullwood who gave a talk about the history of the fort. Construction of Fort Macon began in 1826 and took eight years to complete. It was built as part of a national defense chain of coastal forts; its specific duty was to guard Beaufort Inlet and Beaufort Harbor. At the beginning of the Civil War, the fort was seized from Union Forces by North Carolina troops. It was later attacked and retaken by the Union. It also served as a federal prison from 1867 to 1876. Garrisoned during the Spanish American War, it was closed in 1903. It was restored by the Civilian Conservation Corp 1934-35 and was garrisoned again during World War II. In 1946 it was returned to the state.

Ranger Fullwood then gave a demonstration of the loading and firing of a Model 1864 Springfield Rifle Musket. To view a video of the demonstration, go to [http://www.seathelights.com/fort\\_macon.html](http://www.seathelights.com/fort_macon.html). After the demonstration, the group was free to tour the fort and park grounds at their leisure.

## **PURPOSE OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY**

The purpose of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is to aid in the preservation of the lighthouses of the area and to work with the National Park Service and other agencies, both government and non-profit groups, to achieve the safe keeping of the buildings, artifacts and records of the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

**The Lighthouse News is the official publication of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society.**

**Editor – Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Design-Bruce Roberts**

©2009 All material is copyrighted and cannot be used or borrowed without prior written permission from the editor.

Email: [lhsociety2@outer-banks.com](mailto:lhsociety2@outer-banks.com) or [info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org](mailto:info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org) or write OBLHS P.O. Box 1005 Morehead City, NC 28557

---

*cont'd from page 10*

After lunch on our own, the group was to meet at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The museum collects, preserves, researches, documents, and interprets the maritime history, culture, and environment of coastal North Carolina. The collection has been around since the early 1900s and moved to its current location in 1985. The museum's exhibit gallery features the history of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the state's working watercraft, coastal marine life, and the heritage of coastal watermen and how they made their living. Full-sized watercraft and models ranging from sailing skiffs to commercial fishing boats are displayed along with decoys, hand tools, fossil and shell collections, salt water aquaria, and life-like dioramas that reflect the richness of the coast's resources and history. There is also an exhibit featuring the pirate Blackbeard and his flagship Queen Anne's Revenge. Artifacts from the shipwreck, discovered in 1996, are being conserved by archaeologists and will be housed by the museum. Visit the museum's website at <http://www.ncmaritime.org/>

Afterwards, we were again on our own to visit waterfront shops before that night's festivities!

At 5:30, the Keepers' Bar opened up at the Country Club of the Crystal Coast overlooking beautiful Bogue Sound, and guests were invited to view the items available for purchase in the Keepers' Store as well as previewing auction items. Among this year's highlights were a set of seven lighthouse prints, a reproduction window pane from a lighthouse, a Cape Lookout Gift Pack, duck decoys, and a reproduction model of Cape Lookout Lighthouse built by Rick & Theresa Ward.

Before dinner, the annual OBLHS membership meeting was held. Board members and guests were introduced, the raffle drawing was held, and OBLHS prism awards were handed out. (See the back cover for this year's award recipients.) OBLHS President Bett Padgett entertained us with her original song honoring the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Special congratulations to Diana Chappell for being awarded the OBLHS Founders' Award, well deserved.

After dinner, the auction began. This is the Society's major fundraiser of the year, and this year proved to be a record breaker. Our auctioneer, Richard Meissner, was unable to attend this year, so those duties fell to Bill Padgett and Dallas Spruill. Bill did a great job, until he made the mistake of asking Dallas to say a few words about one of the items up for auction. From there on, it was Dallas' show. Thanks, Dallas, for a great job!

Saturday morning dawned as a sunny fall day as we made our way to Harkers Island to catch private ferries to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. We joined in the celebration of 150 Years of Light for the lighthouse. Several of us were on the first ferry of the morning, and the 40-minute ride to the island was interrupted briefly as the ferry captain made a short stop off Shackleford Banks to allow us time to take pictures of the wild horses.

We arrived and set up chairs under a picnic shelter at the head of the pier. We knew it would be a long, hot day, and we wanted to have some shade. We enjoyed exploring the lighthouse area, taking the boardwalk to the Atlantic side of the island, reading the new interpretive displays along the way, and shopping at the gift shop before the crowds arrived. At 10:00, the activities at the lighthouse began, which included music on the Keepers' Quarters porch, children's programs, book and artwork signings, and the Keepers' talk on the porch.

At 1:00, the special program began under the big tent to celebrate the lighthouse's anniversary. Dignitaries spoke on the history of Cape Lookout and its service over the past 150 years. Musicians, including our own Bett Padgett, sang its praises as well as those of keepers' descendants, the U.S. Life-Saving Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The USCG did a fly-by over Cape Lookout, a birthday cake was served, and the celebration came to an end.

To wrap-up the weekend, OBLHS cofounders, Bruce and Cheryl Roberts, hosted a brunch at their home on Sunday morning for nearly 70 attendees. Friends visited with each other one last time before saying goodbye, and headed off on their separate ways—until next year.

We hope you enjoyed the event and that you will consider attending in 2010! If you have any suggestions or feedback about the event, we would love to hear it. We want this event to be meaningful and important to our members. Your participation was crucial to its success, and we want to make sure it met your expectations. Contact OBLHS President Bett Padgett, at [bett@bettpadgett.com](mailto:bett@bettpadgett.com).



# Lighthouse Updates

By Bett Padgett, Outer Banks Lighthouse Society President  
bett@bettpadgett.com

**Currituck Beach Lighthouse** is owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. The lighthouse is open 9-5 daily and will close for the season the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They will re-open in 2010 March 29. Be sure to visit CBLH and meet the keepers Meghan, Luis and their growing boys Benicio and Paolo! Visit <http://www.currituckbeachlight.com/> for more information.

**Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse** (reproduction), located in Manteo, is an exterior reproduction of an 1877 screwpile light that was originally at the southern entrance of the Croatan Sound into the Pamlico Sound located near Wanchese. The reproduction is located on Manteo's charming waterfront near the Maritime Museum. Operated by the Roanoke Island Festival Park, it is open daily, free of charge from 9-5, year-round.

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore** and its park visitor centers are open year-round, 9-6 mid-June through Labor Day and 9-5 the rest of the year. For more information call (252) 441-5711 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/caha/>. On October 2, the NPS held a tenth anniversary celebration of the successful relocation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Cheryl Shelton-Roberts represented OBLHS as keynote speaker while president Bett Padgett was moderator for a distinguished panel that included Dr. Jeffrey Crow, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources, Dare County Commissioner Warren Judge, former park Supt. Russ Berry, local citizen spokesperson Danny Couch, ICC project manager for the move Joe Jakubik, and current park Supt. Mike Murray. Roberts delivered a speech about the builders of NC lights and recognized that in history, the right people come along at the right time. This includes our Founding Fathers who created the U.S. Lighthouse Service all the way until the right team moved this grand lighthouse.

**Bodie Island Lighthouse** grounds are open year-round. The 1st Order Fresnel Lens has been removed and stored until restoration of the tower is finished. Scaffolding up to the gallery will be completed in late November and work on the tower itself will start early in December. The use of a crane (only 2 in the U.S. are available) may be secured to lower portions of the balcony sometime in December or early next year. It will take approximately 18 months to complete the work and we will keep you posted. WUNC-TV plans to film the work and it may be put on a live web-cam so that you can watch the work. We will share the URL for this when it is made available.



**Bodie Island Coast Guard Station and Life-Saving Station** have been moved, a driveway has been made, siding and new windows put on the buildings and septic installed. Interior work is remaining. Plans are to open the Life-Saving-Station as a ranger station in the summer of 2010. The Coast Guard Station will become an educational center and will open in the fall. Additional parking and restrooms will be created as well. Plans for a grand opening will be made and we will keep you posted.

**Cape Hatteras Lighthouse** grounds are open year-round. The lighthouse closed for climbing on Columbus Day and will re-open for climbing in April, 2010. A celebration of the 10th anniversary of the relocation was held on Friday, October 2nd.

**Little Kinnakeet Life-Saving Station** roof's replacement is now complete and all exterior restoration completed. Ocracoke Lighthouse The brickwork inside will be repointed, the stairs will be refinished and painted, windows and door replaced and a handicap ramp will be built so that those with disabilities can view the inside of the tower. Repairs are expected to be complete in spring 2010.

**Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station** is located in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at milepost 39.5. On closing day, Friday, November 27, Santa comes to Chicamacomico and brings lots of surprises for visitors! (PLUS a free day for visitors!) [www.chicamacomico.net](http://www.chicamacomico.net).

**Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum** is located at the end of Hwy 12 on Hatteras Island near the ferry landing and is now owned and operated by the state of North Carolina. They are open Monday-Saturday until Thanksgiving from 10-4 and then closed on weekends. The museum operates under the NC State holiday schedule. Visitation is free but donations are appreciated. Visit <http://graveyardoftheatlantic.com/> for more information.

**Cape Lookout Lighthouse** is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Park headquarters and the visitor center are located on Harkers Island featuring comprehensive displays and a discovery room for young visitors. The Keepers' Quarters Museum and facilities at the Lighthouse (Visitor Center, Keepers' Quarters Museum, and bathrooms) will close November 23rd as well as the facilities at Portsmouth Island village at the northernmost end of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Park headquarters at Harkers Island is open every day 9-5 except Christmas and New Years days. The grounds are open year-round. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/caloc/> or call (252) 728-2250. See news on planned restoration in this issue.

**Oak Island Lighthouse** is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach with ongoing cooperative efforts with the Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse (FOIL). FOIL has concluded their season for climbing for the year. Weekly tours will resume Wednesday May 26, 2010. A request for a reservation to climb the entire lighthouse can be made from their web site, <http://oakislandlighthouse.org/tours.htm>.

**Price's Creek Front Range Light** (1850 ruins) is not open for public visitation but you can get a good look at this pre-Civil War tower, the only river light still in its original location, from the Southport-Ft. Fisher ferry.

**Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island** The Old Baldy Foundation (OBF) owns, maintains, and staffs this historic lighthouse. Current Hours are Tues - Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday 11 am to 4 pm, closed Mondays. From Dec 1, 2009 - March 15, 2010 hours are Friday and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday 11 am to 4 pm, Closed Mondays - Thursdays. Visit <http://www.oldbaldy.org/>

**Roanoke River Lighthouse** (reproduction) is located on the town of Plymouth's beautiful waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks. A recent

grant will allow for extensive landscaping and displays. Hours of Operation: 11-3 Tuesday - Saturday and by appointment. Call (252) 217-2204 to arrange a group visit. Visit <http://www.roanokeriverlighthouse.org/>

**Roanoke River Lighthouse** (original lighthouse) has received over \$1 million for restoration. It has been relocated to the town's park in Edenton and will soon be looking as great as it did in the late 1800s. See the news in this issue.

\*\*\*OBLHS is looking for past issues of the **Lighthouse News**. If you have back issues you would like to donate please contact Bett Padgett (919) 787-6378.

\*\*\*Your Food Lion MPV card can help OBLHS *but it must be updated each year*. Please remember us!

\*\*\*General correspondence to OBLHS should be addressed to P.O. Box 1005, Morehead City, NC 28557

Membership correspondence and donations: Bob DaVia, OBLHS Membership Chair, P.O. Box 2141, Winterville, NC 28590 or [rdavia@seathelights.com](mailto:rdavia@seathelights.com). Donations and Membership can also be obtained online at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org/join-reg-form-intro> through Pay Pal. Also, visit our Keepers' Store while you are there! We have a number of new items coming online soon! Do you have a new email address? Please send it to [info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org](mailto:info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org) and please update your information when using your return envelope. Check the date on your address label to determine your renewal date.

**Dimming the Light:** We regret of the loss of OBLHS member Burney Hughes Goodwin recently. Born in Oriental, NC, in 1924, he was son of "Capt'n Ross" and Margaret Goodwin. Burney was grandson of Cape Hatteras keepers James O. Casey and great-great grandson of Keeper Bateman A. Williams.

#### 2009 OBLHS Raffle Winners:

- 1st - Beach House Marianne Teague-Bedford, IN
- 2nd - White Doe Inn Ann Kanipe-Hendersonville, NC
- 3rd - Ecology Tour of Crystal Coast Sandy Clunies-Derwood, MD
- 4th - OBX books Sue Steinmetz-Madison, WI

#### 2009 OBLHS Keeper's Dinner Paper Auction winners:

- Harbour Lights 3rd order Fresnel lens - Emil Cekada
- HL 1st order Fresnel lens - Denise Griffin
- HL Yorktown Lightship lens - Bill Brockner
- HL Amelia Island - Bill Brockner
- HL Legacy LH sign - Bill Brockner
- HL Thomas Point LH - Janice Thomas

***Congratulations, all! Please join us October 2010!***

#### Pre-Civil War Lighthouse Discovered

Thanks to OBLHS member Gayle Kerese, we were alerted to the excavation of the 146-year-old ruins of the 1836 Federal Point Lighthouse, which was destroyed on the command of Col. William Lamb at Ft. Fisher. He had the structure taken down because it was such an obvious target for Union blockaders off the Cape Fear river. Lamb used the keeper's house as his headquarters. It was about 40-foot-tall and sat near the center of Battle Acre inside the earthen fort. According to documents, a soldier was killed by the falling lighthouse. An article devoted to this subject will appear in the spring issue of *The Lighthouse News*.



# Quarter-Million OBLHS Brochures Distributed Thanks to Generosity of Rick Hardesty, Rowan Business Forms

By Ralph Burrows

Sometimes, grand benefactors just appear to the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society without any particular agenda or expectation. Such has been the Society's experience in their relationship with Rick Hardesty of Rowan Business Forms in Salisbury, North Carolina, and how grateful we are for his generosity.

For over five years, Richard H. Hardesty II (Rick) has printed, at no charge, the brochures that the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society makes available to visitors at the lighthouses on the Outer Banks, North Carolina Welcome Centers, and regional welcome centers and tourist information sites along the mainland coast. The number distributed now exceeds 250,000 copies! His generosity has saved the Society tens of thousands of dollars, and, in fact, has saved this project from virtual extinction, considering the escalation of printing costs and distribution expenses in recent years!

During this period, Ralph Burroughs of The Positive Influence, an advertising agency in Winston-Salem, and a friend of Rick's has worked with him in the design and pre-press preparations.

We have a strong and reliable resource for the design and printing of our popular educational project.

Rowan Business Forms began in 1921. Later, Rick's dad bought the firm, and Rick began work there in 1965 at the age of 15. Upon graduation from NC State with a degree in Economics in 1973, he joined his father's company in an administrative roll and succeeded his father as president and treasurer in 1981.

Since 1980, he led the company as a niche provider of consecutive bar coding and variable ink jet imaging. He has served on several printing industry and association committees and Boards. For many years, Rowan Business Forms' theme has been "We're Bar Coding America."

Since the year 2000, Rowan Business Forms has increased their focus on web printing with two presses that do high-speed variable imaging and printing color with UV inks. Rick uses one of these presses to produce the OBLHS brochures.



*Rick Hardesty*

Several distribution options for the brochures have been tried over the past five years; none proved workable. With his last 100,000 printing, Rick stepped up to the plate again and offered to execute the shipping and handling of our brochures as well.

Rick stated that "I and my fellow employees have been honored to participate in this project that recognizes the magnificent beauty and history of our State's great lighthouses. And, the support we have received from Ralph and his company has made the process a pleasure."

Rick has a 19-year-old daughter who is attending college and is one of the top ranked Junior Dressage riders in the United States, riding at the Olympic level. She loves lighthouses, too.

Rick and his wife Patricia live in Mooresville. Rick says he has a set of Cotton Ketchie's lighthouse prints somewhere, but hasn't been able to find them since a recent move. Better find them soon, Rick, or you'll be finding friendly strangers rummaging through your unopened storage boxes.

Rick was presented the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's Founders Award in 2008.



# Original Roanoke River Lighthouse Has Bright Future

**D**uring summer 2007, the Roanoke River Lighthouse, the only North Carolina river/sound light in existence, was relocated to the town's waterfront Colonial Park. It sat patiently awaiting funds for its restoration, and help arrived in the form of \$1.2 million in stimulus money. The Edenton Historical Commission has been steward since then, but the lighthouse is slated to become state-owned. This rare structure will add to the historically valuable area that includes the 1767 Chowan Courthouse. This town is just made for walking, and the added charm of a historic, original sound light will delight many future visitors. This is the last square-sided, screwpile lighthouse still in existence in the United States. The Edenton Historical Commission paid \$225,000 to purchase the structure and an additional \$75,000 to have it moved.



Photos by Robert DaVia



**T**his small, forgotten 1880s lighthouse originally sat on pilings in Albemarle Sound, marking the Roanoke River entrance near Plymouth. The lighthouse is an intact, original U.S. Lighthouse Service structure having two stories with the lantern room just above roof level over the second floor. There is a living room, kitchen, dining room, and workroom on the first floor, plus the original outdoor privy that once sat over the water. Upstairs are two bedrooms and a stairway to the lantern room with a Fresnel lens that was pieced together by the late Emmett Wiggins. When the U.S. Coast Guard was getting rid of these antiquated sound markers during the 1950s, Wiggins rescued the structure and successfully moved it to a manmade spit in Edenton. Very soon, it will be restored to its best appearance.

# The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society Is Pleased to Announce Its Fresnel Prism Awards for 2009

Each year, the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society sponsors awards to individuals within the lighthouse community who have contributed significantly to the preservation of lighthouses and their history. These awards were presented at the Annual Keepers' Dinner October 2009



## President's Awards:

**Judy Moon**  
**Kelly Waller**  
**Janice Thomas**  
**Judy & Gary Studer**  
**Nicole DaVia**

## Founder's Award:

**Diana Chappell**

## Currituck Beach Lighthouse Award:

**Ed Cox**  
**Bill Parker**

## Old Baldy Lighthouse Award:

**Chris Webb**