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Bodie Island Lighthouse

Congress Fails to Vote Money for Restoration

Funds shortage may force closing of lighthouses in the Apostle Islands National Seashore and elsewhere.

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

Thousands of visitors were disappointed that the lower portion of the Bodie Island Lighthouse remained locked all summer 2006. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) had given the Cape Hatteras National Seashore \$10,000 and applied for a matching grant from the Dare County Tourist Visitors Bureau in order to help the Park meet its \$100,000 goal to do emergency repairs to the ironwork at the lantern room level.

These repairs would use cables to tie loose pieces of ironwork together to prevent any more pieces of iron from falling to the ground and endangering visitors. Without this danger, the door was to be opened and visitors were once again to be allowed to step inside and look up the stairs. Now, it appears that these repairs by International Chimney, Inc., the firm that served as contract manager during the relocation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and is considered a trusted lighthouse restoration company, will be delayed at least until November. What went wrong?

On April 30, 2004, the Park received \$200,000 from HGTV and the National Trust Restore America as part of its "Save America's Treasures" restoration program; HGTV selected the

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The 1872 Bodie Island Light Station greets visitors entering the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. This lighthouse has survived 135 years of guardian duty and is in need of restoration. Shortage of federal funds has made this one of the most endangered historic sites in the nation. Partnership with local and/or state resources may be the answer. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, honored with grants from HGTV and the state of NC, the lighthouse and its Fresnel lens are due complete restoration. Today, the lantern room is tied down with cables to keep the roof from blowing off and emergency repairs are planned to further stabilize the ironwork at the lantern room level

Congress Fails to Vote

(Continued from Page 1)

Bodie Island Lighthouse as one of the top ten historic structures in need of restoration from dozens of applicants, the first lighthouse ever chosen in this type of restoration program. A lighthouse is a different type of building from a home and restoration needs are different also. For it to have been chosen in the top ten historic sites deserving national attention for restoration tells us just how significant this lighthouse is. A matching grant from the state of North Carolina was awarded giving the National Park Service (NPS) and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore a total of \$400,000 to begin restoration. What happened to the money?

All of the nearly half million dollars has been spent on paperwork. Study after study was conducted to begin the restoration process. It is believed that the Park did these studies in good faith that Congress would award upwards of three to four million to complete the job as early as for FY '07; however, the project was bumped from its queue in Park funding for the third time this fiscal year. And there appears to be little hope that any money will be available in the near future due to climbing national debt in foreign interests and a rise in Medicare and Medicaid expenses. Moreover, we're getting further behind

each day with restoration projects for American lighthouses, already past the breaking point. The Sierra Club recently put out an alert stating that House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo is proposing to sell off our National Parks and Forests to oil and mining companies. This is happening in America?

In many cases, the NPS is at the mercy of Congress. But there is more it can do: for instance, why was Bodie Island Lighthouse not even vented this summer? Soaring temperatures at the lantern room level will endanger the irreplaceable first order Fresnel lens. Parts of the lantern room's iron and glass expand and contract with large temperature variances, mold grows on the walls due to lack of ventilation; in short, everything deteriorates.

In a meeting with Park staff on July 28 that included Supt. Mike Murray, Deputy Supt. Mark Hardgrove, Cultural Resources Manager Doug Stover, and Chief of Maintenance Charlie Sellers, OBLHS spoke with the staff about all the time and donations our members have given over the past 10 years. We spoke with the new superintendent about what a treasure the Park has in this lighthouse and to give it priority for repairs. The delay in repairs, it appears, is due to a request from the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh to conduct a test on the stairs while other emergency repairs were being made. To date we haven't been notified of further plans other than the fact that November looks like "the" month for helping this lighthouse. Additionally, we urged the Park to vent the lighthouse regularly, a duty OBLHS performed for years until the Park took ownership from the U.S. Coast Guard and our permit was not renewed. Chief of Maintenance Sellers complained that to open the door takes two people: one to open the door and inspect the lantern room and another to stand at the outer perimeter fence to keep people away from the danger zone and from entering the lighthouse. We simply don't understand why this is such an unreachable goal. The lighthouse is the Park's responsibility and according to preservation standards as set by NPS, it must keep the structure stabilized and at least perform cyclical cleaning. Right now, the entryway floor is covered with dead insects and mold continues to grow on the walls.

Mothballing of Lighthouses Calls for NPS Partnerships in Historic Site Restorations

Bob Mackreth, Park Historian (Retired), U.S. National Park Service, sent a letter to the lighthouse community in September 2006.

"The National Park Service is currently drafting a new General Management Plan for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which will guide the park's

Raspberry Island Lighthouse may be one of seven that the NPS plans to mothball and close to the public in the Apostle Islands National Seashore.

operation for many years to come. Among the proposals under consideration are options that would severely limit public access to the lighthouses, and cut their maintenance to a point where structural deterioration would be inevitable."

Mackreth's fear is that this attitude will spread to other American lighthouse sites where the NPS is the steward. Mackreth responds to this possible national fiasco by stating, "Lighthouses are a precious part of our country's heritage, and the outstanding collection of lighthouses within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is a national treasure. They must be preserved for future generations, and kept open for the public to visit. There is no higher priority for a national park than caring for its resources. Funds should not be diverted from lighthouse preservation to other uses.

If government funding is inadequate to protect the park's historic treasures, the National Park Service should work aggressively to find partner organizations that will assist in its preservation program."

The Bodie Island Lighthouse may be mothballed due to fund shortages.



Meanwhile, mothballing of lighthouses within the NPS is happening nationwide. The Apostle Islands National Seashore in Lake Superior has one of the finest collections of lighthouses in America but the Park is advancing the plan that six of the seven lights open to the public for climbing be mothballed to save costs. This would have a devastating effect on tourism in that area. Let us not forget that people want to climb

lighthouses and in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore only one of the lighthouses (Cape Hatteras) is open for climbing.

The Bodie Island Lighthouse restoration needs to begin as soon as possible. The Ocracoke Lighthouse is standing in line. *The double keepers' house remains open to the public with an Eastern National bookstore and exhibits. The grounds are beautiful and a joy to explore.* ✎

A thought on the value of lighthouses...

Many of us have one foot in the past and one in the future.

We want our meals cooked on the latest stainless steel appliances yet we want our hamburgers “olde-fashioned.” We ask for the latest in new-age drinks yet prefer our beer to have been brewed in a place called “Old Plank Road.” We drive our high-tech cars to the nearest “Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe” because we like our ice cream hand-dipped. We frequent businesses that proudly display a marquis boasting “Established in ...” some long-forgotten year.

We love the economy of super-shopper warehouses, but we love old-fashioned hardware stores where we get personalized attention and can look at cooking pots like those our grandmothers and great-grandmothers used for cooking just-picked vegetables from the garden. We revere a job in a fast-moving city but love quiet evenings that offer respite from our hurried lives in a quaint B&B, a pastoral setting, or by a warming fire.

Age, then, still counts for something in our fast-moving, computerized, consumer-conscious society. It seems that if you’ve been around for a while or claim your roots in the long-ago, you’ve proven your stuff as a survivor and, certainly, we honor old-timers who can offer sage advice during difficult times. We admire and even treasure fine antiques, reminders of a simpler time and something created with skilled, caring hands. Someone recently said of lighthouses, “They are so emotional,” as she touched her heart while admiring a picture of Bodie Island at night with its beautiful first order Fresnel lens glowing. Perhaps this is why lighthouses continue to capture the hearts of many. They represent high technology of their day while wearing the simple beauty and grace of a well-heeled lady.

We are drawn to light, a comforting sight when darkness envelops us. A point of light was the first thing we saw when we entered this world. And numerous stories are told by near-death survivors that a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel is the last thing we see, calling us Home. Light represents warmth, security, and an aura of spirituality. It engages our inner compass to give us a feeling that we are not lost after all, that direction does not elude us. A light—that piercing beacon in the dark—represents a leading edge which bridges the unknown and the familiar, the demarcation between safety and danger. Lighthouses pose a stalwart yet humble attitude while they guard some of the most beautiful and dangerous places in the world, an irresistible combination for modern-day explorers.

Lighthouses rest quietly amidst sand and water and salt air, solaces for any troubled soul. They speak to us in quiet tones about standing the test of time, about perseverance and resilience. Their history is our history. Let’s work together to save them.

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Chicamacomico in the News!

Apparatus Drill Revived!

For the first time in five, long years, a live-fire beach apparatus drill was conducted at the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station in Rodanthe, north of Cape Hatteras. Eight U.S. Coastguardsmen from Station Hatteras Inlet followed in the footsteps of their predecessors and participated in the fascinating lifesaving demonstration. Plans include to resume the activity on Thursdays in summer.

This drill was once a tremendously popular demonstration for crowds that numbered in the hundreds—twice weekly. But following restrictions by Homeland Security, black powder discharges drove up insurance to make the demonstration out of economic reach for this life-saving station that operates on slim funds. During the demonstration, a twenty pound lead is shot from a Lyle gun, akin to a miniature cannon, to mimic reaching the crosstrees of the "shipwrecked victims" in need of rescue. In a real event, someone on the shipwreck would take the line and pullies and secure it to something on the ship, preferably a mast. Surfmens then sent out a breeches buoy that looks like a life ring with pants (thus, the name "breeches") A person would climb into the life ring and settle into the "pants" of the breeches buoy and surfmen pulled the person from the foundered vessel over the stormy waves to the safety of shore.

Built in 1874, Chicamacomico is one of the oldest and most complete life-saving stations remaining on the East Coast. It is a memorable place to visit. James Charlet, site manager, and wife Linda Malloy along with other dedicated staff and volunteers make sure your visit is a great one. Like the historic lighthouses of the Graveyard of the Atlantic, this site is an irreplaceable piece of history.

The continuation of the life-saving drill is comforting as it represents not only the efforts of preservationists, the U.S. Coast Guard's interest in its heritage, but also that America is coming home, so to speak, and taking care of its own.

The life-saving station is open from mid-April to November, Mon–Fri from noon 'til 5 pm The final activity for this year will be on Friday, Nov 24th, noon 'til 5 pm. There will be special guests, costumed interpreters, gift shop sales, programs, and much more for this year's finale. For more info: (252) 987-1552 or visit <http://www.chicamacomico.net>. 🏠

The Beach Apparatus Drill is run by the Keeper with very few commands. The first is "Open boat room doors," at which the eight Surfmen, harnessed to the Drill Cart, gently guide it down the ramp. The next command is simply "Forward" to the Wreck Pole and the Drill begins. The United States Life-Saving Service is a parent organization of today's US Coast Guard. Chicamacomico is the only place in the world where the Coast Guard reenacts this historic drill. Not pictured, standing next to photographer directing his men, Keeper Erik Watson, BM1 USCG Surfman #336. This is the team from USCG Motor Boat Station Hatteras Inlet; there is complete second team from USCG Motor Boat Station Oregon Inlet. They alternate Drills. The Hatteras Keeper, Erik Watson, is the Executive Petty Officer (XPO) for their station. He is the #2 man, running the Station on a daily basis. He is the person primarily responsible for getting the Chicamacomico Drill back in action.

Info from James Charlet, Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Site Steward



LIGHTHOUSE NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY



Letter from Your OBLHS President

Friends,

It is with great disappointment to let you know about a delay in the use of the \$10,000 that the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society donated, that YOU donated towards the repairs to the Bodie Island Lighthouse Tower. The work was to have been completed in July so that the base of the tower could be opened safely to the public (as you may recall, large chunks of ironwork fell out of the tower in early fall 2004 which have kept the doors closed). The Park (Cape Hatteras National Seashore) decided to include an experimental repair to stairs but first needed to apply for additional funding and studies because making both types of repairs simultaneously would save the Park money. This decision put the emergency repairs we had hoped to see this summer off until November, long after the major hurricane season. This makes the tower, which is delicately held together with cables, even more susceptible to danger. We learned of this in July when making inquiries of the progress of the repairs to the tower. The prized Fresnel lens may be rendered a pawn in this recent maneuver by the Park.

If high winds damage the tower, it puts the lens in danger—a fact we have always realized; therefore the emergency repairs were urgently needed. Members of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society met with NPS (Cape Hatteras) Superintendent Mike Murray, Assistant Superintendent Mark Hardgove, Cultural Resources Manager Doug Stover, and Chief of Maintenance Charlie Sellers and explained our concern over this latest development and also the lack of care for the tower itself. Please read the lighthouse updates for more information. We are now in communication with the Park and working with NC State Senators and US Representatives from NC in hopes to make funds available as soon as possible. We will keep you updated.

Sincerely, Bett Padgett



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

Editor – Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Design-Bruce Roberts

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Email: society@outer-banks.com, or info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org, or write OBLHS P.O. Box 1005 Morehead City, NC 28557

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Head into the Wind

One Man's Hold on the Sea

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

He calls himself "just an old fisherman," and at first glance, one could be convinced that Preston "Jule" Garrish is just that. But, listen to him for a while—with that beautiful Ocracoker "hoi toide brogue"—and you'll see he is the quintessential lighthouse keeper and coastguardsman from days gone by.

Each roll of the wave, each life he saved, each day he served onboard the *Frying Pan Shoals* Lightship, each time he glanced at the Ocracoke Light from his island home as a child, every time he stepped off and on the Brandywine Shoals Light is locked into his memory. He is grateful he had the opportunity to serve his country and fellow man. There are many descendants of those he helped save who are grateful also.

I spoke with Jule and wife Rosemary in their home on Ocracoke Island. Rosemary is a great admirer of men like Jule who are "Ocrackers" and grew up with a fishing net in one hand and a boat oar in the other—they are jack-of-all-trades. "I learned fishing and handling a boat from the other men and my daddy," Jule commented. Handling a boat came second nature to the island men and is the reason that they were highly sought after for service in the U.S. Life-Saving Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and later in Naval service during WWII. Some were drafted, but Jule volunteered.

Rosemary pointed out that some servicemen from Ocracoke skipped basic training and went right into service. "You know, Walter Winchell spoke on the radio about how dangerous it was to train around Coronada, California, because those waves were so fierce. There was a big hotel there and they would train in front of the hotel. If you didn't know how to command the boat, you lost it. It was always such a great risk, but some of the Ocracoke men didn't even go through this training and were put right to work."

Rosemary commented that these Ocracoke men, some just boys, really, at 17 and 18 years of age, were sent immediately to dangerous situations including launching a lifeboat into the hungry jaws of storm-driven waves to bring foundered sailors to the safety of the shore with no formal training.

Ocracoke "boys" were the ones who trained others by doing because they had experience on boats and ships before going into the service. "We never thought anything of it," Jule chuckled. It was what we had done all our lives. The waves might get high, but that didn't keep us back none. It was never smooth, the breezes came up each morning and five-foot waves were always around when I was growing up."



Jule Garrish and wife Rosemary at their home in Ocracoke. Jule is a veteran of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Navy, and U.S. Coast Guard.

As early as 1940-41, Jule served with the Army Corps of Engineers. His training was from hard-earned hours as a young lad on the rough waters of the Graveyard of the Atlantic off Ocracoke. He also ran the Coast Guard 83-foot patrol boat that was based at the Ocracoke Life-Saving Station. Later, he served in the Navy during WWII in the Caribbean and Pacific and China, landed troops on the *Clarendon*, was coxswain at the Kill Devil Hills Lifeboat Station, operated the boom for the buoy tender *Mistletoe* in 1954 out of his home port in Portsmouth, Virginia, at the Coast Guard base, which could pluck buoys up to 18-tons from the water for repairs. He also served at Coinjock and tended aids to navigation in waters between Albemarle Sound in North Carolina to Norfolk, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland. After WWII, Jule left the Navy and joined the Coast Guard in 1949. He got to prove his innate seamanship on board the *Frying Pan Shoals* Lightship. Following the war, in 1945, Jule went back with the Army Corps of Engineers and worked on dredge boats.

Did he weather any "memorable" storms? "Well, I've been in all sorts of storms all my life. There was one that was right rough off Bald Head on the *Frying Pan* and the seas ran so high that the Captain had to steer the ship into the wind—it blew 120 mph—to keep it on station and from being blown off. We had fifty-foot waves," he adds nonchalantly. "But that wasn't anything too unusual, it was just another storm."

Jule continued about the storm, "I've got knee problems from being on there. I was on watch in the radio room—I was the boatswain mate on there. Only the Captain, the engineer,

and I were up. The Captain had to steer the ship into the wind—it blew 120 mph—to keep it on station and from dragging anchor and being blown off. We had battened down everything—port holes were shut tight and the Captain had to steer by compass since he couldn't see much in all that. Every crew member kept their positions because if they tried to get up, they'd wouldn't make it anywhere in those seas. The wind and seas stripped the paint right off the tall masts. But, I got up—I was lashed to the chair—operating the ship-to-shore radio and I got up to do something to the radio beacon and she made a lunge and picked me right up off my feet and threw me to the steel deck on both knees.

"After the storm, I went into Morehead City and saw the U.S. Coast Guard doctor, Dr. Royal, and he x-rayed my knees and said everything was all right. It wasn't long that my legs would give way on me going up steps. After a while, arthritis set in, but I stayed in the service, you know. It was a long time after that before I retired." Rosemary added that a doctor recently told Jule that he has severely damaged knees, so he recently had one knee replaced. Amazingly, at over 80-years-young, "he's doing everything but run," Rosemary said.

During the early 1960s, Jule was keeper at the Brandywine Shoals Lighthouse. The site, located in Delaware Bay off New Jersey, has a long history. The first pile structure was completed in 1828, but the sea claimed this modest first light and a lightship stood duty until 1850 when America's first light was built on a screwpile foundation. Would-be Civil War hero George Meade and marine engineer Hartman Bache followed in the footsteps of the successful Stevensons, the renowned Scottish lighthouse family of bridge and lighthouse architects/builders. A third Brandywine Light, a cast-iron, caisson-style light, was built in 1914. Jule served as keeper there about a half-century after its completion and he loved every minute of his duty. "We worked two weeks on and one week off—I was there in 1961-62. I remember when we had ice on the lighthouse. The waves would hit the rocks around the lighthouse and splash up on the tower and freeze." Jule keeps a Harbour Lights model of the light on his living room table—a reminder of his duty station that he talked about like an old friend.

"Two hundred years of professional history certainly made the keepers a singular breed of men. The necessary qualities for keeping were not the sort easily itemized on a job description. A love of details, an affection for the endless repetition of small tasks, long-learned understanding of water, wind and tide, a habit of mind able to cope with dull days and ferocious nights..." from *The Lighthouse Stevensons* by Bella Bahthurst

As a retired coastguardsman, Jule enjoys his life on Ocracoke. He has such wonderful memories of working hard as a kid and easily recalls seeing Ocracoke keepers in uniform including Keepers Crawford Austin, Burrus, and Clyde Farrow. He watched many times as Keeper Farrow got into the Lighthouse Service boat and took off to tend to the several post lanterns in brackish Pamlico Sound that had to be refueled to burn for another week. His connection to the sea and the lights are what make his heart beat and he's never been far away from the water his entire life.

Today, Jule loves to play the guitar and harmonica and sings with his granddaughters and nephew in the "Ocracoke Opry" each summer, usually the first weekend in June. "Music was an important part of growing up here on the island," Jule added. We didn't have electricity until around 1940-41, so we had to make our own fun. I wrote a song "The Graveyard of the Atlantic," his granddaughter and nephew sing in the song. Some of the words are, "Let us place a wreath out upon the waves and let it drift around and cover all the graves." This very gesture is done for the lost British sailors during WWII off the Ocracoke coast.

Eight decades and the span of time and cultures reflect brightly in this mariner's sea-blue eyes. "I've been fishing since I was that high," and Jule held out his hand as if to measure a lad about three feet tall. ✎

An end to two eras. Jule Garrish's Frying Pan Shoals Lightship is dismissed when the modern Texas tower took over duty near off the Cape Fear and Bald Head Island. Today, the "modern" tower is slated for demolition

Photo courtesy of the USCG



Exploring The Future of Lighthouse

By Bob Trapani, Jr.

Bob Trapani is the executive director of the American Lighthouse Foundation. He formerly served as president for the Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation for six years from 1999-2005, served as the executive director for the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation from 2000-2003, and is author of Journey Along the Sands: History of the Indian River Life-Saving Station, and Lighthouses of New Jersey & Delaware: History, Mystery, Legend & Lore. Two additional books that he has authored will be released in 2006 – Lighthouses of Maryland & Virginia: History, Mystery, Legend & Lore, and Delaware Lighthouses: A Brief History. He helps keep communication among lighthouse community leaders. You can reach him at info@lighthousefoundation.org.

My good friend Cheryl Shelton-Roberts recently posed some interesting albeit tough questions that all lighthouse preservationists nationwide should be contemplating. Though we are collectively working extremely hard in the present to save and preserve America's historic lighthouses, part of our duty should be to simultaneously prepare for tomorrow as we strive to provide future keepers with a strong foundation to place their efforts, aspirations and dreams upon.

Initially, I was going to pen a narrative addressing a few of Cheryl's questions, but her thoughtful insight into the challenges we face today as lighthouse preservationists prompted me to change the format into more of a Q & A. My hope is that this will inspire others to delve deeper into the projects they lead and ponder how we can all work to make our mission more effective and sustainable.

CR: How many lighthouses are we going to try and save?

BT: This is a question the lighthouse community hasn't directly addressed to date but one that demands our attention now more than ever with the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act in full swing. In our hearts we would like to say that all lighthouses can and should be saved but reality promises to dramatically alter such utopian thoughts. Sadly, we will not be able to save all lighthouses. There is simply not near enough nonprofits or government agencies to do so, and even if there was, the economic realities and struggles facing existing nonprofits – let alone those yet formed, would make this notion impractical. My feelings on whether to save a lighthouse or not is that the lighthouse community should first and foremost maintain an open mind that every historic beacon can be saved – that we don't start "writing off" the more challenging projects, especially the offshore sentinels, just because the degree of difficulty is much higher. I look at a lighthouse like the wave-swept St. George's Reef in California as a superb example of what can be done when an aspiring group puts their minds and hearts to something. At the same time, if a lighthouse project does not inspire a local effort to tackle the more daunting projects – and there is no viable alternative use that can add value and meaning to its preservation, then the tough decision of letting fate take its course must be accepted. The tougher the lighthouse project, the more mentally tough and creative its keepers must be...anything less will eventually reveal the effort as ineffective and a waste of time and money.

CR: Will there be enough dollars and will this come largely from private or government sources?

BT: Prior to September 11, 2001, I would have been more optimistic about obtaining state and federal funding for lighthouse preservation, but in the wake of the tragic events of five years ago, coupled with America's expanding efforts in Homeland Security, I firmly believe that government funds are going to be less and less available for lighthouses. Congressional sources are telling me that in the last two years they have been under increasing pressure to resist funding nearly all such projects due to the rising demands and costs of health and human services and Homeland Security. Unfortunately, I do not envision this stranglehold on government funding lessening, and in fact, we can count on the situation worsening. What does this mean for lighthouse preservation? It means more than ever that we have to not only work harder and diversify our funding options, but we also must better evaluate the potential success and sustainability of all lighthouse projects in an effort to save and preserve the lighthouses that best impact the general public and those that represent the finest in American engineering or historical importance. The availability of private sector funds is no rosier. Charitable foundations are faced with dwindling pools of monies and an ever-expanding number of nonprofits soliciting funds. The same goes for the private businesses and individuals that are constantly besieged with mail and verbal requests for donations. The math simply isn't adding up when it comes to lighthouse projects around the nation being able to obtain sufficient funding in a timely manner...a situation that doesn't appear having a chance of improving in the foreseeable future.

Preservation

The 1875 Currituck Beach Lighthouse is part of a beautifully restored light station by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc., (OBC) a private nonprofit organization. A detailed restoration and maintenance proposal from OBC was approved by the NC Resources Commission and a 50-year lease for the property was handled by the Dept. of Cultural Resources. Over a course of fifteen years (1980-1995), restoration efforts returned the structures to their former grace and beauty. As owners of the lighthouse, OBC can simplify the repair process by identifying the problem, calling in experts for a bid, and beginning refurbishment—a continuous project. Diversity of ownership has proven advantageous when dedicated stewards like OBC meet standards far beyond those set by the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation—standards set by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C..

CR: Do we need a special task force for maritime historical sites to oversee preservation and reserve dollars for their preservation (many of which are already beyond the breaking point)?

BT: I believe a special task force equally comprised of nonprofit and government representation working for the mutual goal of lighthouse preservation is a tantalizing concept. The more lighthouse preservation can raise awareness on a national level with government funding possibilities, as well as attracting new public involvement, the more sound our mission will become. What we don't need is an effort bogged down by bureaucracy that loses touch with the everyday realities of preservation, especially in the nonprofit sector where the reliance on government resources is not possible. I also would like to see a way for small nonprofits to have a real role in such a concept. It is probably impossible to eliminate politics from such a concept but if it could serve the lighthouse community in a way as to disseminate best practices, education programs and a meaningful voice in helping others advocate for funding and support, then we in the lighthouse community should pursue such a task force that would benefit any/all lighthouse projects.



CR: Who is “teaching” preservation to the groups undertaking these monumental tasks?

BT: The biggest gap we have in lighthouse preservation today is that there is no mechanism in place to teach others “best practices,” as well as pitfalls, of preservation. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation and the Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook provide excellent guidelines for adhering to the principles of historic preservation, but where they fall somewhat short on is the ability to provide practical insight on just how lighthouse groups should develop an internal preservation culture. Such a culture includes educating volunteers on what to look for when selecting professional contractors, the understanding of what types of minor maintenance tasks volunteers can effectively perform, what funding sources can be pursued for a given restoration project, etc. Most lighthouse volunteers want to do the right thing when it comes to preserving their lighthouse, but often times, they

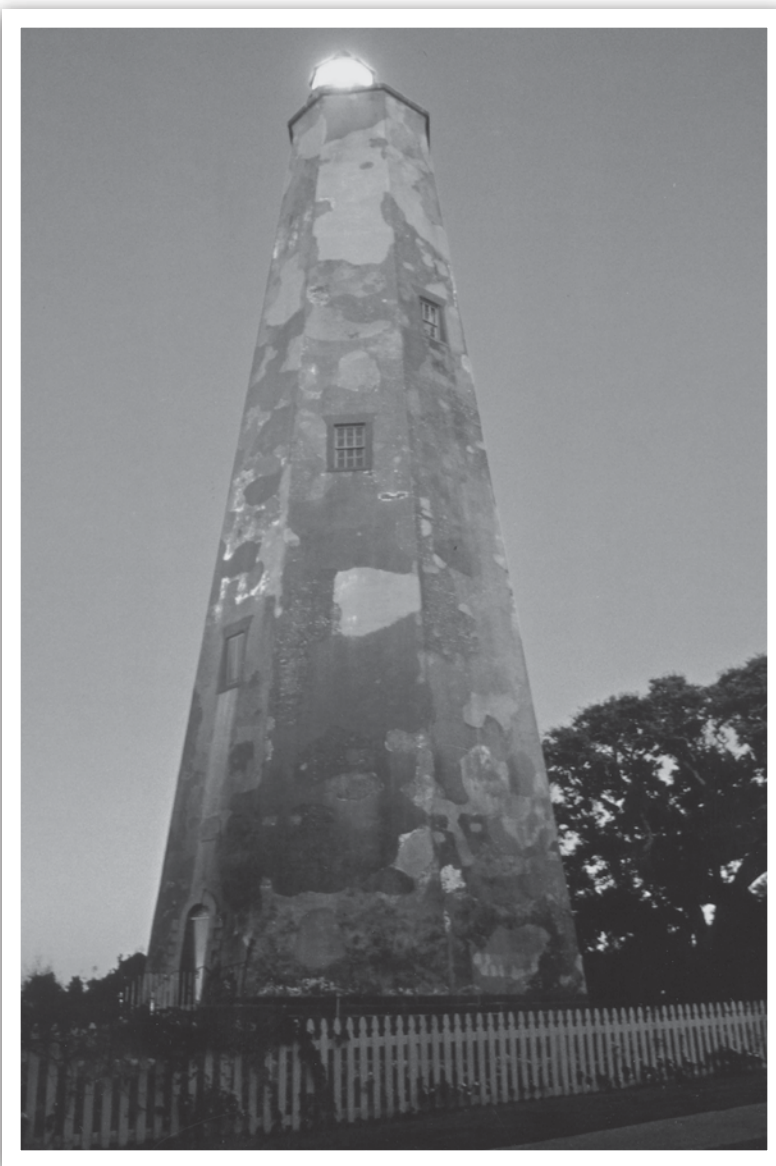
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simply do not know where to turn to learn more about the needs of their ever-changing project. Technical guidelines do not fulfill this need. Though such guidelines are vital, there must first be a fundamental layman's understanding established for technical guidelines to maximize their effectiveness. Presently, the lighthouse community does not have a comprehensive source for lighthouse groups to access that can provide answers to both technical questions and simple inquiries and "best practices."

Speaking of education, I also notice when looking around the country that each lighthouse organization addresses the concept of education a bit differently as well, which is not a negative thing. But what I wish we could improve on is our ability to share vital "best practices" and learning materials presently developed with the smaller lighthouse groups. The other disturbing aspect of lighthouse education that I see is that we tend to primarily focus on school-age children – say 4th and 5th graders, rather than educating high school and college students who are more capable of helping our movement in the present. These students will be integrating themselves within our communities a lot sooner than grade school students, which to me equates into a huge missed opportunity. We are also not working to educate the parents of school age children as to the importance of lighthouses – and these are the folks that can open their checkbooks to our projects at a time when we need it most. Broad lighthouse education initiatives must precede effective fundraising and restoration if preservation is to be successful and sustainable, and while it is critical we invest in the future of our movement, we must first get there by engaging those in our community 18 to 80 to keep the lights shining.

CR: Should we return Fresnel lenses to original towers if possible or put them on display nearby?

BT: This is one of those decisions that I believe must be made jointly by the local community and state historic preservation office for each lighthouse. Every case is viewed a bit differently based on the historical integrity of a given light tower, a group's ability to properly care for the lens and the feasibility of the lens being placed on exhibit for the public's benefit. My personal feeling on this issue is that if a lighthouse is accessible to the public, the group caring for it can reasonably control threats of vandalism and that they have committed to carrying out funding the preservation of the classical lens, then it should remain in the lighthouse for maximum historical interpretation. If these things can not be met, then the lens should be removed and placed on display to best preserve it.



The 1817 Bald Head Lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is cared for by the Old Baldy Foundation, a nonprofit organization that extensively restored the tower in 1990 and re-opened it to the public for climbing in April 1995 as a self-guided tour for a modest fee. It is one of 11 "federal octagonal" towers built in the U.S. and the only one built of brick, which poses a problem for its caretakers. Complete restoration is needed and the nonprofit is working diligently to come up with fundraising activities. This summer's "Moon Crawls" and "The Pirates Are Coming!" were huge successes. This nonprofit's staff and volunteers are committed to the tower's restoration.

CR: Are we spread too thinly and will our preservation volunteers be replenished with retiring baby boomers?

BT: Lighthouse preservation appears to have a lot of volunteers but there is a distinct difference between people who just "show up and plug into" events or preservation, and those folks who develop initiatives, build the infrastructures that sustain organizations and carry through on the daunting commitments involved in the restoration, education, marketing and fundraising requirements so critical for successful lighthouse preservation. Don't get me wrong, we need every single volunteer that helps out at our events and

restoration projects, but without the work of a small number of lighthouse leaders, the platforms we all enjoy simply would not exist. In this respect, we are indeed spread very thin throughout the lighthouse community, which is an alarming concern. Many who have fought hard in lighthouse preservation over the years are growing old and are burning out. I am not sure I see enough people stepping forward to fill the shoes of our aging leadership. At the same time, I believe the lighthouse leadership must recognize that if we are going to be successful in cultivating a new generation of leaders, we have to empower them in the present to do so, which often means sharing the leadership platforms to ensure an orderly and effective transfer of power when time and circumstance dictates. This is often times the single most difficult thing for a leader to do, especially those of us who have been intricately involved in our organization's efforts for a long period of time, but without doing so, we run the risk of jeopardizing the future of our mission. Effective leaders – both present and future, must be in lighthouse preservation for more than simply fun. Our calling must reach deep into our hearts and be motivated by the purity of duty for the cause – resisting the urge to place our personal agendas before the overall good of the cause. But yes, we are presently spread thin throughout the lighthouse community and the answer to overcoming this dilemma is more than likely something our movement has yet to implement. What worked in the past will not necessarily work in the future when attracting lighthouse leaders and volunteers, especially as those who grew up around lighthouses pass on, leaving behind generations who know or appreciate little about the preservation of lighthouses. I believe one answer might be for us to focus less on the “love” of lighthouses and more on civic pride since this seems to be what attracts many people to volunteer.

CR: Are we looking at the only workhorses that will exist in preservation?

BT: No, I don't believe we are as long as the mindset of our mission and its people continues to adapt to a changing world. Lighthouses have always been able to transcend time, and in the process, their lure has known no limits when it comes to touching our innermost feelings and inspiring people from all walks of life. As we all know, lighthouses have an undeniable symbolic meaning to society. We need to work to tap into this well of inspiration and meaning more and more, while seeking better ways to integrate the lighthouse into our fast-moving communities who might otherwise not notice such an immovable and steadfast icon of our nation's past. We are indeed the new keepers of America's lighthouse heritage and in no time in history has the job of a keeper been more difficult and uncertain than what we are collectively facing today. I strongly believe in the notion that “where there is a will, there is a way.” If we maintain an unconditional commitment to saving lighthouses and are willing to go above and beyond to do so, we will leave posterity with a shining example of what it takes to preserve lighthouses and an unparalleled legacy when it comes to “keeping a good light.”

In 1999, the National Park Service funded the \$11 million relocation of the 1870 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. To date, it is the largest federal effort to save a historic tower. Climbing fees go into a general fund and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore has to apply for use of any monies for its continued care. Emergency repairs to the stairs were completed and the tower re-opened for climbing April 18, 2003. The Park continues to plan regular maintenance and interpretive programs here. It is fitting that the Park continue major efforts at this light station because Cape Hatteras is one of the most recognized and visited lighthouses in the country. This Park is blessed with two additional towers at Bodie Island and Ocracoke, but the cost of restoration and the commitment to take care of all three historic light stations as well as its other cultural resources are tough challenges for the Park.





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Fall 2006 Vol. XII no. 3

<http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org>: News, articles, lighthouse info

VISIT US! Join or apply for memberships/donations online at our .org site. Contact Info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org.

Also on NCOB at <http://www.outer-banks.com/lighthouse-society>;
society@outer-banks.com.

First, a tribute to John Gaskill. THANK YOU, JOHN, for greeting visitors all summer at your old home, Bodie Island Light Station. John does this each year and visitors have the rare treat to meet someone who spent much of his childhood at the lighthouse. John is the inspiration for countless media articles as well as Homer Hickam's book *The Keeper's Son*.

Currituck Beach Lighthouse is owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. and remains open through the weekend after Thanksgiving (closed for Thanksgiving Day). The season officially ends Sunday, November 26. The light station's hours of operation are 10 am to 6 pm daily. After Daylight Savings change (October 29, 2006) closing time changes from 6pm to 5pm. The cost to climb is \$6 for anyone 8 years or older, children 7 years of age and under are admitted free. Reduced rates are available to school groups, tour companies, and non-profit groups who make advanced reservations. For further information, email info@currituckbeachlight.com or call (252) 453-8152. Congratulations to OBC and the Currituck Beach Lighthouse for having been chosen to participate in Heritage Preservation's Conservation Assessment Program 2006 (CAP). Supported through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, CAP assists museums by providing funds for professional conservation and preservation specialists to identify the conservation needs of their collections and historic buildings and recommend ways to correctly improve collections and building conditions. Two assessors will visit in October to assess the collections, the lighthouse, and the Keepers' House. CBLH will participate again this year in the Haunted Village with the rest of the Currituck Heritage Park, scheduled for the Friday and Saturday before Halloween. Keeper Meghan Agresto is writing keepers' descendants asking for any family tree information they want to share to create a complete genealogy file on each keeper. Please contact her if you have information on any Currituck Beach Lighthouse keeper.

Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse (reproduction), located in Manteo, is an exterior reproduction of an 1877 screwpile light that was originally located near Wanchese. The lighthouse is managed and leased by the N.C. Maritime Museum on Roanoke Island with a tri-party agreement with the Town of Manteo and Roanoke Island Festival Park. It is open from 9-5, Tuesday-Saturday with exhibits, free of charge. The lighthouse is located on Manteo's charming waterfront. A new fog bell has been installed at the lighthouse and eventually will be replaced with a replica. For info, contact Barry Wicker, curator, N.C. Maritime Museum on Roanoke Island at obxmaritime@earthlink.net or call (252) 475-1750.

Bodie Island Lighthouse is one of the few lighthouses that still has its original lens in operation. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society donated \$10,000 from its special Bodie Island Fund and has applied for a matching grant from the Dare County Visitors Bureau for emergency repairs by International Chimney. Originally the lower portion of the tower was to be opened this summer, but plans got botched. OBLHS is very concerned about the Park's slow action to even keep the grass cut. Private funds or a partnership with the state of NC could provide desperately needed restoration funds to completely renew this treasure and get the irreplaceable Fresnel lens restored as well. Federal funds have been cut repeatedly due to foreign interests and there is little hope that monies will be available anytime soon. OBLHS learned that the lighthouse has not even been opened for venting. Temperatures in the lantern room easily reach well over 100 degrees, which is detrimental to the lens. OBLHS urges the Cape Hatteras National Seashore to find a way to continually monitor this lighthouse and get it help. The grounds are open all year; the visitors center and bookstore are open from 9 am - 6 pm in summer, 9 am until 5 pm the rest of the year and are a must see! For information call the Bodie Island Visitor Center (252) 441-5711. **To date, only band aid repairs have been made** to this lighthouse. Iron pieces fell from the top of the lighthouse during the fall of 2004. Although all pieces fell within an existing wooden safety fence, another temporary safety fence was installed. The roof was stabilized late 2004 without replacement of pieces by tying the lantern room down with cables.. According to at least one expert, the belt course section initially cracked due to rust jacking and was dislodged due to wind. Evidence of movement between deck plates has been detected, meaning that one or more of the brackets have moved. The cables will help to restrain the iron, but it will stretch with additional rust jacking and wind related movement. How long it lasts depends on the forces it is subjected to. Let's see if our representatives will help put priorities into perspective and stop the deterioration of this American treasure. Doug Stover, Historian/Cultural Resource Manager for the Outer Banks Group at Cape Hatteras National Seashore reported that "Emergency Repairs Scope of Work and Stairs will be completed by Denver Service Center and received at the park by Sept 1, 2006. Contracted by September 18, 2006, work beginning in November, 2006." The grounds and bookstore remain open all year.

Bodie Island Life-Saving/Coast Guard Station is located near the lighthouse on Highway 12 in south Nags Head. Stabilization of the building was scheduled to begin in June in preparation for its relocation (still to be announced). This process will cost ~ \$1 million. Years ago, OBLHS shared the dream with the Park of getting the old life-saving station off the oceanfront and away from the harsh elements and across the road at the entrance of Bodie Island.



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Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is located in the village of Buxton. The Hatteras Island Visitor Center (bookstore and exhibits) is open all year (except Dec. 25) from 9 am to 6 pm in summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day), 9 am to 5 pm the rest of the year. The lighthouse will remain open for climbing this season until Columbus Day, October 9, (weather permitting) but check <http://www.nps.gov/caha> for more info on climbing times and obtaining tickets. There is a fee of \$6 to climb; children 12 and under and seniors (62+) \$3. In October, after the lighthouse closes for the season, International Chimney will replace the temporary replica windows (put in place after damage from Hurricane Isabel) with new metal casement windows made from the original widows of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. For more information about the light station, visit the NPS website <http://www.nps.gov/caha> or phone 252-995-4474.

Cape Lookout Lighthouse is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Plans are still underway for restoration of the Cape Lookout Historic Village. The Interpretation Division always welcomes volunteers to work in the Harkers Island Visitor Center (meeting the public, answering the telephone, giving programs, etc.). Contact the park at (252) 728-2250. Reservations: Wednesday, October 18, 9:00 am for the **final climbing this year on Saturday, November 4, 2006** (Honors first lighting of Cape Lookout Lighthouse, Nov. 1, 1859). **For reservations call 252-728-5766 between 9 am and noon.** Richard Meissner, Volunteer Coordinator for the Cape Lookout National Seashore reported that the new Cape Lookout Light Station Visitor Center near the lighthouse has opened. It is part of a complex of several buildings at the lighthouse dock, a short boardwalk from the lighthouse. Eastern National (nonprofit bookstore to benefit this and other historic sites) has installed new furnishings including counters and display shelves. It is open every day until Thanksgiving, manned by EN employees, volunteers, and park rangers. Also at the visitor center complex are new public restrooms, outdoor rinse showers, and a large shade shelter. A short boardwalk from the complex is an area for beach taxi service and visitor day and long-term parking. Restrooms at the end of the boardwalk near the beach have been fitted with new flush toilets. The downstairs of the 1873 historic Keepers' Quarters at the Lighthouse is currently closed to the public because it is being renovated and will be fitted with new displays to open in spring 2007 as a museum. New quarters for volunteers have been completed on Harkers Island at park headquarters. This will be used primarily for Lighthouse and Portsmouth Village volunteers during their time off. The Park Service, the federal agency that manages Cape Lookout National Seashore, spent \$1 million to pump sand along 2,435 feet of shoreline. The project has built a beach 50 to 75 feet wide to protect the keepers' quarters, a summer kitchen, and ultimately the lighthouse that is approaching 150 years of age. What's next? Private funding through partnerships to restore the lighthouse is being sought. Plans include repairs to the stairs and possible opening of the tower for climbing on a more frequent basis than now. Be sure to visit the park headquarters at the end of Harkers Island and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center next door. For more information call (252) 728-2250 or see <http://www.nps.gov/cal/>. The rotating beacon has been out due to mechanical failure recently and will be repaired as soon as required parts are available.

Ocracoke Lighthouse is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Ocracoke's base is open when volunteers are available—usually in the summer months. The visitor center is not at the lighthouse but is located near the Ocracoke-Cedar Island ferry terminal near the village and has an Eastern National bookstore and restroom facilities. It is open all year: Memorial Day–Labor Day 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; after Labor 'til Memorial Day 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Exterior painting of the lighthouse will go to contract by September 18, 2006, and work will begin in October. The Ocracoke Preservations Society is seeing that repairs are made to the keepers' quarters and new flooring is going in.

Oak Island Lighthouse is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach; cooperative efforts are ongoing with the Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse. Take a look at the Friends of Oak Island's exciting new website at www.oakislandlighthouse.org. Find out how to join at <http://www.caswellbeach.org/lighthouse.html>. You will find a good history of the lighthouse, terrific photos, directions how to get to the Oak Island Lighthouse, information on merchandise, volunteer opportunities, and more. Contact Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse, 1100 Caswell Beach Road, Caswell Beach, NC 28465 or email lighthouse@caswellbeach.org.

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. It sits on commercially owned property by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM); no restoration plans by other interested parties have been entertained by ADM. A keeper's quarters once stood behind it with a light that was at a higher elevation and served as the second light in the pair of range lights for a safe channel in the Cape Fear River as vessels headed for the Port of Wilmington and it served as a Confederate signal station during the War Between the States.

Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum is one place all lighthouse enthusiasts must visit. For information, call (910) 457-7481 or see <http://www.oldbaldy.org>. The Old Baldy Foundation (OBF) owns, maintains, and staffs this historic lighthouse. Ann Mills, Executive Director and Keeper, has updated fall hours: open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. **Closed on Mondays.** This summer's events including its "Moon Crawls" (climbing during full moons of summer) and "The Pirates Are Coming!" for National Lighthouse Day were all huge successes that Executive Director Ann Mills and the Board of Directors for the Old Baldy Foundation plan to continue in '07. The Old Baldy Foundation volunteers are planning restoration fundraising and educational programs. On July 22 the Old Baldy Foundation said a fond farewell to Donna Ray Mitchell. She resigned her position as President of the foundation in May of this year. Donna Ray was a founding member of the organization over 20 years ago and instrumental in getting the organizations 501 C3 non-profit status.



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Roanoke River Lighthouse (reproduction) is located on the town of Plymouth's beautiful waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks. Enough donations have been made to purchase furniture to be placed inside the lighthouse. OBLHS will have a display with all N.C. lights in the maritime museum (opening fall 2007) located near the lighthouse. Call (252) 217-2204 for hours open or to arrange a visit for a special group. Visitation continues to increase and the regional phone book has a picture of the lighthouse on its cover. Stop by on your way to the Outer Banks, there's a great deal going on here!

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is located by the ferry docks at the southern tip of Hatteras Island. There are shipwreck exhibits in the lobby. Basic hours are Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm thanks to volunteers. For more information please see <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com/> or call (252) 986-2995 or 2996. See the Cape Hatteras Fresnel lens exhibit in the main exhibit room. A partnership between Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras Village could result in the restoration of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse's Fresnel lens pedestal and the reuniting of the lens system as it is known to exist today. The Seashore is now proposing to loan the Museum the pedestal and several additional sections of the upper catadioptric panels where they can be properly restored, reunited with the pieces of the 1854 lens already on display there, and interpreted for the visiting public. This would enhance preservation of the pedestal and panels, restore the integrity of the entire lens/pedestal assembly, and make the assembly accessible to the public. This project is currently planned to take place from October 10-23, 2006, if public comment is favorable regarding the project. The USCG will continue with the existing lighting in place and keep the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse an active aid-to-navigation.

Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is located in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at Mile Post 39.5 and is a must-see! For info on this beautifully restored life-saving station see <http://www.chicamacomico.net> or call the Chicamacomico Historical Association at (252) 987-1552. See exhibits, artifacts, photographs, video presentations, uniforms, and displays through self-guided tours; programs are offered during summer months including "Living Descendants of the Mirlo Rescue" (August '06) and "Heroes Day" (September '06) --so plan to visit summer '07 if you didn't get a chance to this year. The site is open from mid-April through November. James Charlet and Linda Malloy are two of the passionately dedicated staff members at this historic site. Plan a visit to meet them and experience their professional programs. Two new jewels are the fully equipped 1911 cookhouse and the furnished 1907 Midgett house, making five buildings now open to the public. <http://www.chicamacomico.net>.

Little Kinnakeet Life-Saving Station in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is getting a facelift. It is being restored to the 1904-15 period and is still under repair in many stages. The restoration is estimated to be complete in 2011 by the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

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

Make sure we have your email address so you can receive quick updates from OBLHS president, Bett Padgett; email her at info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org.

OBLHS Life-Time Memberships (\$500) are now offered by OBLHS. Call (919) 787-6378.

Thank you to Deborah Hildebrandt, an OBLHS Charter Member, who has donated a large part of her Harbour Lights collection to benefit the nonprofit. Debbie is moving to a retirement community and must downsize. If you would like make a donation other than cash, please contact board member Bob DaVia at rdavia@seathelights.com and earn tax credit for your donation(s).

Thank you for donations to OBLHS from: Larry Deem, Henry & Chris Gonzalez, Eileen and Dave Dunlap for copies of the move to be sold at Cape Hatteras, Gallo Wine (Johnson Bros Carolina Distributor of Durham). Eileen Dunlap and a matching grant from the Wachovia Foundation, Diana Chappell and a matching grant from McKesson Foundation, the Lighthouse Historic Building & Preservation Society of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, W.R. "Bill" Dowe, Susanne & John Ray, Wallace Grant, Barb & Bob Kepple (BILH Fund), Dawn Darby (BILH Fund), Dennis & Esther Whelan, Drs. Jim & Mabry O'Donnell. A donation in honor of Cheryl and Bruce Roberts and their daughter Courtney has been made by Van, Margaret, Stewart & Anna Massey. Thank you to all members making contributions beyond their membership dues. Thanks to all of you who keep up the momentum of OBLHS!

A memorial donation was made in honor of Mr. Jim Doyle by Robert & Nancy Lagucki.

A membership was given to Dennis Miller from Kari Kroh in memory of his wife, Kari's aunt, Cindy, for her love of the Outer Banks.

Congratulations to Nick Johnston and Joe Cocking, lampists and U.S. Coast Guard (Retired) for being featured in an AP article on their work on the Boston Fresnel lens. Both of these men helped OBLHS in keeping the first order Fresnel lens at Bodie Island. Nick donated time to inspect the lens and offer advice on its restoration.



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OBLHS officers or 2006-2007:

Bett Padgett, President (919) 787-6378
bett@bettpadgett.com

Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Vice President (252) 247-5436
croberts@outer-banks.com

Drs Jim and Mabry O'Donnell, Secretaries (740) 706-0398
odonnelm@marietta.edu, odonnellj@marietta.edu

Diana Chappell, Treasurer (804) 883-6260 diandmanda@aol.com

Duties:

Membership Chair, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

Fundraising Chair, **Bruce Roberts** (252) 247-5436 broberts2@ec.rr.com

Special Events Chair and committee, **Bett Padgett, Robert DaVia, Virginia Howell**

Volunteer website coordinator, Virginia Howell

We are grateful for the help of **Richard Meissner** who is volunteer coordinator at Cape Lookout National Seashore, **Sandra MacLean Clunies** in research, **Doward Jones** of the Roanoke River Light, and **Charlie** and **Shirley Votaw** for special projects. Nomination of **Bill Padgett** was unanimous by the BOD. Please return your voting sheet asap to OBLHS, P.O. Box 1005, Morehead City, NC, 28557.

OBLHS wishes good health to **Marguerite MacDonald** and husband **Ken** who are recovering from a small plane crash in Massachusetts this month.

PLEASE READ

We are now using a mailing service and a bulk rate permit. This means that each envelope we mail with your newsletter must weigh exactly the same. Therefore, **each of you get a return envelope with your newsletter, but this doesn't mean your membership fees are due! Look at the expiration date on your address label!** Our members are so conscientious that several of you are paying far ahead of time.

Dimming The Light

Anna Hoge crossed the bar recently this year. If you've read *Lighthouse Families* by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts, you know "Annie" well. Her oral history holds lovely stories of her childhood growing up on Passage Island within Isle Royale National Seashore on Lake Superior. The impact of her story is exemplified in a letter written to the author by OBLHS member Barb Kepple expressing how the story impressed her. Anna left her only, beloved doll on the island in a box with other treasures in hopes that her parents would have to bring her back to retrieve them. It was decades before she saw her island again. She returned with her son and grandchildren to dig up the box. After breaking the ground where the box lay buried and undisturbed for 60 years, Anna decided not to open the box. She and her grandchildren decided to leave her memories there forever. There is no doubt where Anna's spirit is today.

"The years on Passage Island were the happiest I have ever known," says Anna. "My Dad died when I was just starting out in life on my own, and I have always missed him dearly. He wanted to go back to Passage Island but never made it. When I go back, I look for him--and I see him in the beauty of the trees and flowers and ferns."

2006
Annual Keeper's Dinner
October 13th-15th

Crown Glass Prisms and Cast-Iron Stairs

A guided tour of the National Aids to Navigation Museum in Yorktown, VA, and a climb up the 1875 stairs of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse are just two of the highlights of our special weekend.

The *Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's Annual Keeper's Dinner and Awards Weekend* will be headquartered at the Ramada Inn, Kill Devil Hills, October 13th-15th.

Friday: tour the *National Aids to Navigation Museum* in Yorktown, Virginia, and see one of the finest displays of Fresnel lenses in the world. Repairs are made to lenses here at the USCG's Training Center. Historically, this has been the repository of Fresnel lenses that the U.S. Coast Guard has removed from American lighthouses. An expert at the center will lead our group and answer any questions.

Saturday: explore the charming *Historic Corolla Village* and climb the *Currituck Beach Lighthouse*, visit the *Whalehead Club*, and the *Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education*.

Saturday's dinner will highlight our keynote speaker *Sandra MacLean Clunies*, certified genealogist, who speaks nationally on lighthouse topics and has served as a consultant researcher for Younger and Associates, creators of the Harbour Lights replicas. Lloyd Childers will be present to sign her new book *The Keeper's House & Other Reflections* as well as Kevin Duffus with his new book *Shipwrecks of the Outer Banks: An Illustrated Guide*.

The dinner and speakers will be followed by our annual lively auction and raffle drawing. Don't miss it!

Sunday: We'll gather for a send-off breakfast.

More information and online registration form with event costs at www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org, or you may call Bett at (919) 787-6378 or email her at bett@outerbankslighthousesociety.org.

Climbing the beautiful iron spiral stairs at the Currituck Beach Lighthouse is part of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's Annual Keeper's Weekend October 13-15, 2006.



Highlights of this year's Annual Keeper's Dinner Weekend will be a guided tour through one of the finest collections of Fresnel lenses in the world at the NATON Museum in Yorktown, VA.

Photo courtesy the U.S. Coast Guard

