



ADVOCATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA LIGHTHOUSES

Celebrating  
25 Years of Light  
for OBLHS



Noting Accomplishments,  
Events, and  
Those Making It Possible

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# LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

DEDICATED TO THE  
UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

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## Outer Banks Lighthouse Society Celebrates 25 Years of Advocacy

by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

Looking back to the day we envisioned the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) as a group to fight for the preservation of North Carolina's lighthouses that were in need of being cared for, there is no way we could have ever wished for a more talented group of individuals—already busy with their own careers—who would roll up their sleeves and pitch in. Sometimes it is best not to know exactly what you are getting yourself into when initiating a nonprofit organization. Overanalyzing what could go wrong with individuals moving the proverbial federal boulder up the mountain to save our lights could have cut our efforts short due to fear of failure. But, when problems cropped up—like being the lone, independent voice in favor of moving the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse—jobs were divided up among a willing group and we each bent to the task: a letter writing campaign, media interviews advocating the move, attending multiple meetings on fact-gathering trips, and publications created to educate the public about the dire need to relocate the grand tower away from sea's edge and its high probability of success. In the end, the world watched as the “move of the century” unfolded in 1999.

Some of our first efforts gathered volunteers to open the door at Bodie Island Lighthouse for the first time in decades; we canvassed to get the first-order Fresnel lens transferred from the US Coast Guard to the National Park Service; and, to kick off preservation of that tower, we had an expert summarize its needs. While a professional company worked at Cape Hatteras as part of the initial relocation preparation efforts, OBLHS funded scaffolding from that job site to be moved to the Bodie Island Lighthouse to determine restoration needs there. It took years, but funding followed.

It has been a challenging yet rewarding twenty-five years that have taken us to all the great lighthouses in the state multiple times. We made friends, and some became like family. To gather and see our lighthouses surrounded by an adoring public including kids, photographers, and artists is a treasured memory. Thank you to all who have been part of the team, who have donated precious time and money, who have written encouraging notes to us. Stay with us and spread the word: We need youth to take interest and become involved in our lights' future. The young must be exposed to the great stories behind these beautiful edifices, their unique architecture, stonework, ironwork, and the grandeur of their lights breaking the darkness that man has followed to safety for centuries.



Bruce Roberts and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts establish a small lighthouse-themed gallery in Nags Head that would fund initial efforts to help NC lighthouses. After visiting Cape Hatteras, Bodie Island, and the Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton to check on each light's condition, they decide a group is needed to urge responsible parties (USCG, NPS, the state of NC, and other relevant agencies) to ensure that failing brick, mortar, wood, and ironwork were addressed and funded for restoration or replacement. On a quiet summer afternoon on their back deck in Southern Shores, the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is born. After a year's work, the Society earned its official nonprofit status, which it retains today a quarter century later. An impressive number of its goals have been accomplished while others are ongoing—all due to the hard-working, imaginative, and generous efforts of its talented members.

*Turn the page to see timeline*

Information on all North Carolina Lighthouses can be found at <https://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org>



On September 5th, the Society is formally incorporated. The first issue of Lighthouse News, an 8-page compilation of articles and information on all North Carolina lighthouses is published, starting a long and successful tradition. and the first "information page" on the Internet is created by Steve Shelton. Also, the Society purchases original plan drawings of several North Carolina lighthouses from the National Archives and donates them to the Outer Banks History Center to support the History Center's goal of having the largest collection of graphic material related to NC lighthouses.

In 1996, the first annual Keepers' Dinner, hosted by island artist Glenn Eure, is held. Featured speakers include Elinor DeWire, author of four books about lighthouses, and David Stick, pre-eminent Outer Banks author and historian. This year also marks the beginning of the Society's involvement with the "Save the Lighthouse" campaign for the preservation and protection of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Volunteers begin working at Bodie Island and Cape Hatteras lights to share information with visitors.



The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society becomes the first non-profit organization to vote to support the National Park Service in moving the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to save it, and donates a Harbour Lights replica of the lighthouse to NC Senate Majority Leader Marc Basnight, who, in turn, presents it to President Bill Clinton in Raleigh while requesting federal support for moving the lighthouse. The first tee-shirts are designed to promote the Society.

Society volunteers continue to help out at Bodie and Cape Hatteras lighthouses. The Society writes a letter of support for the application of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to be included on the National Registry of Historic Places, and on October 19th, the lighthouse is granted the status of National Historic Landmark. The society donates an exhibit panel installed in an interpretive display at Cape Lookout Lighthouse.



During the "Move of the Century," Society volunteers are treated to a special visit underneath the lighthouse and some get to lay bricks for the new foundation. Bruce Roberts and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts are asked by the Park Service to produce and publish a booklet on the move process which becomes a bestseller. Member and songwriter Bett Padgett releases her song "Hatteras: If a Lighthouse Could Speak." At the Keepers' dinner, signed hardhats from the move are auctioned off, with the proceeds earmarked for finishing the restoration of the keepers' quarters. The Society donates \$5,000 to be used for exhibits at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

The Hatteras Lighthouse reopens to the public for climbing. OBLHS spends much of the year planning and organizing the Hatteras Keepers Descendants homecoming, co-sponsored by the Park Service, to be held in 2001. Bruce Roberts obtains a corporate sponsorship of \$10,000 from Bank of America. Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, along with OBLHS member and certified genealogist Sandra Clunies, researches the Cape Hatteras keepers oral history book. The Society researches and pays for the engraving of the Hatteras Lighthouse keepers' names on 36 foundation stones. In addition, the Society begins supporting the much needed repair and restoration work on the Bodie Island Lighthouse.



2001



In January, A.C. Joyner & daughter begin engraving 36 foundation stones with 83 Hatteras Light keeper's names. The monument is designed and paid for by the Society and comes to be known as the "Circle of Stones." In May, the Society and Park Service welcome over 1,100 guests to the Hatteras Keepers Descendants Homecoming. Events include a re-dedication ceremony, unveiling of the circle of stones, a panel discussion, and a life-saving drill at Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station. In addition, the Society writes letters of support to help the Outer Banks Conservationists gain ownership of the Currituck Beach Light Station.

In September, OBLHS and the Chesapeake Chapter of the USLHS hold a joint event in Virginia, climbing the Old and New Cape Henry Lighthouses, cruising past six other lights, and touring Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Portsmouth Lightship, and the Virginia Beach Life-Saving Station. The Society also sponsors two structural engineering reports and provides the scaffolding to determine needed repairs at Bodie Island Lighthouse. In addition, the DVD *Growing up at the Lighthouse*, a 40-minute recording of the surviving Keepers' children at Bodie Island is produced as part of the Society's efforts to help with the restoration of Bodie.



2003



The Society holds a special weekend in October entitled "Two Hundred Years of Light" at the Circle of Stones at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to commemorate the bicentennial of the 1803 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse; special addresses by authors Homer Hickam, Kevin Duffuss, and David Stick make the event memorable. The Society votes to have yearly events at different NC lighthouses. Thanks in part to the efforts of OBLHS, Bodie Island Lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society holds a retreat in June, visiting Currituck Beach, Bodie Island, Cape Hatteras, and Ocracoke lighthouses in one weekend. In October, the first Keepers Weekend to be held at Cape Lookout is a great success, featuring an evening cruise, a lighthouse climb, and trips to Portsmouth Island and Shackleford Banks. The Society works with the Park Service to keep the original Fresnel lens in the Bodie Island Lighthouse instead of it being removed. OBLHS purchases original engineering drawings and letters for Bodie Island, which are donated to the Outer Banks History Center. Society member Bett Padgett begins her ten-year tenure as President of the Society.



Continued on page 4

# 2005



OBLHS contributes money and manpower to restore the irreplaceable Bodie Island Lighthouse first-order Fresnel lens, which is transferred from the US Coast Guard to the National Park Service in May. Society members also volunteer over four weeks to transport, clean, and begin the restoration of the Cape Hatteras Fresnel lens at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. A second retreat is held with visits to Oak Island, Old Baldy, and Price's Creek lighthouses. The annual Keeper's Weekend is held at the Comfort Inn South and members visit the replicas of the Roanoke Marshes lighthouse and *Elizabeth II* ship in Manteo.

A group of OBLHS members visit the US Coast Guard's National Aids to Navigation Museum (NATON) and Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. The Society contributes \$10,000 to the National Park Service for repairs to the Bodie Island Lighthouse, and after repairs are delayed, initiates meetings and a letter-writing campaign. Displays funded by OBLHS on NC lighthouses are installed at Roanoke River Museum in Plymouth, NC.



# 2006

# 2007



OBLHS donates \$2,000 to kick-start a campaign to raise funds for emergency repairs at the 1854 Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station. The Society partners with *Our State* magazine to help raise funds for NC lighthouses. The Keepers' Weekend on Ocracoke Island is remembered for talks by island native and historian Earl O'Neal, a rare Ocracoke Lighthouse climb, a ghost walk, and dinner at the famous Howard's Pub.

The Society funds the ferry and entrance fees for 108 fourth-grade schoolchildren from Southport, NC to visit and learn about Old Baldy Lighthouse. Board members participate in a workday in Plymouth, NC to help clean, paint, and refurbish the replica Roanoke River Lighthouse. The Keepers' Weekend focuses on Oak Island and Old Baldy lighthouses, with a special visit to the Oak Island Coast Guard Station and a talk on the Federal Point Lighthouse.



# 2008



# 2009

The Bodie Island Lighthouse restoration begins. OBLHS Board members climb the lighthouse to help document needed repairs, and volunteers continue work on the Fresnel lens which had been brought down from the lantern room in 2005. The Society, along with professional genealogists Sandra McLean Clunies and Kay Midgett Sheppard, provides genealogical research for keepers' descendants at the 150th anniversary of Cape Lookout Lighthouse. In addition, they pledge \$10,000 to return the original Fresnel lens from Block Island, Rhode Island, where it had been residing to Cape Lookout. Cheryl Shelton-Roberts is the keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration of the moving of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

The Bruce Roberts Photojournalist exhibit, sponsored by Our State Magazine, opens at the Outer Banks History Center, honoring the Society's co-founder and photographer extraordinaire. Society members visit Bodie Island Lighthouse one last time as restoration work begins. Planning and research begin for a Bodie Island Lighthouse Keepers' Descendants Homecoming, nicknamed "BOLD." The October Keepers' Weekend includes a trip to the little-visited Portsmouth Island, where longtime member Richard Meissner is president of their historical society.



The Society sponsors 4th graders from Harkers Island on a trip to visit the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. OBLHS donates \$5,000 in emergency funds to Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station after Hurricane Irene tears the 1897 boat house off of its pilings. OBLHS begins its now-annual tradition of participating in OBXmas at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for a fee-free climbing day. A very full Keepers' Weekend takes members from Bodie Island to the Pea Island Cookhouse to Island Farm and then on up to the Currituck Beach Light! Also, in this year the Society launches its Facebook page, run by Board member Bob DaVia, which now, in 2019, boasts over 2,850 members!

During this year's Keepers' Weekend, members visit the remote Price's Creek range river light, Fort Fisher State Park, the site of the Federal Point Lighthouse, and enjoy a dinner cruise on the Cape Fear River, while hearing a talk by Leslie Bright, chair of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. The Society awards \$5,000 grant monies to Chicamacomico Life-Saving-Station to aid in general funds and upkeep.



2013



The Bodie Island Lighthouse restoration is completed in March 2013, and in April the Park Service holds a relighting ceremony and opens the lighthouse to the public for climbing for the first time in its history. In October, OBLHS hosts a homecoming for Bodie Island Lighthouse Keepers' descendants (BOLD) and 300 lighthouse keeper's descendants attend. Cheryl-Shelton Roberts and genealogist Sandy McLean Clunies spend years researching and interviewing families and publish the "Bodie Island Lighthouse Keepers Oral and Family Histories" and a copy is given to each descendant. Bett Padgett continues visiting 4th graders at E. Clayton Elementary to share stories of NC lighthouses.

After 10 years of service as President of the Society, Bett Padgett hands over the gavel to longtime member Diana Chappell at our annual Board meeting. In May, board member John Havel designs and installs an exhibit on the Lighthouse Society and NC's lighthouses at the Hatteras Island Ocean Center in Hatteras Village. The annual Keepers' Weekend is held at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and a group takes a drive down to visit Cape Point. The annual dinner is held at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and speakers are historian and author Kevin Duffus and Society member and historian John Havel.



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2015

The Society sponsors and participates in the rededication ceremony for the "Circle of Stones" at the Keepers of the Light Amphitheater. The Society helps choose the site for the move, designs the layout for the stones and organizes the ceremony. OBLHS Board member John Havel installs a major exhibit detailing the move of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in the foyer of Mann Hall, home of NCSU's School of Civil & Environmental Engineering in Raleigh. Alumni of the move, including Bob Woody, Mike Booher, Skellie Hunt's family, and OBLHS Board member Bett Padgett attend.

For the first time in its history, the Society cancels its annual Keepers' Weekend planned at the Cape Lookout Lighthouse due to Hurricane Matthew. In May, a meeting is held at the Cape Hatteras Principal Keeper's Quarters to discuss a permanent marker for the original site of the 1870 lighthouse. Park Superintendent Dave Hallac, Deputy Superintendent Mark Dowdle, Cultural Resource Manager Jami Lanier, as well as representatives from the Hatteras Island Genealogical Society and OBLHS members John & Aida Havel, and Bett & Bill Padgett are in attendance. John presents concept drawings for a marker design that are discussed and voted on to move ahead with pending necessary funding.



2016



2017

At a social gathering held Friday before our annual Board meeting at Board member Cyndy Holda's beautiful home in Manns Harbor, the Board honors Jim and Mabry O'Donnell for 22 (!) years of outstanding service as Co-Secretaries of the Society. The Society again continues to man the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for OBXmas so that for one day in December the lighthouse is open for a fee-free climb to all islanders and visitors. OBLHS celebrates the launch of a new, redesigned, responsive OBLHS website created by graphic designer

The Society donates several boxes of Keepers' Weekend documents, including programs, board meeting minutes, and other miscellaneous items to the Outer Banks History Center in Manteo, NC. The archive is assembled and organized by Board President Richard Meissner and Board Member Judy Moon carefully curates the collection and creates a finding aid (the collection proved very useful in creating this timeline). The Keepers' Weekend scheduled for Cape Lookout is again cancelled, this time due to Hurricane Michael. OBLHS members again participate in OBXmas.



2018



2019

Board members Doug Stover and John and Aida Havel work closely with the NPS on the planning and implementation of a special day, July 1st, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the moving of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. 1999 project leaders and alumni attend including OBLHS friend Joe Jakubik, brothers Jerry and Jim Matyiko, photographer Mike Booher, Bob Woody, and many more "move celebrities." Events include speeches, a panel discussion, and the opening of a new museum exhibit on the move in the Double Keepers' Quarters. The annual Keepers' Weekend is held at Currituck Beach Lighthouse in Corolla, and the Society joyfully celebrates 25 years of existence and advocacy for North Carolina's beloved beacons of light!

# Noteworthy News



Photo by Bruce Roberts

**IN MAY 2019**, we were pleased to receive news that the original announcement that the **USCG considered removing 21 navigational aids** along the waterway due to significant shoaling in Barden Inlet has been **anceled** for now. If channels are deemed unnavigable, any captains operating boats in those waters will lose their license. This includes ferry service charters, which will restrict access to Cape Lookout Lighthouse. The USCG Waterways Division, Fifth District, in Portsmouth, Virginia, responded to the situation in October: “The original project to remove 21 aids to navigation in Barden Inlet was **anceled**. Using the May 2019 USACE surveys, the USCG relocated the first 8 aids to mark best waters in the seaward end of the channel.” Cape Lookout National Seashore Superintendent Jeff West stated, “We have entered into a cooperative waterways management agreement with Carteret County for dredging.”

**ON OUR OCTOBER ANNUAL KEEPERS WEEKEND** in the Currituck Beach Lighthouse area we had the option to take a wild horse tour. How many realize that the herd is in need of help? Federal lawmakers are currently considering the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act (S. 248) led by Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr to get the Act out of the Senate deadlock that aims to ensure this herd’s survival for generations to come and avoid its extinction. The bill would protect these wild horses by increasing the number allowed in the herd from a current population of 100 to a minimum of 110 horses. First introduced in 2010, the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act passed the House unanimously in 2012 and 2013. Yet the Senate has failed to act on the bill, even after including it as an amendment to an energy package in 2016 that never was voted on. Joanna Grossman, equine program manager for the Washington, DC based Animal Welfare Institute stated, “North Carolina’s famed Banker horses don’t exist anywhere else in the world. For centuries, they have relied on their instincts to seek shelter from any storm. They deserve a fighting chance in the future.”



Photo by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

**CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE BONNER**, great-great grandson of Bodie Island Lighthouse Keeper Peter Gallop. Mr. Bonner recently joined the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) and the NC Renewal Ocean Energy Project (NCROEP) after retiring with 30 years’ service as an officer and civil engineer in the US Coast Guard. As director of the NCROEP, he will be responsible for integrated research, education, training, and outreach efforts in the area of

ocean renewable energy, working in conjunction with the CSI Executive Director and NCROEP Technical Advisory Board. His work will include work in energy sustainability, our coast’s ability to recover from strong storms, and sea-level rise that affects every aspect of our communities. He is joining an exciting team of interdisciplinary coastal scientists at East Carolina University’s Integrated Coastal Program within its Department of Coastal Studies.

—Noteworthy News continued on page 8

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD MEISSNER**, former OBLHS President and long-time member and board of directors member, for being honored by the Friends of Portsmouth Island that is establishing a scholarship in his honor.

**OBLHS** continues to offer two types of grants each year. The first is the Travel Grant with applications due January 31 of each year: up to three awards of up to \$1,000 each for assisting student groups with other expenses related to visiting a North Carolina lighthouse. The second: Special Lighthouse Project Grant with applications due February 1 of each year to assist individuals in projects that focus on preserving lighthouse history. Go to [www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org](http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org); click on “**Kids Corner and Teacher Resources**” link; Click on “**Teacher Resources.**” There are also suggested lighthouse classroom activities and lesson plans.

**HURRICANE FLORENCE** created relentless wind and rainfall that intruded into the keeper’s house at the **Bald Head Light Station** in September 2018. The irreplaceable circa 1882 lighthouse keeper’s woolen uniform absorbed moisture. Two weeks passed before staff could return to vacuum off mold spores on the fabric, freeze the uniform, and take it to a conservator. Thanks to grant monies, the uniform was saved and a museum quality display case will safely hold the artifact in the future. **Travis Gilbert**, Programs and Operations Coordinator for the Old Baldy Foundation, attended our annual Keepers Weekend in October, and it was great to meet him!



**WINTER LIGHTHOUSE CLIMB** at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse OBLHS will again be partnering with the National Park Service to welcome visitors to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on Saturday, December 14, from 9AM-NOON. For this one day, the lighthouse will be open for climbing, for free, and our members will be stationed at the bottom, middle, and top to guide visitors and answer questions. The day is popularly known as both “**OBXmas**” and “**Ho, Ho, Ho-Up We Go!**” Following the climb, volunteers are welcome to watch the annual Hatteras Village Christmas parade, and then continue the festivities at an open house party at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. Society board members John and Aida Havel have four rooms in their home, Sunrise Over Salvo, available at no charge for volunteers who need a place to stay; contact [aidahavel@gmail.com](mailto:aidahavel@gmail.com). There may also be some Park Service housing available. If you plan to volunteer, please let both the Park Service and Judy Moon, our Board Coordinator for this event, know that you’re coming.

**Contact:** [Amiee\\_ginnever@nps.gov](mailto:Amiee_ginnever@nps.gov)  
[judy\\_m\\_24569@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_m_24569@yahoo.com)

**THANK YOU** again to East Clayton Elementary School’s fourth graders for their donation to OBLHS. These bright students create their own lighthouse museum with their original lighthouse models. They have been significant contributors and supporters for several years of North Carolina’s lighthouses. Congratulations!

This is our new OBLHS tee shirt that Danielle Gentry is modelling. You can get yours at: [outerbankslighthousesociety.org/store.htm](http://outerbankslighthousesociety.org/store.htm).

Check out the sales items as well— every dollar goes to saving North Carolina lighthouse history.





May 2019-2020

OBLHS Board of Directors

Diana Chappell (*President*)

Nicole DaVia

Robert DaVia (*Treasurer*)

John M. Havel

Aida Doss Havel

Gayle Keresey

Judy Moon (*Vice President*)

Bett Padgett

Bruce Roberts

Cheryl Shelton-Roberts (*Secretary*)

Doug Stover

Kelly Waller

Annual Keepers' Weekend in Corolla October 2019 at the Currituck Beach Lighthouse



Left to Right: Richard Rehm, Mickey Cauthen, Lynn Rehm, John Wells, Jennifer Bachman, Eileen Haggerty, Aida Havel, Richard Meissner, Margaret Jennette, Maggie Cauthen, Bill Goldstrohm, Bett Padgett, Doug Stover, Mark Payne, Joan Stover, Diana Chappell, Jason Jennette, Lynne Springer, Travis Gilbert, John Havel, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Gayle Keresey, Helen Phillips, Bob DaVia, Debbie Mayfield, David Jackson, Nicole DaVia, Alma Marshall, William Turner.

Missing from photo: Bruce Roberts, Judy Moon, Kelly Waller, Rebecca Taylor, Joan Kutulas, Jeff Lewis, Steve Cammar, and Tavane Cammar.



Richard Rehm by Pamela

Photo by Paula Foster

**TO CELEBRATE** Cape Lookout Lighthouse's 160<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, a fee-free climbing day was held November 1. Cape Lookout dedicated volunteer and OBLHS member, Richard Rehm, enjoyed his duty at the light station. Richard received the OBLHS Cape Lookout PRISM AWARD for 2019.



Doward Jones and Bett Padgett at Dedication of the 1866 replica of the Roanoke River Lighthouse 2004

Photo by Diana Chappell

**DOWARD JONES** was an OBLHS board member 2004-10. His enthusiasm for NC's lighthouses was complemented by his love of the 1866 Roanoke River Light—for which he led the planning on Plymouth's waterfront as part of the town's revitalization—and his respect for the beautiful Roanoke River, its people, and its environment. OBLHS retrieved the original archived plans for the lighthouse and gained a USCG lens for the lantern room. We enjoyed workdays at the light and even held a board meeting in the Roanoke River Maritime Museum—also Doward's creation from a building that once was little more than rubble. In a classic small American town, these two structures stand near the printing business that Doward took over for his father and worked the majority of his life. As a great photographer, he turned the printing building into an art gallery complete with a wet dark room after his retirement. This fine friend and gentleman will continue to be missed.

The editor wishes to thank John Havel for his contributions to this special edition of *The Lighthouse News* for OBLHS. His photography montages beautifully illustrate the Society's efforts over a span of twenty-five years. Aida Havel assisted John with the historical research and drafting of the timeline. Thank you to all contributors! Comments are always welcome: [editor@oblhs.com](mailto:editor@oblhs.com). Let us hear from you.

# 25 YEARS OF ADVOCACY, PRESERVATION, FRIENDSHIPS, AND FUN!



"The Lighthouse Store," Gallery Row, Nags Head... "where it all started"



A BEAUTIFUL new Society logo



1996 - Bruce & Cheryl with Dane Alden



Cheryl meets John Gaskill



Bruce declares "the lighthouse must be moved!"



1999 - OBLHS under the lighthouse!



1999 - Bett Padgett with Governor Jim Hunt holding Bett's "Lighthouse CP"



2000 - Tim Harrison speaking at Keepers' Weekend event



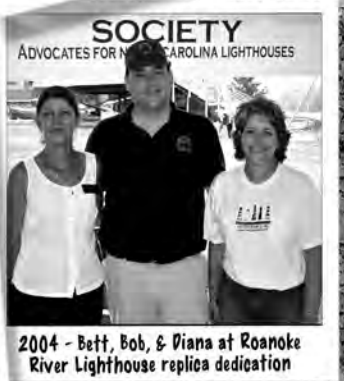
Bruce with Ed Chiasson's Hatteras model



The "Circle of Stones" engraved by the Society



1859 Bodie Island plans discovered and presented to the Park



2004 - Bett, Bob, & Diana at Roanoke River Lighthouse replica dedication



2005 - Bob & Nina Wolfson at Price's Creek Range Light in Southport, NC



2006 - Paula & Lauren Liebrecht & Jane Morgan with their awards



2007 - Bill Padgett, Nicole DeVita, and Bett Padgett on top of Cape Hatteras



2009 - Marjorie Spruill with "Keeper" at Cape Lookout 150th Anniversary

# 25 YEARS OF ADVOCACY, PRESERVATION, FRIENDSHIPS, AND FUN!



2017 - Emily wins the 50/50 raffle!



2012 - Kathy and Bob Paisley they never missed an OBXmas!



2015 - Mabry O'Donnell holding court in Edenton



Diana Chappell gets her hard hat signed at Bodie Island Lighthouse



2016 - Chris Webb, John Havel and Gayle Keresey at Old Baldy



2018 - Diana, Judy & Doug at the Wright Bros visitor's center re-opening



2013 - LH Keeper Richard Meissner greets LSS Keeper James Charlet



2014 - Murray Goodwin, Kath Kelly, and Lynne Springer



2014 - Courtney Whisler helping out at the annual banquet



2013 - Verna Wall and Glenn Eura at the Bodie Island Lighthouse celebration



2015 - Mabry & Jim O'Donnell celebrate Jim's birthday in Plymouth, NC



2015 - John Havel and Bruce Roberts at our annual Board meeting



2005 - a Spring retreat at Old Baldy



2015 - Aida Havel plays Vanna White while Dallas Spruill "auctioneers"



2014 - "This Little Light of Mine" at the Graveyard of the Atlantic museum



2010 - Doug Stover and Cyndy Holda grasp the pinnacle at the top of the Bodie Island Lighthouse

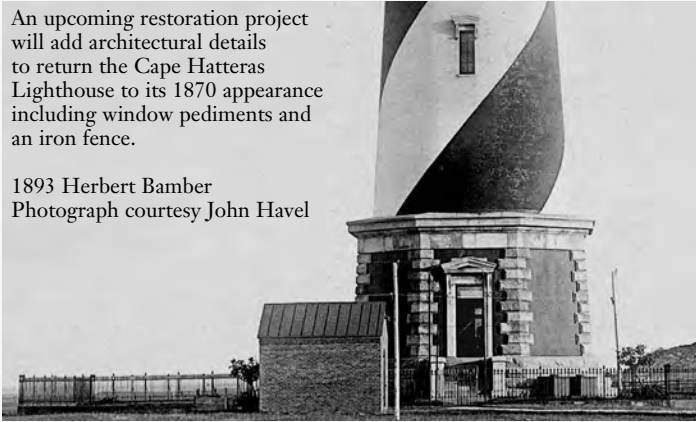
# Major Announcement

## Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to Undergo Major Historic Restoration

by John Havel

An upcoming restoration project will add architectural details to return the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to its 1870 appearance including window pediments and an iron fence.

1893 Herbert Bamber  
Photograph courtesy John Havel



**THE RENOWNED CAPE HATTERAS LIGHTHOUSE**, situated on the Outer Banks in Buxton, North Carolina, became a worldwide celebrity in 1999 when it was cut free from its foundation and relocated out of harm's way away from relentless erosion. It was relocated one-half mile inland in the award-winning "Move of the Century." However, most visitors and lighthouse lovers do not realize that the now 149-year old American treasure has never had a major restoration to refresh, renew, and replace its aging bricks, mortar, granite, or ironwork. The lighthouse did have some critical ironwork replaced in 1992-93, and stair treads had to be replaced through the years, but a comprehensive structural and historical restoration has never occurred...until now.

On August 20, 2019, twenty-eight planners, designers, and stakeholders gathered in the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo (RWS) Community Center for a key meeting. The meeting, chaired by project manager and architect Michael Morelli from the National Park Service Denver Service Center's (DSC) Design and Construction Division, assembled architectural and structural engineers and designers from the DSC, as well as from the Michigan architectural firm of Quinn Evans, who have been engaged as the project's "pre-design" specialists. Mr. Morelli has most recently been the central figure involved with the ongoing repairs and restoration of the Washington Monument after major earthquake damage in 2011.

Other meeting participants included representatives from the NPS' Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) and the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC); Outer Banks Group Superintendent David Hallac and Deputy Superintendent Mark Dowdle; Cultural Resource Manager Jami Lanier; numerous other local Park Service officials; representatives from the local U.S. Coast Guard and the State Historic Preservation Office;

non-profit organizations Outer Banks Forever and Eastern National; and members of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society who have been active proponents, advocates, and volunteers for numerous major lighthouse renovation projects spanning 25 years.

The current project goals include both exterior and interior restoration of all materials and surfaces including the retention and restoration of character-defining features important to the historic fabric circa 1870. All components including masonry, paints, metal components, windows and vents, lantern room and watch room balcony elements, doors and flooring materials. The project scope also includes the replacement of six cast-iron pediments or windowheads over the windows (removed in 1964), installation of a Victorian-style iron fence that encircled the lighthouse until approximately 1920, and two sets of interior wooden doors that were removed in the 1980s.

The National Park Service requested funding over five years ago for this ambitious, significant, and much-needed project, and it is noteworthy that December 16, 2020, will mark the 150th anniversary of the day that light first shone from this Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Throughout the detailed and comprehensive all-day meeting, it was stressed that this is an enormous project with hundreds of unanswered questions that must be resolved and with many important decisions to be made over the next year or two before the actual restoration work can begin, slated for 2021. Information will be shared with members and the public as it becomes available but currently the project is in its early stages of investigation, analysis, and design.



# 2019 ANNUAL KEEPERS' WEEKEND IN COROLLA



25 Years of Work, Friendships, and Fun!



Only 220 steps to the top!



On the beach with Corolla Jeep Adventures Wild Horse Tours!



At the Betsy Powdy Equine Center



Alma Marshall, Kelly Waller, and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts enjoying the tour



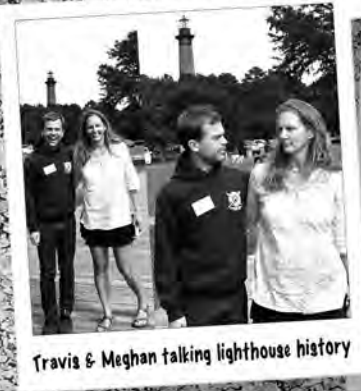
Meghan Agresto telling lighthouse history!



Cheryl, Bill, and Travis at the top!



Bill Turner and Bett Padgett up, up, up...



Travis & Meghan talking lighthouse history



Diana presents Richard Rehm with the Cape Lookout Lighthouse Award



Bett serenades us with a forgotten version of Auld Lang Syne



Bruce and Cheryl present Bob DeVia with the 2019 Founders Award



Tavane and Steve Cammarn receive the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Award



A great turnout and crowd! at the Hampton Inn Suites in Corolla!



Richard Meissner auctioning off our unique and valuable prizes



Jason Jenette attacks our 25th Anniversary Cake!

# Post 2018-19 Hurricanes:

## The State of Our Lighthouses & Communities *Far-Reaching and Long-Term Effects of Powerful Storms*

by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

Photo of Henry Piggott's house in Portsmouth Village courtesy of NPS



The "rack" or water line from flooding during Hurricane Dorian on the Ocracoke Keepers' Quarters door



Photo courtesy of NPS

**IF YOU ARE READING THIS, CHANCES ARE THAT YOU ARE A STORM SURVIVOR** and that you know the far-reaching effects of Nature's tantrums. I've lived on the North Carolina Coast for half of my life and have seen more storms than I care to recount. These weather events have become part of my life—and, likely yours. The lingering effects of serious storms including Hurricanes Florence and Dorian on Eastern North Carolina over the past year are not difficult to find.

First, North Carolina's lighthouses escaped both storms with only minor damage. There were big limbs, even entire trees, ripped from their earthly footing at Currituck Beach, but other than the messy cleanup of the light station's grounds, that stately tower is doing great. Even at the Ocracoke Light Station where feet of saltwater inundated the island and left historic damage, only the lower portion of its stuccolike exterior bore any scars.

Hurricane Florence occurred in September 2018 and earned the notorious superlative as one of the wettest tropical storm systems in the state, dousing eastern coastal areas with upwards of three feet of rain. The duration of the 100 mph winds and the drowning effect of its moisture damaged many homes nearly forty years old that had never seen damage before.

Although it was a hard act to follow, Dorian made an impressive debut in eastern North Carolina in September this year and immediately gained another superlative as the most destructive storm to hit the Bahamas, its worst natural disaster in its history. This same storm marched along the southeastern coast and hit Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands as a Category 1 storm. Its category status belies its impact; it hit the right places at the right time, turning Pamlico Sound into a mini tsunami that washed over north Core Banks and Ocracoke Island—and didn't spare Hatteras Island entirely.

At the northern tip of Cape Lookout National Seashore is Portsmouth Village. Several of its historic homes, now silent memorials to the folks who lived on the island until the last residents left in 1971, suffered extensive damage from Dorian. Photographs show an apron hanging limply on the front porch railing of Henry Piggott's house. On the lawn are donated pieces of period furniture being dried out, looking as if sunbathing inside the yard's storm-tormented, snaggletoothed picket fence. NPS personnel reacted quickly by sending a crew to abate the moisture and halt the growth of mold, one of the deadliest contaminants to homes and their residents. Windows and siding were missing on the Babb home. A shed roof rests on the ground minus what once was beneath it.

Dorian left Hatteras Island cut off for several days due to breaches in the protective dune line, particularly at the sharp curve at Mirlo Beach where sound and sea shake hands frequently during storm events especially at high tide. To the south in Hatteras Village, the secondary school's gymnasium, athletic fields, and many classrooms were rendered unusable for nearly two weeks.

On Ocracoke Island, even the residents themselves were caught off guard by Dorian's sudden seven-foot-plus storm surge from Pamlico Sound. The eyewall pushed water to the west and after winds shifted, pushed that same water back with a vengeance, steamrolling the island and all that stood in its way. More than half of the homes were damaged; many had to be stripped to the studs and rebuilt. A mountain of discarded house trappings and personal belongings bore testimony to the unpredictable and destructive nature of these coastal storms. Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent Dave Hallac said he counted at least 100 flooded cars in the ferry parking lot alone. "That's serious obviously," he commented. Young students were displaced from their school for a month until classes were set up temporarily in the NCCAT facilities.

The most recent closure due to these two hurricanes is Snug Harbor on Nelson Bay in Sea Level (Carteret County). Most tourists only see a sign with its name in passing while driving NC 58 to catch the Cedar Island ferry to Ocracoke Island, but there is great history behind Snug Harbor that has served the area for decades. It was established to provide services to seniors for memory loss, surgery recovery, and a place to peacefully live out one's final life chapter. After years of complications with healthcare reimbursements and overall operating costs, damage from Hurricanes Florence and Dorian were the final nails in its coffin.

On Cedar Island in the ferry terminal area, twenty-eight beautiful wild horses were lost to what is thought to have been a sudden tidal surge from Pamlico Sound. Events like this are heartbreaking and a reminder of how fragile and fleeting life is. Storm preparation is always advised, but this type of record-breaking storm surge is resistant to human planning.

On nearby Harkers Island, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center suffered over \$3 million in damage from Florence last year—subsequent damage from Dorian in September 2019 was not as dire, but it didn't help, to make an understatement. True to its resilient community's history, repairs are progressing nicely. But there are still homeless residents on the island and others who cannot return to their homes due to extensive damage. Mind you, these are families and descendants of families who were born beside and worked on the water. Storms were frequent visitors, but today's storms are more destructive and resources are such that recovery isn't guaranteed.

Cape Lookout National Seashore Superintendent Jeff West reported, "South Core Banks had damage to many structures (historic and modern) including roof, siding, windows, one solar system was heavily damaged, there were literally hundreds of tons of debris on the beach and in the marsh. The backroad had many washouts that were repaired. All structures received temporary roof repairs and were stabilized to the extent we [NPS] could. The lighthouse and keepers' quarters were fine. We were able to reopen Great Island cabins within a week and a half [in September 2019]. But, North Core Banks [northern end of the park], which saw a 10-foot-plus storm surge wash over it from the soundside, had 54 cut-throughs from sound to the Atlantic. Most of those cut-throughs have closed on the Atlantic side, although high tides last week opened some of them back up. All of the infrastructure at Long Point Cabins was destroyed; some of the cabins are structurally unsound, and many sustained roof, siding and window damage."



Cabins at Long Point in Cape Lookout National Seashore took a beating.

Photo courtesy of NPS

The best news out of that area is that the Shackleford wild horses fared well.

Frequent flooding in downtown Manteo is now expected if a storm is approaching—business owners near Shallowbag Bay automatically remove items from floor level to at least a three-foot height when a storm is approaching. But to the north on Roanoke Island a community experienced flooding in late 2018 due to heavy rainfall during the last two weeks of September. Buyers unwittingly invested in homes without knowledge of past flooding or current potential flooding. Today, frustrated and angry, they are demanding improved drainage systems or help from FEMA to raise their homes. The red tape involved with the agencies that can help will likely see this issue stretched well into the future and become regular topics during town meetings.

But, if our park superintendents are allowed to raise historic structures such as the keepers' quarters at Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island Light Stations, we can save them without delay. And, what if Cape Lookout is shoved to the side and forgotten due to lack of dredging to improve navigable channels; further, is there a chance of raising that keeper's quarters?

Little known outside these island villages is the resulting loss of homes, jobs, and security due to strong storms. It's a game changer; it's a life changer. Tourists cancelled visits; businesses suffered; businesses that sell to these businesses suffered. Who is at fault? At this point, it doesn't matter; it is our response to these events that might save not only ourselves but also our historic sites. See Volume XXIV, 2018, "Planning for a Future Wave," and comments by two national seashore superintendents who know what to do: Raise our historic structures above flood-water levels due to long-term sea level rise.

We can respond by helping those in need with donations—recovery will continue into 2020 and beyond. And, we can let our voices be heard by asking questions of our representatives about what can be done to save our historic sites in the short run while observing goals to ease climate change.

**MEANINGFUL LINKS:**

- [nps.gov/caha](https://nps.gov/caha); [nps.gov/caloc](https://nps.gov/caloc)
- [Coresound.com/hurricane-relief](https://Coresound.com/hurricane-relief) (*sign up for news updates*)
- @NCDOT\_NC12
- [Carolinapublicpress.org](https://Carolinapublicpress.org)
- [Islandfreepress.org](https://Islandfreepress.org)
- [Outerbanksvoice.com](https://Outerbanksvoice.com)
- [Ocracokeobserver.com](https://Ocracokeobserver.com)
- [OBCF.org](https://OBCF.org) (*Outer Banks Community Foundation helping Ocracoke*)
- [Friendsofportsouthisland.org](https://Friendsofportsouthisland.org)
- [Coastalreview.org](https://Coastalreview.org)  
(*daily news of the NC coast published by the NC Coastal Federation*)

*The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is pleased to announce its*  
**Fresnel Prism Awards for 2019**

Annual OBLHS Prism Awards are given only when deemed appropriate and approved by the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's board of directors. The awards are an investment, and they are an excellent means of showing three-dimensional appreciation to those who have upheld the values of OBLHS to preserve history and express respect for North Carolina's national treasures that our lighthouses represent.

*Our four newest Fresnel Prism Award recipients for 2019 are outstanding volunteers in their respective areas:*

**Founder's Award:** Robert "Bob" DaVia

**Cape Hatteras Award:** Steve Cammarn

**Cape Lookout Award:** Richard "Rich" Rehm

**Roanoke River Lighthouse Award:** Ed Roberson



**LIGHTHOUSE NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
 OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY**

**PURPOSE OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY**

The purpose of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is to aid in the preservation of the lighthouses and maritime history of North Carolina 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

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