The Lighthouses of Florida’s Central and Southern East Coast

by Ted & Jo Panayotoff

A Thanksgiving 1992 vacation allowed us to complete our survey of the remaining lighthouses along the east coast of Florida from Ponce de Leon Inlet, just south of Daytona Beach, to Cape Florida on Key Biscayne, south of Miami Beach. There are five lighthouses, four of which are still active, along this section of coast.

Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse

This lighthouse, originally known as the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse, was completed and lit on November 1, 1887. It is on the north side of the inlet whose name was changed from Mosquito Inlet to Ponce de Leon Inlet in 1926. It replaces an earlier lighthouse built by Winslow Lewis on the south side of the inlet in 1835. This first lighthouse was never lit and was destroyed by storm erosion within a year of its construction. The Seminole Indian War and then the Civil War prevented further action to replace the lighthouse until 1883 when construction of the present lighthouse began. Seven lives were lost during construction, which is an indication of the difficulties and hazards of such a project in that area at that time. One of the causalities was Orville Babcock, the District Engineer, who was in charge of the construction. He died in a drowning accident in 1884 while supervising the landing of supplies.

The lighthouse, designed by F. Hopkinson Smith, is a 175-foot brick tower in the natural red brick color. It is an active light using an aerobeacon with the focal beacon 159 feet above sea level. The light was electrified in the 1920’s. It was deactivated in March, 1970, when the Coast Guard shifted the light to the New Smyrna Beach Coast Guard Station south of the inlet. In 1972, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association was formed to preserve and restore the lighthouse. The lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in September, 1972. In 1982, the Coast Guard relit the light because nearby tall buildings were blocking the New Smyrna Beach Light.

The lighthouse station consists of the lighthouse, the head keeper’s house, the first and second assistant keeper’s houses, an oil house, a woodshed, and a generator building. Both the head keeper’s and second assistant keeper’s houses are museums. The latter contains the original Fresnel lens. The first assistant’s house has been restored and furnished in its 1890’s condition and is named in honor of the daughter of the last head keeper. Recently, the Association restored the oil house, a woodshed (used for a short video on the history of the lighthouse) and generator building which contains a collection of lighthouse photos. The lighthouse tower is open and one can climb to the top. Ponce de Leon Lighthouse is open daily. For more specific information call (904) 761-1821. It is reached by taking US 92 east from I-95 to South Atlantic...
Avenue (A1A). Go south to South Peninsula Drive where you can see the lighthouse.

**Cape Canaveral Lighthouse**

Further south along the coast, is the Cape Canaveral lighthouse, located on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station adjacent to the NASA Kennedy Space Center. This lighthouse is different from most tall coastal lights because it is constructed of iron lined with bricks. This was done to facilitate relocating the light which was actually done in 1894. The present light was begun prior to the Civil War and replaced an earlier tower built in 1848 which wasn’t tall enough to provide adequate visibility for the light. The first keeper, Captain Mills Burnham, began his service at the original light in 1853 and continued his service at Cape Canaveral for 33 years. The Civil War halted construction of this iron tower. On orders from the Confederate Navy, Captain Burnham extinguished the original light and buried the lighting equipment in his orange grove.

After the war, the 150 foot iron tower was completed and a new 1st order Fresnel lens was installed. It was lit in May, 1868. In 1873, the tower was painted with the black and white horizontal bands it shows today. In 1883, the erosion which the designer had anticipated progressed to the stage that less than 200 feet of beach remained near the light. The light was dismantled and re-erected 1.5 miles further inland and returned to service the next year.

Access to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is restricted because of its location on a very active military base. Except for the NASA Space Shuttle, all launches from the Cape actually occur from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. One of the Kennedy Space Center tour bus routes may pass the lighthouse but it doesn’t stop.

For serious access, one must contact the Public Affairs Office at Patrick Air Force Base, which has responsibility for the Air Force Station. Our visit, hosted by volunteers from the museum at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, was most enjoyable, with a visit to the lighthouse, the museum, and several historically significant sites from the early space program. The museum staff is very interested in the lighthouse and is planning a special display on Cape Canaveral Lighthouse history. The lighthouse is an active light and still has its original lens. The site includes an oil house, which, sadly, is in very poor condition, without a roof or door.

To reach the Air Force Station main gate and visitors center, go east on FL 528 and, after crossing the Banana River, turn north on FL 401 to the gate. Written contact with the Public Affairs Office on Patrick Air Force Base, FL 32925 is necessary to obtain permission for a visit.

In nearby Titusville, FL, in St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, 414 Pine Street, Captain Mills Burnham’s descendant’s donated three beautiful stained glass windows in the 1890’s. The windows are in memory of Captain Burnham, his wife, and his son. His window, appropriately depicting a lighthouse in the center, is reportedly one of the finest examples of Victorian Tiffany stained glass on the East Coast.

**Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse**

The next lighthouse, at Jupiter Inlet, was completed in 1859, according to the design of Lt. George G. Meade of the Army Bureau of Topographical Engineers. The work had started in 1854, but was held up by difficulty in getting building materials to the site and by the Third Seminole War which lasted from 1856-1858. Because of the delays, the cost of the lighthouse rose to over $60,000, twice the original appropriation. The lamp was first lit in July of 1860.

In 1861, Confederate sympathizers removed the lighting equipment to disable the light and hid it in nearby Jupiter Creek. Later, the equipment was recovered by Captain James Armour, a local coastal pilot. After the war he was assigned as assistant keeper and then head keeper. He remained as head keeper for 40 years, one of the longest periods in lighthouse service records.

The tower, with its first order lens is 105 feet tall with the
focal plane 146 feet above sea level. The tower was originally natural brick, but was painted red in 1910, the color it is today. In 1928, the light was converted to electricity but the same year the generator failed during a severe hurricane. To keep the light lit the old oil lamps were used and the keeper’s son turned the lens by hand. One of the lenses bulb’s eyes was damaged and to this day is held together by a brass band.

Over the years the lighthouse station was also the site of a Navy wireless station built in 1905, a weather bureau storm warning station, and, later, a Coast Guard LORAN station.

crossing the bridge, take the first right into the Lighthouse Park. Access to the lighthouse is behind the small Coast Guard exchange building. On other than Sunday afternoons, a call to the Coast Guard station at 844-4470 will probably give you permission to walk up to the lighthouse for photos. Also, the Loxahatchee Historic Society has a museum on the East side of US 1, just south of the bridge, which has some lighthouse information and items for sale in the gift shop.

Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse

Hillsboro Inlet was the last area along the Florida coast without a seacoast light until this century. From 1885 until 1901 the Lighthouse Board recommended that a lighthouse be established there to mark the northern limit of the reef and to complete the chain of primary lights along the coast. The octagonal iron skeleton tower was built by a Midwest firm as an exhibition for the 1904 Great St. Louis Exposition. After the Exposition, the government bought the lighthouse and had

Today the light is automated and the station contains Coast Guard family housing units. Official access is allowed on Sunday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. when the Loxahatchee Historical Society opens the small museum they maintain in the oil house. They also allow access to the base of the tower. In addition to the lighthouse and oil house, the station which was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1975, has a small cemetery where several keeper’s children are buried, and a 50 year old banyan tree planted by one of the keepers.

To reach the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, take the Jupiter exit off I-95 onto FL 706. After reaching US 1 turn left and after

it dismantled, moved to Hillsboro Inlet and re-erected in 1906. The light, with its second order bivalve lens, was lit in 1907. The first keeper, A. Burghel was replaced in 1911, by Captain Tom Knight, who was a grandson of Capt. Burnham, the
Cape Florida Lighthouse

The last lighthouse on our trip is at Cape Florida on Key Biscayne just south of Miami Beach. This is the site of the oldest coastal lighthouse in Florida although the present structure is not the original one. The first lighthouse was built during the administration of Stephen Pleasonton and completed in December, 1825. In July, 1836, the 65 foot lighthouse, while in charge of assistant keeper John Thompson and a helper, was attacked by Seminole Indians and set on fire. Thompson and his helper had retreated to the top of the lighthouse before the fire destroyed the interior of the tower. The helper was killed and Thompson was wounded before the Indians eventually gave up the attack. A passing vessel rescued (What a switch! - ed.) Thompson the next day after much difficulty in getting him down from the burnt-out tower. A subsequent inspection of the damaged tower revealed that the walls were hollow, not solid brick as specified, indicating fraud in the original construction contract.

Because of the continued danger from Indians, the reconstruction was not completed until 1846. The light was relit in October of that year. This new tower was 70 feet tall but under the recommendation of District Engineer Lt. George Meade, it was raised another 30 feet in 1856, to put the light 100 feet above sea level. At the same time, a second order Fresnel lens was installed. The light remained in operation until June, 1878, when it was discontinued upon the lighting of the new screw-pile lighthouse offshore on Fowey Rocks.

In 1966, the state of Florida established the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area at the tip of Key Biscayne. In 1969, a reproduction of the original keeper's house was built on the site, and in 1971, the lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1978, the Coast Guard reactivated an automated light in the lighthouse. During this period, the lighthouse was open for visitors, but, sadly, in 1985 it was closed due to deterioration of the structure. Eventually, in 1990, the Coast Guard extinguished the light because they could no longer maintain it in safety. In 1989, the Dade Heritage Trust assumed leadership of a campaign to save the lighthouse and raise funds for its preservation. This task has been made more difficult because of
this work is $1 million. One way for interested patrons to assist in this effort is to purchase a brick for $100. The brick can be inscribed with whatever one chooses. Purchased bricks are set in a walkway surrounding a memorial plaque within the lighthouse complex. For further information, contact the Dade Heritage Trust, 190 Southeast 12th Terrace, Miami, FL 33131, or phone (305) 358-9572.

The Bill Baggs State Park is on Key Biscayne at the south end of Crandon Blvd. Information about access to the lighthouse is available from the park manager's office at (305) 361-5811.

There are several good guide books on Florida's Lighthouses which are useful; however, some of the data may be out of date. These books are:


---

**December Meeting at Brigantine Bay Museum Huge Success!**

By Jack Granger

---

(L-R) Pat Paulus & Katie Moser - Photo by Bill Geilfuss

Unending supply of pastries and coffee.

Many of the entries submitted to the First Annual New Jersey Chapter Photo Contest were displayed. We were surprised at the quality of the entries. The judges will have their work cut out for them.

After the meeting, many of our members went over to the Absecon Lighthouse for an inspection and photo opportunity. Our thanks to the Park Department for opening the tower for our group.

The New Jersey Chapter made contributions to the Brigantine Bay Museum and the Shore Village Museum for their roles in making our December meeting a smashing success.

---

**Cup Plate Update**

We have never received as much mail as we did with Ted & Jo Pananyotoff’s articles on the Cup Plates. (Read as - We had no idea cup plate collectors were so fanatical! ed.) In Beam #9, we mentioned the Millville Art Glass cup plate from the Historic South Jersey Cup Plate Series featuring the Cohansey Lighthouse, but due to time and space limitations, we failed to tell you how to get it.

The Cohansey Cup Plate is available from South Jersey
Magazine, P.O. Box 847, Millville, NJ 08332. Cost is $6.00, plus $1.50 postage and handling. New Jersey residents must add $.30 sales tax. Price includes an acrylic display stand and gift boxing.

The Finns Point Lighthouse cup plate is available for $6.00 by visiting the Pennsville Public Library (not available by mail). It is also available at the Pennsville Township Historical Society, 86 Church Landing Road, Pennsville, NJ, 08070.

From the President’s Desk

by Jack Granger

First of all, many thanks to all you great people who sent me Holiday Wishes. Let me take this opportunity to wish you and all members the very best for 1993.

I have been watching the membership renewals coming in. That is very gratifying, but those of you who have put it off, please take the time to send in your renewal.

By the time you read this, we will have had a publicity booth at the New Jersey Boat Show, which was held at Monmouth Park in Oceanport. Thanks to Jack Thomson for the idea and all the work.

We are looking forward to a Delaware Bay boat trip in May and an Upper New York Bay boat trip in the summer. Fred Thies is heading up this venture. (See this issue-ed.)

1993 looks like a great year for a great group of members. Remember, if you have any ideas or wishes, contact Carole DiNapoli at (908) 297-4280.

See you at the Barnegat Light Fire House at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 13th.

Nantucket Lightship (WAL-534) Sold

by Jack Granger

It was with great sadness that Ken Black informed me that the Nantucket Lightship was moved from Portland, Maine, to New York City. Due to financial difficulties, the Lightship Nantucket Inc., sold the vessel to the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in New York City.

Ken worked hard to get the ship berthed in the renovated area of downtown Portland, but financial difficulties made it impossible to keep it there.

Ken was in the crew that took the ship out of Portland on Monday, December 28, and arrived at the Intrepid Museum on the Hudson River in New York City on Wednesday, December 30. Ken said the vessel ran like a “Swiss Watch” on the trip south.

The Sea Girt Lighthouse

by Debbie Torres

What happens to a lighthouse when it is no longer in use for its original purpose? Just ask the Sea Girt Lighthouse Citizens Committee who took over the Sea Girt Lighthouse in 1981 and succeeded in restoring it.

Today, the lighthouse is home to many community groups such as: a local artists group, Women’s Club, Junior Women’s Club, The Holly Club (a gardening club), a group for Special Children, AA and a local fisherman’s group.

Membership to this group entitles the member to an invitation to the annual Christmas party, use of the lighthouse for parties/weddings, etc. (for a small fee), and other scheduled events, along with the knowledge that you are helping preserve a local landmark in service in 1896.

Memberships are $25.00 annually or $200.00 for a perpetual membership.

Open houses will begin again on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the spring.

For information regarding memberships contact the Sea Girt Lighthouse Citizen’s Committee, Beach Blvd. & Ocean Road, Sea Girt, NJ 08750.

Reflections

by Katherine Von Ahnen

Until President’s Weekend, the Cape May Lighthouse is closed to the public, but still is sending its ever constant beam out over the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay. I like to think it is drawing a long breath and girding itself up for the new year to come, like all of us who tend this magnificent national monument.

From my post in the Orientation Center, just inside of the main gate, I have been privileged to meet people from all over the country and many foreign nations. One delegation from France stands out vividly in my memory.

About twelve students from France, aged 14 to 18 years old, had walked barefoot out onto the beach from the end of the boardwalk to the State Park. They didn’t know about the
lighthouse until they got there. Without a word of English, they managed to convey to us their rapture at the beautiful interior brick designs, the wrought-iron circular stairway, the tiny arches for ventilation, the inter-play of sunbeams from landing to landing, and the fact that they would like very much to take back to France with them the memory of having traveled up the 199 twisting stairs and having enjoyed the view from the top. They were returning to France the next day. Without knowing a word of French, John Violand and I tried to tell them one of the cardinal rules was "no shoes...no climbing" and they were barefoot. None of us needed any words to feel their acute disappointment. After a quick discussion between John and myself, and much sign language, we agreed that they could go up barefoot, but to please, PLEASE, be very careful. Then came the real problem. They didn’t have any money, either. Since we had already gone out on a limb, we called Eleanor Cane on the tower intercom, and told her we were sending up a group of students from France who spoke no English, were barefoot, and had no money. Eleanor said she would give them very special attention. Our French friends were up there for a long time. When they came down, they were aglow with the wonder of it all. One girl put her hand over her heart and then extended it, open handed, to John and to me. No words were needed. When they left to return to Cape May by way of the beach, John, Eleanor and I felt as if we had accomplished more that day for international relations than many a politician.

We expect funny and unusual questions from the children, and we have ready answers for most of them. When a child buys a two dollar certificate that states he or she "owns" a brick at the lighthouse, we use the opportunity, "Which brick is mine?..." "How many bricks are left?..." Do I get an inside brick or an outside brick?" I have learned never to underestimate the acute mind of a child!

An eight-year-old girl from Pennsylvania was visiting the lighthouse with her father, her mother and her older brother. They were real lighthouse buffs. The four of them stood and watched the beautiful VCR tape made by John Bailey. The video tour takes the viewer up the winding stairway, out onto the observation deck, and back to mother earth again. The fourteen minute video tour is accompanied by the beautiful piano music of the "Moonlight Sonata," played by Nancy Bailey. The tinkling melody captures perfectly the mystique and enchantment of the lighthouse. After seeing the tape, the father decided they should "do the real thing, because if the tape was that good, the real thing would just have to be awesome. They took off to the top of the tower, and after an appropriate time, returned. I asked the father if the "real thing" was all he had been led to expect from John Bailey’s tape. He replied that it certainly was. Seeing a puzzled look on the face of the little girl, I asked, "Did you enjoy it, too?" "Well, yes," she answered slowly, and then added, "But, you know, I looked just everywhere, and I never did find the piano!"

While the people who visit us are our main concern and delight, wildlife also comes in for its share of attention. In the early morning, before we open, gulls drift and wheel around the great light as if they are checking it out for the day’s activities. The pace of the day is set to the trilling melody of the many winged songsters who perch in the pines and the honeysuckle. One little brown rabbit appears as if by clockwork every morning at 8:30 a.m., and patiently hops his way around the cyclone fence, inspecting it with his quivering nose every two or three feet. One day, though, a wildlife critter instilled terror into the faint hearts of many!

Joan Chamberlain, on duty in the Orientation Center, was looking out the window at the entrance to the park. To her horror, a large black snake was slithering up a part of the entrance gate. Now we have one little three-word rule at the lighthouse that we put into immediate action whenever we are faced with a situation we know we can’t handle...CALL THE RANGER!! Joan lost no time in phoning Dean Cramer, Head Ranger, who is able to handle problems beyond your wildest imaginings. Dean assured Joan that he would be there in seconds with the proper equipment. Joan assumed Dean

Cape May Lighthouse Circa 1934 - Note 2 keepers dwellings
would arrive with a bag for the snake, a large stick, a broom, or some means of defense to ward off the reptile. Imagine her surprise when Dean arrived equipped with a camera! Dean began taking pictures, and the snake curled up on top of the post and raised its head inquiringly—somewhat like a model for National Geographic. A large crowd soon gathered. Dean explained to the crowd that it was a rat snake, nothing to be worried about. However, the crowd fell back several feet when the snake came down the post and wriggled up the trunk of a fairly large tree that grows by the Orientation Center.

It disappeared into the leafy branches that spread out over the roof of the center and arched over the short-cut all the keepers use when reporting for duty. No one ever saw the snake again, but we all kept an eagle eye upon the roof, and no one...BUT NO ONE...used the short-cut under the tree for the rest of the summer. If you’d like to see Dean’s picture, it’s on exhibit at the State Park Museum, entitled "Park Guard." I must admit, every time we relate the story, the snake gets bigger, blacker, and more scary.

We have definite rules and regulations for the good of all laid down for us by the Top Brass at MAC, who in turn get most of it from the insurance company. We sincerely adhere to these guidelines but when seven out-of-state school buses arrived, loaded with excited eighth to twelve-year-old students, with not one bus being aware of the planned arrival of the other six, and taking all of us by surprise, it turned out to be near bedlam. Since none of the bus tours had given MAC notice of their plans, the teachers were not aware of the rule that every three children had to be accompanied by one adult. There were simply not enough teachers to go around. I looked at all those disappointed students and teachers, with money clutched in their hot little hands, and realized our cash flow stood a good chance of going out the gate and never coming back...but worse than that, there were all these out-of-state students, who had chosen "our lighthouse" for their annual field trip, and we were going to send them away? No way!

Pat Lewis was stationed in the tower, Frank Durr was manning the ticket shop, and Sandy Yanosov was on duty in the Museum Gift Shop. We all put our heads together and came up with a brilliant idea. By stationing a teacher on every one of the six landings, we would let the students go up to the tower in groups of fifteen. Soon we had a group of fifteen at the top, one group waiting at the bottom of the circular stairway, a third group lined up at the outside steps, and other groups wandering in and out of the gift shop. It was moving along so smoothly, we could hardly believe it. Frank and I patted ourselves on the back and told each other how smart we were. This mood lasted for all of thirty minutes, when we were invaded by sixty squealing little kindergartners from the R.D. Wood School in Millville, accompanied by the correct number of adults. This group we had expected...but two hours later. Some of these little people had planned on going all the way to the top but now decided they were too frightened to do it; some had not planned on going to the top, but now decided they were brave enough to shoot right up the stairway; some just stood wide-eyed and open-mouthed in complete awe and fascination at the bottom of the twisting stairway; and the rest of them crawled into the little arched ventilation openings to see if "Winnie the Pooh" lived in there! The teachers accompanying this swirling mass of adorable humanity decided they wouldn’t try to take them to the tower and we made special arrangements for them to go ten at a time just to the first landing, be lifted so they could see out the window, and come away with the feeling that they had "gone up into" the lighthouse. We ran this human marathon of students up and down the stairway in their groups of fifteen and ten all that morning. As the last school bus pulled out of the driveway, I must admit I breathed a sigh of relief...but also, all four of us that were on duty that morning felt a real sense of pride as we realized that we had given them a real picture of their own culture and heritage, long gone but never forgotten.

Out-of-state teachers and local teachers clamor for lighthouse history and stories to take into their classes. With this in mind, MAC is preparing some exciting new school enrichment programs for teachers everywhere. A school enrichment package will soon be available by mail and lighthouse keepers will visit local elementary schools with tailor-made programs including coloring sheets, stories, authors, and VCR tapes that will enchant students with the history, culture and heritage in their own back yard at the Cape May Point Lighthouse.

And now for the fairytale ending: As December drew to a close we weathered one more tidal-erosion storm, and I stood in the Orientation Center looking about me and thinking of the year ending and the year to come. While I was basking in my nostalgic reflections, a young couple came into the center. They were so obviously in love, they were simply radiant. I glanced at her third finger, left hand...no ring. They weren’t married and they weren’t engaged. I knew what was going to happen, but they didn’t know that I knew. It happens a lot at the lighthouse. I gave them my very best spiel about the lighthouse. They listened attentively but I knew they hadn’t heard a word. I told them it was cold and windy at the top of the lighthouse...to be ready for the blast. They just smiled at me. I watched them as they approached the lighthouse doorway, hand in hand, moving as one.

I waited for them to return, and when they did, I asked her, "Was it a memorable experience?"

"I’ll never forget it," she answered softly, extending her third finger, left hand, which was now adorned by a sparkling diamond ring. I grabbed one of my Mary Elizabeth books from the rack and flipped it open. After asking their names, I wrote on the first page:

"Best wishes to Jill Hendricks and Kenny Gawryck, of Fairfield, N.J. ...may you always be as happy as you are today...from all the staff at the Cape May Point Lighthouse."

I added my name and the date. They were really touched. They left, still walking on the clouds they’d found at the top of the lighthouse. I know they’ll be back next summer, when she’ll be wearing a gold band to match her diamond. Yes, they’ll be back, eventually bringing their children and their
grand-children...for the lighthouse really belongs to them...the American people, for whom MAC holds the great sentinel in trust till the day when it is finally restored to all its original splendor.

Till then, I think I’ll just draw a long breath and gird myself for the year of 1993, which promises to be an even more eventful and rewarding year for all of us who man the Cape May Point Lighthouse...and love it!

---

**Howard Worner Lighthouse Art Show**

By Jack Granger

I have just completed the basic plans for an exhibit of the works of Howard Worner, an artist from Long Beach Island. Howard is a gifted artist and member of the New Jersey Chapter. He has had many "one man" shows and has agreed to show 30 of his works during a 2 month period in the Fine Arts Building at Ocean County College on College Drive in Toms River, New Jersey.

A special reception for T.V., radio and the press will be hosted by the First Fidelity Bank on June 14, 1993. Jack Lamping, Senior Citizen Officer of the Bank, is assisting with the public relations aspects.

At this writing, we are extending an invitation to the Toms River Seaport Society to co-sponsor the event. (See article on the Seaport Society this issue).

All are cordially invited to attend. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - Noon. The Gallery is closed Sunday and Monday.

---

**Toms River Seaport Society**

By Jack Granger

The Toms River Seaport Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the rich maritime heritage of the Toms River and Barnegat Bay area. Founded in 1976, its mission is to preserve where possible and recreate when necessary the unique history of those by-gone days when schooners, skipjacks, and bugeyes sailed New Jersey’s coastal waters.

Among the Society’s fleet are the Sheldrake, a 12 foot sneakbox, a Perrine sneakbox, circa 1902, a life-saving boat, a typical Barnegat Bay power garvey, a Beardslee rowboat, 1908 Twenty-Foot sandbagger sneakbox, and a 1937 Buck Snyder Sea Skiff.

The Society’s headquarters and Maritime Museum presently occupy the 1868 Carriage House which served the estate of Joseph Francis, inventor of the Francis Life-Car, used for saving victims of shipwrecks of the coast. The museum is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment.

---

**Lighthouse Exhibit**

By Bill Burket

The Union Beach Memorial Library display cases will have Lighthouses of New Jersey as their March theme, and will include a section on the Statue of Liberty. This is an expanded version of the exhibit that was so well received last year.

---

**National Lighthouse Month Drive**

Barbara W. Steele, Director of Public Affairs for Ocean County, is beginning a drive to have August declared National Lighthouse Month. Congressman James H. Saxton has agreed to introduce the resolution. We are asking our membership to write to their own Congressmen to enlist their support for the bill.

Congressman Saxton’s staff has become enthusiastic about the project and are using lighthouse posters to decorate their office. If you would like to donate a poster, please send it to 324 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Attention William Jarrell.

---

**Boston Lighthouse Sculpture**

The Danbury Mint has commissioned a cold-cast sculpture of the Boston Lighthouse, hand painted in true-to-life colors. The sculpture is approximately 6 inches high from base to cupola ball. Each lighthouse is accompanied by a personalized certificate of authenticity.

The lighthouse is priced at $29.90, payable in two convenient installments of $14.95, the first of which is due before shipment. You can contact the Danbury Mint at 47 Richards Avenue, P.O. Box 5265, Norwalk, CT 06860-0105.

We will have a number of Reservation Forms for interested parties at the Barnegat Meeting.

---

**The Keeper's Cache**

The following items are available at Chapter Meetings or via mail. If ordered by mail please enclose price plus $2.50 for postage. Make checks payable to U.S.L.H.S. - New Jersey Chapter.

**Keeper's Bookshelf**

- **The Lighthouses of Rhode Island**, by Wally Welch, paperback, $9.00.
- **The Lighthouses of Maine**, by Wally Welch, paperback, $11.00.
The Lighthouse of Massachusetts, by Wally Welch, paperback, $13.00.

N.J. Chapter Logo

T-Shirt (Large or Extra Large, in White or Birch), $10.00.
Sweatshirt (Large or Extra Large, in Birch), $20.00.
Hooded Sweatshirt (Large or Extra Large, in Birch), $25.00.
Benton T-shirt (Large or Extra Large, color is Birch with Navy trim), $15.00
N.J. Chapter rubber stamp, $8.00

Send mail orders to:
U.S.L.H.S. - New Jersey Chapter
ATT: Katie Moser
P.O. Box 4228
Brick, NJ 08723

New Jersey Chapter Meeting - Barnegat Light

The next meeting of the New Jersey Chapter will be held at the Barnegat Light Fire Company, on Long Beach Island, at 11:00 a.m.

Our guest speaker will be Commander Frias, U.S.C.G.. Painting by Harold Werner will be displayed as well as the entrees in the First Annual New Jersey Chapter Photo Contest.

From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., we have been invited to an art exhibition, hosted by Joan Walon, at the Watery Eye Galley.

Delaware Bay Cruise

The New Jersey Chapter Delaware Bay cruise is scheduled for May 8, 1993 at 10:00 a.m. We will be leaving from the State Marina at Fortesque, and sailing aboard the "Angler" with Captain Tom Mahoney. We can accommodate a maximum of 46 people, first come, first served. The cost of the trip is $15.00 per person. The cruise will be from 10:00 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m. We hope to see five or six lighthouses. Pack a lunch and lots of film. We'll try to provide sunshine. Please send your name, address, phone, and number in your party, along within your check (payable to USLHS-NJ Chapter) no later than March 8th, to Carole DiNapoli, 1150 Kearney Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

There is a chance of a second boat being added to give more people an opportunity.

New Jersey Chapter Gets Official Address

The New Jersey Chapter now has an official address. Our official address is U.S.L.H.S. - New Jersey Chapter, P.O. Box 4228, Brick, NJ 08723. Please use this address for mail orders, general information, and any other purpose not covered by the addresses in the publishers box of this newsletter.

The Beam, the official journal of the United States Lighthouse Society - New Jersey Chapter, is published quarterly. Membership dues are $15.00 single and $20.00 family. Memberships are for the calendar year. Back issues are available for members joining mid-year.

Officers and Board Members

President Jack Granger (908) 255-7484
Vice-President Bill Geltuss (908) 477-7768
Vice-President Kim M. Ruth (609) 386-4296
Secretary Katie Moser (215) 884-8548
Treasurer Carl Nelson (609) 953-8968
Board Member Tom Laverty (908) 872-2866
Board Member Rich Hellenbrecht (908) 755-8532
Board Member George Feifer (609) 628-2210
Board Member Pat Paulus (908) 255-8489

Standing Committees

Historian George Feifer (609) 628-2210
Editor Kim M. Ruth (609) 386-4296
Proofreader Sharon Fitzpatrick (609) 386-4296
Activities Chair Carole DiNapoli (908) 267-4280
Memberships Barbara Cowling (609) 493-2527

Newsletter Information and articles to:
The Beam
Kim M. Ruth, Editor
425 Summer Avenue
Beverly, NJ 08010

Due to:
USLHS-New Jersey Chapter
Carl Nelson, Treasurer
50 South Main Street, Unit #2
Medford, NJ 08055

Historical Inquiries, Postcards and Clippings:
USLHS-New Jersey Chapter
George Feifer, Historian
P.O. Box 661
Tuckahoe, NJ 08250

Jack Granger, President
21 Channel Road
Toms River, NJ 08753

General Address:
USLHS-New Jersey Chapter
P.O. Box 4228
Brick, NJ 08723