Navesink Twin Lights Renovations:

Submitted By Tom Laverty

New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge visitors were surprised to see the two towering lights at Navesink surrounded by scaffolding, erected as part of a $470,000 renovation of the historic building by the State of New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Lighthouse, located in Highlands, New Jersey and known locally as Twin Lights, is receiving some much needed maintenance work. General contractors for the job are the Haverstick-Borthwick Company of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania with the architectural firm of Holt, Russell, and Morgan of Princeton providing supervision.

Work includes the re-pointing of some of the historic stonework, painting of the interior and exterior of the tower watch and lamp rooms, and replacement of plastic window-panes installed in 1980. The new windows will be laminated glass. Also addressed during the project will be the roofs in both of the towers, and over the keeper’s quarters section of the building, that have been leaking for several years. Finally, deck at the lamp room level and missing metal bands and railings at the tower observation areas will be replaced.

In addition to providing the much-needed repairs, the work will give this historic building a fresh look much as it had when it replaced an earlier lighthouse constructed in 1828. The first lighthouse was constructed to mark the entrance to New York Harbor but did not stand the test of weather and time and had to be demolished after the current one was lit on May 1, 1862. The new Navesink Twin Lights were built of brown sandstone blocks quarried in Belleville near Newark, New Jersey. At one time this was the brightest lighthouse in the United States and was the site of the first use of the Fresnel Lens in America. The Italian inventor Marconi demonstrated his wireless telegraph from here in 1899, and the Army tested early radar sets from the lighthouse.

(Continued on page 3)
From the Editor’s desk……

The Beam has had another great year bringing to you members’ great trips, stories and pictures and information concerning the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, its projects and of course the Lighthouse Challenge.

With this issue a total of 6,850 copies of “The Beam” have been sent or distributed to our membership at Outreach and educational projects throughout the state.

The due dates for articles as always are six weeks prior to the next meeting.

Carol and I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Joe & Carol Guchek

The Beam, the official journal of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc., is published quarterly, March, June, September and December. Membership dues are $15.00 single and $20.00 family, and are for the calendar year. Back issues are available free for members joining mid-year. All materials are copyrighted and cannot be borrowed or reproduced without permission of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. The NJLHS - New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc. – is a non-profit educational corporation (501c3).

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Outreach

By Yvonne Miller

The Ocean County Baymen’s Decoy Show held on September 28 and 29, 2002 in Tuckerton was a great success from the Outreach Standpoint. Pat and Ron Bandock, Catherine Klix and Mary Katherine Kennedy covered NJLHS’s table at this event. They all told me there were lots of questions about the Challenge Weekend but when Mary Katherine arrived with her Challenge T-Shirt interest peaked. Many Challenge and membership brochures were given out that weekend. Thanks to Catherine and Mary Katherine for the assistance to Ron and Pat for the weekend.

I want to again thank all of the volunteers who gave time to Outreach during 2002. We had a successful year starting with the Calvert Museum exhibit: Piney Point, MD, Bay Day and Open House at East Point, several exhibits in the North, thanks to Barbara Pepe, Rick Weber and Rosemary Dixon covering exhibits in Bergen and Monmouth Counties.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season and a successful Lighthouse New Year in 2003.
grounds in the 1930’s.

Today Navesink Twin Lights is part of the State Park system operated by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry under the DEP. It houses a museum, gift shop, and exhibits which are open to the public Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am-5 pm. Visitors climbing to the north tower observation deck are treated to a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean 200 feet below the bluff on which the lighthouse sits. To the north is the New York City skyline some 15 miles away, and below Sandy Hook, now part of the National Park Service’s Gateway National Recreation Area.

The renovation project which began in August is anticipated to be done by mid-November; in fact as of the last week of October, the scaffolding on the south tower had already been removed. Lighthouse Challenge Visitors who could only get a photograph with the scaffolding around the two towers will be able to return and take an unobstructed photograph of this wonderful and different looking New Jersey lighthouse.

President’s Corner December 2002

My feet ache! I’m tired of explaining to people that they are stopped on the hill to the lighthouse because there is no where for them to park. Twelve hours of directing traffic. Maybe a bus next year to transport visitors - let’s talk. But I got to say we outdid ourselves. Record attendances were reported at New Jersey Lighthouses during the third annual Challenge event. A NJLHS volunteer reported he never saw so many people at the Sandy Hook lighthouse at one time, while six miles away at Navesink we broke the all-time, one-day attendance record with 3,100 visitors on Saturday. Sunday was less spectacular with about 2,500 — no sleeper there either and my feet could not tell the difference.

I hope everyone who took the Challenge had a great time and good experiences. One of the re-occurring comments from visitors was how nice the NJLHS volunteers were. Kudos to all involved. Not only did we manage to bring more people to New Jersey Lighthouses than ever before but had a good time doing it as well.

Special Thanks to the Challenge 2003 committee chaired by Rick Weber, assisted by Doreen Lagattuta, and committee members Mike Grant, Bill Volpe, Yvonne Miller, Al Smith, Elinor and Rich Veit. Thanks also to all the NJLHS volunteers, about 140, and people from each lighthouse organization that put in the time so that so many people could enjoy the best Challenge year yet and one that will be hard to top.

Tom Laverty
Light Bytes

Welcome to the holiday edition of Light Bytes. Normally in this column, I review specific lighthouse web sites. With the holidays fast approaching, I figured I would deviate and mention a couple of the more popular commercial web sites. Bear in mind that all of the sites I am going to mention sell mementos, merchandise and memorabilia.

The first site I will mention is Lighthouse Depot at http://www.lighthousedepot.com, the store "attached" to Lighthouse Digest, the magazine. I receive this catalog, like most of you: so you already know how many lighthouse objects they carry. The web site is the online version of the catalog. They have it all. Something additional I found on their site is a calendar of lighthouse events. (The NJLHS Challenge was listed.)

Another neat lighthouse merchandise site is the commercial site connected with USALights, found at http://www.usalights.com/merchandise.htm. While not as large as Lighthouse Depot, there is an eclectic collection of lighthouse memorabilia for sale. I noticed that they carried Great American Lighthouses by Donna Elias, though I did not see signed pieces.

The Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts online home is at http://www.seabeacons.com and is a site similar to Lighthouse Depot, though it is located in the Outer Banks. Like Lighthouse Depot, they appear to carry everything. One thing I like about this site is that the categories are listed down the left side of the page; one click takes you right to where you want to browse.

While I don’t collect lighthouse miniatures, I did not think a review would be complete without mentioning some of the more popular producers’ web sites. First, is Harbour Lights, located at http://www.harbourlights.com. Not only does this site showcase their miniatures; they have a section for news, a chat room, a section for links. One of their interesting links is to a page that will find retired miniatures at retail prices. Lefton Lighthouses can be found at http://www.leftonlighthouses.com. This is a really neat site, showcasing their products and detailing the history of the company. Three sites that I could not find home pages for were Spoonvilles, Scassi, and Spencer Collins. However, if you type either of those words and “miniature” into your favorite search engine, you will see listed numerous stores (including the ones mentioned above) that carry them.

(Continued on page 10)

HOSPITALITY

I would like to THANK Cindy & Mike Mitzen, Martha Osborne and Bob Gasecki for filling in for me at the September meeting. I understand that everything went well and many pitched in to help them. To all who helped them, thank you. It made my weekend more enjoyable knowing there were people there who I could count on.

As the December meeting is our Christmas meeting, if anyone would like to bring some morning pastry items or other baked goods to it, it would be appreciated. Just PLEASE, PLEASE let me know what you will be bringing by contacting me by December 5 so I know what else needs to be bought so we can be assured we will have enough goodies for everyone. My phone number is 856-546-0514 or my e-mail is bjks313@juno.com. Again, thank you to all those who generously brought baked goods in the past.

I am also looking for individuals who, if they live around where a meeting is going to be held, can get to the meeting place by 9:30 a.m. and set up the 100 cup coffee pot. You just have to let me know at the prior meeting and I will give you the coffee pot.

Betty Smith

Elinor DeWire - Invitation!

You are invited to celebrate the publication of Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic with Elinor DeWire, author, and Paul Johnson, photographer, on Sunday, December 15, 2002 at noon at the Lighthouse Restaurant in downtown Lewes, Delaware. Lunch is $10.00 and no reservations are needed. Simply join us if you can! We'll be talking about our experiences researching, writing, and photographing the book and will have a book sale/signing. It would be great to see you there.

Thanks for your help in making this a successful project! We are indebted to many people in the NJLHS, the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers Association, the Delaware Bay & River Lighthouse Foundation, and the Chesapeake Chapter of the USLHS.

Warm regards,
Elinor DeWire and Paul Johnson

"Inside my empty bottle I was constructing a lighthouse while all the others were making ships." Charles Simic

Sentinel Publications
http://www.sentinelpublications.com
THE 2003 PHOTO CONTEST
ARE YOU READY?

Winter is upon us and since we will probably be spending more time indoors than we would REALLY like, it is a good time to get out your photos, evaluate them and pick the ones (or one) that YOU believe will make YOU a member of The Winner’s Circle!

Since we have a system that seems to work pretty well, we will keep to it this year; same categories and everything.

So, we will have the following:

NJ Lights, Larger than 5X7,
NJ Lights, 5X7 and Smaller,
Other Lights, Larger than 5X7
Other Lights, 5X7 and Smaller,
The Winner’s Circle.

For those of you not in The Winner’s Circle, you may submit up to 3 photographs TOTAL in any category or combination of categories.

For those of you in The Winner’s Circle, you may submit only 2 photographs, and they may be any size or any lighthouse, anywhere. Those of you in the Winner’s Circle will get a post card in December or January reminding you of the above.

All pictures must have a registration slip with them. ANY picture with the photographer’s name or business on it ANYWHERE will be disqualified. If you need extra registration slips, they may be copied, drawn in pencil or any other way you can make them. Oh, they will also be available at the meeting for YOU to fill out (NOT the registrars).

NO photos will be returned by mail unless return postage is included!

Throughout this article I have mentioned only Lighthouses. Lightships, lenses or any part of a ‘lighthouse’ so to speak is perfectly ok. Just identify where it is from so it can go into the appropriate category.

As always, I am looking for some HELP with the photo contest. Those who helped out as registrars, etc., did a great job, and I hope you will help out again this year. If anyone is interested in helping out, whether you have in the past or not, please see me at the December meeting.

And, as always, to all of you who have helped in the past, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! —Al Smith

SANDY HOOK VOLUNTEERS
HAVE GREAT YEAR!

New Jersey Lighthouse Society members who volunteer at Sandy Hook had a great year.

For the National Park Service year ending September 30, 2002, 54 Sandy Hook volunteers gave over 2,694 volunteer hours giving 964 tours of the Lighthouse. 6,072 people actually climbed the lighthouse and another 2,917 people who did not climb either viewed one of the videos available or were given information about the lighthouse by the park and/or the Society. The most asked question? You guessed it! “Where’s the bathroom!”

Members who volunteer do not normally get recognition from the National Park Service for their service; that goes to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society (see plaque in living room of the Keeper’s House).

Five members contributed over 100 hours; Mike Smith (who had 215 hours!), Al & Betty Smith, Bob Gasecki and Ray Vliet. Rounding out the top ten volunteers in terms of hours are Joe Smorra, Bud Griffin, Lois Mumie, Pat Hospador and Marcia Griffin.

This coming year promises to be a trying one with the Keeper’s house undergoing restoration. We will be working out of the small firehouse across the street. Electric and water have been promised, but there will be no heat. Hopefully, April will be mild and we will be back in the Keeper’s house by October... hopefully.

I would like to thank ALL the Sandy Hook volunteers for their work this year as well as their help in the past.

You are the reason Sandy Hook Lighthouse is open for the enjoyment of so many people and you should be very proud of what you have done. I know that I am proud and happy to be associated with such a great group of people and I look forward to working with you again in NPS fiscal year 2003.

See ya’ at “The Hook”.

Al Smith
Chesapeake Chapter USLHS and Outer Banks Lighthouse Society Joint Meeting  
September 20-22, 2002 Portsmouth, Virginia

By Shirin Pagels

At noon on Friday September 20th, the first joint meeting of the Chesapeake Chapter, USLHS and the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society got underway. The first event for this combined group was a trip out to the Cape Henry lights in Fort Story near Virginia Beach. While at the site, participants had the unique opportunity to climb both the old and new towers. Visitors are usually only allowed to climb the old tower since the new tower is still an active aid to navigation. For those who made the trek up both towers, they made it a total of 407 stairs (191 old tower, 216 new tower).

It was then back to the hotel in Portsmouth for dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was CWO White from the U.S. Coast Guard 5th District who gave us an update on the status of many of the lights in the Chesapeake Bay area. After dinner Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts, lighthouse authors and photographers, gave a slide show presentation and Lloyd Childers spoke to the group regarding the status of the battle over who the Currituck Beach Lighthouse should be turned over to. See www.currituckbeachlight.com for more information.

Saturday morning started bright and early as the group made its way to the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier at Rudee Inlet to catch our boat for a cruise along the Chesapeake Bay. Blessed with a sunny day and beautiful blue skies, we made our way past the Cape Henry lights and then over to the Cape Charles light where we were only able to get a distant view of the light.

It was then on to the Thimble Shoal light where we were treated to a very up close and personal view of the lighthouse. Many of us were ready to hop from the boat to the ladder on the side of the light and climb up, we were that close!

(Continued on page 10)
Thank You from a West Coast Member
edewire@sentinelpublications.com  http://www.sentinelpublications.com

I’ve had a long association with the NJLHS, tracing back to my first communications with Jack Granger in the 1980s, and I’ve made many friends within the organization over the years. It’s been wonderful to see its positive evolution and participate in the group’s many educational and preservation activities. Meetings are always enlightening and fun, the photo contest generates enormous interest in and notoriety for the state’s lighthouses, and The Beam is an excellent small publication, something I not only enjoy reading but keep on file in my research cabinets as well. “Lighthouse Weekend” is, in my mind, the absolute best lighthouse-related event now available to the public. In fact, I’m so enamored of it, I’ve begun campaigning for a similar event where I now live in the Puget Sound area. I moved here last summer (job transfer for my husband), and though I may be 3,000 miles away, I still consider myself an active member of the NJLHS. Email keeps me in touch with many of you, and The Beam manages to navigate its way west every quarter and confound the gals at the Seabeck, Washington post office. “How many lighthouses are there in New Jersey?” they asked me a few weeks ago, astonished that the Garden State has so many. Of course, I jumped on the opportunity and told them far more about New Jersey lighthouses than they probably wanted to know. Rest assured, I’m keeping the flame burning out here!

I’m pleased to send this letter of sincere thanks to all the society members and their friends who helped with my recent book, Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic Coast. Two years ago, when Voyaguer Press asked me to do the Mid-Atlantic book in their Pictorial Discovery series on lighthouses, I knew I’d find lots of support from NJLHS members. And I did! Tom Laverty answered many questions, provided scads of details on specific lighthouses, and gave me names of many others who could help. One person he recommended was Tom Hoffman at Sandy Hook. Tom mailed me great information and donned his keeper’s uniform for my photographer, Paul Johnson. Paul’s images of the Sandy Hook tower and Tom Hoffman as the keeper are truly beautiful and resurrect the romantic, golden era lighthouses we all love. Sandy Hook even won the cover shot with a twilight view of the 1764 tower spilling golden light from its lantern and windows.

Yvonne Miller was indispensable as a friend and advisor, and a true cheerleader for New Jersey’s inclusion in the book. She introduced me to a number of people, namely Alice and Myles Hillary and the heartwarming story of the saving of Tincicum Rear Range Light. My publisher was so amazed at that one, it was given a full two-page sidebar in the book. I called it “The Ugly Duckling Lighthouse.”

Betty Mugnier and Steve Murray at Hereford Inlet Light were tireless in providing information and helping Paul with pictures. “The Carpenter Gothic Lighthouse” sidebar highlights Hereford Inlet Light, and many pictures of its interior complement the historical text of the book. I also choose an image of myself at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse for the author photo at the end of the book. It was taken during my guest appearance at the lighthouse for “Lighthouse Weekend” 2001. The big smile on my face reflects a truly great day meeting people and sharing my love for lighthouses.

Carole Reily of Buena, New Jersey also pitched in to help me with research and photos, providing info on the lighthouses at Finns Point and East Point and extending my research into the Delaware Bay. At East Point Light, my husband and I parked our RV one chilly October evening and cooked dinner for ourselves after a long day of research before heading to a nearby state park for the night. As sunset cast a cantaloupe-orange sheen on the lighthouse walls, we spied a hungry cat looking in a trashcan for food. Quickly, we cut up a hot dog and some cheese and left it on a piece of driftwood for her. Lighthouse cats are close to my heart, as many of you know. My cat, Lighthouse Kitty, is the mascot of the American Lighthouse Foundation’s youth initiative, “Kids on the Beam”

There are many more people I should thank, including Bill Gately for his insights, wonderful pictures, and friendship; Kim Ruth for quick responses to my email questions and fun together signing books; Elinor Veit and Sara Cureton of Absecon Light for their enthusiasm; Katherine Von Ahnen and Angelo Rigazio of Cape May for their personal experiences. Jim Gowdy is ever in my heart, and his spirit is woven into my new book. I will never forget his dedication and our good talks about educating the public.

Thank you everyone in NJLHS! If your travels ever bring you to the Seattle area, contact me. I give a darned good narrated tour of Puget Sound lighthouses! Autographed copies of Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic are available on my website, along with lots of pictures and memories from my lighthouse research worldwide. Come visit and email me with your thoughts. Also, come join me for lunch at the book’s debut party at Lighthouse Restaurant in Lewes, Delaware on Dec. 15, 2002 at noon.

Warm regards from Seabeck, Washington,
Elinor DeWire
A Message from Membership...

(Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair)

Renewal Time!
It's that time of year again! It feels like yesterday I was getting prepared for renewal time! Last year Pat Brooks helped me with renewal paperwork. This year, I would like to thank her sister, Dixie Amento, for assisting me!

You will be receiving a bright yellow form in the mail. Please check all of the information to make sure it's accurate and return it to the Society. If there are any changes, please make them clearly on the form. If you have a Family membership and would like cards for all members of your family, please indicate their names on your form.

Meeting Attendees:
There were 161 people signed-in at the meeting in Cape May in September. Reminder: Please sign the book. We like to keep track of how many people are coming to the meetings to ensure a facility large enough and plenty of chairs.

Membership Numbers:
At the deadline for this issue, the membership numbers are as follows:
Single Memberships = 431
Family Memberships = 361 x 2 = 722
Total Members = 1,153

Reminders:
Society Nametags: Stop by the Membership Table to order the nametags. They are $4.00 each, paid for when ordering, and will be mailed to you. (Orders taken at meetings only.)

Changes: If you're moving, changing your membership status, phone number, or e-mail address, please let me know so I can have your most current information. I like to keep the database up to date!

Gift Membership: A membership to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society would be the perfect gift for that person who has everything!

New Members:
Since the September issue of The Beam, the following members have joined our Society. If you happen to meet them at a future meeting, please welcome them!

Earl F. Bartling
Debora Barto
Barbara A. Cook
Faith Michael Fee
Ruth Fleming
Sam Fortino
Clare Francis
Alfred Gentzel
John & Linda Gerretz
Connie & Ted Gleichmann
Richard M. Hegga
Peggy & Ed Hoff
Barry Hollrill
Don Hopkins
Penny Husson
Mary Jean Jones
John F. Kray
Joe Lavorant
Robert Lawrence
Matthew Lendzinski
Danny Lester
Carol L. Lordo
Jim Malone
Michael & Marlene McHale
Anthony Messina
William L. Michelli
Ron Mordosky
Patricia Murphy
Michael & Rose Palasciano
Mildred B. Plant
Gustave Poulos
Akia Nadra
& Kenneth Roche, Jr.
Robert Rentenberg
Sandra Sableski
Susan Coca
Bettyann Seagroves
Gail Seng
Clyde H. Trefleisen, Esq.
Frank Urbano
Edward H. Zabel
Jen King & Ken Zarko
Richard Zimmermann

Mechanicsburg, PA
Tinton Falls, NJ
Elizabethtown, PA
Hummelstown, PA
Highlands, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Toms River, NJ
Bridgewater, NJ
Gibbstown, NJ
Florham Park, NJ
Waterlalık, NY
Mountain Lakes, NJ
Wayne, NJ
Louisville, KY
Las Vegas, NV
Rockaway Twp., NJ
Vestal, NY
Merion, PA
Old Bridge, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Lorton, PA
Toms River, NJ
Washington Twp., NJ
Sea Isle City, NJ
Robbinsville, NJ
Kearny, NJ
Bethlehem, PA
Toms River, NJ
Trenton, NJ
Manahawkin, NJ
Parlin, NJ
Hillsborough, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
California, MD
Brooklyn, NY
Carneys Pt., NJ
Drexel Hill, PA
Warrington, PA
Riverton, NJ
South Plainfield, NJ
Newtown, PA
Laurel Springs, NJ
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Help Preserve the Memory of the Mispillion Lighthouse

Inspired by the tragic loss of Mispillion Lighthouse to fire on May 2, 2002, lighthouse enthusiast and photographer Jen King has embarked on a campaign to gather 1,000 signatures to send to Mr. Bill Younger of Harbour Lights to convince him to include a replica of Mispillion Light in an upcoming series of Harbour Lights Collectibles.

Since 1873, Mispillion Light has guarded the entrance to the Mispillion River along Slaughter Beach in Delaware. It is the second lighthouse to be built at the site. It was automated in 1911 and deactivated in 1929. In 1932, it was sold at public auction to the first of many private owners. Through the years, the lighthouse fell into a heightened state of disrepair. After a series of articles in the Milford, DE, newspaper, a renewed interest in its preservation was sparked and things started looking up for the lighthouse. A preservation group, "Keepers of the Mispillion Light", was formed and started raising funds to begin the restoration work on the lighthouse. Unfortunately, they would never get the chance to start.

Tragedy struck on May 2, 2002, when lightning hit the cupola of the lighthouse in an early morning storm. The resulting fire gutted the inside of the lighthouse and destroyed the roof and the lantern room. The lighthouse received more visitors after the fire than it had received in years. In mid-June, while Milford residents watched, the lighthouse was carefully dismantled and removed by house movers, but the location and new owner of the lighthouse is as yet still undisclosed.

This lighthouse served proudly during its glory days and saved countless lives doing so. In the years after the deactivation, the lighthouse became a landmark of Slaughter Beach and a familiar and sentimental sight for the fishermen and residents of the Slaughter Beach and Milford area. The patch of dirt remaining where the lighthouse once stood leaves a dark void for all those who cared about this selfless sentinel who won so many battles against nature until her final bow on that stormy morning.

Jen feels that the best way to honor the memory of this lost lighthouse is to see Harbour Lights include the light in one of their upcoming series of miniature replicas. Harbour Lights is the foremost lighthouse replica company in the world with astonishing and historically correct details on all their quality replicas. According to a representative at Harbour Lights, it takes nearly two years to research, design and create a replica because of the high standards that must be met before final approval. The written history of the lighthouse is sketchy at best, and a replica from Harbour Lights is one of the only ways we can pass on the story of the Mispillion Light to our future generations. Mispillion Lighthouse is not currently featured in any Harbour Lights series, but Jen hopes that she can change that.

“Our goal is to collect 1,000 signatures to present to Mr. Younger in hopes that he will see the number of people interested in preserving the memory of this lost lighthouse.” Signatures have been gathered at events where Jen displays and sells her photography, and were also gathered at East Point Lighthouse during the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge this year. To date, Jen has collected nearly 250 signatures. She also urges people to call Harbour Lights directly and suggest the lighthouse to the customer service team. “Every little bit helps. If they’re suddenly swamped with phone calls suggesting Mispillion, then receive this packet of over 1,000 signatures, it should definitely get the point across loud and clear. Mispillion Light and its keepers deserve to be remembered for the time they served and the lives they saved.”

A website has been set up to collect signatures electronically and to pay homage to the history and memory of the Mispillion Light. If you would like to help out, please visit www.memoriesofmispillion.com and sign the electronic petition, print out your own paper petition to gather signatures from family and friends, or share your memory of the Mispillion Light. Together, we can save the memory of this lost sentinel for generations to come.

SOURCE: History summarized from articles in Lighthouse Digest Magazine.

CONTACT INFO: Author: Jen King (written in third person), PO Box 83, Newtown, PA, 18940-0083. Phone: 215-579-8747; Fax: 215-579-8525.
Important Notice

A folding table belonging to Carole Reily was missing after the NJLHS meeting at the West Cape May Firehouse on September 21st.
The table is 6' in length, folds in half with legs that fold out from underneath, has a handle and a wood grain top with metal around the edge.
Carole really needs to have this table returned since she uses it on a regular basis.
If anyone has information about the whereabouts of this table, please contact:
Carole Reily
279 Mayflower Dr.
Buena, NJ 08310
856-697-3260
e-mail: thelhlady@aol.com

"Jersey Girl" Filming At Tinnicum Lighthouse

Some scenes were shot at the lighthouse on 9/12. It was a dusk to dawn shoot. After the TRRLHS meeting, we went to the shoot as a group. The Mayor made arrangements for us to have security clearance. The lighthouse was decorated for Christmas, with stars at the top. Was very pretty. Watched a love scene between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez being filmed.

Have since found out that the production company has donated the Christmas lights to our group. Jerry figures it is about 16,000 watts of light. We doubt we have enough power to operate them, but are working on possibilities.

(Continued from page 4)

There are literally hundreds of online stores that carry lighthouse merchandise. I’ve only listed some of the more popular ones. If you want to see other stores, some smaller, some esoteric try combinations of “lighthouse merchandise”, “lighthouse memorabilia”, or “lighthouse figure” in your favorite search engine. I guarantee you will get lots of results. This is a perfect way to find that special gift for that lighthouse fanatic that has everything or making out your own holiday wish list. As always, if you have any suggestions, critiques, or questions, you can email me at greg_jansky@yahoo.com. Enjoy the holidays and have a Happy New Year! Greg Jansky

(Continued from page 6)

Our next stop was a water-based view of the Old Point Comfort light on the grounds of Fort Monroe. This is the second oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. The final light of the day was the Newport News Middle Ground Lighthouse, the oldest caisson light in Virginia. This light had been painted in the past year so it was looking pretty good for its age.

Back at the hotel, Bill Younger from Harbour Lights was available to sign pieces prior to our dinner banquet where he was also our guest speaker for the evening. During dinner, both societies presented their annual awards to several members from both groups. The evening wrapped up with a huge auction with proceeds to be split between both lighthouse groups.

The weekend came to a close Sunday morning when attendees were able to either visit the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Station or climb the Old Point Comfort lighthouse.
On October 17, the TODAY Show audience saw Interior Secretary Gale Norton praise the 2000 National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA). She then attended a brunch in the old keeper’s house (now museum) with selected guests of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, Inc. On July 20, this light station became the first of an initial group of six transferred from the Coast Guard to a preservation group under General Services Administration guidance.

Secretary Norton was escorted up the 219 lighthouse steps by Executive Director Kathy Fleming. After climbing ten ladder rungs, she was able to examine the first order Fresnel lens. The area is closed to the general public.

After viewing the museum exhibits, Norton came out to take questions from the assembled media. She said it was very important that this first NHLPA transfer be seen by a nationwide audience. The St. Augustine group’s application was “outstanding”; furthermore, they are a model group in the level of care and spirit of cooperation exclaimed the Secretary.

Future candidates, Norton admonished, must understand that although lighthouses are free, an ability to maintain the structures financially is required. They must be open to the public. She praised St. Augustine for its presentation and operations, currently needing $2,000,000/year to function.

On June 10, Norton visited Tybee Island, hosted by our terrific September meeting speaker, Cullen Chambers. The Secretary announced that Tybee and St. Augustine would be the first non-profit groups to receive the light station deeds from the Federal government.
Program Signals:

By Yvonne Miller

Winter Meeting:

The December 7, 2002 meeting will be held at The Tuckerton Seaport in the Lighthouse, Rt 9, Tuckerton, NJ. We will hold our Holiday Social again this year after the meeting. Carole DiNapoli has agreed to host the Social and will have her competent volunteers and wonderful menu. Because of the Social, we will not have a lunch break at this meeting. If you must have lunch or a snack in between, please plan accordingly. Skeeters Restaurant will not be open that day. However, hospitality will be served at 10:30 am, and the Social will begin at 1:00 pm. Don't forget your Christmas Tree ornaments for the tree trimming.

Hospitality 10:30 AM First Floor

Tree Trimming (as you arrive) First Floor

Door Prizes & 50-50 sales (as you enter) First Floor

Meeting 11:00 AM Second Floor

Presentation of the Fresnel Lens by NJLHS to Tuckerton Seaport Staff 12:15PM Second Floor

Holiday Social 1:00PM-3:30PM First Floor

After the meeting, members may visit the Jacques Cousteau exhibit on the second floor of the Yacht Club or the rest of the Seaport. Members must wear their NJLHS name tag or a temporary from the Membership Table for access to the Seaport. NJLHS Ways and Means will be on sale on the First Floor of the Lighthouse at the foot of the stairs. All sales will be suspended during the meeting and will be resumed after the presentation. Drawing for door prizes and 50/50 will be held during the Social. Let’s hope for weather like we had last year for the social.

DIRECTIONS TO TUCKERTON SEAPORT: Take Garden State Parkway from either the North or South or from the West take Rt 72 to Rt 539 to Tuckerton. Traveling South on GSP take Exit #58 Ocean County Rt 539. At the traffic light at Rt 539 and Rt 9 turn right. Go approximately one block. The Seaport will be on your left across from the Lake. Traveling North on the Parkway from Cape May/Atlantic City, Rt 9 and the Parkway run together. When Rt 9 separates from the Parkway, take the Rt 9 Exit #50 (New Gretna). Follow Rt 9 to Tuckerton and turn into the Seaport on your right, across from the Lake. From LBI take Rt 9 to the Seaport. Parking will be in the lot.

Fall Meeting Recap

Approximately 150 members and guests attended the September 21, 2002 meeting at the West Cape May Fire House. I was not able to make the meeting and I want to thank all of the members for taking care of getting the hall set up and proving that you really didn’t need me there. While there were many people who pitched in to set up and help out, I want to particularly thank Rich Veit and Jim Gale. I called them frequently the week before to keep them updated on a small crisis and emailed Rich a long epistle on what had to be checked on, I am sure I drove them both crazy. I am grateful to both of them for taking on the responsibility so conscientiously. Thanks for your patience. I was happy to make it in time to hear Cullen Chambers’ presentation and overwhelmed when those present gave him a standing ovation. Don’t forget, if you are in the Savannah area to take the extra drive out to Tybee Island. Cullen will certainly be happy to see anyone from NJLHS, but not on Tuesday. Rich Chiemango again invited all our members to visit Cape May Lighthouse. It certainly was a beautiful day to do so. This was the first time for the Flea Market; several members set up tables and it was a success. We’ll do it again sometime.

SPRING 2003 MEETING: Will be the Photo Contest. Announcements regarding date, place, etc. will be at the Winter meeting.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes for Fred during his recent surgery. He is doing fine and has been retained on the kidney transplant list. We wish all of you a happy and healthy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Lighthouse Challenge T-Shirts

The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge 2002 was a big success! We have event T-shirts left over. They will be sold at the Sandy Hook keeper’s house (you must go there during tour hours – 12:00 to 4:30 on Saturdays and Sundays – to purchase them) for $15.00. If there are still shirts leftover in December, they will be sold at the New Jersey Lighthouse Society’s general meeting on December 7th at the Tuckerton Seaport. Proceeds from the sales of these shirts go to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society to offset the costs of the Lighthouse Challenge. Thank you for your participation in the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge 2002 event!