FLORIDA FROZEN IN TIME

Photo and story by Bill Schneider

If you are looking for the Florida of high-rise condos and strip malls, look elsewhere. In Cedar Keys, Florida, there are no fast food emporiums or discount department stores. The nearest city, Gainsville, is sixty miles northeast. With the exception of two waterfront inns, it is as if the last half century never happened.

Four miles off Cedar Keys lies the small Island of Seahorse Key. At its broadest it is a mile long and half a mile wide. The Island is a nesting area for brown pelicans and signs tell one to be alert for venomous snakes in the wooded areas.

An early watchtower was built in 1801 by acolytes of William Augustus Bowles, who proclaimed independence in the panhandle from Apalachee to St. Marks. Spanish naval guns destroyed it the next year. During the second Seminole War (1835-42) the island served as a prison for Indians being relocated from Tampa to Oklahoma.

Congress appropriated $12,000.00 for the lighthouse construction, which commenced in March 1854. Yet another light designed by George Meade, a square brick building, sits atop a 52 foot sand dune in the center of the island. Rising from the house's middle is a 25 step, 28 foot tower giving the light a focal plane of 75 feet. Seven years to the month after first being lit, Confederates darkened the lantern in August 1861. The recently finished rail line to Amelia Island was destroyed. After Union forces captured the island in early 1862 the lighthouse became a stockade. After a relighting in August 1866, the area enjoyed many years of prosperity. Eberhard Faber made pencil blanks here, the rail line was reopened and sugar, cotton and lumber moved north on the Suwanee River. Cedar Keys became an important port for arms smuggling to Cuban rebels.

Several factors led to the decline of Cedar Key. Henry Plant decided to run his rail line to Tampa, as it was a larger deepwater port city. Lumber was over harvested and the fishing had declined. That meant large freighters no longer bothered to make port calls. An 1896 hurricane essentially eliminated the cedar trees and the sawmills.

The Navy established a wireless telegraph station on Seahorse Key in 1905. The wooden clapboard wings were put on the lighthouse shortly thereafter. In 1915 the overgrown island and its light station went dark a second time. The (Continued on page 8)
From the Editor's desk........

In order to increase our timeliness and maintain an appealing newsletter for our membership, we encourage that there be a deadline date of seven weeks prior to our meeting date. The NJLHS fall meeting will be held on September 27, 2003, our deadline therefore will be August 9th, 2003. In addition, to avoid disappointment verify receipt with an email or phone call.

Feel free to tell us how we are doing, what you would like to see or not see. This is your newsletter.

Thank you to those ongoing articles of interest about your trips. Many of us don't get to take them so we do it through your words and photos.

Joe Guchuck.

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The Beam

2003:

The exhibit at the Suffolk County Long Island Lighthouse Day Saturday March 22 in East Hampton NY area was a public relations success. We gave out lots of information on NJLHS and the 2003 Challenge. Joan and Ray Stumpf, Shirin Pagel, Mary Beth Doherty, Pat Bandock and myself traveled out to the Cedar Point Park for a beautiful fun day. Perks were a walk out to the Cedar Point Lighthouse and meeting some great people. We heard often, “Oh, you’re the Challenge people”.

May 10, 2003:

There are two outreachs on this date: (At this writing the events have not yet occurred.)

Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY. Michael Boucher is handling this event. Additional volunteers are welcome.

Pinney Point Lighthouse, MD.: Bob & Marion Hudspeth; Bill Geilfuss & Katie Mosier and Catherine Klix and Mary Catherine Kennedy have volunteered to go down. The Hudspeths are carrying all of the displays and materials for this outreach.

June 7 2003: (At this writing, this event has not yet occurred.) At the Berkeley County Park in Bayville, NJ in the Toms River area. At this writing, volunteers for this event are Rosemary Dixon: Bill Geilfuss and Katie Mosier and new members, Jeff Klutzy and Judy Dawson. Anyone else who wants to lend a hand can just stop by the day of the event or call or email me at ymm615@hotmail.com. It's always fun to talk about lighthouses, our Society and the Challenge Weekend. If you live close by please come join us on that day.

August 2, 2003: East Point Lighthouse Open House, Heislerville, NJ. This annual event proves to be a good time. So far Jim Gale and Liz Pezzuto have signed up. Other volunteers will be needed for that day.

September 20 and 21, 2003: The Ocean County Baymen's and Decoy Show in Tuckerton. We will set up our exhibit at the Seaport this year. So far Catherine Klix and Mary Catherine Kennedy have signed up. Other volunteers are still needed and welcome to come and have a fun day or weekend as you choose.

Yvonne Miller
**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, 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 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. The NPS did a nice job in the old firehouse; everything mechanical is working great.

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 am happy to be working with you again in NPS fiscal year 2003.

See ya’ at “The Hook”.

Al Smith

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**SANDY HOOK VOLUNTEERS HOLD APPRECIATION DINNER**

On December 14, 2002, Betty and Al Smith hosted an Appreciation Dinner for the Sandy Hook volunteers. 43 volunteers and guests attended and, by all accounts, everyone enjoyed the food and camaraderie.

Betty cooked up an array of delicious foods ranging from hot roast beef sandwiches to Chicken Napoli and baked ziti plus cold shrimp for dipping and salad. Add to that number of great desserts she provided, including several sugar free ones and, I believe, everyone was stuffed. Special thanks to Mike Smith for a GREAT pot of Chili, Tom Hoffman, Park Historian and special friend, for the SUPER clam chowder, Martha Osburn-Henry for the red cabbage which enhanced the ham and ‘kraut and to Rich Winkler for those FANTASTIC cannolis.

Among the guests were Lou Venuto, Chief of Interpretive Services and Tom Hoffman, Park Historian. Lou took a moment to fill the volunteers in on what’s going on with some of the renovation programs and to thank them for their hard work and dedication to keeping the lighthouse available to the public.

Tom Hoffman, in the shortest speech on record, also thanked the volunteers for their help.

Al Smith passed out the certificates for hours worked and thanked each member for the great work they did. Thanks to the generosity of (and a timely call by Betty to) Harbour Lights, each volunteer got a Sandy Hook replica called ‘This Little Light of Mine’ which is somehow appropriate considering the time each volunteer puts in at the lighthouse. Harbour Lights also donated two sculptures of Sandy Hook that were used as door prizes. They were won by Bill Volpe and Susan Smith. Congratulations to both. Many, many THANKS to the folks at Harbour Lights and especially to Debbie who responded to our modest plea for a door prize so generously. Bill Younger and Harbour Lights have contributed mightily at many lighthouse functions I have attended and we are pleased that they recognized the work done by our Sandy Hook volunteers.

Each year it is a challenge to come up with something ‘special’ for those members who contribute the most hours at Sandy Hook; our Top Ten Volunteers. I think Betty went ‘over the top’ this year with the pillows, each bearing the picture of Sandy Hook and the name of the volunteer and his/her achievement on it with lighthouse material on the back. Thank You, Betty!

Volunteers also had an opportunity to say ‘ado’ to Bud and Marcia Griffin. Bud is now retired and they are moving to Cape Cod (got tired of my HELP messages, I guess!). They have promised to come back and see us; maybe they can ‘carpool’ with Shirin Pagels who wasn’t far enough away in Ossining, NY, she moved to CONNECTICUT!

All will be missed and we look forward to seeing them again in the future.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our interior decorator, Lois Mumie, who made the table Snowmen and who also collected and painted gold the cut siding nails as an additional memento of the Keeper’s house. I keep mine with ‘My Little Light’. Thanks also to those who helped set up, clean up AND pack up, it was greatly appreciated.

Most of all, thank you, Betty. None of this could have or would have, taken place without all your hard work and creativity. As I said before, without you, I am nothing.

I never let a chance go by to ask for new volunteers and this time will be no exception. If you are interested in joining our little band, please contact me at my e-mail address, cmgsmith@juno.com or by phone at 836-546-7810. We will be most happy to have you join us and I am sure that the other volunteers will make you feel quite welcome. Orientation for new volunteers (and any ‘veteran’ who wishes to come) will be on March 29th or 30th (date to be determined). Let me know if you are interested.

Al Smith
President's Corner

By Tom Laverty

I want to thank everyone who responded to the Board's request for donations with their membership renewal. More than $5000 in donations were received and covered our deficit from last year but gave us an additional $2000 towards the budget for the 2003 year. We appreciate your generosity and dedication to NJLHS.

Those of you who attended the March meeting heard the Challenge Task Force report about the fund raising for the 2003 Challenge. The Lighthouse Challenge cost the Society close to $17,000 in 2002, and put a strain on our budget. The Task Force looked at ways of raising money to lessen that strain. I am pleased to report one of those efforts is paying off. We submitted a grant to the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission and were informed NJLHS will be receiving a $3000 grant. The task force continues to work on other funding ideas.

The Lighthouse Challenge is one of NJLHS’ major programs. Take a moment to read a letter from Rita Robb, a teacher at the Myron Powell School in Cedarville, New Jersey. It is because of feed back such as hers that so many our member’s work so hard to make these programs happen.

Finally, we are still working on problems with the mailing of the Beam. The last issue was late due to a series of small delays. Our goal is to have the Beam in your home two weeks before the general meeting date. We are placing our membership list on a disc that the printer will be able to automatically place labels on all Beams, eliminating the need for this to be done by hand. We have also moved the submission time frame up so the editors can complete the layout earlier. We will also do a trial run of sending the Beams out allowing them to be folded by machine instead of being hand stuffed into envelopes. It may take a few issues for all of this to happen, but hopefully it should eliminate many of the delays we are now experiencing.

I hope to see you all in New York at the Stony Point Lighthouse for our June meeting.

Light Bytes

Welcome to another edition of Light Bytes. For this quarter’s issue, I thought I would bring you a list of “official” web sites for New Jersey lighthouses. To define New Jersey lights, I used the list that is on the New Jersey Lighthouse Society’s web pages. I deemed a site official if it met the following criteria: the site had its own domain name, and the content reflected the lighthouse in a non-commercial way; the site had a historical society or group that had its own website. I had to bend my own rules somewhat. I used the website for the various park services when there was no independent “official” site. Also, for Cape May, I included a commercial site because the domain name matched Cape May. A note on Tinicum: it appears they have society pages on their own, but the page was unavailable. I used the pages that are hosted with the New Jersey Lighthouse Society’s pages. Finally, if I’ve missed any (and that is certainly possible,) please send me the appropriate link and I’ll update the list in a future column.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or critiques, send them to me at greg_jansky@yahoo.com.

N J Lighthouse Society http://njlhs.burlco.org/
Absecon http://www.abseconlighthouse.org/
Barnegat http://www.state.nj.us/dep/forestry/parks/barnegat.htm
historical society: http://www.nealcomm.com/nonpro/ihist.htm
Cape May http://www.state.nj.us/dep/forestry/parks/capemay.htm or http://www.capemaymac.org/
Lighthouse/this-week-in-cape-may-lighthouse.htm Gifts at: http://www.capemaylighthouses.com/
Hereford Inlet http://www.herefordlighthouse.org/main.htm
Navesink Twin Lights http://twin-lights.org/home.htm
Sandy Hook http://www.nps.gov/gate/
Seagirt http://www.lonekeep.com/seagirtlighthouse/
Tinicum http://www.njave.com/travel/tinicumlighthouse (page unavailable,)
but page at: http://njlhs.burlco.org/trrths.htm
Tucker’s Island http://www.tuckertonseaport.org/
Photos at East Point by Al Smith. Left member Joe Gruber and Susan Duder, center above (1 to r), Peg Jones, Joe Jones and Diane Jensen, 11 Points of Light finishers. Right Matt & Misty Fiske with Eljian at 15 months, East points youngest finisher. Below left Simon Pakala 1st finisher at East Point. Below, Janet & Bill Perkins Kissing on completion of 11 Points while Helen Plesher at 87 makes her 1st lighthouse challenge.

Above Cahilly Family & Peaches the Basset Hound from Dumont, NJ. Above center is the Kanaskie Family from Bethlehem, PA and above right is Nancy Moses from Midland Park, NJ retrieving her visor. Pictures at Barnegat Lighthouse by Dorothy Dixon.
The Sea Girt Crew, Saturday 10/19/02

Students with their teacher visiting from Summer Set Hill in Warren Township, NJ

(Left) Rose Merton and Peaches, the lighthouse dog. All pictures at Sea Girt were taken by Faith Giamboi

(Below) Star Touring and Riding Association, NJ Chapter 118

(Left) Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club from Delaware, 1st State H.O.G.

Photos at Absecon Light by Elinor Veit. Upper left, Gerrit and Lauren Eighner first to finish at Absecon. Left Susan, Katie, 9 months and Duane Anthony. Above is Lorie, Skip and Baby Joshua Schneider. Above right is George Loomis of Port Norris, NJ first to do 8 lights at Absecon. Right is Sherri Young with twins Eric and Michan from Hawthorn, NJ.

Above left, Cliff Smith, NJLHS member talking Lighthouses with Jeannie and Richard Chryin of Louisville, KY. Above center, Andrew and Cynthia Ryan of Delanco, NJ, working on their third challenge. Above right are Tony and Lee Sliwa working the table at Twin Lights. Below left, Kevin, Kimberly, Keaton and Kieran Brenneman of Metuchen, NJ finishing at Twin Lights. 2nd left is Mandy Biehl, 4 months old with Mom and Dad, Tracy and Jake from Nanticoke PA. 3rd left The Moody family also finished at Twin Lights. Right, Jeff Klutz and Judy Davison of Seaside Park, NJ had their second date at Twin Lights and planned to be married there in April 2003. Pictures at Twin Lights by Cindy Mitzen.
Pictures at Tincum RR Lighthouse by Yvonne Miller. Above right, this couple traveled over 500 miles in their 56 Buick to take the Challenge. Center, Mark and Mary Daley from Uniointown PA proudly display their challenge T-shirt. Top left, the Willmot Family of Brisbane Australia completed the 11 Lighthouse Challenge at Tincum RR Light on Sunday evening. They coordinated their business in the US to include the Challenge weekend. Left, Helen Plesher signing in to climb the Tincum RR Lighthouse with daughter Mitsy Terlita. Helen celebrated her 87th birthday by taking the 2002 Challenge. Below left, The Riders of the Lamb Christian Motorcycle Club of Gloucester County, NJ gear up to make the Lighthouse Challenge. Bottom left, 10 Month old Colin Phillips with Mom, Maureen Phillips of Clifton, NJ escort Aunt Joan Connors of Pittsburgh, PA around the state to see the New Jersey Lighthouses.

(Continued from page 1) Florida

house was deeded to a private party.

Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1929 to protect the pelicans. The lighthouse became part of the refuge in 1936. The University of Florida established a marine biology lab on the island in 1953, using the lighthouse for living space.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has an open house Saturday in July and an October weekend. Two charter groups make the twenty minute crossing to the Seahorse dock for $12.00. A steep climb brings me to the Florida Lighthouse Association outreach. When I ask for extra brochures for NJLHS, a young man hands me a card with Cape Canaveral Light likeness and an e-mail address. It turns out his mother is from vineland and now edits the FLA newsletter, the FLASH. Inside I meet Bonnie Jean, who is the FLA Secretary, controlling the tower access. Later I do my own outreach, she especially enjoys Twin Lights and Hereford Inlet photos I give her. If you do go, beware of ghosts. A visiting snake hunter allegedly used a cutlass on pirate Pierre LeBlanc who was guarding chests for Jean Lafitte. A headless Pierre now rides a palomino around the island. In addition, a white mule roaming the beach may be the spirit of a local woman thrown overboard by a jealous sailor.
2003 PHOTO CONTEST A SUCCESS:

While there were only 113 photos from which to choose, the choosin’ was tough! The decrease in the number of photos can be attributed to, I believe, 2 things. The first is that I forgot to put my address in the December Beam to mail in your photos and I really am very sorry that I missed that. Also, the lateness of the March Beam caused many to miss that ‘last minute reminder’.

Here are the winner’s in the 2003 People’s Choice Photo Contest:

**BEST OF SHOW:**
Betty Smith,
East Point Lighthouse

**Winner’s Circle:**
1st – Kenneth Bowden;
Split Rock
2nd – Al Smith;
Cape Croaker
3rd – Jodie Kearns;
Barney & Friends
Honorable Mentions:
Roland Fulde;
Twin Lights
Steve Casler;
Christmas at the Nubble.

**New Jersey Lights, Larger than 5X7:**
1st – Betty Smith;
Winter at East Point,
2nd – Arianna Henry;
Barneget at Sunset,
3rd – Lillian Fulde;
Sandy Hook Lighthouse
Honorable Mentions:
Mark Fletcher;
Reflections of Cape May.

**New Jersey Lights, 5X7 & Smaller:**
1st – Joan McCarty;
Bay View – East Point.
2nd – Mark Fletcher;
Barney’s Shadow,
2nd (Tie) – Frank McBride;
Reflections of The Hook,
3rd – Elinor A Veit;
Winter at Hereford

**Other Lights, Larger than 5X7:**
1st – Lillian Fulde;
Picturesque Lighthouse,
2nd – Bill Geiffuss;
Window with a View – Race Point,
3rd – Carolyn Ortiz;
Sunset at St. Joseph’s;
Honorable Mentions:
Ken Muench;
Old Statue of Liberty Light,
Mark Fletcher;
Jupiter at Night.

**Other Lights, 5X7 & Smaller:**
1st – Mike Boucher;
Point Cabrillo in the Fog,

2nd – Ken Muench;
Marblehead, Ohio,
3rd (Tie) – Tom Wade;
Old Macinack Point
3rd (Tie) – Mike Boucher;
Umpqua River at Night,
Honorable Mentions;
Nancy Spout;
Wisconsin Point
Elinor A. Veit;
Roanoke on the River.

Congratulations to the winners! The level of competition seems to go up every year and, as I said before, the choosin’ was tough!

Those who finished first or second are now entered into the Winner’s Circle. Those people in the Winner’s Circle will be notified by mail in early January.

Special thanks to the folks who took charge of the individual categories. Sam Bangs, Carol Naill, Judy McCann, Katie Moser, Bill Geiffuss, Steve and Judy Swiencki, Mike Smith, Trish Wyllupek and Loretta Wilkins, Thank You All. If I missed someone, please let me know; I hate it when I do that!

Thanks also to the Audubon Park 4th of July Committee for the great luncheon. We should buy them one of those trucks to follow us around with.

Al Smith

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**RHODE ISLAND TRIP**

The Rhode Island trip is a go. If you signed up for it and have not received an agenda, please contact Betty at 856-546-7810 or e-mail bjks313@juno.com or Cindy at 908-281-6879 or e-mail cindymitzen@rcn.com. We are still looking for gifts to be auctioned off at the dinner, so if anyone has any, please bring it to the June meeting and give it to Betty or Cindy. If anyone else is still interested, please give Betty or Cindy a call and we will see what we can do about getting you on the trip.

Betty Smith
Myron L. Powell School

NJLHS received this letter and photograph form Rita Robb, a teacher of the Fourth Grade Gifted and Talented Class at the Myron L. Powell School in Cedarville, NJ 08311

Dear Lighthouse Society:

First I would like to tell you that I have always held a fascination for lighthouses. I appreciate their historical value, and the countless number of stories that go untold, and remain contained within their walls.

During the summer, I found a pamphlet about the Lighthouse Challenge. I was very excited and made plans to keep that weekend open.

I decided to use the Lighthouse Challenge as an activity for my fourth grade students. We made posters with pamphlets about the Challenge to inform the students and staff in our school about it. Then we researched lighthouses on the Internet. We also read a few stories about lighthouse caretakers. The culmination of our project was to make our own lighthouse out of paper mache. We were able to display it for an evening activity at our school. And we have received many compliments about it.

I am enclosing a picture of our lighthouse for you. I hope you enjoy it. Can you guess what actual lighthouse it resembles?

Thank you for all that you do to preserve the beauty and history of these remarkable structures. I thoroughly enjoyed the Lighthouse Challenge and look forward to going again this year!

SANDY HOOK KEEPER’S HOUSE

UNDERGOES RENOVATION

December 15, 2002 is the ‘end of an era’ for many of us. Yes, it’s a short era but a pleasant one. ‘Our’ house will no longer be the same warm, cozy space we have come to know and love (or hate, or both!).

The Sandy Hook Foundation has undertaken a COMPLETE renovation of the Keeper’s House that will turn the north side into an exhibit space to be used to highlight the Lighthouses of New Jersey and New York harbor areas with the possibility of traveling exhibits to be provided by other area lighthouse groups. The kitchens will be opened through to provide additional exhibit/meeting space. NJLHS will still maintain a gift shop/sign-up area in the south side living room while the middle room is slated, at present, to be a ‘break room’ for the volunteers. The current pantries will become handicapped accessible bathrooms. There will also be a lift on the north porch to allow for handicapped access to the house itself.

The second floor will become office space for The Foundation. NJLHS will have one room as an office with two for The Foundation and the fourth room being a conference room. A powder room will replace one bathroom with the balance of that space being The Foundation’s copy room. The other bathroom will have the tub removed and a shower installed in its place.

The current plan calls for two small bedrooms on the south side of the 3rd floor with the two giant closets that straddle the center wall being turned into a bathroom accessible from the north side that will be turned into one ‘suite’ suitable for guests of The Foundation, NPS, etc. ‘Southsiders’ will use the 2nd floor bathroom when the suite is occupied.

While these renovations are ongoing NJLHS members will use the firehouse across the street as a base for tours and our gift shop. The Foundation has undertaken a modest renovation of that space and has added a bathroom, ‘mini’-kitchen and HEAT.

Estimates for completion of the work in the Keeper’s House range into spring of 2004 with a fervent hope of the volunteers that it be available by Fort Hancock Day in October 2003 (sooner if possible, we miss ‘our’ house already!)

NJLHS will ‘partner’ with the NPS and the Foundation to plan, execute and fund exhibits in the Keeper’s House.

We hope our members will come out and see the new ‘digs’ when they are completed.

Al Smith
A Message from Membership...
(Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair; email address: NJLHSMemberchair@aol.com)

Meeting Attendees:
There were 157 people signed-in at the meeting in Audubon Park in March. 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 = 383
- Family memberships = 311 x 2 = 622
- Total members = 1,005

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

Gail Choborda
Sara & Kevin Cureton & Family
Hank Farish
Greg Fitzgerald
Richard & Georgiana Flandra
Rosa Gage
Mike & Lora Gottlieb
Jeannette Graham
Margaret & Robert Graham
Sheila Hines
Mark Jabin
Ann L. Kiker
Annette Lacies
Mary Jane Lanuto
Brian K. Mackey
Elsie Mitchell
Anita E. Norris
Lisa Shahla
Joe & Toni Shaw
Stanley & Irene Sidiwski
Richard & Laurie Williams
Barbara Witucki
Toms River, NJ
Medford, NJ
Millville, NJ
Warren, NJ
Hawthorne, NJ
Hazlet, NJ
Toms River, NJ
Red Bank, NJ
Manahawkin, NJ
Riverport, NJ
Brooklyn, NY
Tall Timbers, MD
Northfield, NJ
Port Monmouth, NJ
Waldwick, NJ
Eddystone, PA
Wharton, NJ
Brick, NJ
Dundalk, MD
Edison, NJ
Red Bank, NJ
Arlington, VA

FRESH FACE FOR “OLD BARNEY”
Story and photo by Rosemary Dixon

My favorite lighthouse is Barneget. At night I can see the beacon’s light clearly from my house. During the day I can see the tower, but at ten miles away it is wee tiny. In the summer I go over there with my little boat, getting lunch for me at the Inlet Deli and fuel for the boat at Bobbie’s Boat Rentals (also a little swimming).

At a recent visit to the Barneget Lighthouse I was surprised to see the area fenced off and scaffolding surrounding the tower. Signs indicate that a State of New Jersey project entitled “Exterior painting of Lighthouse” is now underway.

In a conversation with a park staff member who has served at the lighthouse for twenty years, I was told that completion of the painting project is expected by August 2003. The grillwork from the top has been removed and will be re-welded. She also said that the slight tilt of the lighthouse has been periodically measured and is unchanged.

Work on the new Visitor Center is ongoing, with floors and cabinets being installed by the park service staff. Barneget State Park is so nice, in addition to the Lighthouse with such gorgeous views, it has picnic tables with a small pavilion, a fishermen’s walkway along the inlet, and of course the Beach and nature trail with many interesting birds. The new Visitor Center will be a wonderful and educational asset to the Park.
PROGRAM SIGNALS
By: Yvonne Miller

JUNE 21, 2003
ANNIVERSARY MEETING:
Stony Point Battlefield and Historical Park, Stony Point, NY

The 2003 Anniversary Picnic Meeting will be held at the Park under a tent facing the Hudson River with the lighthouse right next to us. Please THINK or pray for a beautiful day. Arrangements were made to seat 200 members. A walking tour of the Coast Guard Station will begin after the meeting adjourns. REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH. The usual lemonade, ice tea and watermelon will be provided. Because of the traveling, there will not be an anniversary cake this year. However, we will be needing cakes or pastries for hospitality as Betty Smith will be on vacation. If anyone could bring something or would like to help out with hospitality that day, please contact Connie at 609 953 0832. Extra cakes and goodies, etc., will be used for the picnic also. Anyone who would like to bring something else to share at the Picnic please feel free to do so. There is no refrigeration so please plan accordingly.

Parking is limited to 50-60 cars and doubling up to go to the Park is recommended. Vans will provide transportation up the hill to the meeting area for those not able to make the walk. A handicapped bathroom is in the museum building besides the facilities in the Comfort Station.

Hospitality 10:30am
Meeting call to order 11:00am
Adjournment 12.15pm (about)

Our guest speakers will be Julia Warger, Stony Point Park Manager & President of the Hudson River Coalition and Jim Crowley, volunteer, friend and supporter of The Hudson River Lighthouse Coalition and noted author.

Tours of the Stony Point Lighthouse and Coast Guard Station will follow.

Directions to the park:

Palisades Parkway and Tappan Zee Bridge:
Take the Palisades Parkway north to exit 15. Turn left on Rte 106 east to Rte 9W. Turn left through the Village of Stony Point and turn right on Park Road.

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge:
Take Rte. 9W south to the Bear Mountain Bridge Circle. Continue south on Rte 9W approx. 9 miles and turn left on Park Road.

NY State Thruway, southbound:
Take exit 16, Harriman, to Rte. 6 east, then south on Palisades Pkwy to exit 15. Follow directions above.

HOTEL AND MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:
The AAA New York Tour Book lists several hotels/motels in the Nanuet and Nyack, NY areas south of Stony Point. If anyone has further information on accommodations please email me at ymm615@hotmail.com. I will add them to the list as I receive information.

FALL MEETING:
The NJLHS fall meeting will be held on September 27, 2003 at the Pennsville High School Cafeteria on Route 49 in Pennsville. The high school is on Route 49 which will make it easy to find. We will be able to visit the nearby Finns Point Lighthouse and Fort Mott State Park. Nominations will be held at this meeting.

The T-shirt/Sweatshirt Contest will be held at this meeting. Categories for the contest this year will be: Best New Jersey Lighthouse Shirt; Farthest Lighthouse Shirt; Best Lighthouse Shirt (this could be a people's choice event); Ugliest Lighthouse Shirt.

The NJLHS Winter meeting will be held on December 6, 2003. Arrangements have been made to visit the Absecon Lighthouse for the Holiday Social and climbing of the light, etc. We will plan on doing a Christmas Tree decorating at this meeting also, so keep a lookout for Lighthouse Christmas Tree ornaments during your travels this year. This will be a great opportunity to do some lighthouse Christmas shopping. Details on the actual meeting place will be available at a later date. Keep checking the website and final arrangements will be in the Fall issue of the Beam.