



CHESAPEAKE LIGHTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER, U.S. LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

Herb Entwistle, Founding Chapter President, 1989-1997

Maryland Lighthouse Challenge

Celebrating 20 Years!

Special Edition No. 7 - 2009

Happy Birthday, Maryland!!!

by Tony Pasek

Welcome to the 7th annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. 2009 marks an important year for the “Old Line State”, the Chesapeake Chapter and the United States Lighthouse Society. This year we celebrate the 375th birthday of the state of Maryland; commemorating the March, 1634 landing of 140 English colonists aboard the *Ark* and the *Dove* on St. Clement’s Island, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chapter in Herb and Barbara Entwistle’s Vienna, VA home, and the 25th anniversary of our parent organization by ex-Coastie Wayne Wheeler in San Francisco, CA. To join in Maryland’s year-long, statewide celebration, the Chapter’s Lighthouse Challenge has focused on 12 of the 23 “state symbols”, matching them with a participating lighthouse and the two “bonus” beacons. Here, as sequenced in the 2009 Challenge brochure, starting in the northern portion of the Bay, are the Maryland Challenge Lighthouses and the 7th state’s symbolic “partner”.



Turkey Point Lighthouse – the state exercise – Walking. Choosing an appropriate state symbol for one of the most remote land-based Bay lighthouses was easy. The 0.8 mile hike to the 1833 lighthouse requires good walking shoes and an energetic spirit. Selected on October 1, 2008, Maryland became the first state in the nation to designate a state exercise. Certainly, the long walks Fannie Mae (sometimes spelled “May”) Salter made during her 22+ years of service as Turkey Point Lighthouse Keeper contributed to her sustained health and long-lasting vitality.

Concord Point Lighthouse – the state feline – the Calico Cat. Imagine this colorful feline curled up near John O’Neill’s fireplace on a cold winter’s night. Nearly all Chesapeake Bay lighthouse keepers had pets and the female Calico was considered an efficient “mouser”. The Calico cat bears three- white, red or cream, and black - of the four colors on the Maryland state flag and was selected as the state cat in 2001. As you visit the Keeper’s quarters, just west of the 1827 conical lighthouse, stop & say hello to Challenge site coordinator **Kitty** Price and her team of volunteers.



Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse – the state bird – the Baltimore Oriole. This state symbol does “double duty” at the “red tuna can” – appealing to both baseball fans and bird enthusiasts alike and was designated a state symbol in 1947. Just a few blocks west of the 1855 cast-iron cylindrical screwpile lighthouse lies Camden Yards, the home of the American League baseball team – the Baltimore Orioles. The team was named after the black and orange or gold songbird whose colors match the Lord Baltimore’s coat of arms. The oriole builds sturdy nests that withstand severe weather – very much like the durable Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse that stood on the mouth of the Patapsco River for nearly 133 years and survived ice floes, powerful wakes and strong winds.

Chesapeake Lightship – the state insect – the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly. The Checkerspot was designated the state insect in 1973 and with orange and white spots on a black base is one of the most colorful insects in the Chesapeake Bay region. Like its vanishing wet-meadow habitat – the era of “floating lighthouses” is slowly disappearing. Less than 20 of these historic navigational vessels remain in the United States. Many have found permanent homes in maritime museums. When you see a Checkerspot or the 1930 *Chesapeake* Lightship, you’ve seen a true Maryland treasure.



Hooper Strait Lighthouse – the state boat – the Skipjack. On the grounds of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, stand two enduring nautical symbols of Maryland – the 1879 Hooper Strait screwpile lighthouse and the last commercial sailing vessel left in the United States – the Skipjack. Developed in the 1890s and designed specifically for dredging the vast supply of Bay oysters, two skipjacks can be found in the museum’s “Floating Fleet” – the *Rosie Parks*, built in 1955 and the *E. C. Collier*, built in 1910. Designated the state boat in 1985 and the only vessel approved for oyster harvesting in Maryland, the skipjack was named after fish that leap in and out of water. Perhaps you sailed on the skipjack *H. M. Krentz*, owned by Captain Ed Farley during the “early bird special” on Friday.

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Glimmerings

by Robert Holland

The dog days of summer are now behind us and we all have the Fall to look forward to. It also means it is time again for our annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. Few people realize how much volunteer time and effort goes into making this event successful year after year. I would like to thank each and every one of those dedicated volunteers, especially Karen Rosage and the Challenge Committee, and everyone else from the site coordinators to each of you who volunteer your time at the participating sites to make sure all the participants are well informed and enjoy their time visiting the Lights. A special thanks also for our many sponsors.



The Chapter also depends on members for our preservation projects. Typically this is a core group however it would be nice to see some new faces at these workdays. You do not need to be an expert to participate; just possess the desire to help maintain these wonderful treasures for our future generations. If you think you might be interested please contact the preservation coordinator or check the web site for upcoming opportunities.

Now that Hooper Island Lighthouse is officially ours you will be hearing more about restoration plans and future volunteer events. There are several issues that have to be addressed before we start wholesale cleanup of this very special beacon. The Web Site is under construction and is actually up and running. Our Web Master, Sandra Sableski, has developed a great site to provide information to you.

Finally I would like to thank You, our members, because without you there would not be a Chesapeake Chapter and we would not be able to enjoy the Lights which participate in the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge or the many other lights in our region which we all know and love. Thanks for your continued support and I look forward to seeing many of you during the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge.

The Maryland Lighthouse Challenge – Creating Maryland memories...one lighthouse at a time!

Greetings 2009 Challengers and welcome to our 7th Annual event. This is a *very* special year for our Chapter, our parent organization and the state of Maryland, as you will read in our cover story by Tony Pasek.

Whether you are visiting just one or two, or go on to visit *all* of the lighthouse attractions along the Challenge route, and whether you are a Maryland resident or have come from afar, we hope that you will create enduring memories that won't soon be forgotten.

This premier lighthouse event will take you to the state's largest city – Baltimore, to an area in close proximity to its capital - Annapolis, and to its very birthplace - St. Clement's Island. From the northern tip of the Chesapeake Bay, to its eastern and western shores, and along its tributary, the Potomac, discover why this region of the country is so *appropriately* dubbed "The Land of Pleasant Living!"

To commemorate Maryland's 375th Birthday, we will be celebrating one of the state's iconic symbols at each Challenge stop along the route—the Blue Crab, Baltimore Oriole, Chesapeake Bay Retriever and Black-eyed Susan most notable among them. Discover why these and the other "colorful" iconic characters help to make Maryland the diverse and beautiful state that it is.



Along the route, keep your eye out for special Maryland-themed giveaways, and take the time to chat with our enthusiastic Chapter volunteers who will be at each light to greet you (excluding the Bonus Lights). If your weekend itinerary includes a visit to the Calvert Marine Museum, stop by and meet our new Chapter President – Robert Holland. Robert will be happy to chat with you about our Chapter

and its many and varied endeavors as we move into this, our third decade of helping to preserve our *treasured* Chesapeake Bay Beacons.

As you visit each light this weekend, take a moment to think about the words of George Bernard Shaw, who once wrote... *"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve. They weren't built for any other purpose."*

We are *very* proud of our lighthouses here in the state of Maryland and of our Chapter's efforts to help preserve them. The lights remain steadfast reminders of days gone by and of their vital role in the state's rich maritime heritage. For your viewing pleasure, they just happen to be perched at some of the most scenic spots statewide, making for some amazing photo opportunities.

We are honored to be sharing these historic structures with you. *...Enjoy!*
The 2009 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge Committee



Drum Point Lighthouse – the state dog – the Chesapeake Bay Retriever. The Retriever was designated the state dog in 1964 and is one of only a few breeds actually bred in the United States. Retrievers are excellent hunters and with webbed paws and a waterproof coat make superb swimmers. The loyal and intelligent canines often plunge into freezing waters to retrieve fallen ducks and require skill and stamina. Certainly great strength and dedication was required of the keepers of the 1883 Drum Point Lighthouse – managing an off-shore lighthouse in severe winter conditions and providing an unwavering beam to mariners. This unique state symbol can often be seen at Calvert Marine Museum events, promoting Bay heritage, courtesy of a lighthouse keepers’ descendant, Loch Weems.

Cove Point Lighthouse – the state fossil – the *Ecphora*. Just north of this 1828 John Donahoo lighthouse are the Calvert Cliffs – a state park famous for its fossils. Ancient shark teeth and other prehistoric “remnants” are found in abundance here. The *Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae* (Wilson), an extinct russet-colored snail, inhabited the Chesapeake Bay and other East coast tidal waters in the Miocene era, some three million years ago. Specimens have been recovered from the cliffs and Chancellor Point in St. Mary’s County. Having the oldest still-active Maryland lighthouse matched with a “neighborly” ancient fossil was a most appropriate choice. The *Ecphora*, identified by its protruding carapace was named the state fossil in 1994.



Point Lookout Lighthouse – the Maryland state flag. Adopted in 1904, though flown for the first time in Baltimore in 1880, Maryland’s state flag is unique among state banners. Divided into four quarters, the black and gold quarter represents the Calvert family coat of arms; the red & white quarters represent the Crossland family. Recently, a flagpole restored by Chapter volunteers was raised on the Bay side of the 1830 Point Lookout Lighthouse. With the lighthouse grounds now under state jurisdiction, the Maryland flag was flown for the first time on July 11, 2009. This flag will be the first banner to greet northbound boaters as they navigate the Bay.

Piney Point Lighthouse – the state crustacean – the Maryland Blue Crab. The abundant and delectable blue crab was named the state crustacean in 1989. Because of the Bay’s varying degrees of salinity and shallowness, the blue crab thrives in Chesapeake waters, including the Potomac River, home of John Donahoo’s short 35 foot tall tower dubbed “the Lighthouse of Presidents”. Imagine Presidents James Monroe, Franklin Pierce and Teddy Roosevelt dining on the blue crab while vacationing near the 1836 lighthouse. Blue crab meat is often compared to the sweetness of lobsters and its scientific name translates to “beautiful swimmer that is savory”. Certainly, the blue crab is a meal fit for royalty.....and American presidents.



Fort Washington – the state tree – the White Oak. The White Oak was declared the state tree in 1941. On June 6, 2002, the largest white oak in the United States was toppled by powerful thunderstorms in the town of Wye Mills, MD. On April 26th of the same year, an infant white oak, cloned from the original, was planted on the grounds of President George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate. Because of its close proximity to our first President’s home across the Potomac River and just south of the recently refurbished light tower, and the numerous trees in the National Park site, the white oak was selected as the state symbol to the 1882 pyramidal wooden fog bell/light tower. Note that wood from the destroyed tree was used to build a new desk for the Maryland governor’s office.

Bonus Lights –

Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse – the state fish – the Maryland Rockfish. The 1883 caisson-style Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse is the only Challenge or Bonus Lighthouse that’s surrounded completely by water and known to be a favorite fishing spot. The Rockfish or Striped Bass was designated the state fish in 1965. Known for its large size and fighting ability, the rockfish is a true fisherman’s challenge to catch and is considered one of the best tasting seafood from the Chesapeake Bay.



Blackstone Replica – the state flower – the Black-Eyed Susan. These perennial daisies or cornflowers are members of the sunflower family and can be found in fields and on roadsides and have been the official Maryland state flower since 1918. Though their blooming period usually ends in August, look for these yellow and sometimes orange flowers with dark-brown spherical centers on Maryland’s Birthplace - St. Clement’s Island - or near the 2008 replica integral-style lighthouse.

As you visit the Challenge sites, look for the special “state symbol” display at each participating venue. Some sites will have a special “state symbol” giveaway, in addition to this year’s Challenge souvenir. All sites will also have copies of updated timelines unique to their lighthouse. Enjoy reading about the lighthouse you’ve just visited. If you’re not a member of the Chapter or the Society, Chapter and USLHS membership applications will be available. The Challenge weekend is a great time to join a very active lighthouse organization, dedicated to preserve these treasured symbols of the Chesapeake Bay. **Happy Birthday, Maryland!** May the “Free State” enjoy another 375 years of important history and lasting memories!

State Symbols courtesy of Maryland Office of Tourism