



CHESAPEAKE LIGHTS

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

Herb Entwistle, Founding Chapter President, 1989–1997

Maryland Lighthouse Challenge

Special Edition No. 8 – 2011

“Reading Lights the Way!”

by Tony Pasek

Greetings 2011 Maryland Lighthouse Challengers! One of the most valuable skills a person acquires is the ability to read. Like a coastal lighthouse beam penetrating the night sky, reading stretches knowledge far and wide. During long and often lonely days and nights, a favorite pastime of many lighthouse and lightship keepers was reading. In 1876, the U.S. Lighthouse Service began a system of rotating libraries to provide keepers and their families with a steady source of reading enjoyment. These traveling libraries were contained in a portable and durable wooden cabinet and consisted of approximately 40 to 50 books, usually a variety of history, fiction, poetry, scientific works and always, a bible. A library was left at a station for about three months. Then it was exchanged and passed on to another post. Light stations continued to receive these “moving libraries” until approximately 1915, though some provided entertainment through the Coast Guard era, until the stations were unmanned.

As you travel the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge route this weekend as listed in the Challenge brochure, we suggest the following books for your reading pleasure. Some titles can be found on the web, bookstores or your local libraries.

Turkey Point Lighthouse – *Guardians of the Lights – Story of the U.S. Lighthouse Keepers* by Elinor DeWire. Read about the last civilian lighthouse keeper – Fanny Mae (often spelled “May”) Salter, who served at the 1833 tower from 1925 until 1947. Turkey Point lighthouse had more women keepers than any other lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. Read about Fanny Mae in the “Keepers in Skirts” chapter.



Concord Point Lighthouse – *Lighting the Bay – Tales of the Chesapeake Lighthouses* by Pat Vojtech. There’s a good amount of information about this conical tower built in 1827 and the story of first keeper John O’Neill and the War of 1812 in Ms. Vojtech’s first Chapter – “Good Builder, Bad Light”. Also, the “List of Lighthouses, Lightships and Tenders” in the appendix offers a capsule history of former and current Bay navigational aids.



Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse – *Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses – Hudson River to Chesapeake Bay* by Bruce Roberts and Ray Jones. In the chapter “Lights of the Big Bay – Delaware and Maryland” read about the oldest (1855) surviving example of the Chesapeake’s screw-piles and Thomas Steinhise (sometimes spelled “Steinheise”), a keeper who rescued five of six crewmen from the tug, *Point Breeze*.



Chesapeake Lightship – a natural recommendation – *Lightships: Floating Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic Coast* by Wayne Kirklin. In this very comprehensive book on lightships, Mr. Kirklin chronicles the 85 ships that protected the Mid-Atlantic coast from the New York harbor to Cape Fear, NC. Learn more about the 1930 lightship that is now anchored in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.



Hooper Strait Lighthouse – *From a Lighthouse Window: Recipes and Recollections from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum* by Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. This book provides information on the 1879 screw-pile lighthouse, the museum and their historic floating fleet.



Drum Point Lighthouse – *Keep Your Glow On: A Comprehensive Guide to America’s Lighthouses* by Wendy Brewer. The new and unique reference guide has details on all 822 lighthouses (including the Drum Point Lighthouse)

see *Reading Lights the Way!* on page 4



Dave and Karen Rosage discovered this USLHS Traveling Library display at the White River Light Station Museum in Whitehall during their 2009 lighthouse excursion to Southwest Michigan.

Photo by Karen Rosage

CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER U.S. LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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410.548.1783
email: president@cheslights.org

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online: cheslights.org/keepersloft.htm
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email: secretary@cheslights.org

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410.796.1924
email: ampuppa@verizon.net

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MD Challenge Coordinator

David Rosage (Oct. 08–Oct. 11)

Publicity Coordinator

410.437.0741
email: dkrosage@comcast.net

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703.490.4371

email: distahf@aol.com

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Membership

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email: membership@cheslights.org

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301.698.9016
email: education@cheslights.org

Bob Zobot (Mar.11–Mar.14)

Webmaster

757.460.5333
email: webmaster@cheslights.org

* Advisory Board Member

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Send Chapter correspondence to:
P.O. Box 1270
Annandale, VA 22003–1270,
and membership information to
Membership Director,
at the address given above.

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Individual membership in the
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In Appreciation

We would like to thank Barry and Nancy Gibson (forgetmenotfactory.com) and Harbour Lights (harbourlights.com) for their generous donation of door prizes and to gratefully acknowledge our 2011 event sponsors and special guests.

Sponsors:



St. Clement's Hundred



Baltimore



Special Guests:

Artist

Donna Elias (donnaelias.com)

Authors

Wendy Brewer, Myrna Cherrix,
J. Candace and Mary Louise Clifford
(www.MaryLouiseClifford.com and
www.lighthousehistory.info)
and Cathy Taylor
(www.craighillrange.org)

Photographers

Bill Conway
(www.flickr.com/photos/bill_conway)
and Harry Fahl
(www.goosefeathersphotography.com)

Glimmerings

by Paula and Lauren Liebrecht

It is September ... are you ready for the Challenge ... the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge? The challenge allows you the opportunity to visit ten lights and two bonus lights.

While participating in the Challenge we hope you take the opportunity to talk with our Chapter Challenge volunteers and learn about what the Chapter does.

Chapter members participate in preservation projects, such as the *Chesapeake* Lightship, Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, and Hooper Island Light, and publicity events, such as the Point Lookout Lighthouse Open House, Piney Point Waterfront



Celebration, Patuxent River Appreciation Days, and Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. If you are interested in volunteering at either preservation projects or publicity events, please contact the Vice President for Preservation at preservation@cheslights.org or the Publicity Coordinator at publicity@cheslights.org. The best part of volunteering with the Chapter is the fun you will have meeting folks from around the beautiful state of Maryland and the country who share your "love of the lights!" Thanks to all the people who do volunteer work for the Chapter. You help to make it the great organization that it is.

If you are up to another Challenge, the Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey will be taking place October 15 – 16, 2011. This Challenge allows you the opportunity to visit 11 land-based lighthouses, two museums, and two life-saving stations in New Jersey.

Whether you travel the entire Challenge route or just part of it, we hope you have a great time visiting the lighthouses and seeing the beautiful scenery that Maryland has to offer.

The Maryland Lighthouse Challenge ... Creating Maryland Memories, *one lighthouse at a time!*

WELCOME to the 2011 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge – “Reading Lights the Way!”

We hope that you enjoy Maryland’s lighthouses this weekend whether you visit just one or two, or travel around the Bay to visit them all. Aside from providing the perfect photo opportunity, each lighthouse along the route has a story to tell, and this weekend, *we* intend to tell them!

To celebrate our reading theme – we have chosen specially-designed bookmarks as this year’s commemorative souvenirs. At the bottom of each, you will see our recommendation of a good lighthouse “read”. There have been many great books written about the Chesapeake Bay–area beacons and lighthouses in general. We hope the Challenge will inspire you to enjoy some of them and learn as much as you can about lighthouses.

As you visit this year’s Challenge Lights, take a moment to think about the remarkable men and women who steadfastly stood watch over them, and the hardship they must have endured in doing so – some at very remote locations. *Their* diligence ensured safe passage to mariners along the Chesapeake and its winding tributaries. Take note of the architecture – which lighthouses are similar; which are *quite* unique. Think about the importance of these structures in the bygone era when commerce was dependent mostly upon waterways, rather than today’s super highways.

The Challenge Lights are a magnificent grouping of sentinels, each steeped in history. By helping to preserve *them*; the other Chesapeake Bay Beacons; and the history that surrounds them, their legacy of light and safe harbor will be kept alive for future generations to appreciate. That is the goal of our Chapter, and the reason we host this educational and fun-filled event.

ENJOY your journey this weekend and remember—Reading “lights” the way!



In Memoriam

by Karen Rosage

This year’s Maryland Lighthouse Challenge is being dedicated to a “guiding light”, Mr. Dean Rice, President of Turkey Point Light Station, Inc. who crossed the bar on July 6. Dean was a great champion of the Turkey Point Lighthouse and of the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. Dean was a teacher by vocation. In his later years, he continued to teach and inspire friends and colleagues alike through his commitment to community service. Nowhere was this more exemplified than in his dedication and hard work at Turkey Point, which truly earned him the title “keeper of the light”. It is with profound sadness and with *a tip of the keeper’s hat* that we bid this unforgettable man farewell and thank him for his many years of service. Be sure to take a moment to remember Dean as you visit the Turkey Point Lighthouse that he so loved.

They say that it is not what you take with you, but what you leave behind. ... Each night the guiding light continues to shine brightly at Turkey Point shall serve to remind those of us who knew Dean that his legacy lives on!



Reading *Lights the Way!* from page 1



in the United States, including architectural type, when it was first lit, height, focal plane, body of water served, current lens status and nearest town. Also, information is included on how to volunteer to work with and help save America's treasured icons. Please stop by and say "hello" to special guest Wendy Brewer this weekend when you visit the restored screwpile built in 1883.

Cove Point Lighthouse – *Ghostly Beacons: Haunted Lighthouses of North America* by Therese Lanigan-Schmidt. Recommended by Maureen Baughman of the Calvert Marine Museum gift shop. Travel around the coasts of the United States, from the oceans to the Great Lakes and feel the goose bumps while reading about mysterious deaths, murders, and restless spirits at many haunted beacons.



Piney Point Lighthouse – *Women Who Kept the Lights: An Illustrated History of Female Lighthouse Keepers* by Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford. The authors provide a nostalgic look at America's female lighthouse keepers, including Fannie Mae Salter of Turkey Point Lighthouse. A complete listing of keepers in the appendix reveals there were three female keepers at the 1836 Piney Point Lighthouse. Please stop by and say "hello" to our special guests, Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford. The Cliffords will be at the lighthouse on Sunday, September 18 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.



Point Lookout Lighthouse – *Maryland Lighthouses – Images of America* by Cathy Taylor. Written by the founder of the Historical Place Preservation and custodian of the Craighill Channel Lower Front Range Light, read about the history of Point Lookout Lighthouse and many Maryland beacons. Stop by and say "hello" to guest authors Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford who will be at the lighthouse on Saturday, September 17 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Ms. Taylor on both weekend dates.



Fort Washington Light – *Bay Beacons – Lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay* by Linda Turbyville. Read about the history of the 1882 bell tower and its conversion to a (still) temporary lighthouse (1901) in this book, loaded with color photos and valuable information on existing Potomac River and Bay sentinels. A revered and oft-referenced lighthouse book with many Chapter members. Ms. Turbyville's "Bay Beacons" map on page 1 is a popular handout during Chapter public relations events.

Bonus Lights –

Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse – *The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake* by Robert de Gast. This classic book with many black and white photos contains historical information on past & present Chesapeake sentinels, including the 1883 caisson tower. Read about the 42 beacons that are "gone, but not forgotten".



Blackistone Replica – *Forgotten Beacons – The Lost Lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay* by Patrick Hornberger and Linda Turbyville. On the cover of this educational book is a photo of the original lighthouse built on St. Clement's Island in 1851. Inside are maps, black and white archival photos and informative stories on many Chesapeake Bay lights, including the Blackistone Island beacon in the chapter "Lost Lighthouses and Lightships – 1850 to 1870". Also, read about the many screwpiles that existed on Maryland and Virginia waters.

Completer – To round out your Challenge adventure, read the U.S. Lighthouse Society's *Keeper's Log*, a quarterly magazine for information on international and domestic beacons or the Chapter's own *Chesapeake Lights*. Both offer historical and fascinating stories on lighthouses. Both complement your Challenge adventure.

Lighthouse photos by Bill Conway www.flickr.com/photos/bill_conway

Bonus Cruise – *Lighthouses of Maryland and Virginia – History, Mystery, Legends and Lore* by Bob Trapani, Jr. Read three intriguing stories of the six lighthouses seen on this bonus cruise. Learn about the ghostly apparitions at Point Lookout Lighthouse, the near-tragedy at Holland Island Bar Light and the termite invaders at the off-shore Smith Point Lighthouse; just a few of 19 fascinating tales by Mr. Trapani.

The Bonus Cruise lights include:



Hooper Island



Holland Island Bar



Solomon's Lump



Smith Point



Pt. Lookout



Point No Point

Bonus Cruise lighthouse photos by Alma Pasek

Look for respective copies of these books on display at each Challenge site when you ask for your souvenir bookmark. Also, please consider joining the Chesapeake Chapter – membership brochures are available from the volunteers – it's a great way to experience the story behind each Challenge lighthouse, up close. Reading is a skill that remains important whether you are 3 or 103. So, grab a book – it's a great way to learn about lighthouses, their keepers, their families and their history. It's a lasting and valuable hobby that brings rewards of the "First Order".

Be sure to visit our website at cheslights.org or "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cheslights