

The Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society



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<http://cheslights.org/about-page/membership/>

The U.S. Lighthouse Society (USLHS) was founded in 1983, by Wayne Wheeler, a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer. The Chesapeake Chapter is a chapter of the Society, founded in 1989 by Herb Entwistle. We are a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization, and the largest Chapter in the Society. We have approximately 400 members, predominantly from Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There are three additional Chapters in the USLHS.

The Chesapeake Chapter focuses on implementing the U.S. Lighthouse Society's goals of restoration and preservation of America's lighthouses in the Chesapeake Bay area, particularly with regard to the lighthouses and lightships of Virginia, Maryland and lower portion of Delaware.

In 2004, the United States Lighthouse Society and its Chesapeake Chapter entered in a public-private partnership with The City of Annapolis, the Annapolis Maritime Museum, and Anne Arundel County to obtain ownership of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse. Under our partnership agreements, the City of Annapolis is the lighthouse owner; the United States Lighthouse Society and its Chesapeake Chapter are the lighthouse managers, leasing the structure from the City for all aspects of preservation and operations; the Annapolis Maritime Museum is the primary shore-based component, housing lighthouse exhibits and being the point of departure for public tours; and Anne Arundel County provides preservation and environmental expertise. <http://www.thomaspointlighthouse.org/>

In the spring of 2007 the U.S. Lighthouse Society responded to the National Park Service application request for the transfer of the Hooper Island Lighthouse to a non-profit organization through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (NHLPA). On May 31, 2009 the organization received official notice that they had been awarded the lighthouse. Since then the Chapter has coordinated preservation efforts at the lighthouse. For more information, please see the website devoted to that project: www.hooperislandlighthouse.org/.

Our highly active Chapter is involved in many facets of preservation, restoration and education of the Bay area lights. Our activities include:

Trips and Cruises: Our Chapter offers members visits and cruises to land-based and offshore lights and other facilities. Through the cooperation of the U.S. Coast Guard and other organizations, many of our trips include access to lighthouses normally not available to the general public.

Contact: Vice President for Programs, email: programs@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/trips-and-cruises/>

Preservation: The Chapter started a volunteer program in 1997 to assist local organizations in the preservation and maintenance of Bay area lighthouses. Chapter volunteers participate in preservation activities at several of the lighthouses around the Chesapeake Bay. Each year there are scheduled events at Thomas Point Shoals Lighthouse, Hooper Island Lighthouse, the Chesapeake Lightship or Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse at the Historic Ships in Baltimore Museum, Drum Point and Cove Point Lighthouses at the Calvert Marine Museum, the Old Coast Guard Station on Assateague Island and when needed at the Fort Washington Light. Chapter volunteers also provide updates to the lighthouse histories on the Coast Guard Web Site.

Donations to the **Herb Entwistle Lighthouse Preservation (H.E.L.P.) Fund** (<http://www.cheslights.org/preservation/help-fund>) help finance the preservation activities.

Contact: Vice President for Preservation, email: preservation@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/preservation/>

Newsletter: Our quarterly newsletter, *CHESAPEAKE LIGHTS*, includes reports of past and future meetings, articles on area lights, member activities and profiles, and other items of interest to lighthouse enthusiasts.

Contact: Vice President for Publications, email: publications@cheslights.org
<http://cheslights.org/about-page/membership/newsletter/>

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E-News: As an exclusive benefit to Chapter members, the *CHESAPEAKE LIGHTS MONTHLY* is a monthly email-news brief that keeps members informed of the latest events in the Chapter and throughout the lighthouse community.

Contact: Communications Officer, email: communications@cheslights.org

Education: One function of the Chesapeake Chapter, U.S. Lighthouse Society is to educate and inform the general population about the lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay region. To that end, the Chesapeake Chapter:

- Provides a special web page "Cheslights Kids" aimed at the future generation of lighthouse preservationists. <http://cheslights.org/education/cheslights-kids/>
- Created a Scout patch program to educate scouts on the history of the lighthouses in the Bay area and the importance of preserving them. <http://cheslights.org/education/scout-patch-program/>
- Provides speakers, who can speak on a variety of topics as they relate to the lighthouses of the Chesapeake region, to any interested organization. Contact: Speakers, email: speakers@cheslights.org <http://cheslights.org/education/speakers-program/>

Contact: Education Coordinator, email: education@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/education/>

Internet Site: Our website annually provides 20,000 worldwide cyber visitors with information about our Chapter, activities and the latest information about the lighthouses in our area. You will also find links to other lighthouse organizations and websites.

Contact: Webmaster, email: webmaster@cheslights.org • <http://www.cheslights.org>

Publicity: The Chapter participates in lighthouse promotional events throughout the region. Volunteers staff our tables and promote Chapter activities. Annual events we have participated in include: Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) at the Calvert Marine Museum (October); Point Lookout Lighthouse Open Houses (April through November); and new this year, the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Maritime Festival in New Jersey.

Contact: Publicity Coordinator, email publicity@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/publicityopportunities/>

Maryland Lighthouse Challenge (9 lighthouses, 1 lightship, 2 days!): Celebrating its 9th year in 2013, the Challenge is a weekend-long event in which the general public is invited to visit the land-accessible lighthouses of Maryland.

Complimentary souvenirs are given at each participating lighthouse, with a special souvenir for visiting all. The Challenge Lights include Choptank River Replica, Concord Point, Seven Foot Knoll, the Chesapeake Lightship, Hooper Strait, Cove Point, Drum Point, Point Lookout, Piney Point and Fort Washington.

In 2004 the Challenge received a Governor's Tourism Industry Award for: The Best New or Improved Event. These awards are given annually to recognize excellence in the Maryland tourism industry.

Contact: Maryland Lighthouse Challenge Coordinator, email: challenge@cheslights.org

<http://cheslights.org/maryland-lighthouse-challenge/>

Chapter Merchandise (Keeper's Loft): The Chapter offers lighthouse enthusiasts with an exclusive collection of items for sale, including the exclusive Lost Lights patch series.

Contact: Loft Keeper, email: loftkeeper@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/keeper-loft-store/>

Chapter Historian and Archives: The Historian maintains the Chapter archives and responds to inquiries about the Chesapeake Bay area lighthouses and early keepers and their families. Archives include historical documents from the National Archives, as well as current literature about lighthouses and lighthouse artifacts, focusing primarily on the lights within and around the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Historian, email: historian@cheslights.org • <http://cheslights.org/our-heritage/>

40 + 3 Club: Forty lighthouses and three lightships encompass the Chapter's primary interest in Virginia, Maryland and in the lower portion of Delaware. Once a member of the Chapter has seen all the lights, they become a member of the club and receive a patch to honor their achievement.

<http://cheslights.org/about-page/membership/403-club/>

Advisory Board Members: A group of members that assist with their expertise as needed to support Chapter activities.

Contact: Advisory Board Members, email: advisory@cheslights.org

Last update: August 28, 2013