

The Artful Lighthouse Challenge...

The 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge

by Lauren & Paula Liebrecht and Karen Rosage

In the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge we are featuring the *artful look* (beauty) of the Challenge lights through souvenir artist trading card coins that feature original watercolors by artist Donna Elias. The trading card coins are beautiful and like the 2017 Challenge souvenir coasters they will definitely be a must add to your lighthouse collection.

Note: While we encourage you to visit any number of lighthouses this weekend, and in the order that best suits you, you may choose to follow our print directions in north to south order (or vice versa) along the Challenge route. Keep in mind that we added one new mandatory light this year...the Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse which was a bonus light in 2017. Please remember that bonus lights are optional and do not count toward event completion. Include the bonus lights in your itinerary as time allows.

If you've chosen to drive the route in the order the directions are presented (north to south), you will first come upon the **Concord Point Lighthouse** located on the Susquehanna River in



Havre de Grace. The freestanding conical tower lighthouse was constructed in 1827. The point marks the spot where the Susquehanna River meets the tidal flow of the Chesapeake Bay. The lighthouse is constructed of locally quarried Port Deposit granite, stands 36 feet tall, and is the second oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay, as well as the northernmost. It

was decommissioned in 1975 and currently serves as a private aid to navigation.

Situated along the route is **Millers Island Lighthouse**, officially known as Craighill Channel Lower Range Rear Light. Viewing this bonus light is optional.

This lighthouse was added to our Challenge in 2015 in an effort to present a skeletal lighthouse, a style not represented in past events. Constructed in 1873, Millers Island Lighthouse is one of a series of lights marking the Craighill Channel. Originally, a square keepers quarters was nestled at the base of the tower but was removed when the light was automated in 1938. The lighthouse, easily viewable from the pier at the Dock of the Bay Restaurant, remains an active aid to navigation.



You'll be motoring next into Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor and the **Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse** located on Pier V. Built in 1855, this unique barnyard red, cylindrical lighthouse is

constructed entirely of iron and measures 40 feet in diameter. It was the first screwpile structure to be built in Maryland and the second in the Chesapeake Bay, with the added distinction of being the only one of its kind. It was originally located at the mouth of the Patapsco River to warn mariners of dangerous shoals. Today, it stands on its own legs as part of *Historic Ships in Baltimore*.



Just a short walk from the lighthouse is the **Lightship Chesapeake**, within clear view of the world-class Baltimore Aquarium. Currently moored on Pier III, the Lightship *Chesapeake* is part of *Historic Ships in Baltimore*. The lightship was constructed by the Charleston's Drydock & Machine Company in 1930. In its day, there was a crew of 16, including the cook. The crewmen,



who served two-week stints, were charged with providing weather information, assisting with rescues, and warning of navigational hazards. The lightship measures 133 feet long with a 30 foot beam, and has a 375mm electric lens fitted on each masthead. Being a "mobile" lighthouse, the *Chesapeake* served numerous tours of duty in the mid-Atlantic and served as a harbor patrol vessel off Cape Cod during WWII, protecting the strategic port of Boston. She was decommissioned in January 1971 and in 1989 was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The next light along the route is **Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse** which is now a mandatory light for the Challenge.

The caisson-style beacon sits offshore at one of Maryland's most popular state parks and is representative of other caisson structures that sit out in the Chesapeake Bay. The Sandy Point State Park sits at the western terminus of the Bay Bridge near the city of Annapolis. Built in 1883 this lighthouse was electrified in 1929 and automated in 1963. The absence of keepers proved costly when in 1979 vandals broke into the lighthouse and maliciously destroyed its valuable Fresnel lens, after which an acrylic lens was installed. This three-story structure was sold at public auction to a private bidder in 2006 and is in the beginning stages of renovation. Sandy Point State Park is the location of the second outdoor historical placard designed and donated by the Chapter.



While passengers are enjoying the beautiful view, drivers will need to keep their eyes on the road as they exit the park back onto Route 50 and drive over the impressive 4.316-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge, which links Maryland's western and eastern shores.

Your next destination will be St. Michaels and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM). The crowning jewel of see **Artful Lighthouse Challenge** on page 4

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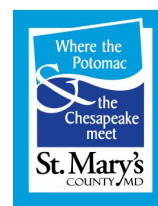
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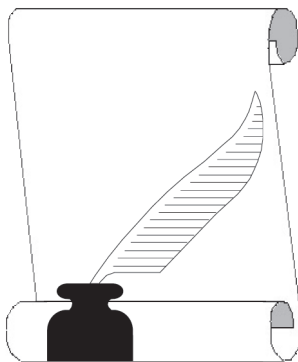
Glimmerings

by C. Talbott

Welcome to *The Artful Lighthouse Challenge*, the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge and the Chesapeake Chapter's 30th Anniversary! Whether you come from near or far you are in for a picturesque journey.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we partner with many lighthouse organizations across the state to showcase this diverse group of sentinels. As you travel to each destination, enjoy the scenery and remember: the journey is part of the fun! Be sure to follow all speed limits and posted road signage. We wouldn't want a traffic violation to spoil your adventure.

I have three short words of advice before you begin your adventure. *Learn*, have *fun*, and above all else, *enjoy*! There is so much to see and discover at these diverse scenic spots throughout Maryland. We hope the memories you make and the pictures you take will be treasured for years to come. We would love to see your travels along the Challenge route, so please tag us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook with **#artfullighthousechallenge**. We look forward to sharing our picturesque passion with you!



Welcome 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge Participants!

by C. Talbott

Welcome one and all to the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge! This year's event, put together by an ultra-dedicated team of volunteers, is certain to be enjoyed by all.

The Chesapeake Chapter's flagship event is the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, the primary purpose of which is to give everyone an opportunity to experience, learn about, and enjoy the enchanting history of Maryland's lighthouses. It will give you a chance to see firsthand how our volunteers have worked to preserve the history of Maryland's lighthouses and lightship.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Chapter's inception. To showcase some of the Chapter's accomplishments, please enjoy the educational screens stationed at lighthouses along the Challenge route.

As you travel throughout Maryland and visit the 12 staffed sites along the route, please take a few moments to chat with our wonderful volunteers. Many have worked at Chapter venues and lighthouses all up and down the east coast. They all have a strong passion for lighthouses and a wide breadth of experience and knowledge. Many of these volunteers donate extensive time to the Chapter by managing the Chapters' administration, communications, finances, grant program, and passport stamp program. They create and supervise activities featuring the Chesapeake Bay lights, such as the Grave Marker and Outdoor Historical Placard programs, as well as researching lighthouse and keeper history. They are hands on maintaining and preserving Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, Lightship *Chesapeake*, and other lighthouses in the region. And that is the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

All of us share a love of lighthouses and we hope, through our interactions with you, we show how much we care about our lighthouses' past, present, and future. If you are not yet a member of the Chesapeake Chapter, I hope you find our work inspiring and agree to aid in our mission by becoming a member during our Challenge Membership Drive and maybe volunteering yourself! I guarantee you a richly rewarding experience.

In your travels around Maryland, **be safe** and **thank you** for participating in the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge! Don't forget to share the experience with friends and family. Tag us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter with **#artfullighthousechallenge**. Best of luck for a wonderful adventure. Bon voyage!

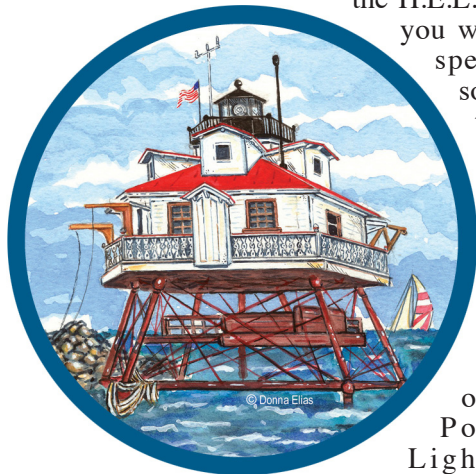


Earn a Special Edition Maryland Lighthouse Challenge Artist Trading Card Coin

Become a member, renew your membership, give a gift membership, OR donate a minimum of \$10 to the H.E.L.P. Fund, and you will receive a

special edition souvenir artist trading card coin from the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, depicting a beautiful watercolor of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse by artist Donna Elias

(donnaelias.com). This is a limited time offer! **Your payment must be received by December 31, 2019** to earn the trading card coin. Please use the envelope in the center of the newsletter. Lifetime members receive a full set of the Challenge souvenirs.



Be sure to look for Challenge and Chapter merchandise at select sites along the Challenge route.

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the CBMM is the **Hooper Strait Lighthouse**. Resting on its screw-piles is a 44 foot diameter, hexagonal wooden 1.5 story cottage, containing six rooms. The lighthouse was constructed in 1879 and houses a white light 5th order Fresnel lens. In 1882 a red sector was added to the lantern, and in 1954 the lighthouse was fully automated. The lighthouse had deteriorated, but in 1966, was rescued by the CBMM and moved 40 miles upriver to the museum grounds where it was fully reconstructed and meticulously restored.



It's back onto Route 50 for a drive further down Maryland's eastern shore to the historic waterfront community of Cambridge. It is here that you will find the replica of the last standing **Choptank River Lighthouse**. Constructed in 1858 as the Cherrystone Bar Lighthouse in Virginia, it was moved to the Tred Avon River location in 1921 to replace the original Choptank River Lighthouse which succumbed to ice a few years earlier. This became the only *operating* lighthouse moved from one Bay location to another until 1964 when it was dismantled by the Coast Guard. The 2012 replica, based on original plans from the National Archives, is a hexagonal cottage-style structure, and is showcased on the end of Pier A at Long Wharf Park.



Now it's time to backtrack over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Destination now...Southern Maryland and its diverse group of lights! It is at the next stop, the impressive Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) in Solomons, that you will view the Drum Point Lighthouse and then take a short bus ride to visit the Cove Point Lighthouse.

Drum Point Lighthouse is another screw-pile transplant. The lighthouse was constructed in 1883 to mark the shoals at the entrance to the Patuxent River. This 46 foot 1.5 story cottage on seven screw-piles was originally constructed in 10-12 feet of water, very close to shore, which allowed keepers to have their families live with them. In 1944 the lighthouse was electrified, in 1960 automated, and in 1962 deactivated. In 1966 the Calvert County Historical Society adopted the lighthouse; and in 1975, the 41-ton structure was cut from its pilings and found its new home at the CMM where it was painstakingly restored.



A few miles upriver, and a short bus ride from (and courtesy of) the museum is the **Cove Point Lighthouse**. Built in 1828, this 40 foot masonry conical tower marks the shoal that extends offshore near Calvert Cliffs. In 1928 the light was electrified and in 1986 automated. In 2000 the Coast Guard transferred the light station to the CMM, and in 2008 the museum received a grant to renovate the tower interior. The lighthouse continues to be an active aid to navigation, with the light maintained by the Coast Guard.



Heading south... The next destination is the **Point Lookout Lighthouse**. History abounds at this location, having been the sight of both a Union Hospital and Confederate Prison during the Civil War. Many believe they have witnessed paranormal activities at this lighthouse, so much so that members of the



Maryland Committee for Psychical Research conducted a study. Built in 1830, the integral-style lighthouse, sits at the mouth of the Potomac River. In 1883 it was raised to two stories and converted to a duplex in the late 1920's. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1966 and replaced with an offshore skeletal tower. In 1967 the lighthouse was transferred to the United States Navy, and then in 2006, transferred to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. That same year, the Point Lookout Lighthouse Preservation Society was founded. In 2009 preservation efforts began on the lighthouse.

Next stop...**Piney Point Lighthouse** located on the Potomac River, just upriver from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. This squat, conical brick structure was built in 1836. It was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1964. In 1980 it was transferred to St. Mary's County Museum Division. In 2002, after years of renovation and installation of a new set of stairs, the tower was opened for climbing. The museum is the current home of the Chesapeake Chapter's mobile Lighthouses of the Potomac screen display.



Next is a water taxi ride from St. Clement's Island Museum to another Potomac River lighthouse, **Blackistone Lighthouse (Replica)**. St. Clement's Island, on which the lighthouse is proudly perched, is Maryland's Birthplace! How apropos to visit the birthplace of a state through which you have been traveling all weekend! Blackistone is a bonus light on this year's Challenge. The original Blackistone Lighthouse was built in 1851, a two-story brick dwelling with integral tower. In 1864, Confederate troops destroyed the Fresnel lens which had been installed in 1857 but spared the lighthouse. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1932 and demolished in a fire of mysterious origins in 1956. In 2007-2008, *St. Clement's Hundred* launched a drive to build the replica, which was then built and is now open to the public.



And, last but not least...the closest light to Washington D.C., **Fort Washington Lighthouse** which sits at the intersection of the Potomac River and Swan and Piscataway Creeks. The present structure, erected in 1882, is a pyramidal, wooden fog bell tower. In 1901 the bell tower was further enhanced to house both lantern and lens, at the same time increasing its original height to 32 feet. The current tower was built to replace a small tower that had been constructed in 1870, which, in turn, had been built to replace an earlier cast iron column with small "hoistable" light, both having served as rudimentary light stations at this location. Don't let this lighthouse's diminutive size fool you, it's all about location, and Fort Washington Lighthouse served at a very strategic one. Throughout one period in history, the fort provided the only defense for our nation's capital from its Potomac River approach. Fun fact – the "80" on the side of the lighthouse is how many miles it is to the mouth of the Potomac River.



We hope you enjoyed your drive through Maryland to some of the most scenic spots in the state during the 2019 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, and that you will treasure your memories and the souvenirs you've earned along the way... **You've seen the lights!**

