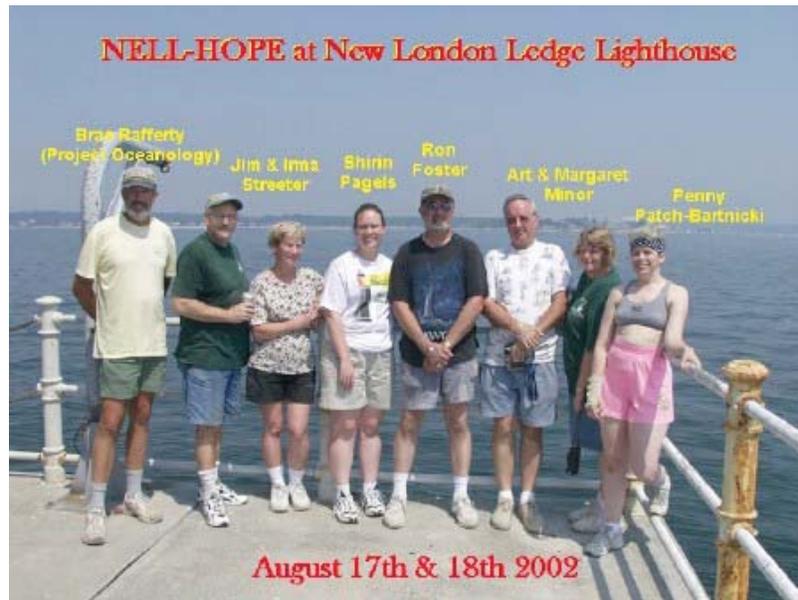


New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL), a chapter of The American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) has certainly grown in the four short years since approximately 25 Harbour Lights collectors gathered in Massachusetts following the 1998 Harbour Lights Collectors Reunion, in Providence, RI. Initially formed as the New England Harbour Lights Collectors Club (NEHLCC) it soon became evident that there were other folks who loved lighthouses, but didn't necessarily collect Harbour Lights miniatures, who wanted to join.

Today, New England Lighthouse Lovers is approximately 180 people strong and has members from as far south as Florida and as far west as California, even though most of the members reside in New England. The majority of the membership are collectors of Harbour Lights and we have become increasingly more involved with lighthouse preservation by raising awareness and funds. To date **NELL has donated over \$10,000** to various lighthouses throughout New England for preservation projects.

NELL raises preservation dollars in various ways including the sale of NELL merchandise (shirts, hats, pins, prints and note cards), raffles and silent auctions at NELL events, and donations. A huge "Thank You" goes to **Harbour Lights** for their continued support of NELL through donations of Harbour Lights products for our raffles and auctions. 100% of the money raised with these Harbour Lights products goes into the NELL Preservation Fund. Another well deserved "Thank You" goes to Mark and Beverly Taylor, **Taylor'd Touch** (a Harbour Lights Dealer in Marlborough, CT), who held a special opportunity drawing for a Thomas Kincaid framed print and then donated the \$250 raised in the drawing to the NELL Preservation Fund (earmarked for Avery Point lighthouse in Groton, CT). The winner of the print, by the way, was NELL member Elizabeth Briggs. Of course, the biggest "Thank You" is to our membership who takes an active roll in supporting the various fundraisers we have throughout the year at our events.

With August came our second "**NELL Hands-On Preservation Efforts**" (**NELL-HOPE**), this time at **New London Ledge lighthouse** (New London, CT). Seven NELL members (including Art Minor, Margaret De Libero-Minor, Penny Patch-Bartnicki, Shirin Pagels, Jim & Irma Streeter, and me), along with Brae Rafferty (Project Oceanology and New London Ledge Light Foundation), worked Saturday and Sunday scraping, wire brushing, priming and painting the entire lantern room (inside and out) as well as preparing one of the large living quarter rooms for painting. The weather was very hot and humid and the work required muscles that hadn't been used in quite some time. The newly painted lantern room was quite visible, and very rewarding to see, as we pulled away from the lighthouse on the Project Oceanology boat that transported us back to shore Sunday afternoon.



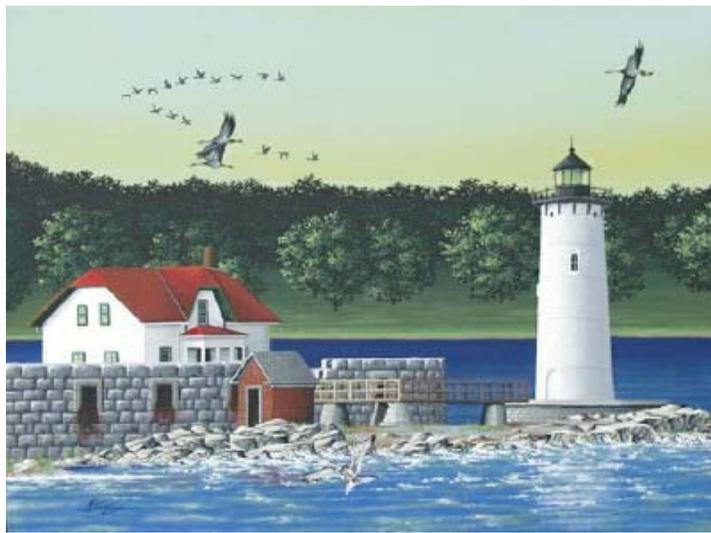
Learn about this project and view some more of the pictures through the following link. [art2](#)

There will be more NELL-HOPE in the future. Not long ago I spoke with **Dave Lombardi**, Dutch Island Lighthouse Society (DILS), also a chapter of ALF, about doing some NELL-HOPE at Dutch Island lighthouse. Dave welcomes the offer of help at Dutch Island light and as soon as I know more details concerning this possible project I will send out a notice to the membership. There are many lighthouses throughout New England that need the help of NELL volunteers with the skills and willingness to make a difference. If you know of lighthouse projects in New England that may need NELL-HOPE please contact NELL Preservation Co-Chairs Frank Carbone FCarboneJr@aol.com or Walt Mills walter.mills@snet.net or me, Ron Foster ronjfofoster@comcast.net.

At the NELL Fall Business Meeting in New Bedford, MA the names of those lighthouses chosen to receive **NELL Preservation Grants for 2002** were **Thacher Island lighthouse** (MA) **\$1000** for replacing the porch & stairs to the assistant keepers house, **Avery Point lighthouse** (CT) (**\$1500** for the new tower entrance door, and **North Light Block Island** (RI) **\$1500** for a new stairway between the second and third floors. This makes 2002 the biggest single year for NELL with regards to the amount of money NELL has donated for lighthouse preservation. Thanks to all of you Lighthouse Lovers everywhere for your support of NELL fundraising activities. You may wish to continue supporting New England Lighthouse Lovers Preservation Fund with the purchase of the new **Exclusive Limited Edition Prints** of Portland Head Light and Portsmouth Harbor Light by artist Steve "Digger" Ervin.



Portland Head Light



Portsmouth Harbor Light

If you have not yet ordered your copies of these beautiful prints (or the note cards) you should do so before they are all gone. Visit them and other NELL merchandise on this website at

Also in August several NELL members traveled to New Bedford, MA for the official unveiling of the **USCG Lightship Sailors Memorial**. This memorial now has engraved, on its granite block foundation, the names of all of those sailors who lost their lives while serving their country on lightships. NELL donations helped to make this possible. The ceremony was a touching tribute to these heroes and was attended by several family members, friends and relatives of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Jim Gill (USLSSA), Mayor Frederic Kalisz and Art Motta (New Bedford's Director of Tourism) each spoke. Bill Collette (USLSSA & ALF Vice President) was recognized for his hard work and contributions to getting the memorial from an idea to a reality. NELL member Doug Bingham (USLSSA, ALF, NELL) who also worked toward this same end was also part of this ceremony.



Taps for the Lightship Sailors who have fallen



Bill Collette honored for work for memorial



Bill Collette rings memorial bell for each fallen sailor

This years Fall Meeting brought several changes to the NELL Board of Directors. **Tom Pregman** (Hamden, CT) became the new Vice President, replacing Bill Kent (Wilmington, MA); **Art Minor** (Bristol, CT) is the new Membership Chairperson, replacing Christine Thumm (Salem, CT); **Arlene Winkleman** (Brookline, MA) replaced Augie Kurdt (Rochester, NH) as Director at Large; **Shirin Pagels** (Norwalk, CT) assumed the Publicity Chairperson duties, previously performed by Odette Kent (Wilmington, MA); and **Chuck Bartnicki** (Groton, CT) filled the new Merchandising Co-Chairperson position.

I wish to thank all of those former Board Members, mentioned above, for their dedication and hard work in helping to bring NELL to the level it was when the new Board Members took over their duties. You have helped a fledgling group of serious Harbour Lights Collectors grow into an organization that is well known and respected within the lighthouse community.

I also want to thank the new Board Members, as well as the remaining current Board of Directors, for stepping up to continue to improve our organization and the plight of our lighthouses for the benefit of all while having fun in the process. I am certain that you will continue the NELL mission to make a difference for the lighthouses we so dearly love. Keep in mind the fine examples and continuing efforts of **Harbour Lights** and the **American Lighthouse Foundation** as we continue to grow.

At our family picnic this year we were blessed with the company of the First Lady of Light, **Connie Small**, who turned 101 years old. Connie is such a wonderful person and a real crowd pleaser. Many NELL members were pleased with the opportunity to share conversation about lighthouses with her.



The picnic was held at the same location as the first year, Great Island Common in New Castle, NH, within site of Portsmouth Harbor lighthouse (where Connie and her husband were last keepers). My brother, **George Foster** (Professional Auctioneer & Appraiser from *The Complete Auction Service* in Epsom, NH), surprised us all by donating some nautical related items which he auctioned off, along with lighthouse items donated by **Reg & Mo Kitching**. The monies raised in this fun auction were earmarked for the NELL Preservation Fund. Thanks to all who donated and bid – this was not only fun but it raised some much needed dollars. A special thank you to **Augie Kurdt** for getting to the park long before the gate opened to be the first to

reserve the picnic area under cover and for arranging to pick up Connie Small and for bringing her to the picnic. Thank you also goes to **Jeremy d'Entremont** (ALF, Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Light) for opening the **Portsmouth Harbor lighthouse** tower to us. It is always a great day when you have the opportunity to climb a lighthouse tower. Turnout at this year's picnic almost doubled and I hope that if you were unable to attend you will be able to join us at the next one.



Jeremy d'Entremont in Portsmouth Harbor lantern room



Stairs inside Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse

Tom & Arlene Pregman did a wonderful job of planning the Fall Business Meeting in New Bedford, MA. Of course, you would expect nothing less from the new Vice President and the new Ms. NELL (after-all, percentages were on their side after Hurricane NELL in May). It was a bit crowded but the food was good and we all enjoyed our Guest Speaker **Sally Snowman**, the visit to the **New Bedford Whaling Museum**, our walk to **Palmer Island lighthouse** with **Art Motta** plus the boat trip around the harbor.

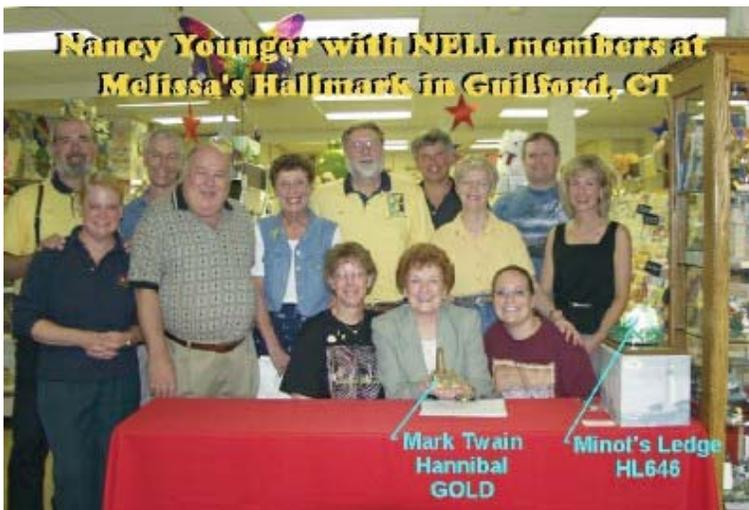


Ms Nell showing her royal wave

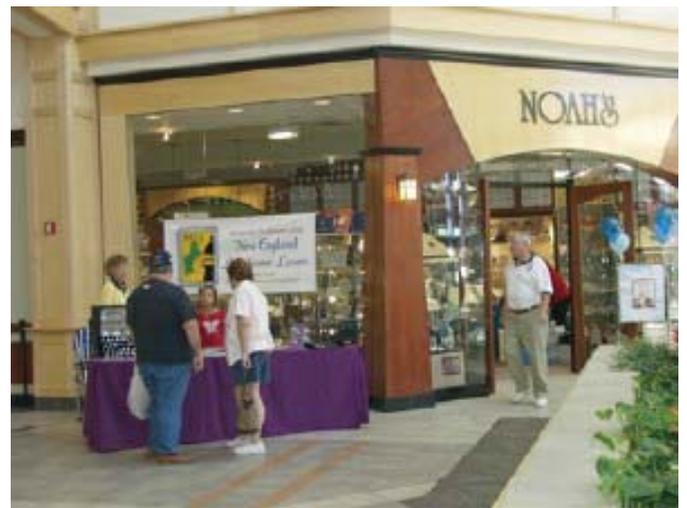
Read more about this weekend and view the pictures at <http://www.nell.cc/Archives/WeekendNewBedford/WeekendNewBedford.htm>.

Prior to NELL's Fall Business Meeting many of us were able to partake of the final event of the week-long **International Lighthouse Conferences** sponsored by the **American Lighthouse Foundation**, the awards dinner. This groundbreaking conference, the first ever to focus on the education of our children about lighthouse history, was a huge success and attended by many lighthouse groups throughout the country and Canada. **Tim Harrison** and **Kathy Finnegan** (ALF) were on hand for the dinner and program which included wonderful food, fun educational games, awards and, of course, many, many prizes for raffles and auction.

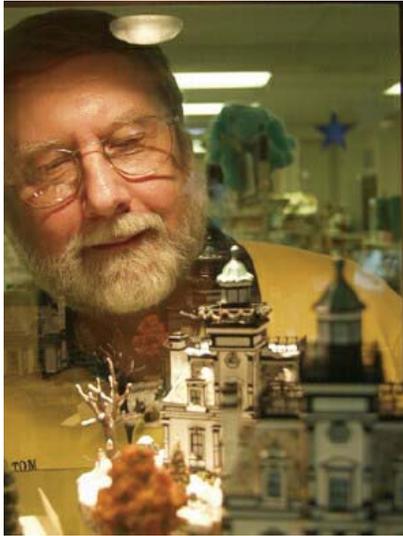
Throughout 2002 NELL set up tables at various Harbour Lights dealerships where **Nancy** or **Bill Younger** were signing Harbour Lights and at the Spring Harbour Lights Northeast Regional Event (Berkeley, NJ) where Harbour Lights continued giving away the "Gold Harbour Lights". At these events we promote NELL and sell our merchandise for lighthouse preservation as well as recruit new members. One of these events was held at **Melissa's Hallmark** in Guilford, CT where Nancy displayed the new Minots Ledge Light, HL646. The lantern in the lantern room actually blinks 1-4-3 for I-Love-You.



Nancy at Melissa's Hallmark



NELL at Noah's



Tom Pregman admires Fort Tompkins



Lee & Cliff Olson with Bill at Noah's



Bill signing at Lighthouse Depot



Dale & Anne Pleau with Bill at Lighthouse Depot

This is the first Harbour Lights lighted piece and uses an acrylic-type medium for the waves, allowing the light in the base to shine through. This is a leap away from the traditional Harbour Lights pieces and has stirred the emotions of a few of the "hard-core" Harbour Lights collectors who aren't certain they like this new medium. I, for one, like the lighted Minots. This new piece is just the next step in the Harbour Lights' tradition of evolving and trying new things.

I would like to see Harbour Lights use this same medium when producing the New London Harbor lighthouse, located on the Thames River in New London, CT, just downriver from Electric Boat (EB, the world's premier builder of submarines). EB built the U.S. Navy's first submarine. I can envision acrylic water with this very small sub 2/3 submerged as it passes the white octagonal lighthouse tower. There are three men standing on the top of the sub and a fourth with his head poking up out of the hatch as they head toward the open waters of Long Island Sound to test the new vessel. The lighthouse keeper is on the shore and waves. The acrylic allows you to view the part of the sub that is underwater. There is much history waiting to be captured here as the New London Harbor light station is the site of the fourth lighthouse in our nation and to have the Navy's first sub would add even more.

It looks as though Harbour Lights will continue this tradition of excellence in 2003. Recent images of Harbour Lights upcoming pieces includes HL662 **Southeast Light Block Island, RI "on the move"**. Harbour Lights has produced another famous lighthouse, Hatteras, on the move but Southeast Light is on the historically accurate rails on which it actually moves. This special piece is being done to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the move of this historic structure away from the eroding bluffs and certain doom.

anniversary of the move of this historic structure away from the eroding bluffs and certain doom.



SE on the move

You may see other Harbour Lights releases scheduled for 2003 via the following link:

<http://www.harbourlights.com/catalog/2003/index.htm>

Mark your calendars for the fun and excitement on Block Island on Aug. 9, 2003. NELL will be celebrating the important 10-year anniversary of the moving of Southeast Lighthouse with a super fundraising event. This will be sponsored by NELL and will include such things as good food, lighthouse tours, special raffles, an auction, limited edition event merchandise, etc. NELL members Frank & Carolyn Carbone, who spend a lot of time as Block Island residents, have been working hard putting together this event, the details of which will be announced soon and may include some very special guests. We will be canvassing merchants, artisans and the general public for donations of items for this event. Volunteers will be needed. If you wish to volunteer to help with this event please contact Frank FCarboneJr@aol.com or Carolyn CWCarbone@aol.com or by calling 978.927.1101.



Early Morning at SE Light



Early Morning at SE Light



Early Morning at SE Ligh

Plans will also be announced soon for our Spring meeting and event so visit this site often. We would love to hear from you with tales of your lighthousing adventures. Please, send your articles and pictures you wish to share to our Webkeeper, Penny Miller. You may do this via email at webkeeper@nell.cc or via USPS at:

NELL
P.O. Box 1626
Groton, CT 06340

I look forward to seeing you at a future NELL event, maybe our Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate & YOU, 2003 in Portland, Maine in late January. Until we meet again I wish you good health, good spirits and good company.

Happy Lighthousing

Ron