

# CHAPTER CHATTER



**May/June**

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## **NELL Spring Meeting 2016**

This year, we will go from New Bedford, MA to several of the harder-to-see lights in the Buzzard's Bay region. We will leave from the dock for Captain Leroy's Deep Sea Fishing at 226 Popes Island, New Bedford, MA 02740 in the morning of SUNDAY, 5 June 2016 (exact time TBD. The trip should be about 8 hours) Yes, Sunday...they are having a busy fishing season, which already precluded any May dates, and were able to only fit this in without losing major fishing trip revenue. They're also the only outfit in New Bedford that works for us it seems, and are great to work with. Thus, we're going to arrange the weekend schedule in reverse of usual, so that those who have to take time off work can arrange a Saturday-Monday trip instead of a Friday-Sunday trip. We will tour the harder-to-see Buzzard's Bay lights, with the main focuses being: Tarpaulin Cove, Bird Island, Ned's Point, Cleveland Ledge, Clarks Point, Butler Flats, Palmer Island. The cost will be \$90/person for the approximately 8-hour trip, including a lunch option to be determined. We can take up to 55 people before we run out of capacity on their largest boat.

To sign up, please fill out the Google

form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D6fQDKK49KNOPiUmH3uGKhDmTCi2jkcxsmEe9Tqt4E/viewform>

Please send payment as usual by check to NELL, 38 Lime Kiln Rd, Tuckahoe, NY 10707

As for hotels, again we will not arrange a group rate due to the extremely time-consuming and frustrating process, which usually results in a minimal discount over rack. Based on the feedback from Hot Chocolate for a general group recommendation of one or two hotels, however, we can, recommend two conveniently-located hotels to book on your own:

Hampton Inn New Bedford/Fairhaven

1 Hampton Way, Fairhaven, MA

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/massachusetts/hampton-inn-new-bedford-fairhaven-EWBFHXX/index.html>

Seaport Inn and Marina

110 Middle St, Fairhaven, MA

<http://www.seaportinnandmarina.com/>

Please also fill out the form on the following link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bE4CWd8N0fK7Ui-uggfU23z0ecl4uHDGgQiyrm4YcUE/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bE4CWd8N0fK7Ui-uggfU23z0ecl4uHDGgQiyrm4YcUE/viewform?usp=send_form)

## Other Lighthouse News

### Gasparilla Island Light



The lease is here. Gasparilla Island Light Committee Jim Grant announced that Barrier Island Parks Society has received a lease dated as of April 1 to restore the Gasparilla Island Range Light. "This will enable BIPS to get the key and start fixing it up," he said. Grant gave a presentation at a town hall meeting on Thursday morning, March 31 at the auditorium. "We thought it was important to hold this town hall meeting to update residents and explain that we still have a lot of work to do," said Sharon McKenzie, Executive Director at Barrier Islands Park Society. McKenzie, who also is a member of the Florida Lighthouse Association Board, said there are 30 existing lighthouses in the state, and only a dozen are open to the public on a regular basis.

The funding required to complete the project is \$1,783,000. So far, \$400,000 has been raised. Grant stressed that they will be doing more repairing than replacing, to keep as much of the original structure intact as possible. "There is advanced rusting, and the door is impassible. It's been 35 years since the structure has had any maintenance," he said. The lighthouse was originally built in Delaware in 1881. It was moved to Gasparilla Island in 1927. It was declared a historic lighthouse with a preservation mandate in 2010. Grant said it was in great shape in the 1950s, and then it deteriorated badly in the 1980s.

The U.S. Army relinquished claims to the 7.4-acre property in 2013. In 2016, the United States Coast Guard licensed BIPS to restore and maintain the property.

"I think the residents need to recognize that this is 7.4 acres that will never be developed. It will be protected and preserved for the future," Grant said. The nearly \$1,800,000 price includes an endowment fund that would maintain the property.

The goal is to raise a minimum of 75 percent of the projected funding needs by the end of April.

"If we can achieve this, we expect that the range light can be refurbished and restored over an 8- to 10-month period of time. We could theoretically be done with most of the work by October, 2016, and seasonal residents could return to a beautifully restored lighthouse," Grant said.

Restoration plans include developing a circular walkway around the exterior of the existing cement-metal fence and an access path connecting to the Gasparilla Island State Park parking lot. Concrete repairs and surface painting will be done in the final stages.

"The bottom line is, we want to bring it back to its original 1927 splendor," said Larry Hannah of the Gasparilla Island Light Committee. Hannah added that the organization is also accepting stocks, securities, pledges or cash donations for the project. If you'd like to be a part of helping restore the range light, you can mail a donation to The Light Keeper's Fund, P.O. Box 654, Boca Grande, FL 33921

## South Haven, Michigan

SOUTH HAVEN — The Historical Association of South Haven has received a surprise boost in funding after raising more than \$300,000 to restore the city's historic lighthouse.

The Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program notified the history organization by letter this week it is in line for a \$60,000 grant to renovate the metal exterior of the 113-year-old beacon.

"Your organization's dedication to preserving Michigan's historic resources is to be commended," said Brian Conway, state historic preservation officer for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which oversees the Lighthouse Assistance Program.

News of the award pleased Ed Appleyard, treasurer of the historical association, which applied for the grant last year, in the midst of its lighthouse fundraising campaign. "I really didn't expect we would get it," Appleyard said. "There are so many other worthy organizations out there vying for grant funding."

Restoration of the beacon's interior began in November of 2015 and is nearing completion.

Workers from Mihm Enterprises spent last week replacing steel bulkheads at the top of the beacon. "Interior painting will happen this week, weather permitting," said Tom Renner, a member of the Lighthouse Fundraising Committee.

"Then new windows will be installed."

Just when the exterior work will commence has not been decided.

The historical association had hoped to award bids for the project later this month. However, it will now have to follow requirements of the grant agreement. "The requirements for the grant will likely delay the start of the exterior work, and we may have to put it off until after Labor Day," Appleyard said. "We don't want it (the pier and lighthouse) closed during the summer months."

Once work begins, the beacon and the end of the south pier will be off limits to the general public. People will still be able to walk the pier, but only to within 50-60 feet of the lighthouse, which will be encapsulated.

Restoration of the exterior will take 9-12 weeks, weather permitting, Appleyard said.

In the meantime, the historical association will work with city staff to create a walkway and memorial wall in honor of the campaign's major donors. The walkway will be lined with memorial brick pavers purchased by contributors to the lighthouse restoration fund. "We hope that this part of the project will be done by the end of June," Appleyard said.

## National Lighthouse Museum

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Light keeper's Gala - Friday August 5, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

(718) 390-0040 [info@lighthousemuseum.org](mailto:info@lighthousemuseum.org)

## Whitehead Light Station – Pine Island Camp

**Save these dates!**

July 14-16	Couples Mindful Communication with Nancy Hathaway
July 21-24	Knitters Retreat with Mim Bird
July 27-August 2	Applied Mindfulness with Dr. Robert Cox
September 15-18	Island Light Keepers Experience with Down East Magazine Adventures

## **Summer 2017 Courses – Details TBA**

Doing Craft Beer and Brewing Right with Charlie Papazian

Lighthouses of New England with Jeremy D'Entremont

## **Accommodations**

At Whitehead Light Station, guests stay in the beautifully restored seven-bedroom Lightkeeper's House on Whitehead Island, off the coast of Rockland, Maine. The Light Station captain is available throughout the summer to take guests on the short boat ride to and from the mainland

## **Rental Opportunities**

The entire Light Station facility is available for families and groups to rent throughout parts of the summer and fall.

Please **visit our calendar** to check availability and **contact us** if you would like more information.

[www.whiteheadlightstation.org/welcome.html](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org/welcome.html)

## International Lighthouse News

### Spring Splendor Arrives at the Lighthouse



Start Point is one of the most exposed peninsulas on the English Coast, running sharply almost a mile into the sea. The rugged, windswept headland was not a popular assignment for the families of lighthouse keepers sent to the 150-year-old lighthouse situated at the end.

Winters seemed especially long for those stationed there as the wind howled relentlessly, often bringing heavy rain and thunderstorms. The long dreary days took its toll on attitudes and emotions, causing many to hope for transfer to more pleasant places.

Then just when it seemed that winter would never end, the signs of spring began to appear, and along with them, hope for better days. First, the nights grew shorter as the sun rose earlier, warming the earth. Then the once-fierce winds became milder and more friendly.

But what transformed the island was the appearance of bluebells. Known as the favorite flower in the United Kingdom, these lovely flowers covered the landscape with blankets of blue. And as if their beauty was not enough, the delicious aroma they emit permeated the air.



In the words of former keeper Gordon Partridge, “Suddenly, the bleak and hostile place became beautiful to behold. Mentally, we seemed to change as if uplifted by the arrival of the bluebell. Hundreds of people made the trek to share in the joy, perhaps to picnic and celebrate the passing and ending of wintertime.”

The sound of sheep grazing on the headland, and lambs romping in the meadow added to the delight of the new season. As Gordon said, “It felt good to be alive and gifted by serving on this often overlooked, remote place.”

## Zhubi Lighthouse in South China Sea Put into Operation



The photo taken on April 5, 2016, shows the Zhubi Lighthouse in South China Sea [Photo: Xinhua]

A lighthouse on Zhubi Reef, in the South China Sea, has been put into operation.

The 55-meter-high lighthouse was initiated in October 2015, with a lantern of 4.5 meters in diameter on top and rotating lights inside. It is monitored through a Beidou remote control terminal.

Zheng Heping with the Ministry of Transport attended a completion ceremony for the lighthouse.

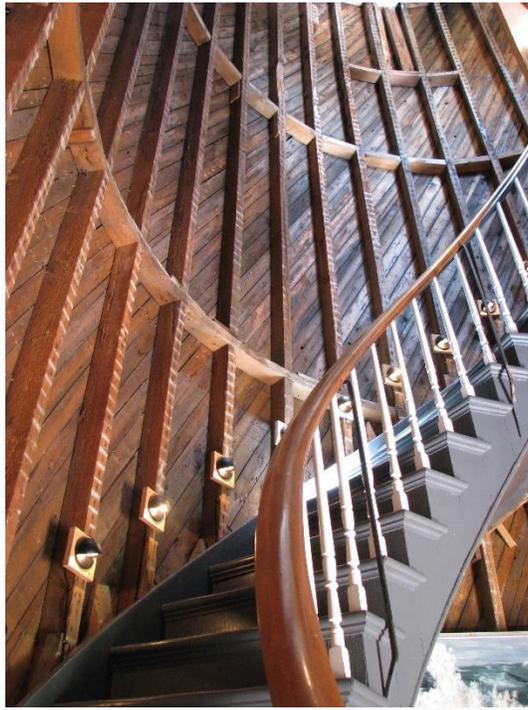
"To improve its navigation management, the lighthouse is equipped with automatic identification system and very high frequency stations, which will provide efficient navigation services such as positioning reference, route guidance and navigation safety information to ships."

The South China Sea is a critical maritime corridor linking the Pacific and Indian oceans, as well as a major fishing ground. However, high traffic density, complex navigation conditions, and a severe lack of emergency aid and response forces, have hindered economic and social development in the region.

To improve maritime emergency responses in the area, China's Ministry of Transport started construction of large multi-functional lighthouses last year.

Zhubi is the third to be completed and put into operation. The lighthouses will help in maritime search and rescue, in the prevention and elimination of natural disasters, as well as marine environmental protection and navigation safety.

## Just for fun....can you guess which lighthouse I am in?



If you think you know you can e-mail me. (answer next Chapter Chatter)  
Last edition's answer: Nobska, Massachusetts

### **Happy Birthday to:**

Seamond Roberts	5/01	Harry Wass	5/07	Bob Trapani	5/14
Fran Dollinger	5/14	Tom Cardaci	5/25	MaryAnn Clark	5/27
Anna Klein	5/28				
Bob Kerber	6/01	Amy Wininger	6/06	Frank DePasquale	6/10
Terry Barnhart	6/12	Hilari Seery	6/16	Irma Streeter	6/16
Walt Mills	6/24	David Dingley	6/26	Linda Whidden	6/27
Ellen Granoth	6/28	Mary Rosenquest	6/29	Doug Scott	6/30

### **Anniversary Wishes to:**

Bill & Odette Kent	5/01	Robert & Sharon Mills	5/09	Terry & Melody Barnhart	5/19
John & Linda Whidden	5/24	Bob & MaryAnn Scroope	5/28	Doug & Ellen Scott	5/30
Hilari & Jim Seery	6/10	Bob & Barbara Kepple	6/13	Tom & Arlene Pregman	6/21
James & Nancy Cope	6/24	Henry & Arlene Winkleman	6/29		

### **Please Note:**

We are looking for **volunteers** who are interested in serving on committees, those who have good ideas for lighthouse preservation, fund raising, suggestions on improving the operations of the club, or just getting more involved. Please contact Bill Kent: [bktwo@comcast.net](mailto:bktwo@comcast.net) or 1(978) 809-7133.

**The Lighthouse Digest** – For each subscription, please use the subscription envelope that you can get from NELL's 2nd VP Lynne Kerber, or the form on the NELL website. Mail with check to Lighthouse Digest, ATTN: Kathleen Finnegan, P.O. Box 250, East Machias, ME 04630. Be sure to write NELL in the memo section of your check and NELL will receive \$10.00 per subscription to go toward restoration and preservation of lighthouses.

If you have any **knowledge of an upcoming event or news to share**, please send it to me: [chapterchatter@outlook.com](mailto:chapterchatter@outlook.com)  
All articles and information must be received by the 25th of the month prior to make the publication.

**The NELL Beacon** wants your stories too, send with pictures to Lynne Kerber: [lighthousecats@comcast.net](mailto:lighthousecats@comcast.net) for publication. The NELL Beacon is our official club newsletter and will be published three times a year in time for our events. Deadline for the LHC&Y issue will be mid December, for the Spring Event issue mid April and for the Fall Event issue mid August.

If you know of a member that needs **some cheer, get well wishes, condolences or congratulations**, please let Cynthia Bosse - Sunshine Chair know at: [bossnjc@comcast.net](mailto:bossnjc@comcast.net) or call 1(860) 688-7347.

Please let me know your **birthday** (month & day only) and **anniversary** so I will be able to recognize you on your special day in our monthly Best Wishes section.