



# NELL NEWS

July/August

Happy 4<sup>th</sup>

NELL T-Shirts with a New Logo



These shirts are available in S, M, L, XL and XXL

They come in a variety of colours

Merchandise chairs Ellen & Bob Granoth have limited stock

but these shirts can be ordered in any size and the colour of your choice

[ellenlg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenlg@sbcglobal.net)

June 2019

NELL Members:

The following is updated information regarding our trip to Downeast Maine the weekend of September 20-22, 2019. Everyone is required to have a passport book or card if crossing to/from Campobello Island, or if you plan to visit any other area in Canada.

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**9:00 AM- Noon** Eastport Windjammers, 104 Water Street, Eastport, ME will take us on a Cruise out of Eastport to view Lubec Channel Lighthouse, Mulholland Lighthouse, West Quoddy Head Light, and Head Harbour Light Station (East Quoddy), along with four (4) lights in New Brunswick, CA (if the weather cooperates): Southwest Wolf Island Lighthouse, Pea Point Lighthouse, Green's Point (Letete Passage) Lighthouse, and Bliss Island Lighthouse. We'll also see the Old Sow,

the largest tidal whirlpool in the western hemisphere. The cruise will be approximately three (3) hours. As the boat has a maximum capacity of 49 passengers, it is essential that you confirm your attendance with Linda Sherlock as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

**12:30 PM – 2:30 PM** **Lunch and Business Meeting** at the Robbinston Historical Society, 505 U. S Route 1, Robbinston, ME. Lighthouse aficionado and editor and publisher of *Lighthouse Digest* magazine, [Timothy Harrison, will be our guest speaker](#). Lunch will be provided.

**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** We will **visit Whitlock's Mill Lighthouse** in Calais, ME, which is owned by the St. Croix Historical Society. The tower will be open for climbing. The grounds and keeper's house are privately owned, so this visit is a rare opportunity.

### **Sunday, September 22, 2019**

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** We will meet **promptly** at 9:00 AM (Eastern time) at the headland to **Head Harbor Light Station (East Quoddy), Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada** to begin the approximate 15-minute trek to the lighthouse, which requires walking over rocks and seaweed, and climbing up and down iron ladders. Unfortunately, I have been informed that anyone with mobility issues will not be allowed to cross. The time spent for crossing and visiting is limited to four (4) hours due to the tides.

**1:30 PM – 4:00 PM** We will **visit West Quoddy Head Lighthouse** as guests of Timothy Harrison and Kathleen Finnegan. Light refreshments will be served.

**Lodging** **You will need to make reservations for your own lodging.**

Please note that the 15 rooms NELL had blocked at the Eastland Motel in Lubec, ME, have all been reserved, but they may still have limited availability. Tel. # (207) 733-5501; [www.eastlandmotel.com](http://www.eastlandmotel.com) Owners are Glen and Heather. Be sure to tell them you're with NELL.

Other suggestions for lodging are:

- 1) The Margarettta Inn, Machias, ME; (207) 255-6671; [www.margarettainn.com](http://www.margarettainn.com)
- 2) Owen House, Campobello Island, New Brunswick, CA; (506) 752-2977; [www.owenhouse.ca](http://www.owenhouse.ca) Keep in mind, there is a currency exchange rate in Canada, which can fluctuate.
- 3) Cohill's Inn, Lubec, ME; (207) 733-4300; [www.cohillsinn.com](http://www.cohillsinn.com)
- 4) Harris Point Shore Cabins and Motel, Eastport, ME; (207) 853-4303. (No website and they do not accept credit cards.)
- 5) There are also several B&B's in the area.
- 6)

Please inform Linda Sherlock of your attendance plans and if you will be going to Head Harbour Light Station. See contact information below.

Make checks payable to NELL for \$90.00 per person (or \$80.00 per person if **NOT** going to Head Harbour Light) and mail to: Kathy Santucci, 38 Lime Kiln Road, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Payment is due by August 24, 2019.

Further details, including GPS addresses and information on U.S. Lighthouse Society Passport Stamps will be forthcoming, along with other places of interest in the area that you may want to visit.

Linda Sherlock

[lms12356@gmail.com](mailto:lms12356@gmail.com)

(617)697-3325

## Lighthouse News

### Stratford Point Lighthouse



Plans To Open Lighthouse In Stratford To Public, officials say the town hopes to open the Stratford Point Lighthouse to the public and for private events after reaching an agreement with the Coast Guard.

Stratford residents may soon be able to experience the Stratford Point Lighthouse in a way they never have before. Officials announced Friday that the town has entered into a license agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to use the lighthouse property and buildings and oversee the site's maintenance and upkeep. The mayor hopes to see the location eventually become available to the public and for private events.

"To have it as open space and for public use would be really a great thing," said Mayor Laura Hoydick.

Under the agreement, the Coast Guard will retain ownership of the property, which will remain an active lighthouse, said Chief of Staff to the Mayor Michael Downes. The Coast Guard will also continue to maintain the light.

Stratford's Department of Public Works is evaluating the site, according to Downes, who said work has begun on the cottage and grounds. The town intends to restore the keeper's cottage, the oil house and the lighthouse, according to a town news release. Improvements to the lighthouse will be made in conjunction with the Coast Guard, Downes said, and will include a fresh coat of paint. The timeline and cost for the improvements are not yet known because necessary Coast Guard approval is still pending, Hoydick said.

Stratford Point was first used as a lighthouse site in 1822, when a wooden octagonal structure — the third light station to be erected on Long Island Sound — was built, the news release stated. The 40-foot cast-iron, brick-lined tower that still stands today was constructed about 60 years later, and the lighthouse was given its distinctive red band in 1899.

"It's an iconic structure that is featured in almost everything Stratford," Downes said.

The Coast Guard previously held an annual open house for the public at the lighthouse, he said, but that's the only regular access to the property the community has had in the past. More details will be released about the project in the next month, according to Downes.

"It's this great iconic thing and location in the town that residents have only been able to go up to a fence and look at," Downes said.

## Save the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse



Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse was built in 1875. It has been a beacon on Chesapeake Bay keeping boaters safe from the Thomas Point Shoal. This iconic lighthouse is the last surviving screwpile lighthouse on Chesapeake Bay and has been a National Historic Landmark since 1999.

The lighthouse was transferred to the City of Annapolis, the United States Lighthouse Society, and the Annapolis Maritime Museum in 2004. The Chesapeake Chapter of the United States Lighthouse Society has managed the renovation, and countless volunteers have renovated the exterior and interior of the structure to pre-1939 conditions.

The Annapolis Maritime Museum conducts tours of the lighthouse for the public throughout the summer. Each tour is led by trained and experienced docents and involves a 30-minute boat ride to gain access to the lighthouse.

The structure is showing severe deterioration, and bids are pending to complete a major restoration of the steel beams that hold up the cottage-style lighthouse. The USLHS has received a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust for \$100,000, but it will not be enough to complete the restoration. Additional funds have been pledged by the Davidsonville Ruritan Club and others, as well as a private donor who has agreed to match up to an additional \$50,000.

But we are still short. Thus we are doing a GO FUND ME campaign to raise additional funds. The United States Lighthouse Society is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

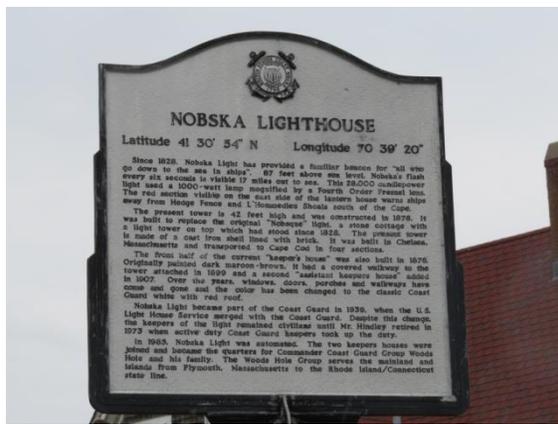
You can help save Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse by donating at the USLHS website. <https://uslhs.org>

Or go to: Facebook page - <http://gf.me/u/sss2uw>

Please help us keep this lighthouse operational and available for public tours.

John Potvin is a member of the Chesapeake Lighthouse Society as well as the United States Lighthouse Society. He has been a volunteer at Thomas Point Lighthouse for the past 4 years, as well as trained to be a docent. He was “promoted” to Preservation Foreman by Henry Gonzales this past fall, and is actively involved in coordinating the volunteer schedules and tasks, as well as involved in the bidding and specification preparation of the upcoming major rehabilitation of the lighthouse structure.

## Nobska Lighthouse



A nonprofit organization is beginning to raise money for the next installment of its project to restore Nobska Light.

So far, the Friends of Nobska Light, a group dedicated to restoring and repurposing the iconic lighthouse, has raised close to \$1.5 million for the restoration project, said David Forsberg, co-chairman of the fundraising committee, Beacons of Light: the Campaign for Nobska.

The first part of phase one of the project was dedicated to restoring the lighthouse, said Catherine Bumpus, executive director of the Friends group.

The second part will be dedicated to repurposing the keeper's house and transforming it into a maritime museum.

"The tower looks exactly like it used to, only it looks good," Bumpus said. "That's pretty much the goal with the house as well."

The organization has applied for Community Preservation Act grants and also is seeking private funding for the next steps in the project. Renovations to the keeper's house include new windows, siding, new supports for the floors and improvements to handicapped accessibility.

The museum will have five rooms with rotating exhibits, some of which will explain the history of Nobska, the people who lived in the keeper's house and the role of the Coast Guard. The museum also will highlight maritime history and different environmental topics.

Friends of Nobska Light is working with Massachusetts Maritime Academy in hopes that the school will support a maritime exhibit at the museum, Bumpus said.

Forsberg said part of the funding will go toward educational programs and activities for youth at the museum. Activities for children will be geared toward science and the storytelling of Nobska, as well as fun topics such as pirates, Forsberg said.

"We want to appeal to people from Falmouth who care about the place, we want to make it an attraction to tourists ... but the biggest focus is on kids," Forsberg said. "The story of Nobska is incredible, and I think it will be a shame for future generations to not know how special it was."

Nobska Light Station, established in 1829, had tracked ships passing through Vineyard Sound, and many of its keepers saved people who had fallen overboard. Active members of the Coast Guard also lived there until 2013, when the Coast Guard decided the house needed too many repairs to be habitable. The Falmouth community thought of ways to preserve the lighthouse, and local organizations formed the Friends of Nobska Light in 2015 to begin the project of restoring the lighthouse for public use.

"It has been an integral part into the community's seafaring heritage," Forsberg said. "But it's also commerce. It's been at the heart of Falmouth's economy. It has become the icon that sums up Falmouth

**Don't Forget** – National Lighthouse Day – 8<sup>th</sup> August

**The National Lighthouse Museum's**  
**9th Annual National Lighthouse & Lightship Recognition Weekend**  
**August 2-4, 2019**

**Friday, August 2, 2019**

Light Keeper's Gala. Harbor cruise, open bar, hors-d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing in the moonlight.

**Saturday, August 3, 2019**

Presentations, panel discussions. free tours and public events at Museum site. 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Free Admission.

**Sunday, August 4, 2019**

Lighthouse Weekend-Celebratory Lighthouse Boat Tour

Contact: National Lighthouse Museum - (718) 390-0040 - [info@lighthousemuseum.org](mailto:info@lighthousemuseum.org)

**Happy Birthday**

David Schulman	7/05	Lee Olson	7/12	Tracie Carpenter	7/15
James Cope	7/17	Odette Kent	7/24		
Elinor DeWire	8/03	Bill Newblom	8/04	Nancy Younger	8/09
Marguerite MacDonald	8/11	Harry Hine	8/13	Bill Younger	8/18
Ron Bandoek	8/30				

**Anniversary Wishes**

Bill & Judy Newblom	7/9	Norm & Cynthia Bosse	7/23		
Bob & Ellen Granoth	8/10				
Lee & Judy Hall	8/17	David & Jessica Schulman	8/20	Frank & Carolyn Carbone	8/24

**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: Ron Foster (860) 303-2986 or via e-mail: [ron@foster-photo.com](mailto:ron@foster-photo.com)

**The Lighthouse Digest** – For each subscription, please use the subscription envelope that you can get 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 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.