



HUDSON RIVER, NY - SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023

Another successful NELL event is now in the history books. Our fall trip to the upper Hudson River area included visits to Rondout Lighthouse and the Hudson River Maritime Museum (HRMM) in Kingston, NY, and a visit to Hudson-Athens Lighthouse. Although not on our official agenda as a group, some members were able to view and photograph Esopus Meadows and Saugerties Lighthouses as well.

The weekend began on Friday with torrential downpours and traffic issues for many members. Thankfully, everyone arrived safely. Although it was still very humid, the rain stopped, and our boat trips went on as scheduled. Thunder and lightning storms returned Saturday night, so we really lucked out!

Saturday morning, we had the opportunity to visit the HRMM. Executive Director Lisa Cline graciously opened the museum early so we could explore before or after our trip to Rondout Lighthouse. Several members got their USLHS passport stamps. Barbara Ralston brought the passport stamp for Esopus Meadows Lighthouse to the museum, which was a wonderful surprise. Sharon Mills played a huge part in making that happen.

The trip to Rondout Lighthouse on the *Solaris* was especially enjoyable. It was a smooth and quiet ride. At the lighthouse, which is in remarkably good condition, we welcomed the breeze through the open windows. Thank you to Captain Jim, First Mate Fen, and Mark Heller, who was our very knowledgeable tour guide. Thanks also to Kerry Gallagher and Isabel Kasdin at the HRMM who answered many questions when I was in the preliminary stages of planning this event.

In the afternoon, we boarded the Hudson Ferry to visit Hudson-Athens Lighthouse. NELL member Bob Taylor met us as we disembarked. Bob is a volunteer with the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society and serves on its Board of Directors. Along with Bob, several other volunteers showed us around and answered questions. Many thanks to Sue, Loretta, and Rodney, along with Bill and Tim, who assisted us from the boat to the dock and to the wobbly stairs. Thanks also to Captain Nick on the ferry and to Erin Boss, who was extremely accommodating and knowledgeable. I owe a debt of gratitude to Kate Treacy of the Hudson Ferry Company. She was incredibly obliging when our headcount fluctuated from minute to minute.

We held our membership meeting on Sunday morning at the New Paltz Elks Club. I'm very grateful to Larry Olasky for helping to unload my car, and to Larry, Anthony Savino and Bob Granoth for setting up the tables and chairs, etc. We enjoyed coffee, donuts, and muffins before getting down to business.

We have some new officers and a new board member, who were all voted in unanimously!

Arlene Winkleman was elected as our new president. I have no doubt she will do a spectacular job. She's been in the background assisting Henry for the last four (4) years, so she is familiar with the ins and outs of the position. She may be small in stature, but she's a giant in her commitment to NELL!

Sherri Roberts was elected as vice president. With the advice and support of others, she will certainly be an asset to the Board as she learns the aspects of her new role. We are so grateful for Sherri's volunteerism.

Kathy Santucci has agreed to serve another term as treasurer, and I have agreed to serve another term as secretary.

Anthony Savino was elected to fill the open position as director at large. Anthony has been a member of NELL for many years. With his knowledge and experience, he will be a strong addition to the Board.

NELL has a major fundraising effort underway. Ellen Granoth is spearheading a raffle campaign, with ten (10) high-end prizes. Ellen, along with her husband Bob, Anthony Savino, and Hilari Seery, spent many hours making phone calls and sending emails to request donations. The drawings will be held at our spring 2024 meeting. John Donovan, in his very little spare time, printed the raffle tickets and uploaded the information to our website. You all deserve a huge round of applause. This is a major undertaking. Please check our website for more information or contact Ellen at (203) 437-1663 or ellenlg@sbcglobal.net if you'd like to purchase tickets. The holidays are coming and these raffle tickets would make great gifts and stocking stuffers!

Sandy Peterson has been busy with another fundraising venture. She has been taking orders for custom made, personalized beverage tumblers. NELL receives a \$12.00 profit for each tumbler ordered. If you haven't already purchased one, please check our website for information. They are fantastic and make great gifts, too.

Arlene spoke of some of some of her plans as our new president. She will create an Events Committee to assist in planning trips. Debbie Lilly volunteered to serve on that committee. Bob Mills volunteered to serve on the Preservation Committee. Thank you to Debbie and Bob for your dedication to NELL.

Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate and You (LHHC&Y) will be held on January 14, 2024, in Falmouth, MA, where we will visit Nobska Lighthouse. Details are still being worked out, but please save the date.

New Zoom programs are in the preliminary stages. Be on the lookout for information on times, dates, and the presenters. This is a great way to stay connected to our NELL friends and the lighthouse community.

Mr. and Ms. NELL recipients for 2023 were announced at the meeting. Bob Mills presented the painted buoy to Henry Winkleman, who was instrumental in keeping NELL afloat after Ron Foster's term expired. Arlene Winkleman presented the plaque and crown to Debbie Brew. Debbie has always stepped up in her position as fundraising co-chair, and every other time when asked for assistance. Congratulations to Henry and Debbie!

To those who made it to this event, thank you for attending and I hope you had a fabulous weekend. To those who did not make it, please join us at a future event!

Linda Sherlock
Secretary