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Mission:

The mission of the American Lighthouse Foundation is to save and preserve our nation’s historic light stations and their rich heritage.

This will be accomplished through the restoration, promotion and adaptive re-use of America’s historic light stations, as well as educational initiatives that foster the sustainable preservation of lighthouses and perpetuate the legacy of the men and women who have tended them.
**As Summer Begins...**

The American Lighthouse Foundation and our twelve chapters have been waiting for this moment since spring blossomed a few months back — the chance to delve into new lighthouse restoration projects at many of our sites and to once again share the lights and their rich history with the public as we embrace another great season in the making!

As you will read within this issue of “Daymark,” some exciting work has already been accomplished, with the promise of more preservation achievements as summer strengthens its warm grip on the calendar.

This type of dedication, effort and success is what we work so hard for — and what our members and friends support so faithfully. Together we continue to make a meaningful difference in saving and sharing our lighthouse heritage — and in the process, we ensure that the light burns bright for tomorrow.

For all this we sincerely thank the volunteers of the American Lighthouse Foundation and the many donors who help make our efforts possible!

Bob Trapani, Jr.
ALF Executive Director

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**Pomham Rocks Lighthouse**
**East Providence, RI**
*Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.*
No matter the season, weather impacts much of what we do in our lives and is often the topic of daily conversation with co-workers, family and friends. When staying at a lighthouse like Race Point, the ever-changing conditions in the air and on the water can be even more amazing—a fact that never fails to fascinate overnight guests at this gorgeous Cape Cod location.

A panel of weather instruments maintained inside the keeper’s house at Race Point has long proved to be a popular spot with guests for just this reason, and is also an educational tool as much as it is a magnet for attention.

“Weather fascinates the majority of people, be it simple curiosity of the outside temperature and precipitation falling, to the MOST asked question: How hard is the wind blowing?” says Bill Jenkins, Chairman for ALF’s Cape Cod Chapter. “The weather instruments provide a “connection” to the world going on around everyone.”

Jenkins went on to note, “From inside the house one is unable to see the height of the tide or get a true “feel” of the wind. A quick check of the tide clock can tell the Keeper whether a beach fire can be conducted or not, (high tide restricted). Adding the wind vane, anemometer and the moon’s phase to the equation will get the Keeper thinking about an upcoming drive off-sand, and how, if a strong southwest wind blowing at high tide, it would be better to take the outer beach route instead of the pole line because it is probably flooded.”

“When guests, as well as Keepers, hear the wind howling past the windows during an unexpected strong storm like we recently encountered, everyone focuses in on the wind velocity. Safe and warm inside, we quickly checked the wind speed, which was blowing steady and gusting to 58mph. Everyone knew that to step outside meant that you could be placing yourself in harm’s way, and that it was better to remain inside the safety and comfort of a 136 year old keeper’s house that has withstood the test of far more powerful storms.”

With Race Point Light Station being so exposed to the full force of the wind that can sweep unabated over the sandy dunes for days on end, even the weather station, which is designed to stand up to such abuse, can sometimes be damaged itself.

This very thing occurred during this past year when strong storm winds downed the weather station atop the keeper’s house, forcing volunteers of the Cape Cod Chapter to spring into action in order to...
Bill DeFord, tackled the project this spring, and when all was said and done, were triumphant in the effort to make the weather station operationally functional once again.

Reestablishing the unit atop the keeper’s house was only part of the challenge for this project. The other challenging aspect was the need to repair components of the weather station before it could be placed back in service.

“The sending unit was tired and needed replaced,” said Gary Childs. We also had to install all new connections before we could erect it again. Thankfully, when Jim Walker originally came up with the design of the weather station and satellite antenna, he did so in a way that made everything as unobtrusive as possible.”

Childs went on to say, “The design has helped to limit the damage caused by storms since the antenna must have clear view of the hemisphere to see the circling satellites. Simply put, there is no place at Race Point Light Station that is protected from the wind. The light station buildings are fully exposed to all points of the compass. Traditional hurricanes and winter gales test the mettle and metal of the weather station as salt spray and wind make it a tough spot to stand at 35-feet in the air!”

Overnight guests have now arrived at Race Point Lighthouse for the 2012 season, and during their stay, they no doubt are lured to the weather instruments panel inside the keeper’s house to satisfy their curiosity as to the dynamic actions of the air, wind and tide.

Such an opportunity provides visitors with a chance to better understand how weather conditions have always been an inseparable aspect of lightkeeping. The keepers of old were vigilant — forever keeping a watchful eye on the weather in an effort to safeguard the seafarer and batten down the hatches at the light station when necessary.

Some things never change at Race Point. Today, modern day ‘keepers’ carry on the tradition of keeping a watchful eye on the weather. And though their efforts are not for the mariner as once was the case, they remain so for the preservation of the historic site—and for the safety of the guests who enjoy one of the finest ‘front row seats’ for unsurpassed beauty and tranquility.

In referring to the efforts of the Cape Cod Chapter volunteers, Bill Jenkins noted, “You know, time truly does give people a chance to ‘show their colors’. The people the Chapter has distilled to are a group of remarkable individuals. They are so diverse in education and careers, financial resources, likes and dislikes, introverts and those who are always on display, young, old, single, married, divorced, looking; each of them love the time spent at Race Point and understand what is expected of them - they are there to share this experience. Though I do not spend any leisure time at the house any longer, a quick read of the Guest Log never fails to remind me of why I still volunteer.”

Jenkins concluded, “The group of volunteers who worked on the weather station project this spring was no exception. They proved to be a microcosm of our group as a whole.”
Removing Winter’s “Wrinkles” at Little River Light Station

Anyone who has volunteered at a lighthouse knows that winter is never kind to the wood, brick and iron structures of a light station. Driving rain and snow, salt spray, powerful winds and the dreaded freeze/thaw cycle combine to take a toll on the exteriors of the buildings, but the adverse affects of the elements are not confined to the outside.

Even the finished surfaces of interior ceilings, walls and floors can suffer from the intense cold of winter, which is especially true of a structure like the keeper’s house. No matter how good a paint product is or how expertly it is applied to the surface, the lack of sufficient heat and insulation in the historic dwelling enables the winter season to ‘age’ them by cracking topcoat layers and causing the paint to flake.

Repairing this sort of damage is an annual effort that requires tedious preparation to the surfaces of ceilings and walls before volunteers can repaint and renew the appearance of each room in a keeper’s house.

As Little River Light Station in Downeast Maine prepares to once again welcome overnight guests to the island in 2012, such interior work was necessary following a long, hard winter.

Island caretaker Bill Kitchen and longtime Little River volunteer Lee Leighton recently tackled this task inside the 1888 dwelling. Their work entailed sanding, spackling and then repainting areas in the living room, kitchen, hallways, bedrooms and bathrooms. 

When guests arrive in the month of July, they will only see how nicely kept the rooms are throughout the keeper’s house; unaware of all the hard work it took to erase the fingerprints of winter — but alas, that’s the calling and duty of a keeper — to keep the ‘shine’ bright.
“Keepers” at Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Stay the Course

Community involvement is vital to a successful lighthouse preservation project. Whether such an ongoing commitment entails helping to make the community a better place to live, work and play or sharing with others the rich heritage in their midst, adding contributions that impact the public in a positive manner, matters.

No one understands this better than the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Over the past six years, this hardworking chapter of ALF has consistently “stayed the course” by raising the profile of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse within the local community of East Providence, Rhode Island.

In doing so, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse have enriched the lives of untold thousands of people through their dedicated activities and educational outreach.

Given the fact that Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is located approximately 800 yards offshore near the community of Riverside, and that one of the only land-based places to obtain a distant view of this charming island is from the East Bay Bike Path, raising awareness for the need to preserve this historic treasure is no easy task.

Yet for all of the challenges they face year in and year out, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse persevere — and are winning, when it comes to both preserving this one-of-a-kind site and sharing its value with the general public.

Through a variety of creative efforts that have become annual affairs, FPRL continually reminds nearby communities that they are as vigilant as ever in their endeavor to “keep the light on” at Pomham Rocks.

In April 2012 the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse once again participated in Earth Day, and with help from United Water and members of the public, volunteers cleaned up and removed much in the way of trash and debris from the Riverside shoreline.

FPRL also participated in the 2012 Riverside Memorial Day Parade, showcasing one of their beautiful lighthouse boats decked out in patriotic colors for the occasion. Thousands of people view the parade, which provides FPRL the opportunity to remind the public about their important efforts at the lighthouse.

Somewhat “behind the scenes,” but no less vital to the preservation of the lighthouse, is the FPRL education efforts, spearheaded by chapter chairman David Kelleher. From school programs and nursing home presentations to events sponsored by the East Providence Chamber of Commerce, the FPRL volunteers are tireless in their efforts and enthusiasm for participating in events that permit them to share with others their favorite subject — Pomham Rocks Lighthouse!

Given the effectiveness of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, it is safe to say that the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will keep “shining bright” for years to come!
For almost 350 years, Goat Island, about six-tenths of a mile long in a north–south direction and now attached to the rest of Newport, Rhode Island, by a causeway, has been utilized in just about every way imaginable—from fort to hotel, torpedo station to marina, barracks to condominiums. In 1763, it was noted by a town committee that the island was “vulgarily called Goat Island.” The new name stemmed from the custom of local farmers who brought their goats to graze in the island’s pastures.

The deep, protected harbor at Newport was the key to its development from the start. Newport was long an important point in the infamous Triangle Trade. By the early 1820s, it became clear that a lighthouse was needed to help guide vessels into the harbor, and on March 23, 1823, Congress appropriated $2,500 for that purpose. Contractor David Melville built a 20-foot octagonal freestone and brick lighthouse at the northern tip of Goat Island by the end of 1823.

A dangerous reef extended out from the northern end of the island, and vessels often went aground there. In the late 1830s a breakwater was constructed over the reef. A new 35-foot granite tower was erected on the breakwater. The Army Corps of Engineers completed the breakwater in 1842. The old lighthouse remained in use until December 18, 1842, when the new tower was lighted for the first time.

Photos:
(Top) Newport Harbor Light
Photo by Tom Kenworthy

(Inset) 300mm Lantern inside the tower.
Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.
Henry Oman became keeper in 1845. Pardon W. Stevens, who arrived four years later, was given high marks after an inspection in 1850:

Lighting apparatus we found in good order and clean, and so was everything in the light-house. Keeper is attentive to his business, and is a good keeper.

John Case spent a decade (1853–63) as keeper. The next man to take the position, John Heath, died on September 24, 1868, and his wife received the appointment to replace him. Mary Ann Heath remained keeper until 1873, when Henry Crawford succeeded her. During the last half of Crawford’s decade at Goat Island, his wife, Lydia, had the official title of assistant keeper.

In 1864, $6,000 was appropriated for the rebuilding of the keeper’s house. Having a comfortable new two-story house attached to the tower certainly made life easier for the keepers and their families, but Mary Ann Heath must have had quite a scare when a tremendous storm on September 8, 1869, carried away about a third of the slate roof and damaged her boat, which parted its moorings.

In 1869, the Secretary of War authorized the U.S. Navy to take over Goat Island. The new Naval Torpedo Station was an important center for experimentation with various torpedoes and mines, for training of personnel, and eventually for the manufacture of torpedoes. During World War II, the station became the largest employer in the state, with more than 12,600 employees. Eighty percent of the torpedoes used in the war were produced at Goat Island.

The next keeper, Charles Schoeneman, would become such a fixture that locals often simply referred to the lighthouse as Schoeneman’s Light. Keeper Schoeneman spent a remarkable 39 years at the station. His son, George, spent his early life on Goat Island and went on to be the U.S. Internal Revenue commissioner from 1947 to 1951.

An article on the occasion of Schoeneman’s retirement recalled the famous Portland Gale of November 26, 1898. The storm broke every window on the north side of the keeper’s house.

Keeper Schoeneman was responsible for saving the lives of several sailors from the destroyer Myrant in 1912. The men were fishing from a sailboat that was overturned by a sudden squall, and the keeper quickly went to their aid. He was in his seventieth year at the time.

On November 9, 1921, the 155-foot submarine N-4 rammed the breakwater near the lighthouse, causing damage to the foundation of the keeper’s dwelling and signaling the end of the staffed light station on Goat Island. Charles Schoeneman retired during the following year, and the keeper’s house was demolished. The light was electrified, and personnel from the torpedo station took over its operation. The light was automated in 1963.

Change continued to occur at Newport Harbor Lighthouse over the years—most notably the removal of the keeper’s dwelling and the other assorted small buildings that comprised the light station. Today only the light tower remains.

ALF Archives
It was probably a lucky thing that the house and keeper were gone when the hurricane of September 21, 1938, barreled into the Rhode Island coast. During that monumental storm, the Pequonnock, a boat owned by the Fall River Line, struck the breakwater at Goat Island before finally going aground at Gould Island. The severe damage to the breakwater left the lighthouse isolated for a time, but eventually a new structure was built to reconnect it to the island.

The torpedo station ceased operations in 1951, and Goat Island was transferred to the city of Newport. The area between the lighthouse and shore was filled in when the Goat Island Sheraton Hotel was constructed. The hotel later became the Doubletree Islander, and more recently the Hyatt Regency Newport. Hotel staff keeps the area adjacent to the lighthouse nicely landscaped, and weddings are sometimes held close by.

In 1999, this lighthouse gained brief national exposure when it was featured in an episode of the television show Providence. Actress Melina Kanakaredes was seen on the lantern gallery in a dream sequence.

The Coast Guard licensed the lighthouse to the American Lighthouse Foundation in 2000. ALF is exploring ways to raise the funds for a full restoration of the lighthouse. “The light’s stoic presence in the harbor today,” says Bob Trapani, executive director of ALF, “quietly reminds both the local and international boating communities of Newport Harbor’s rich maritime heritage.”

Newport Harbor Light, known to most locals as Goat Island Light or simply “the Green Light,” continues as an active aid to navigation, its fixed green light 33 feet above the water. Good views are available from the bridge to Goat Island and from various sightseeing cruises in the area. For a close view, you can park at the nearby marina and walk around the Hyatt Regency Newport hotel.
The following update is from the Friends of Swan’s Island Lighthouse (FOSIL), an affiliate of the American Lighthouse Foundation. FOSIL continues to be a dedicated steward of Maine’s Swan’s Island Lighthouse, and in the process, has established a standard for preservation excellence at this beautiful island light station.

“We accomplished a lot in 2011! Thanks to our friends, contributors and volunteers, 1.8 miles of upgraded trails wind around Hockamock Head, while a short handicapped-accessible trail leads to a stone bench with spectacular vistas towards Marshall Island, Isle au Haut, all the way to Merchants’ Row and beyond. Improved parking makes for easier visits.

At the light station, electric lines are now underground, and a raised walkway provides barrier-free access to the keeper’s house. Volunteers helped put finishing touches on downstairs rooms at the keeper’s house. A new well yielded a good flow of potable water. Students from the Swan’s Island School visited the keeper’s house, studying local history through new lighthouse-centered curriculum materials.

In 2012, we will be tackling some major tasks. Water lines and a septic system will be installed, and we will plan for kitchen and bathroom facilities. The ocean side porch will be renovated with structural reinforcement and a historically appropriate railing. We will also add furnishings in the downstairs rooms, including a historic table and chairs, thanks to the Milan family legacy. Historic exhibits and other events are planned. We will add signage on the trails and continue developing interpretive materials.

After this year, there will still be much to do. Upstairs rooms in the keeper’s house still need major work. The fuel house and bell house need attention. We hope to do more work on the trails, and to move the fog bell back to Hockamock Head.

You, our lighthouse friends, should know that together we have raised and expended more than $320,000 in our quest to make Hockamock Head and the lighthouse buildings a great community asset. This is about two-thirds of the way to the finish line. We hope to add new donors to help bring the project to a close. We think that opening the keeper’s house to the public, as we plan to do this summer, will increase our donor base, as will a new and attractive website presently in preparation.

The above numbers do not include the light tower. We are treating the tower as a separate project, and are actively exploring ways to obtain major grant financing for this challenging project. This summer, technical experts will help plan the most practical and economical path towards restoration.

To learn more about the efforts of the Friends of Swan’s Island Lighthouse, visit www.swansisland.org/lighthouse.htm. Also do make plans to visit the lighthouse this summer (July and August) and come when the keeper’s house is open!
Some things never change throughout the history of lighthouses – one of them being the need to pull out the paint brushes on a regular basis and renew the gleam to nearly every aspect of a light station. The keeper’s of old painted in cycles that never ceased, and in similar fashion, so too must today’s modern “keepers.”

During the first two weekends in May, volunteers of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses gathered to tackle painting projects on the interior of the tower in an effort to not only continue preserving the popular sentinel, but also to ‘put its best foot forward’ for the 2012 open house season.

The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses take great pride in caring for the 1878 beacon, and wow did it show in a big way after FPHL volunteers completed their work on the interior, which included repainting the watchroom and spiral staircase.

“The projects we undertake at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse seem to cycle consistently, for as soon as we finish one, another is in the planning stages,” said Ross Tracy, FPHL Chairman. “The interior painting project this spring is one of our larger ones, and is difficult to schedule and plan given the tight quarters. The lighthouse has many visitors during the open house season and the areas in the lighthouse that see that traffic are always in need of regular maintenance.”

Tracy went on to say, “The watchroom floor and ladder to the lantern room both got a fresh coat of paint, as well as the beautiful spiral staircase. Some other interior metal work was treated for rust and painted, and the walls and ceiling of the watchroom will be touched up soon.”

“It took a dedicated and patient volunteer corps to apply the special metal paint, ensuring all areas of the cast iron were coated properly, and in some places, it took some interesting maneuvering,” said Tracy. “The amazing volunteers that help to support FPHL are always ready and willing to dedicate the time and skill required to maintain the preservation of this historic lighthouse and I know the past keepers would be proud of their efforts!”
May 6, 2012...Day two painting crew inside Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. (Clockwise) Janice Desmarais, Bob Trapani, Jr. (under staircase), Ed Stevenson, Jeremy D’Entremont and Ross Tracy (bottom of staircase).

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

Ross Tracy painting inside Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

Robert Kearns painting inside Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse.

Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.
Stay at a Lighthouse!

Every now and then we all need to get-away, so why not plan to stay overnight at a lighthouse where you can leave life’s hustle & bustle far behind and enjoy a place where the only “to do” item on the daily schedule is tending to YOUR total relaxation.

From pristine sandy beaches and panoramic ocean views at Race Point Light to rocky coastlines and quiet solitude to spare at Little River Light, the American Lighthouse Foundation has two very special “get-aways” to offer where you can escape and experience a lighthouse like never before!

The keeper’s house at each site is fully furnished for your comfort and basic kitchen & cooking items are provided. As our guest at one of these two paradises, we only ask that you bring along any necessary linens, sleeping bags, towels, personal items, food, beverages and bottled water.
Race Point Lighthouse…

ALF’s first overnight stay program opened at Race Point Lighthouse on Cape Cod in 1998, following a complete restoration of the entire light station by our Cape Cod Chapter.

Since that time, the Cape Cod Chapter has worked tirelessly to make your stay the most memorable experience possible by maintaining an impeccable site and offering up the finest in warm hospitality. Guests enjoy their experience at Race Point so much, many of them return year after year with family and friends as part of a vacation ritual that renews their spirits like no other.

If you have never been to Race Point Lighthouse you might wonder what makes this historic site so special. For starters, the keeper’s house beams with a 1950s vintage feel and is situated perfectly to offer uninterrupted views of Cape Cod Bay where you can enjoy spectacular sunrises and sunsets as your imagination sets sail on the rhythm of the tides.

But dreamy seascapes are not the only natural amenities to bask in at Race Point Light Station. This one-of-a-kind utopia is also nestled amidst miles of unspoiled sandy beaches and rolling dunes, offering sightings of whales, seals, dolphins, and numerous species of shorebirds that can be admired in their protected land or sea habitats.

So grab your favorite book, relax on the front porch sipping your favorite beverage and have your fill of fresh ocean air; or of you prefer, enjoy leisurely walks along the beach that never fail to reward the senses with its beautiful sights, the sound of waves lapping at water’s edge and the feel of tranquility at its finest.

If the rod and reel represents peace of mind to you, world-class fishing is just a surf-cast away at the lighthouse. Whether fishing for striped sea bass or the challenging blue, the quest is an experience not to be forgotten at Race Point.

And don’t forget the lighthouse! As our guests at Race Point, feel free to take a walk up the tower as you retrace the steps of the bygone keepers. The tower’s lantern provides a unique sense of place as your eyes drift from one natural vista to another. Of course at night, since the lighthouse is a working aid to navigation, you’ll want to admire the glowing beacon as it rotates and sends its guiding beams seaward to help protect the mariner.

And did we mention how you access this tucked-away paradise located two miles out over the dunes of Cape Cod National Seashore? No worries! Our Cape Cod Chapter volunteer “Keepers” welcome you and provide four-wheel drive transportation to Race Point Lighthouse for your overnight stay at the keeper’s house.
Keeper’s House Rates range: $145-$185 per night, depending on room choice and season.

If more solitude is what your family or group has in mind then the Whistle House at Race Point is the perfect place for you. The building’s interior was newly remodeled in 2007 and features the “Wood End” and “Long Point” sleeping quarters, a full kitchen, bath and a comfortable sitting area perfect for relaxing and watching the lighthouse shine bright at night.

This unique opportunity offers complete privacy for up to eight people, and unlike the keeper’s house, it is not shared with guests outside your party. Typically the Whistle House is available on a Saturday-to-Saturday basis, but it is now offered for as few as two nights in an effort to better accommodate your available “get away” time! Certain restrictions will apply for any occupancy less than seven days.

Whistle House Rates range: $2,000-$2,500 weekly rentals.

For Race Point Keeper’s House or Whistle House reservations or to get additional information, contact the ALF’s Cape Cod Chapter at:

Race Point Lighthouse,
c/o Cape Cod Chapter
P.O. Box 491
North Truro, MA 02652
Email: racepointlighthouse@comcast.net
Telephone: 508-487-9930

Little River Lighthouse...

ALF’s second overnight stay program opened at Little River Lighthouse in Cutler, Maine, during the 2008 season following a complete restoration of the light station by the American Lighthouse Foundation.

Today ALF’s chapter – Friends of Little River Lighthouse, invites you to visit this breathtaking site, refreshingly located off the beaten path, where you can experience tranquility at its best on a Downeast island during your overnight stay.

Little River Island is an “escape from it all” destination situated at the entrance to picturesque Cutler Harbor and is without question one of the true natural “emeralds” of the Bold Coast.

The 15-acre island possesses many charming qualities, but its finest may be the quiet solitude that flourishes at the feet of Spruces and Pines as well as along walking trails that embrace the cool shade the tall whispering trees afford.

Little River Lighthouse and the keeper’s house stand on the eastern end of the island overlooking the Atlantic Ocean,
where just beyond distant views of New Brunswick’s Grand Manan Island is nothing but the briny blue as far as the eye can see.

At this most northeastern island light station in the United States you’ll be the first to greet the dawn of each new day and bask in the beauty of some of the most spectacular sunrises seen along the coast of Maine. And guess what? You can even admire this daily scene from inside the kitchen of the keeper’s house while sipping hot coffee or tea as first light spreads its morning cheer across the seascape.

Not content with just taking in the fresh hues of sunrise? Then just before sunset, be sure to take a short half-mile walk across the island to its western end and watch the day’s golden radiance put on a dashing show as the sun sinks below the horizon and silhouettes the homes, boats and working wharves of the snug village of Cutler.

Sunset doesn’t mark the end of nature’s light show on the island, for after the brightest star of all takes leave of the firmament; countless twinkling stars take its place in the night sky. With no city lights, tall buildings or smog to hinder your view, you’ll admire the stunning brilliance of the stars against a black velvet-like setting like you have never seen them before.

Lest we forget, there is one more “light” to enjoy under the cover of darkness – the guiding light of Little River Lighthouse beaming forth towards the sea, showing the seafarer the way to safe passage. During the day be sure to ascend the spiral staircase of the 1876 tower where you’ll behold the magnificence of the Bold Coast at every glance, while observing Cutler’s lobster boat fleet going to and fro with a traditional passion for their trade.

And don’t worry about getting to the island. The volunteers of the Friends of Little River Lighthouse will meet you at the public boat ramp in Cutler and take your guests and you on a twelve minute boat ride to this one-of-a-kind paradise – a place where eagles soar and peaceful solitude reigns without interruption!

**Keeper’s House Rates range; $150-$225 per night, depending on room choice**

For Little River reservations or additional information, contact the Friends of Little River Lighthouse, a chapter of ALF at:

**Friends of Little River Lighthouse**

P.O. Box 671

East Machias, ME 04630

Email: littleriverlight@lighthousefoundation.org

Telephone: (207) 259-3833

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**Sunrise at Little River Light Station in Downeast Maine.**

*Photo by Lee Leighton*

**View of a bedroom inside the keeper’s house at Little River.**

*Photo courtesy of the Friends of Little River Lighthouse*
One More Reason to Tour Wood Island Lighthouse

It’s not like anyone needs another reason to take a tour of Maine’s offshore Wood Island Lighthouse, for the island’s stunning beauty and alluring history are reasons enough, but after the keeper’s house underwent a full exterior restoration at the end of 2011, the historic site has taken on a wonderful new appearance.

The $200,000-plus restoration project, which was jointly funded by the American Lighthouse Foundation and its chapter — Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse, featured the return of the circa 1906 front porch as one of the many highlights of this historic effort.

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to accompany the Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse on a tour of the light station in 2012 — a chance to see firsthand all the great things happening on the island!

The tours are held in July and August. Read more on page 28 and 29..."Wood Island Lighthouse — Biddeford Pool, ME"

Photos by Bob Trapani, Jr.
Oswego West Pierhead Lighthouse…

2012 Spring/Summer Update

The following update is from the Oswego Lighthouse Development Committee, an affiliate of the American Lighthouse Foundation. The City of Oswego, NY, assumed ownership of the lighthouse in 2009 through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act and is working on plans for its restoration.

The City of Oswego and the Oswego Lighthouse Development Committee has accepted a very generous donation of two 8-ft x 20-ft floating docks for use at the lighthouse. The docks were donated by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla, 2-4 from Oswego. The two docks will be joined together and moored alongside the south face of the concrete lighthouse caisson to improve access to the lighthouse. The Committee expects to use the docks during the summer season from May through September. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 2 Vice-Commander serves on the Committee and has spearheaded a close and very productive relationship between the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Committee.

This is the south face of the lighthouse caisson where the floating docks will be moored. The large double door is the primary access to the basement and the rest of the lighthouse. The door sill is about 4ft above the lake level hence the need for the docks. An interesting footnote is that most of the caisson is still the property of the US Army Corps of Engineers which constructed it in 1931. The City of Oswego leases the caisson from the Army Corps.

Photo by Ted Panayotoff

Talking Lighthouses Across the Border...

Barry MacDonald, President of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society recently stopped by the ALF office to talk with Bob Trapani, ALF’s executive director about Canada’s Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act. The Canadian federal government has placed nearly 1,000 lighthouse (about 500 which are still active aids to navigation) on the government surplus list.

(L to R) Barry MacDonald and Bob Trapani, Jr.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani
If consistency is one of the hallmarks of success, then count the Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse as one of the shining examples within the American Lighthouse Foundation when it comes to staying the course with preservation and public access.

Open to the public an incredible seven days a week from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, Pemaquid Point Lighthouse welcomes over 30,000 visitors each year giving them the opportunity to climb to the top of the tower where they experience some of the most spectacular views of the Maine coast.

From the time visitors walk through the door of the tower’s vestibule, to the time they reach the pinnacle of their adventure in the lantern, the convergence of fun, history and amazement never stops – a fact epitomized by the scene of the light’s gorgeous fourth order Fresnel lens reflecting every aspect of the moment at the top of the lighthouse.

Yet, no matter how accessible Pemaquid Point Lighthouse may be for the public, make no mistake about it, staffing the tower seven days a week from 10 am to 5 pm throughout the summer, is anything but an easy task.

Such an unwavering commitment to share the tower with the public not only provides visitors with a one-of-a-kind educational and cultural experience, the investment of volunteer time also helps preserve the 1835 beacon through the donations received during its daily operations.

By working together at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse over the years, the American Lighthouse Foundation and the Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse have already completed two, high profile phases of restoration at the site — a $106,000 exterior restoration in 2007 and an $84,000 interior restoration in 2010.

ALF/FPPL is presently working on Phase III of restoration at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse by planning for a project that will restore the historic windows and entry door of the tower, among other items.

All this success in preservation is made possible because FPPL volunteers are consistent with their commitment to visitors – a commitment of excellence that keeps on giving in more ways than one!
Race Point Lighthouse Sets Attendance Record During Mariner’s Day

Opening a lighthouse to the public always takes good planning and dedicated volunteers, but the effort put forth by ALF’s Cape Cod Chapter each year for Mariner’s Day is nothing short of amazing.

During an action-packed five hours that occurred on May 20, 2012, Cape Cod Chapter volunteers not only opened the doors of Race Point Lighthouse and its keeper’s house, they also transported an incredible 312 visitors back and forth over the sands of Cape Cod National Seashore.

Requiring a large number of volunteers to staff the light station buildings and to take on driving duties so that the public could enjoy this historic treasure during the annual event was yet another example of the Cape Cod Chapter’s commitment and ability to successfully coordinate the demanding logistical challenges associated with caring for and sharing this remote site.

The 312 visitors that were welcomed to Race Point Lighthouse was an attendance record for the Cape Cod Chapter during Mariner’s Day, which is a part of a month-long celebration of Cape Cod’s rich maritime history. Congratulations to ALF’s Cape Cod Chapter!

Yankee Magazine...

The American Lighthouse Foundation and the Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights are proud to announce that “Yankee Magazine” has named Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse a “Best of New England — Editors’ Choice” winner in the May/June 2012 Travel Guide to New England.

The “Best of New England” recognition was for “BEST LIGHTHOUSE WALK...ROCKLAND BREAKWATER LIGHT.”

A walk out to Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse provides visitors the opportunity to “go to sea” without needing a boat. With views of West Penobscot Bay to the east and Rockland Harbor to the west—and all of the diverse marine traffic that plies the bay, the experience garnered from a walk out the Rockland Breakwater is always a memorable moment.

www.lighthousefoundation.org | Daymark 21
The 2012 Distinguished Lighthouse Community Service Award was presented to Deane Rykerson of Rykerson Architecture (L to R) ALF President Eric Davis, Deane Rykerson and Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses’ Chairman Ross Tracy.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

The 2012 President’s Award was presented to the J.B. Leslie Company, Inc. (L to R) Ross Tracy, Brad Coupe, Caren Clark, Eric Davis, Jim Leslie and Bob Trapani, Jr.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani
Music & Good Times... Lighthouse Style!

Steve Hayes and Holly Hanson of Neptune’s Car entertained the gala attendees with their musical talents, including the song, “Lighthouse Keeper.”

A 2012 Keeper of the Light Award was presented to the Nauset Light Preservation Society (L to R) ALF President Eric Davis, NLPS Secretary Shirley Sabin, NLPS President David Gray, NLPS Treasurer Carl Ericson, NLPS Board member Bud Griffin and ALF Executive Director Bob Trapani, Jr.

A 2012 Keeper of the Light Award was presented to the Highland Museum and Lighthouse, Inc. (L to R) HML President Dan Sanders, HML Manager Francene Webster and ALF President Eric Davis.
2012 Lighthouse Gala Award Recipients

Len Hadley Volunteerism Awards...

Cape Cod Chapter
- Clay Beless
- Nancy Beless

Friends of Little River Lighthouse
- Ray Mackeen

Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse
- Patty Hughes

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse
- Joe Estrella

Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses
- E.J. Warren

Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights
- Ginger Allison
- Tricia Dixon

Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse
- Bob Orcutt

(L to R) Cape Cod Chapter Executive Committee members Scott Branco, Bill Jenkins and Gary Childs accept a 2012 “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” on behalf of Nancy & Clay Beless from ALF President Eric Davis.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) ALF President Eric Davis and NELL President Tom Kenworthy present Lynne Kerber with a 2012 ALF “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” for her dedicated efforts to the NELL mission.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) Patrick Sullivan, NELL President Tom Kenworthy, Rosalie Sullivan and ALF President Eric Davis during the presentation of the “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” for NELL’s Kevin Sullivan, who passed away earlier in the year.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) Patty Hughes is presented a “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” by FPPL Treasurer Caren Clark and ALF President Eric Davis.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani
2012 Lighthouse Gala Award Recipients

New England Lighthouse Lovers
Lynne Kerber
Kevin Sullivan
New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation
John J. Mazzucchi

2012 President’s Award
For Outstanding Restoration Work at Eight ALF Lighthouses...J.B. Leslie Company, Inc.

2012 Distinguished Lighthouse Community Service Award
For Outstanding Commitment to ALF’s Whaleback Lighthouse...Deane Rykerson

2012 Keeper of the Light Award
For Preservation Excellence in Moving & Preserving Nauset Lighthouse...Nauset Lighthouse Preservation Society

2012 Keeper of the Light Award
For Preservation Excellence in Moving & Preserving Highland Lighthouse...Highland Museum and Lighthouse, Inc.

(L to R) ALF President Eric Davis and New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation Chairman Todd Gipstein present John Mazzucchi with a 2012 ALF “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award.”
Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) Bob Orcutt is presented with a 2012 ALF “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” by Brad Coupe, Chairman, Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse and Eric Davis, ALF President.
Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) ALF President Eric Davis and Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses’ Chairman Ross Tracy present E.J. Warren with a 2012 ALF “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award.”
Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(L to R) Joseph Estrella is presented with an ALF “Len Hadley Volunteerism Award” by FPRL Chairman David Kelleher, ALF Executive Director Bob Trapani, Jr. and ALF President Eric Davis.
Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani
Lighthouse Tours &
Open Houses

Eight ALF lighthouses are open and staffed by our local chapter volunteers for visitors to tour and climb to the top of the tower. Open house dates and times vary. You can find more information about each site by following the web links provided below.

Little River Lighthouse — Cutler, Maine

The Friends of Little River Lighthouse will host two Open Houses, in addition to the site’s overnight stay program during the 2012 summer season so that the general public can have the opportunity to visit and enjoy the island light station. Boat transportation to the island from Cutler Harbor is provided. (Be sure to check out the feature on page # about this special place!)

Upon arrival at the island visitors take a beautiful, half-mile walk across a tree-lined, wooden plank walkway to the lighthouse that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. Tour the keeper’s house, enjoy some refreshments and don’t miss the souvenirs available for purchase while you are there, which help the Friends of Little River Lighthouse continue to preserve this one-of-a-kind site!

July 21 – 11:00 am

August 4 – 11:00 am

Please note: For safety reasons, open houses will be cancelled due to high winds, dense fog, driving rain, or rough seas – please contact FLRL at (207)259-3833 if you are unsure. Children must have their own life jackets.

FMI: Visit: www.littleriverlight.org

Owls Head Lighthouse — Owls Head, Maine

The Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights open this popular sentinel every Saturday and Sunday, plus Wednesday afternoons, from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Owls Head Lighthouse sits majestically atop an 80-foot bluff overlooking West Penobscot Bay near the entrance to Rockland Harbor along Midcoast Maine. Once atop the lighthouse, visitors have the chance to admire the gorgeous glass prism Fresnel lens that dates back to the mid-1850s while enjoying panoramic views of the bay, islands and marine traffic, including elegant schooners.

Hours:  Wed: 1-5pm  Sat: 10-4pm  Sun: 10-4pm

FMI: Visit: www.rocklandharborlights.org

New London Ledge Lighthouse — Groton, Connecticut

The New London Ledge Lighthouse, one of New England’s most beloved and recognizable beacons, has stood guard for the seafarer at the mouth of Thames River since 1909. In a little over one century, this distinctive sentinel has garnered widespread fame for its intriguing history and lore that is nothing short of fascinating. So come explore the rich heritage, romance and unique architecture of one of Connecticut’s crown jewels as you journey offshore for a day of memorable fun.

Tour participants meet at Project Oceanology on the University of Connecticut’s Groton Campus and board the vessel Enviro-lab, before disembarking at Ledge Light a short ride later. Once at the lighthouse, visitors will be delighted to discover a new interpretive center that guides visitors through the story of this solitary outpost that has safeguarded many vessels over the years, from wooden schooners to state-of-the-art submarines. Feel what it was really like to live the life of a lighthouse keeper at a place surrounded by water.
The American Lighthouse Foundation and our New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation has partnered with the University of Connecticut’s Project Oceanology program to conduct tours to New London Ledge Light throughout the summer. The new interpretive center inside the lighthouse was made possible by the efforts of ALF’s chapter, the New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation. Tour reservations are made directly through Project Oceanology and are available departing at 4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in July and August as well as Saturdays in September. Fee charged.

FMI: Visit or call Project Oceanology at 800-364-8472 (9am–4pm)

Pemaquid Point Lighthouse — Brisol, ME

Volunteers from ALF’s Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse chapter open the tower at Pemaquid Point Light Station daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

Pemaquid Point is one of Maine’s most popular and photographed lighthouses whose breathtaking beauty isn’t confined solely to the historic site. Visitors also find the rock and ledge formations out in front of the lighthouse, as well as the restless sea that often presses up against the ledge in dramatic fashion, fascinating to behold.

At the lighthouse, visitors are treated to a number of interesting educational exhibits inside the tower’s vestibule area where volunteers provide a brief history and some neat coastal related tidbits. Once inside the lighthouse, visitors ascend the spiral staircase of the 38-foot beacon where they are treated to the wonderful sight of a working fourth order Fresnel lens at the top of their journey, which includes a superb vantage point of the unique coastline below.

Pemaquid Point Light is also the first lighthouse in the nation that holds the distinction of its likeness depicted on American currency (the Maine State quarter).

Hours: Open Daily Memorial Day – Columbus Day 10am – 5pm

Please note: For safety reasons, the tower may be closed for climbing on rainy days. There is no charge to climb the tower, but donations are appreciated and help fund the ongoing care of this historic lighthouse.

FMI: Visit or call Project Oceanology at 800-364-8472 (9am–4pm)

Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse - Portsmouth, NH

The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses are hosting open houses every Sunday from late May until mid-October from 1pm – 5pm. Climb the 44 stairs & 7-rung lantern up to the lantern room where you can enjoy the magnificent ocean views that include Whaleback Lighthouse and Wood Island Life-Saving Station at the entrance to the Piscataqua River.

Visitors also obtain elevated views of Fort Constitution, which is situated adjacent to the lighthouse, as well as the opportunity to admire the light’s working fourth-order Fresnel lens up close. Volunteers will share with you the history of the light station and answer your questions about this one one-a-kind maritime complex that is uniquely nestled between the shorelines of New Castle, NH and Kittery, ME.

FPHL also hosts numerous boat tours to view Portsmouth Harbor, Whaleback & other local lighthouses from the water during June, July, August & September…learn more on their website by visiting the link below.

Tours at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse are on a first come-first served basis. Admission to climb is $4 for adults and $2 for children 12 & under. Please note: For safety reasons, flat shoes are required & children must be 42 inches to climb the lighthouse.

FMI: Visit www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org
Race Point Lighthouse — Cape Cod, MA

If you enjoy a good, long hike within sight and smell of the sea, then we have just the destination for you! Journey by foot to Race Point Lighthouse nestled in the dunes of the Cape Cod National Seashore for an opportunity to climb this historic 1876 beacon on the first and third Saturday of each month during the summer.

Along your sandy path, be sure to admire the majestic dunes topped with crowns of whispering beach grass and bask in the natural beauty that frolics amidst the sparkling sands. Solitude and tranquility will be your hiking partners until you reach Race Point Lighthouse where you’ll discover a true Cape Cod treasure that has been lovingly preserved and transformed environmentally “green” by ALF’s Cape Cod Chapter.

For those who have the proper National Park Service permits for their oversand vehicles, stop by and climb the lighthouse on your way to one of Cape Cod’s finest beaches. The lighthouse is open to climb from 10am to 2pm – and don’t forget your camera; the views from the top are spectacular! There is even a gift shop to peruse in the keeper’s house.

Race Point Lighthouse is located two miles out over the sands of Cape Cod National Seashore. The nearest roads are at the northern end of Race Point Beach near the Race Point Ranger Station and the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station Museum. The Provincetown Municipal Airport and the Province Lands Visitor Center are also nearby.

Please note: For the protection of endangered shorebirds, tours may be cancelled due to nesting Piping Plovers and necessary beach closures by the National Park Service.

FMI: Visit www.racepointlight.net

Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse — Rockland, Maine

Take a walk out to sea without getting your feet wet! The Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights open this landmark lighthouse every Saturday and Sunday, from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. The lighthouse sits at the end of a 7/8-mile long breakwater and features an attached keeper’s house. Visitors can walk through the beautifully restored dwelling as well as climb to the top of the lantern for a bird’s eye view of the harbor with its working lobster boats and historic schooners.

On any given day, a walk out the Rockland Breakwater to the lighthouse will offer views of more than the marine traffic that calls the harbor home. Visitors are also treated often to the sightings of shorebirds and harbor seals in and around the stone breakwater – and occasionally, dolphins as well.

Though not open during times of sunrise or sunset, the lighthouse offers the “best seat in the house” for admiring the first light of day or the sun’s graceful descent at sundown. The show of color in the sky, and often times seen shimmering upon the waters of the harbor or bay too, is nothing short of breathtaking.

Hours:  Sat: 10-5pm  Sun: 10-5pm

FMI: Visit www.rocklandharborlights.org

Wood Island Lighthouse — Biddeford Pool, ME

The Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse invite the public to join the group on a tour to Wood Island Light Station – one of Maine’s most fascinating lighthouses whose legend and lore is as equally as intriguing as its long history.

A trip to this island light station also provides visitors with an opportunity to admire and appreciate the ongoing transformation of this historic treasure as its vintage glory is being returned to the site through professional restoration.
In 2010 the Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse restored the stone light tower, and during 2011, with assistance from the American Lighthouse Foundation, the group restored the exterior of the wood keeper’s house, including the reestablishment of dwelling’s circa 1906 front porch, which is now the architectural focal point of the house.

Tours to this 36-acre island paradise, which is located off the coast of Biddeford, Maine, depart from Vine’s Landing in Biddeford Pool. The guided tour takes about 1.5 hours and is subject to Mother Nature’s weather and sea conditions.

Boat transportation to the island is provided. While there is no fixed charge for the boat-ride and tour, donations are encouraged (suggested minimum $12/person) and gratefully accepted. All donations go to the cost of running the boat and the ultimate mission of restoring Wood Island Lighthouse.

Tours depart Vines Landing at 10am and 11am on Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays during July and August.

Maine Open Lighthouse Day -
September 15, 2012

The fourth annual Maine Open Lighthouse Day, the largest event of its kind in the country, will occur on September 15, 2012 from 9 am to 3 pm.

This popular event, which is sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, the Maine Office of Tourism and the American Lighthouse Foundation, attracts between 15,000 to 18,000 visitors each year and offers the general public the rare opportunity to climb and learn about over two dozen historic Maine lights.

While all Maine lighthouses cannot be opened to the public for safety and accessibility reasons, those that are open provide visitors with the chance to get up close and personal with Maine’s lighthouse heritage and those groups working to preserve it. All the while visitors also have the opportunity to experience Maine’s charming coastal communities, from its southern beaches to rugged Downeast, and to learn of the proud traditions between the U.S. Coast Guard and lighthouses.
Persevering Without a Float at the Lighthouse

Maine’s Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse may be connected to land by a nearly mile-long stone breakwater, but this “bridge” across the water — though wonderful for pleasure walks, is hardly ideal when it comes to hauling equipment and supplies out to the site.

In preparing to open Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse for the summer tour season this year, volunteers of the Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights found themselves suddenly dealing with an unexpected challenge — no float to use!

Each year, FRHL volunteers routinely load up and carry backpacks or handbags containing smaller amounts of merchandise and cleaning supplies for the lighthouse, but for general maintenance projects or restocking the gift store for the season, boat transportation is the only efficient means.

This has been true every year except 2012. The float that had previously been in use at Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse deteriorated to the point that it was no longer serviceable. The plan was to have a replacement float ready by Memorial Day, but complications in the acquisition process have now delayed the new float’s establishment until the middle of the summer.

Float or no float, the lighthouse still needed to be spruced up and made ready to welcome visitors by the time the month of May came to a close. The work list included such items as waxing and buffing the newly restored wood floors, repainting the tower staircase and two upstairs rooms in the keeper’s quarters, and reconfiguring the gift shop at the lighthouse.

To accomplish all this would require FRHL’s volunteers to go above and beyond with their efforts and carry out a measure seldom used — pulling garden carts loaded down with equipment, supplies and merchandise a mile over the breakwater.

Despite the arduous nature of the task, groups of volunteers showed the depth of their commitment to the lighthouse and its public access program by successfully transporting all the necessary items to the site.

Once at the lighthouse, the volunteers then carried out the planned projects — not missing a beat along the way and ultimately opening Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse to the public on time and with the site showing its usual sparkle about it!
(Above) Curt LeFebvre preps a bedroom wall on the second level of the keeper's house.
Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.

(Above L to R) Bob Trapani, Jr. and Dominic Trapani repaint the staircase inside the light tower.
Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

(Below L to R) Eric Davis, Tricia Dixon, Katrina Trapani, Ann-Marie Trapani, Dominic Trapani, Nina Trapani, Curt LeFebvre, Sally Cran and Bob Trapani, Jr.
FRHL Photo

(Left) Tricia Dixon applies a primer coat to the light tower staircase.
Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.

(L to R) Eric Davis and Brian Trask pull a cart full of supplies to the lighthouse out over the Rockland Breakwater.
Photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.
Taking the First Steps to Restoration at Whaleback Lighthouse

In spring 2012 the American Lighthouse Foundation and its chapter, Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses, submitted a proposal to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission seeking approval for a project designed to restore the rock armor protection at the wave-swept Whaleback Lighthouse.

The proposal, which was created with the help of Waterfront Engineers, LLC and Rykerson Architecture, addresses the repair of the east and west stone breakwater structures that extend from the lighthouse in their respective directions. The two breakwaters were originally established to offer the landing area at the site a higher level of protection from the action of the sea.

This project is extremely vital to ALF/FPHL’s long-term preservation efforts at Whaleback Lighthouse. Presently, there is no safe boat landing capability at the site due to extensive damage caused by storms over several decades. The power of the sea has dismantled the east breakwater, rendering it completely ineffective for its intended purpose, and similar damage has been inflicted to distinct locations along the west breakwater as well.

Factors such as the sea rolling in unabated from the eastern and southern quadrants, along with the hazards posed by rock strewn about the basin beneath the lighthouse, significant tidal swings and wicked currents all add up to make it dangerous for boats to approach the ledge during all but the calmest of seas, which is a rarity at Whaleback Lighthouse.

Once repairs to the east and west breakwaters have been completed at Whaleback Lighthouse, it will segue nicely into the next phase of the restoration project. Future efforts will focus on the installation of a docking / walkway system, which will provide volunteers – and eventually the visiting public, safe access measures that are presently not in place at the site.
New interpretive panels sharing the history of Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse and the stone breakwater upon which it stands with the general public will soon grace the walls of the keeper’s house at the light station thanks to the generous support of the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation.

The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation awarded a $2,500 grant to the Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights in spring 2012 for the creation interpretive panels that will focus on a variety of educational opportunities for visitors. The topics will range from human interest accounts about the lightkeepers to fascinating facts about Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse, including the natural and marine environments that surround the light station.

The Friends of Rockland Harbor Lights and the American Lighthouse Foundation, who assisted FRHL during the grant application process, wish to express their sincere gratitude to the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation for their support of this educational initiative. It is expected that the new interpretive panels will be established at the lighthouse later this summer.

Check Presentation for Grant Award (L to R) Eric Davis, FRHL Chairman, Mary Bumiller, Manager, Bangor Savings Bank – Rockland Branch, Jeanne Johnson, FRHL Committee Member and Bob Trapani, Jr., Executive Director, American Lighthouse Foundation.

Photo by Ann-Marie Trapani

ALF on Facebook!

Become a part of sharing and spreading fun stuff, photos and the latest lighthouse news through social media! Please “Like” the American Lighthouse Foundation’s Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/americanlighthousefoundation

Have you visited a lighthouse recently? Share your lighthouse photos and experiences...post a photo, memory or just stop by and say hello!
“Autumn is in the Air!” - Online Auction

Don’t miss ALF’s 2012 fall fundraising auction... “Autumn is in the Air!” being held online only starting Friday, September 21st at 8am and ending Friday, October 5th at 10pm!

By fall, the Christmas season is upon us, so it is a perfect time for our members and supporters to find that special gift for a family member or friend. Gifts that give twice... You’ll be giving a gift that supports lighthouse preservation too!

ALF is bringing together a wide selection of unique items from overnight stays to dining gift certificates. Mark your calendars, bookmark the site and sign up for email alerts!

Visit Our Auction Event Site:
www.biddingforgood.com/lighthousesmatter

A beautiful summer rainbow over Race Point Lighthouse on Cape Cod.
Photo courtesy of Bob & Lynne Kerber
WHO WE ARE & WHERE WE WORK...
American Lighthouse Foundation | Lighthouse Projects & Chapters

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“The building and maintenance of these American lighthouses has been a noble and humanitarian work, filled with romance, adventure, loneliness, and danger.”

– Edward Rowe Snow