



THE POMHAM GLOW

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Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse,
A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Mission Statement

To ensure the historic restoration and preservation of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and to improve public awareness, appreciation and access to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

AWARD!

Dave Kelleher will receive the **Antoinette F Dowling Volunteer Award** at a reception and dinner on October 16th by Preserve Rhode Island. The Award goes to an individual volunteer preservationist who has made a contribution through a lifetime of effort or through a single significant project. Friends and members are invited to attend the reception when the award will be presented and the dinner afterwards to be held at the beautiful Rosecliff House in Newport, RI. Dave has told me he will be attending the reception only. Information is included below. I hope we will make a nice showing in support of our Former Chair and current Board member who certainly earned this award through his years of historic preservation with both Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and the East Providence Historical Society.



The Statewide Advocate for Rhode Island's Historic Places

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RHODY AWARDS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A great celebration of historic architecture, local heroes, and special places!

Preservation Celebration

October 16 2016

4-7 pm

Rosecliff, Newport

Online reservations end October 12th

Each year, Preserve Rhode Island partners with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission to honor the people who make a difference by protecting Rhode Island's historic places. Friends and colleagues from around the state mingle at this annual Preservation Celebration where Rhody Award winners are recognized for their contributions. More than 300 of Rhode Island's community leaders, business people, and homeowners, come together with preservationists, industry professionals and craftspeople to celebrate.

Reception and awards presentation

Starting at \$40 per person

Reception, awards presentation, and benefit dinner to follow

Starting at \$150 for one person

ANOTHER AWARD!

This year's American Lighthouse Foundation Len Hadley Award for Volunteerism was presented to Member **Louise Paiva** at the annual ALF gala held this year in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Louise joined the Friends of



Pomham Rocks Lighthouse three years ago. Recently retired from 28 years in management positions in public relations and fund development,

she uses her experience and personal contacts to raise awareness and funds to restore Pomham Rocks.

Members and community residents have won dozens of her gift baskets, silent auctions packages, and raffle prizes. Along with selling raffle tickets to everyone in sight, she helps plan and promote Lighthouse special programs and assists with fund raising dinners, Touch-a-Truck, and the RI Boat Show.

In addition to all she does for Pomham Rocks, Louise is also an active member of many other community organizations. She has been a member of Scholarship Foundation of East Providence for more than 40 years and chairs their annual community-wide phone-a-thon and Holiday Breakfast. She serves on the board of directors, is a volunteer grant writer and runs the Clothes Closet for Good Neighbors Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. She is the Book Sale Chairman of the Friends for the East Providence Public Library's two annual book sales. Louise has served for more than 15 years on the Mayor's City of Pawtucket Cancer Control Task Force and she is a full-time permanent usher at Providence Performing Arts Center.

The American Lighthouse Foundation's "Len Hadley Volunteerism Award" is named for Len Hadley, one of the ALF's original volunteers. It recognizes volunteers for their passion, selflessness and commitment to lighthouse preservation.

ALF GALA

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was represented at the annual American Lighthouse Foundation gala held on May 16 at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, Maine. Each year, ALF arranges for a celebration of all lighthouse volunteers. It gives chapter members a chance to learn what is happening at other lights throughout New England and to renew old friendships. Chair, Jean Zunda and former Chair, Don Doucette, along with his wife, former Board secretary, Nancy Doucette, attended the event, along with our Len Hadley Volunteerism Award recipient, Louise Paiva.

Renowned lighthouse author and educator Elinor DeWire was the speaker at the event. She has been writing about lighthouses since the early 70s. She delighted Gala attendees with her program entitled, "Lightkeepers' Menagerie: Stories of Animals at Lighthouses." We were introduced to some of the animals that lived at yesterday's lighthouses. She related tales of happiness and sadness, courage and comedy, even silly adventures and escapades.

As our chapter donation to the ALF auction, we donated a 16x20 canvas-wrap photograph of Pomham Rocks taken by member Alex Dias and one of our personalized candles, first introduced at our 2015 annual meeting. To no one's surprise, Nancy Doucette went home with the prize.



—www.lighthousefoundation.org—

ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Once again we participated in the Annual Earth Day Clean Up of areas along the Riverside shore line. Thanks to the Suez Company that runs the treatment plant, we were able to have access to the grounds of the plant so that we could clean up the shoreline from the plant to the property line of Exxon Mobil Company.

We had the biggest group of volunteers this year and a good deal of trash was removed, but not as much as in previous years which indicated that our efforts over the last 5 years is having a positive effect on this area of the shoreline.

Thanks to many of our members including Mary, Anne, Eileen, Andy, Alex, Adam, Carlene, Dani, Dave and a few others, 8 members of The Suez Company, 3 members of the public, and 3 members of the Riverside Renaissance Movement. Thanks to the Suez Company for providing coffee and Munchkins.



by Carlene Joiner

The Clean-Up Crew

TOUCH A TRUCK 2016

Once again, we participated in the Annual Touch-A-Truck Event sponsored by the East Providence Chamber of Commerce. It was held behind the Chamber's office on Waterman Avenue on May 7. The weather was perfect and there was good attendance. We had a load of kids climbing in and out of the boat and had many inquiries about our restoration of the lighthouse.

Thanks to Joe for bringing and taking the boat back to the storage area for us. Thanks to Jean, Gary, Mary, Anne, Dave, Pat and Kathy for working that day and making the day successful for us and the Chamber.

POMHAM'S LAST KEEPER

By: Alex Dias

On Saturday, April 16, members Alex and Adam Dias sat down to interview the last Coast Guard keeper of our lighthouse. Dennis Tardiff was stationed at Pomham Rocks Lighthouse from 1971 until the day it was decommissioned in 1974. Dennis was kind enough to share many of his pictures of the lighthouse while it was still active.

One of the most impressive pictures is of the 4th Order Fresnel lens shown in its place in the lantern room. Unfortunately it is a double exposure, but it still is the only picture of its kind we have. Today this lens is in the Custom Maritime Museum in Newburyport, MA.



Dennis describes his picture in this quote, "The light was electrified and had been for many years. In the event that a bulb burnt out, a spring loaded mechanism would automatically pivot another bulb into position and light it. There was no alarm sounding warning us that this had happened so we would have to check each day to see if we needed to replace a bulb. I don't remember a bulb ever burning out."

We hope to share more stories, history and pictures of our lighthouse through Dennis' experience as the last Coast Guard keeper stationed at Pomham.

PROGRAM ON RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES

David Kelleher continues to present his program about Rhode Island Lighthouses to groups around the state.

He presented it to ninety 4th graders at the Richmond Elementary School in Richmond. This is a school that celebrates Rhode Island Independence Day every year around May 4th. The whole day is devoted to special things about Rhode Island, with special guests and also special foods that are "only in Rhode Island" like Del's Lemonade, Coffee Milk and R.I. Clear Chowder. Dave has been invited for this event for three years now.

Dave also presented the program to the residents of the Brookdale Centers, the one in Cumberland and the one in East Providence.

STARS AND LIGHTS BY DAVID ZAPATKA

The Spring Guest Speaker Meeting was held at the Riverside Congregational Church on Wednesday, April 20th. Our speaker was David Zapatka and his program *Stars and Lights*.

David, president of the Plum Beach Association, started a project in 2003 to take pictures of the lanterns of many of our local lighthouses at night in ideal conditions. The skies needed to be clear, and pictures taken at the new moon of the month. There are thousands of pictures of lighthouses in the daytime, but few at night when the lighthouses are in their most important function.



by Carlene Joiner
David Zapata and David Kelleher

Mr. Zapatka's photographs have been shown at many festivals and exhibits throughout Rhode Island, Mass., Conn. and N.Y. He has done work for NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, HBO and CNN. He has also covered 6 Superbowls, 17 NCAA basketball tournaments and 4 Olympics.

Mr. Zapatka's program was well received by a good size group of our members and members of the public.

Mr. Zapatka has a web site where his pictures can be viewed and purchased. It is www.starsandlighthouses.com.

SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT THE LIGHTHOUSE

On June 1st, Derith Bennet and Elinor De Wire traveled to see Lighthouses in Rhode Island. Both have traveled widely across the country to possibly see every lighthouse in the United States. They made a request to visit ours and their request was granted.

Elinor has authored many books and magazine articles about her favorite topic-Lighthouses. She has appeared on numerous television and radio programs about lighthouses and was the guest presenter at this year's American Lighthouse Foundation's Gala. Derith is a best friend and has traveled with Elinor on her many trips to Lighthouses. They are very good at getting into



by David Kelleher
Derith Bennet and Elinor De Wire

lighthouses by knowing who to contact and say the right things to those contacts. In the last few days they were welcomed to the Warwick Light by the Coast Guard and by the owners of Poplar Point Light in North Kingstown and Nayatt Point Light in Barrington. Both of these former lighthouses are privately owned and not open to the public.

PICTURES



by Carlene Joiner
Getting *The Lady Pomham* out of winter storage.
Thank you to King Marina!



by Carlene Joiner
The Lady Pomham headed for water.



by Carlene Joiner
The Lady Pomham back in the water! Captain Joe Estrella
at the helm; Jim Joiner assisting.



by Carlene Joiner
Some vehicles from Touch-A-Truck.



by Jean Marie Cataldo
Annual Clean Up



by Carlene Joiner
Beautifully restored Ahrens-Fox Firetruck, Hunts Mills

EAST PROVIDENCE ART FESTIVAL

Our group participated in the first Arts Festival located in the Hunts Mills pastoral area. We had an excellent site right next to the historic Hunt House. The traffic would flow past us as they went down to the back of the house to visit the vendors and also as they returned back up. We did sell a few articles as did Deb Peterson.

It was our many conversations with people about our project and talking up our coming events that was most important to us. Thanks to Jean and Gary and Dave for setting up the tent, tables and the Pomham Rocks lighthouse model. Deb Peterson came to the site a little later and stayed to help. Carlene came also and stayed to help take down our display. It was a good day all around.



by Carlene Joiner
Jean talking to an interested couple



by Carlene Joiner
The Falls at Hunts Mills, Rumford, Rhode Island



by Carlene Joiner
Fish Ladder at Hunts Mills, Rumford, RI

GROUNDS REPORT

There were several Work Parties on the Island. There was a variety of projects that needed attention: cut ropes/lines wrapped around the old dock, continuing to keep the bittersweet and poison ivy at bay that weaves its way through brush and fencing, clearing out debris from various rooms inside the Lighthouse, cutting the grass on the island, fixing the flood light on the flag.

There were some projects that were done for safety of visitors. Yellow stripes were painted on the walk path from the dock to the Oil House to help visitors notice the steps and slopes. Some of the cracks in the walk paths are starting to be filled.

The main project has been to work on the Oil House. It needed to be cleaned and swept. The floor was painted; items organized. Joe Estrella designed a deck for the Oil House. Joe and Alex Dias built the deck in Joe's garage. It was taken out to the island and then assembled onto the Oil House.

There were several who helped during the work sessions. They are: Joe Estrella, Alex Dias, Adam Dias, Lisa Dias, Dennis Tardiff, Andy Valerio, David Kelleher, Carolyn Conti and Will Howarth.

Many thanks to all who have helped make the Lighthouse safer and more beautiful!

SUMMER BBQ

Our second Summer BBQ was held on Saturday August 6 from 12:00 to 4:00 at Al's New Waterfront Restaurant on the Seekonk River in East Providence. A fine Buffet of chicken, ribs, hot potatoes chips, cold potatoes salad, corn on the cob, salad and deserts. Captain Joe and the Dias brothers held rides on the Lady Pomham and cruised up the Seekonk River to the Rumford water front.

Thanks to all the members of the Event Committee for planning, preparing, serving as hosts and raffle tickets sellers. Thank you to Louise Paiva for making up two great baskets and obtaining all those gift certificates for restaurants to making our raffles so successful. It was a pleasant afternoon for everyone and looking forward to making this event an annual affair.



by Jean Marie Cataldo



Annual Banquet and Meeting

We are trying something completely different for our Annual Banquet and Meeting this year. Rhode Island Yacht Club has graciously offered us the use of their meeting room. Their club is located across the bay from our Lighthouse. The meeting will be held on a Sunday afternoon, November 13. So, for the first time, we will be able to enjoy our light while enjoying our dinner. This will allow our members who choose to no longer drive at night to be able to join us as well.

Details will be sent out around the first of October.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm!

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P.O. Box 15121
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