



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

Volume 10 Issue 2

Summer 2010

Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers

"Our mission is to preserve the history of the

What A Meeting! What A Day! at Cape May Cape May State Park - Cape May Lighthouse

The Light on Old Cape May

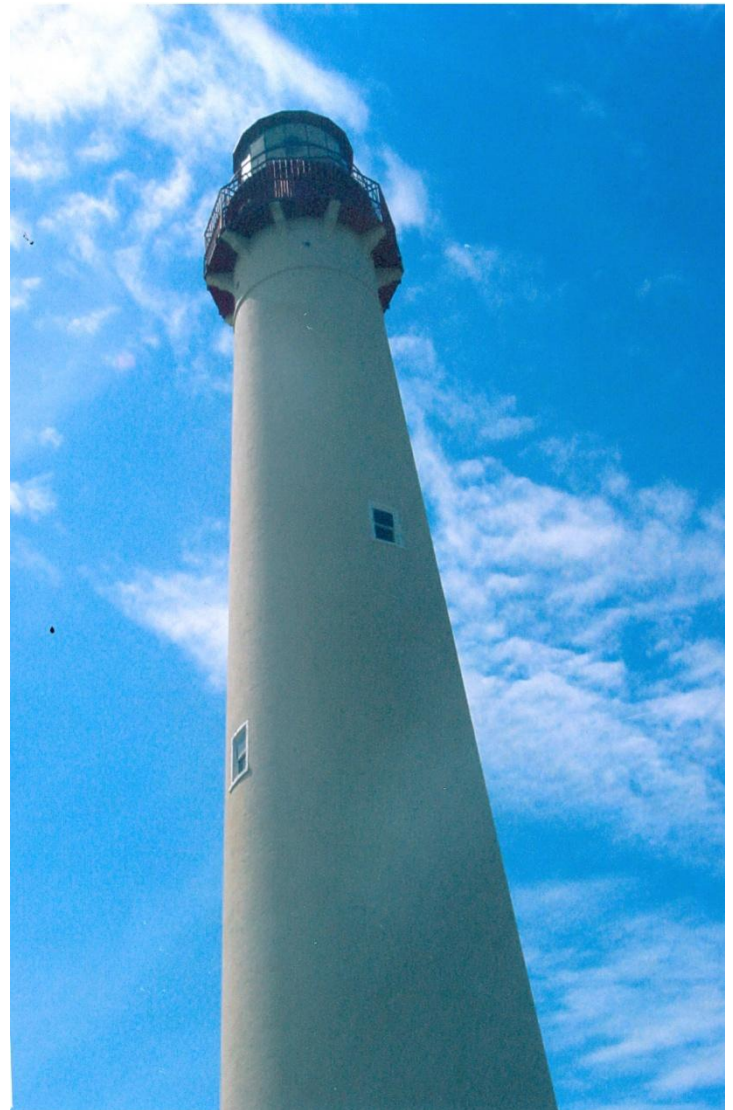
(Sea Chanty ca: 1900 Sung to the tune "The Bigler")

*The wind it blew from Sou'sou'east,
It blew a pleasant breeze
And the man upon the lookout cried:
"A light upon our lee!"
They reported to the captain and
These words he did say-
"Cheer up my sailor lads,
It's the light on old Cape May"*

(Courtesy of "Sentinel of the Jersey Cape" by John Bailey)

It was our pleasure to hear the amazing facts and stories about the famous, ageless Cape May Lighthouse's histories. Presented with an outstanding slideshow and exhilarating narration by lighthouse historian Rich Chiemingo Lighthouse/Museum Educator for the Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts (custodians of Cape May Lighthouse/Museum) at Cape May State Park, Cape May Point, NJ Rich has been an active contributing member of and to our DBLHKFA .

(A summary of Rich's presentation on page 4)



(Photo Courtesy of Dr. Bruce Middleton)

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A BEAM From The Presidents Desk By Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



President's Message

Hello to all from sunny Cape May. Memorial Day is over and summer is here. Bay Days, Outreaches to Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, our annual picnic and trips on the bay are all starting soon. Don't forget to reserve your place now, either on the sunset or moonlight cruises, as they will be filling up fast.

We have presented our 2nd Carole F. Reily scholarship this year to Rebecca Sheridan, a student at Vineland High School, captain of the tennis team and all round great athlete and academic student. Remember the \$500 scholarship is open to all of our members who have high school seniors going on to college. It would be nice to offer the award to one of our own next year.

It's been a busy spring at my house as we had a great surprise birthday party for Darlene who turned "39" once again. The best part was that my two daughters and I flew my son and his wife home from California without her finding out. The look on her face when she saw them was great. I don't think there was a dry eye there. The four days were wonderful but all things must come to an end and everyone has traveled back home.

We had one more surprise, our youngest daughter is expecting her second child near Christmas, "what a present!"

Well that's all for now...

Keep the lights Shining!

Angelo



(Rod Mulligan, Pres Angelo and VP Dusty Rtd with some real live active "Coasties" at Bay Days)

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For Newsletter Ideas, Contact

DBLHKFA c/o Maxine Mulligan

1049 Simca Terr., Vineland, NJ 08360

E-Mail – Memax1@juno.com

Jim Moffatt

1728 Woodcrest Dr Vineland, NJ 08361

JamesMoffatt@comcast.net

The DBLHKFA, Inc. Officers and Directors

President..... Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.
 Vice President..... Gaylord F (Dusty) Pierce
 Chairman of the Board.....Rod Mulligan
 Treasurer.....Maxine Mulligan
 Secretary.....Darlene Rigazio
 Membership.....Sharon Hewitt
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 Sunshine/Hospitality.....Martha Ruddick
 Publicity.....Jean Jones
 Historian.....Peggy Stapleford
 Ways and Means Anthony Giletto
 Newsletter.....Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan
 Webmaster.....Kelly Mulligan
 Scholarship Committee.....Anthony Giletto

Board of Directors

Rod Mulligan, Bill Geilfuss, Tony Giletto
 Steve Hewitt and Fred Ruddick

Phone Numbers and E-Mail Addresses

A. Rigazio	(609) 884-1329	Keeperang54@yahoo.com
G.F.Pierce	(302) 684-3512	overfalls@juno.com
R & M Mulligan	(856) 691-8224	Memax1@juno.com
J Jones	(856) 825-3386	jeanjones@fast.net
S & S Hewitt	(856) 456-4484	Baron101@verizon.net
F & M Ruddick	(609) 927-1781	MRuddick44@comcast.net
Bill Geilfuss	(732)-477-7768	billyrio@aol.com
D. Rigazio	(609) 884-1329	Darlenej50@yahoo.com
P Stapleford	484-947-3191	mspegstapleford@dejazzd.com
Jim Moffatt	(856)691-0201	JamesMoffatt@comcast.net
Tony Giletto	(856)482-8874	Nino21328@aol.com
K. Mulligan	(856)-691-8224	Kelly@delawarebaylightkeeperfriend.org

The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.

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From The Log of the Vice President Gaylord F. (Dusty)



Here we are heading into summer, looking forward to our many upcoming events and planning for 4 lighthouse tours on Delaware Bay. Mike Rothman, Captain of the Bonanza, provides an "up close and personal view" of these lighthouses. All the tours are narrated by former lighthouse keepers and former members of the coast guard. Our first outreach program, Delaware Bay Days, took place at Bivalve, NJ on June 12th. This event, celebrating the unique maritime heritage and outstanding resources of the Delaware Bayshore region of New Jersey, is held along the "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River. Saturday's events included local flavor music, contests, games mostly for the kids, the famous crab race, river cruises on the Meerwald schooner including environmental/activities aboard and on land, oyster shucking and plenty local seafood specialties.

"A great time with something for everyone" I also had the fortune to attend the Overfalls Annual Breakfast.

Overfalls Lightship the last to be constructed by the Lighthouse Service. It was decommissioned in 1972 and acquired by the Lewes Historical Society and is now a part of the Lewes Park System in Lewes DE. Soon to be in its \$550,000 slip based at the edge of the Lewes-Rehobeth Canal in Lewes DE.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! at the First Maritime Days Festival at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on July 17th & 18th. This Outreach will be a big boost to our treasury and help us sell our NEW line of great merchandise.

You can visit the lighthouse, and the outstanding Gardens. Please be there to help represent your DBLHKFA. Enjoy your summer

Looking for a few lost souls? Not many though! That may have forgotten to pay their annual dues for 2010. Dues are **ONLY \$15 single \$20 Family** Remember that you get an awful lot for so very little...Four terrific "Annual get togethers" Winter meeting, Spring Meeting Summer Picnic/meeting, Fall Reunion Banquet each with outstanding programs relating to "Our Mission" Lighthouses, Lightships and Keepers of Delaware Bay and River. PLUS our Four GREAT Bay Cruises. The "Bay Run" Newsletter quarterly. keeps you in touch.

Special Announcements for Lighthouse programs related to "Our Mission" Great new DBLHKFA merchandise to identify us.

Above all wonderful friendships that are created through our meetings and Outreaches. PLUS! Who doesn't need new refreshing , friends occasionally



Bill, Angelo and Dusty at Bay Days



Our own Bill Geilfuss sprays "Off" on a giant green head fly! at Bay Days

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Rich Chiemingo, Museum Educator at the Cape May Lighthouse started his presentation of the Cape May Lighthouse with the history of lighthouses going back to the days of President George Washington and Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. Secretary Hamilton had interviewed Port Wardens in New York and Pennsylvania with the determined fact that the Bay and Delaware River, reasoning was in desperate need of a lighthouse or similar facility due to the fact that Philadelphia was such an important seaport and the only access was through Delaware Bay and River.

Also, that all shipping bound for England and the New England/New York coast ports had to navigate around Cape May.

Cape May became a major whaling port considering the whale population in the Delaware Bay/River. Many of the Mayflower descendents relocated from Massachusetts to the area.

As early as 1744 it was known that there was a light of sorts in Cape May.

1785 was a turning point when the Pennsylvania Port Wardens purchased property in Cape May for the purpose of building a lighthouse to benefit navigation.

In 1823 the first known lighthouse began operation it was approximately 88 feet above sea level. It had 15 lamps and 16" reflector revolving, according to know records. It was rebuilt in 1847. This new lighthouse stood 78 feet tall. The beacon had polished mirrors (bowl type) to reflect the light this included 15 reflectors with three faces.

The Lighthouse Service was doing such a poor job of maintaining their lighthouse that Congress appointed a new Lighthouse Board to reorganize the lighthouse system. Many of the members of the Board were marine knowledgeable.

We would like to see you!
Join us on June 26th
Summer Picnic/Meeting
July 17/18 Maritime Festival
at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse
October 24th Annual Reunion Banquet
Yacht Club of Sea Isle City



(Rich Chiemingo making his presentation)

In 1851 Cape May's inspection by the new Lighthouse Board's found the building in unacceptable condition. It leaked and basically was falling apart. The keepers had no training, no basic supplies and no instructions and the lifesaving boathouse was lock and there was no key.

In 1857 Congress approved \$40,000 for rebuilding and to include a firstorder lens. This was the demise of the 10 year old and it was demolished in 1862

This year 1857 brought the likes of architect General George Meade an Army Engineer to Cape May and designed the beginning of "State of the art" lighthouse as we know it today. When the old lighthouse was torn down many Cape May residents purchase the bricks for pennies and they are still evident in homes and chimneys.

The lamp was lit on Halloween 1859. This magnificent lighthouse almost 160 foot tall has 199 spiral iron steps, plus 12 leading to the lantern.

Cape May Lighthouse is the second oldest continually operation lighthouse in the country. It is second only to Sandy Hook (1794). All lighthouse were dark during World War II

(Much of the detail information in Rich's presentation were from the terrific keepsake book by John Bailey entitled SENTINAL of the JERSEY CAPE available through the Museum Gift Shop or www.CapePublishing.com)

The Bay Run

General George G. Meade My Hero

"By Chairman Rod Mulligan

I had read a lot about the great Lieutenant George Meade (later the Union General at the Battle of Gettysburg) who was a member of Topographical Engineers back in the 1850's and who did much of the designing of many lighthouses in our area. BUT, I never dreamed I would have the opportunity of meeting this gentleman in the guise of Dr. Andie Waskie, PhD a Temple University professor who portrays the General.



Who would have thought that a General can share a laugh with an enlisted guy!

What a thrill standing next to and talking with someone I had always hoped to meet. Dr Waskie has done considerable research into the life of General Meade and really knows his history. He even resembles him. To me it was like the dream come true!

***Come meet him at the Annual Reunion
October 24th 2010***

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Paid to date:

98 Family Members\

29 Single memberships

11 Honorary Members

TOTAL MEMBERS 138

With a little bit of effort on every member's part we should be at 150 members before the Annual Reunion!

With all we do as an organization recruiting new members or contacting past members should be a "Breeze" There is a lot of pride in those members who participate in our meetings, Outreaches, Cruises, etc. Only so few of us take advantage of our great, meaningful Association.



Boy! Was he impressed with me as we stood there "Buddy-Buddy" My Hero! Gen. Meade!

The event was held at the Vineland Historical Society 100th Anniversary May 24 in Vineland, NJ. Also attending were Tony Giletto, Peggy Stapleford, and Jean Jones from our Board

"Ironically, General Meade was the uncle of Vineland's founder Charles K. Landis' wife who was a Meade."

I encourage every member who can make the DBLHKFA Reunion on October 24th at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City to come out and meet and learn from Dr. Waskie He is an outstanding personality. Best speaker we could ever have!

NOTES FROM OUR WEBMASTER KELLY

Kelly Mulligan

Since January 1st 2010 – 8797 Visits

On Average the weekends are the busiest (Fri. Sat. and Sun.)

Germany, Russia and the United States are always in the top 5 of countries where people are accessing the web site.

The top 5 web pages viewed are the Main Page, Lights page, Calendar, Newsletter and Contact pages. <http://delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org> Most people find us with Google searching for specific lighthouses. Others come from NJLHS.Org and Lighthousefriends.com

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Kelly@delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org

Kelly does an amazing job for us.

Thanks Kelly

The Bay Run

PEGGY'S CORNER



By Peggy Stapleford

Activities/Program Chair

“OH! What a time we had in Vineland on May 24th at the Vineland Historical Society. It was quite exciting to meet Dr. Andrew Waskie, portraying Major General George G. Meade.



Dr. Andrew Waskie as Gen. George G. Meade

Looks like him, talks like him It's him alright!

Rod, Tony, Jean and I were there to party with him. He was a little late in getting there “claimed his horse died on the way to Vineland.” (nice cover up).



While we waited we were entertained by the Civil War era music by the 28th Regimental Brass Band, conducted by Robert Philbin (no relation to Regis)

He is an historic researcher and historic arranger of Victorian tunes.

They really set the tempo for the day.

The General’s portrayal became a very forceful speaker, putting lots of wit and humor in his remarks and asides.

He related to his life, he was born in Cadiz, Spain where his father was a diplomat. His early schooling was in the states.

There is so much more I want to tell you about his absolutely interesting life and careers.

BUT! if I do you won’t be able to enjoy his wonderful portrayal of General Meade as our guest and speaker at the **ANNUAL KEEPERS REUNION AND BANQUET** on October 24th 2010 at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City *See you there!!!*

For our members from out of the area unable to attend the Annual Reunion there will be full coverage and pictures in the Winter issue of the “Bay Run”

WAITING for NEWS from the “LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE of NEW JERSEY Oct 16th & 17th 2010
We’ll be at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, meeting and greeting Lighthouse enthusiasts from around the world.

DBLHKFA will be here on Oct 16th
So...come join the fun and volunteer!

SPARSE NEWS from the sunken Vandenberg; last seen in our Summer “Bay Run” 2009
Maxine was in contact with Bonnie Clydesdale by E-Mail; she is located in the Florida Keys. Bonnie told her that the water had just been too cold this past winter. She is also now the Head Sea Tow captain in Marathon . Bonnie is hopeful to make a dive this summer since she now has her Dive Instructor Certification.

Stay tuned... I’m sure she will give Maxine an update after the dive.

KEEP THESE DATES:

June 26th DBLHKFA Annual Picnic at Hereford Lighthouse Pavilion.

July 17/18 1st Maritime Days Festival

October 24 Annual Reunion Banquet
Yacht Club of Sea Isle City

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2010 CAROLE F. REILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



President Angelo Rigazio presenting the Carole F. Reily Scholarship Award to Rebecca Sheridan

The Vineland High School All Sports Booster Club Banquet was held on Monday night June 7th at the Savoy Inn. Since no applications were received from our membership, the Carole F. Reily Memorial Scholarship was once again presented to a student from Vineland High School. President Angelo Rigazio, presented the scholarship to graduating VHS scholar/athlete Rebecca Sheridan.

Possessing some of the same qualities as Carole: determination, perseverance, dedication and through hard work, surmounting the obstacles along the way, Rebecca achieved the goals she set for herself in her high school career. She played soccer, was captain of the tennis team, she plans to attend Drexel University and become a biomedical engineer. Rebecca also received a major financial scholarship from the Scholarship Committee of the Vineland Rotary Club .

Congratulations Rebecca



Attending the VHS All Sports Booster Banquet representing our Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Assoc. were President Angelo, Maxine and Rod Mulligan.

Pictures in this Issue courtesy: Bill Geilfuss, Maxine Mulligan, Dr. Bruce Middleton

WHAT A SURPRISE!!!

After the Spring Meeting at the Cape May Lighthouse several members went down to Sunset Beach to see the newly refurbished Turret Tower from World War II that had just opened up for tours. There on the wall was a listing of all Cape May County Servicemen and Women. As Darlene Rigazio was looking at the names she came upon her DAD's name David J. Robinson, Jr.



This picture is worth more than a 1000 words. Darlene pointing to her Dad's name

CRUISE NEWS



Aboard the Bonanza II SUNSET CRUISES

Sunday, July 11th at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 15th at 4:30 p.m.

MOONLIGHT CRUISES

Saturday, July 24th at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m.
Boarding time 45 minutes before cruise .

Reservations are going fast!

Contact: Maxine Mulligan (856) 692-8224

Memax@juno.com

Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329

Darlenej50@yahoo.com

Members get 1st preference if Cruise is not full.

No change in Price \$30 Adults

\$15 for children under 12

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Spring Meeting & Tour at Cape May Lighthouse

Picturesque Old Cape May Lighthouse-Taking a break Maxine, Jim Moffatt, Charlie Bolton, Jean Jones +, Checking out the new merchandise Paula Shannon, Lois Middleton, Rod Mulligan-Innovative Rod...we couldn't find a flag so he grabbed his trucks "Sun Shield"



Peggy Stapleford reporting on upcoming events, etc.-a view from the top of Cape May Lighthouse-Lighthouse from Oceanside- The Cement Ship at Sunset Beach



President Angelo reading the "Bay Run" so it's got to be good! at our Outreach, Bay Days at Bivalve and Port Norris-In the parade Port Norris Rotary Club float with Little Leaguers- Our merchandise tables with Tony Giletto and crew



EARLY BIRD RESERVATIONS
for our
ANNUAL KEEPERS REUNION BANQUET
OCTOBER 24TH 2010

at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City
Short Annual Fall Meeting with Great Food and Fellowship
Terrific Guest Speaker: "General George Meade"

Contact: Darlene Rigazio Darlenej50@yahoo.com or (609) 884-1329

We expect this Reunion to be a sellout! Make Your Reservations NOW!!!
