



The Bay Run



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

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“Our mission is to preserve the history of the
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers”

TRAVELS WITH THE EDITOR

“The Netherlands and Belgium, Summer 2016”

In the beginning of April, my granddaughter and I were fortunate to travel to The Netherlands and Belgium. Taking a night flight from Philadelphia, we arrived at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam around 8:30 AM European Central Time. Welkom to The Netherlands. We met our tour guide and was taken aboard our “home away from home,” a Viking “long” ship, to prepare for our river cruise. After checking in and being given detailed instructions, our first adventure was a canal cruise in Amsterdam. Amsterdam has 165 canals, 90 islands and 1,280 bridges, all within the city limits. We learned that the majority of The Netherlands is flat and one quarter of the land is below sea level with the highest elevation being 1,060’. The majority of people use bicycles for transportation; approximately 881,000 bicycles to be exact. One has to be very careful when crossing the road. Another interesting fact is that the Dutch are the tallest people in the world; the average height of a Dutchman is 6’; the average height for a Dutch woman is 5’7”.



After checking out Amsterdam, we cruised to Hoorn, where we had a walking tour of the city and experienced a visit to a Dutch family’s home; then on to Arnhem. While cruising, we crossed the IJsselmeer Sea (formerly the Zie-derzee) where we saw the Marken Lighthouse. This beacon was established in 1700 to guide ships across the Ziederzee; the present lighthouse was built in 1839. (See picture A) Another lighthouse in this area, the Burgh-Haamstede, one of the tallest in the Netherlands was built in 1837. It is not open to the public. (See picture B) After arriving in Arnhem, we visited the scene of a WWII battle between the allied forces and the Germans. It gave me a completely different prospective of the war, witnessing it from the Dutch point of view. We toured the Arnhem-Oosterbeek Cemetery where 7,500 allied forces and 32,000 members of the German military are buried.

It reminded me of our National Cemetery in Arlington. Many inscriptions read: “A soldier known only to God.” It brought to mind how many people, all over the world, have died fighting for freedom. After our tour of the cemetery, we went to the Arnhem Airborne Museum, a museum dedicated to the 101st British Airborne Division. The code name for the battle fought here was Operation Market Garden, one of the fiercest battles in the liberation of The Netherlands. Ten thousand paratroopers were dropped behind German lines in September of 1944, the biggest aerial landing operation in WWII. Only 750 of these men survived. Walking through the museum, we could actually experience the evacuation of Arnhem, the invasion, and finally the liberation of the city. What an eye-opening experience. As we were leaving the museum, I noticed this inscription: “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Next we visited the historic windmills at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinderdijk. Windmills, one of the things we have been waiting to see!! It seems that some people in the government wanted these windmills destroyed but the heritage (*continued on page 5*)

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



Welcome spring! 80 degrees in March and snow in April, I can’t wait to see what this summer brings. I just got back from 10 days at Disney World where it was sunny and 95 every day. We had a great time with the grandkids, going on all the rides and seeing all the Disney characters. We are looking forward to Maritime Weekend in June and the first lighthouse cruise to Harbor of Refuge on July 16—my old home. When returning from Disney World, we rode the ferry from Lewes, DE to Cape May. The captain took the southern route which took us right by Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse. What I saw was shocking! The ocean side is rusted and it looks like it took a beating this past winter. Hopefully it will get repaired and once again look like the lighthouse I remember. That’s it for now. Keep the lights shining.

Angelo

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

FROM THE LOG OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

by Bill Geilfuss



What crazy weather we are having this spring; 83 one day, 52 the next. We were very lucky to have the weather cooperate (most of the time) so we could have productive outreaches at Hereford last year. We even sold out of some of our merchandise. Thanks to Tony Giletto, we now have a great new line of tee shirts and other articles to sell. Stop by and check out our new items. It's just about time for our popular Delaware Bay Lighthouse Cruises. My favorite is the Harbor of Refuge trip; even if we have to put up with Pres. Rigazio running up and down the deck showing everyone his tattoo. Katie, Tony and I are still attending the monthly challenge planning meetings for the 2016 lighthouse challenge; it seems to get bigger every year. Best wishes to our "go to guy," Steve Murray, for all his help in our outreach programs at Hereford Light. Hope he's feeling back to normal soon.

Some good news: LOWE'S stores have given Overfalls Lightship a Hero grant for their work in lighthouse preservation. Many people have told us that they first heard of our cruises and other outreaches at events in Delaware and Maryland.

Our Annual Keepers Banquet held on April 10 was a huge success. The friendly atmosphere, the comradery, the delicious buffet and the beautiful view made for a great day. Our guest speaker, Shauna MacDonald, was very interesting and informative relating about "Becoming a Pharologist." Shauna, an Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at Villanova University, has been busy interviewing former lighthouse keepers, gathering information and had many details to share; we thoroughly enjoyed her presentation. Below are some of the banquet pictures. Hope to see you on one of our cruises or at one of our outreaches at Hereford. Volunteers are always welcome. Come out to join us for a fun time.

21ST ANNUAL KEEPERS BANQUET PICTURES



The Pfaffs



Randy Alkins and Katie Moser



*President Rigazio
& guest speaker
Shauna MacDonald*



Listening to the speaker



Enjoying the delicious buffet

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chair



Saturday, June 4 – Annual Bay Day Celebration at Port Norris, NJ

Saturday, June 4 – Summer Meeting at the Charlesworth Hotel in Fortescue, NJ. Program presented by Shirley & Jim Fonash, owners of the Charlesworth Inn, who will be discussing the affect of Hurricane Sandy on their Inn, recovery and rebuilding in Fortescue and information on Miah Maull Lighthouse. *Itinerary: 10:15 Social Hour (meet & greet); 11:15 – Meeting; 12:15 lunch (*limited menu of soup, sandwich and salad offered); 1:15 Program.*

*MENU: Choice of: Chicken salad or pasta salad platter; soup (chicken orzo or vegetable); OR Ham and cheese sandwich and soup. Dessert: Sheet cake. Beverages: Iced tea, coffee, soda, water. Cost \$15 per person. DOES NOT INCLUDE GRATUITY.

Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19 – Mariners' Weekend at Hereford Inlet Light

Saturday, July 16 – Saturday Night Moonlight Lighthouse Cruise to Harbor of Refuge (5 hours) – leaves dock at 3 PM.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, August 3, 4 & 5 – US Coast Guard Reunion at Cape May Coast Guard Base (see article)

Sunday, August 7 – National Lighthouse Day at Hereford Inlet Light

Sunday, August 14 – Lighthouse Sunset Cruise to Ship John Shoal and North in the Bay (4 hours) – leaves dock at 3 PM.

Sunday, August 28 – Lighthouse Sunset Cruise to Brandywine and South in the Bay (4 hours) – leaves dock at 3 PM.

NOTE: Fall meeting will be held in late September or early October.

REMINDER: 3 DAY COAST GUARD REUNION PLANNED

August 3, 4 and 5 are the dates for the coast guard reunion to be held at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey. These dates were chosen since they correspond with the 226th birthday of the USCG.

Anyone interested in attending or for more information, please contact Tom Laskey, 4765 Eftero Blvd., Fort Byers Beach, FL 33931; e-mail: TL@FMYS.Net or Joe Keglovitz, 6121 Valley Forge Drive, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

An interesting and enjoyable time is planned for all who attend.

— TRAVELS WITH THE EDITOR - “The Netherlands and Belgium, Summer 2016”

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organizations fought to have them preserved. (See picture C) We went inside a working windmill and climbed to the top (something like being in a lighthouse). Very close quarters but very interesting. These windmills are used to pump water from the lowlands into reservoirs. At one time there were approximately 10,000 windmills in Holland; now there are about 950. “This site bears a powerful testimony to human ingenuity by protecting this area using the development and application of hydraulic technology.” (UNESCO)

Leaving The Netherlands, we cruise on to Antwerp, Belgium. We have to go through a series of locks as we negotiate the 16’ difference between Holland and Antwerp. We have sailed on the Rhine and Danube Rivers, crossed an arm of the North Sea and the IJsselmeer Sea. Next we toured The Cathedral of Our Lady where four original masterpieces by Peter Paul Rubens are housed. Our tour guide proudly announces that Belgium brews over 900 varieties of beer and produces 220,000 tons of chocolate a year. They are also known for their delicious Belgian waffles, lace and claim to have invented the French fry stating it should be called the Belgian fry.



Next on the itinerary is Ghent, famous for mussels, beer and chocolate. Historically, Ghent is where the Treaty of Ghent was signed in 1812 ending the war between Great Britain and the United States. If you so choose, you can have a traditional dish of paling in’t Groen (eels with vegetables and herbs) or Boudin Blanc and Boudin Noir (blood sausages). Ghent is also the center for the flower and bulb trade. We visited the Storm Museum that relates the story of the last great flood which occurred in 1953. We then travel to Watcheren to view the Walcheren Delta Works Projects, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Watcheren was once an island until the newly constructed dam helped to connect it to the mainland. This project took 50 years to complete and consists of 13 barriers and dams that stretch over 20 miles. The system protects the area from floods while still allowing tides to ebb and flow.

We return to The Netherlands stopping in Rotterdam, which is Europe’s largest port earning it the nickname “Gateway to Europe”. Much of this city was destroyed during World War II; now Rotterdam’s spacious new inner city is a pleasure to explore. Our last excursion is a tour to Keukenhof Gardens, the world’s largest floral park. This floral park covers 80 acres showing 7 million brilliant bulbs on ten miles of paths through the most breathtaking bulb displays you will ever witness. Displays of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, lilies, bluebells, crocuses, amaryllis, orchids and countless other flowers were along the pathways, and filled the greenhouses. These floral arrangements were interspersed among fountains, brooks babbling over stones, sculpted trees and bushes plus a working windmill. It is truly the “greatest flower show on earth”. What a way to end a vacation. They saved the best for last. (see page 8)

Sunday morning we were shuttled to the airport at 5 AM to catch our plane to Madrid, Spain. There we transferred to American Airlines for the flight across the Atlantic. We arrived home in a little over 8 hours, tired but happy and much more informed about two more European countries. Afscheid; Auf wiedersehen.

— 10 MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO VISIT IN NEW JERSEY

As stated in the New Jersey Monthly

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Island Beach State Park <i>Berkeley Township, Ocean County</i> | 6. The Palisades <i>Englewood, Bergen County</i> |
| 2. Princeton University <i>Princeton, Mercer County</i> | 7. Green Sergeant’s Covered Bridge
<i>Sergeantsville, Hunterdon County</i> |
| 3. Historic Greenwich <i>Cumberland County</i> | 8. Tillman Ravine <i>Stokes State Forest, Sussex County</i> |
| 4. Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
<i>Leeds Point, Atlantic County</i> | 9. The Great Falls <i>Paterson, Passaic County</i> |
| 5. Oswego River at Penn State Forest
<i>Lake Oswego, Burlington County</i> | 10. Ken Lockwood Gorge <i>Califon, Hunterdon County</i> |

SCENIC BYWAYS - Short Trips to Take in New Jersey

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. The Delaware River Scenic Byway | 3. The Palisades Interstate Parkway
<i>(a New Jersey-New York collaboration)</i> |
| 2. Millstone Valley Byway | 4. The Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail
<i>(David A. Byers, Celebrate New Jersey)</i> |

LIGHTHOUSE FULL MOON CLIMBS AT CAPE MAY...

...a special opportunity for night sky gazers. Let the light of the full moon guide you up the Cape May Lighthouse until you reach the starry top and enjoy a dramatic and memorable view. Since it opened to the public in 1988, some 2.5 million people have climbed the 199 steps to the top of the lighthouse. A smaller, select group can say they have experienced the grand vista of the evening sky from atop this majestic beacon at nighttime. Opportunities are rare, but this summer members of the public can climb to the top of the lighthouse during nighttime hours. See the full moon in all its glory on clear night and enjoy a spectacular moonlit view. Lighthouse Full Moon Climbs are offered on Saturday, May 21; Monday, June 20; Tuesday, July 19; Thursday, August 18; Friday, September 16 and Sunday, October 16 from 8 PM to 10 PM. The Lighthouse is located in Cape May Point State Park, Lower Township. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3 – 12. For more information about historic accommodations, contact Cape May Historic Accommodations at www.capemaylodging.com.

(Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities, May 2016)

DID YOU KNOW?

-  CORRECTION – The lens on Page 8 of the Spring Newsletter was incorrectly identified as Hereford Light. It is from Barnegat Light.
-  Thanks to the Coast Guard!! On an average day, the coast guard saves 10 lives, helps 195 people in distress and keeps \$9.5 million dollars worth of drugs from reaching our streets.
-  Sloan Wilson, author of The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit, was an officer in the US Coast Guard serving on the cutter Tampa (WPB-48) and various other ships.
-  Alex Haley, author of Roots, joined the Coast Guard in 1939, went through World War II on Coast Guard cutters and other ships as a steward's mate and was assigned to the USS Murzim, navy cargo-ammunition ship, manned by coast guard personnel.
-  The Pensacola Lighthouse is owned, operated and maintained by the US Air Force.
-  Students and faculty from Vineland High School's (my alma mater) marine science class and SHAPE (Students Helping Animals, Plants and Environment) Club participated in a dune restoration project at East Point Lighthouse. This project was conducted in conjunction with the Delaware Bayshore Chapter of the American Littoral Society. Starting in the classroom, students planted American grass plugs into pots; when ready the beach grass was transplanted to the shore. By "taking the classroom outside", it will help to protect and preserve this historic lighthouse for future generations to enjoy. (AC Press, April 14, 2016)
-  A Lighthouse Keeper Memorial Marker & Tombstone Restoration Fund is being sponsored by Lighthouse Digest. Lighthouse keepers who served at our nation's lighthouses from 1789 to 1939 under the United States Lighthouse Service have never been honored with a historical service marker at their tombstones. Also many of the tombstones of our nation's lighthouse keepers need to be restored or replaced. This can be accomplished with the help of donations from the general public and lighthouse enthusiasts. For more information, please check www.gofundme.com/uslhsg Graves or contact Timothy Harrison at Lighthouse Digest.
-  Calling all beer lovers - The Battleship New Jersey is presenting a New Jersey Craft Beer Festival on June 25 at the Camden Waterfront. More than a thousand beer lovers turned out for last year's event. So far 24 NJ breweries have signed up for the event. Other New Jersey Beer Events are scheduled for : June 10 – 11 Wildwood Beer Fest; June 11 Atlantic City Boardwalk Beer Fest; June 25 Cape May Hops Fest, Blues & Barbecue; August 6 Cape May Beer and Crab Fest; September 10 Brew by the Bay at Cape May-Lewes Ferry, September 10 another Brew Blast at the Battleship New Jersey and last but certainly not least, September 24 the Glassboro Craft Beer Fest. (Daily Journal, May 11, 2016)
-  Belated birthday greetings to Augustin-Jean Fresnel, French physicist who pioneered in optics and invented the Fresnel lenses. He would have celebrated his 228th birthday May 10.

CRUISE NEWS FOR SUMMER OF 2016

2016 Cruises to the Lighthouses of the Delaware Bay have been scheduled for the following **SUNDAYS**: August 14 and August 28. The August 14 cruise will go to Ship John Shoal and north in the upper Delaware Bay. This 4 hour sunset cruise will leave the dock at 3 PM. The 4 hour August 28 Sunset Cruise will go to Brandywine and south in the Bay leaving the dock at 3 PM.

The 5 hour **SATURDAY NIGHT MOONLIGHT CRUISE** will take place on July 16 going to Harbor of Refuge and south in the bay leaving the dock at 3 PM. All cruises take place aboard the Bonanza II out of the New Jersey State Marina (Higbee's -slip #5), Fortescue, NJ. RESERVE SOON --CRUISES FILL UP QUICKLY!!

Cost for the cruises will be \$45 for adults and \$20 for children 5 - 12 years of age. Passengers must be at the dock at least one half hour before departure time. Lighthouses visited are: Miah Maull, Cross Ledge, Elbow of Cross Ledge, Fourteen Foot Bank and either Brandywine or Ship John. Harbor of Refuge is included in the 5 hour cruise. You are asked to bring bug spray (just in case), a jacket and a box lunch if you wish. Soda and water are provided.

For reservations please contact: Elma Gardner (856) 825-0123
e-mail: elmagardner@verizon.net;
OR Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329
e-mail: darlenej50@yahoo.com

Checks (payable to DBLHKFA) are NOT deposited until after the cruise; if the cruise is cancelled due to inclement weather, your check will be returned. We must have a home & cell phone number for you in case of a cancellation OR you can call any of the above numbers. Refunds WILL NOT be made if you DO NOT let us know you WILL NOT be there. Payment is due 2 weeks BEFORE the cruise, checks can be mailed to: Maxine Mulligan, Treasurer, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360.

There are former lighthouse keepers and members of the coast guard aboard these cruises to narrate and answer your questions. Background information on the Delaware Bay and the history of each lighthouse will be given. Photographers will have an excellent opportunity to get beautiful pictures. Join us for a pleasant, rewarding, relaxing, educational experience.

SPRINGTIME IN HOLLAND

