



The Lighthouse Log

Fall 2011

The quarterly Newsletter of the BLMA

President

Guy Archambault

Vice President

Varoujan Karentz

Secretary

Joan Vessella

Membership Secretary

Clarice Willis

Treasurer

Richard Koster

Board of Directors

Suzi Andrews

Anthony Antine

John Leyon

Anne M. Livingston

Lanette Macaruso

Stewart Morgan

Richard Sullivan

Joan Vessella

George Warner

Log Editor

Guy Archambault

Shipwreck Historian

Jim Jenney

Published by

East Side Printers

Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association

PO Box 83

Jamestown, RI 02835

401.423.3270

Email:

info@Beavertailight.org

Web site:

www.beavertailight.org

Annual Meeting Guest Speaker

The BLMA annual meeting will convene at the Jamestown Philomenian Library at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 20, 2011. We are fortunate to host John Hattendorf, PhD as our principal speaker. Dr. Hattendorf is the Director of the Naval War College Museum and is also the Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the NWC. He is a graduate of Kenyon College, earned his master's degree from Brown University and his doctorate from Pembroke College, Oxford University. Prior to beginning

his distinguished academic career he served as a naval officer for eight years where he earned a commendation from the Commander, United States Seventh Fleet for outstanding performance during combat operations in April, 1967.

As the author of numerous books, essays, articles, and monographs Dr. Hattendorf has earned an enviable reputation as an expert in maritime history. He will discuss the Navy museum system and some of the challenges encountered in directing it. His presentation promises to be informative, educational, and entertaining. All are invited to attend..... And bring a friend. ■



1938 Hurricane Remembered

On Wednesday, 21 September 2011, BLMA will host the showing of a film entitled: "NATURE'S FURY: New England's Killer Hurricane". The film will commemorate the seventy third anniversary of that devastating storm that caused unprecedented damage and loss of life to Rhode Islanders, as it arrived with no advance warning. This engrossing documentary will provide viewers with a keener insight of the power of nature.

The film will begin at 7:00 PM at the Jamestown Library. There is no admission charge. All are welcome. ■



A Message From The President

As the end of my term as president, BLMA approaches I take the time to reflect on some of the accomplishments during the past year—none of which could have occurred without the dedicated efforts of the members of the board of directors and committed volunteers. To name them all would require more space than allotted here and at the risk omitting some “unsung heroes”.

Here are just a few of their major achievements: We opened the light tower on several occasions to allow visitors to ascend 49 steps to enjoy the magnificent panorama from the observation deck. We were awarded a major grant from the Champlin Foundation which enabled us to restore all the windows in the keeper’s and assistant keeper’s houses and the garage. A total of 36 windows were completely overhauled. Additionally, the grant allowed us to completely upgrade the electrical system to meet code requirements. The heating system was replaced with a new boiler of greater efficiency and economy. The oil shed interior received

new concrete flooring and its interior has been developed as a new exhibit space that documents the different fuels and energy to power the light. The garage was pressure washed and newly painted. Exterior wood surfaces were replaced or repaired as necessary. New interpretive signage was installed on the structure surfaces to better inform visitors of the history and usage of those buildings. Additionally, some self standing exterior signs point out various areas of interest surrounding the property. And the foregoing is only a partial listing of the work accomplished during this past year.

While the board and volunteers are proud of their accomplishments, there are a myriad of projects yet to be tackled that will require the continuing dedication of our members. This past year has been an unusually busy one. I am indeed indebted and grateful to the small army of people who tirelessly and selflessly devote their energies and expertise to make BLMA what it is: an important historical and educational resource. To all who make it possible: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU !!! ■

National Museum Day

Saturday September 24th will be a special day for the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association. A new exhibit, “Lenses, Lamps and Fuels”, will be unveiled in the recently restored 1905 Oil House. The work of Richard Sullivan, Varoujan Karentz and Lanette Macaruso, The exhibit focuses on light tower illumination from the 18th century to the present. Graphic design work was done by East Side Printers.

New light station interpretive signage will also be highlighted. Funded with a matching grant from the R.I. Council on the Humanities, the signs provide information about each building as well as general information about the history of the immediate area.

Winners of raffle items will be drawn at 3:00 p m. The beautiful, completely furnished lighthouse model, three baskets of Sakonnet Vineyards wine with the Beavertail

label and the lovely painting of Beavertail By Donald Mong will go to lucky winners .If you have not purchased your raffle chances, be sure to get to the museum gift shop on or before September 24th.



National Museum Day is sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. Participating museums waive any admission charge but may charge or suggest a donation for special activities. We will have the tower open from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Last year was our first year of participation and the turnout was wonderful. Smithsonian provides publicity, highlighting events regionally.

There will be a special 10:00 am opening for members and invited guests from outside BLMA who have supported our efforts for these and other projects over the years. Refreshments will be provided. ■

Lighthouses are rapidly disappearing all around the world, and with them goes an invaluable link to our past. Your membership will help a great deal to keep Beavertail Lighthouse, the third oldest in the United States, from following that sad pathway. Please talk to your friends, neighbors and family members and urge them to join all of us who are thoroughly convinced that Beavertail Lighthouse is most worthy of our efforts to save it. Thank you in advance for sharing this membership application!



WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS:

ANNUAL DUES

- Family Life \$ 300
- Individual Life \$ 200
- Sponsor \$ 100
- Family \$ 40
- Individual \$ 25

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please contact me about helping with BLMA projects and services.

Please make your checks payable to: BLMA

P.O. Box 83, Jamestown, RI 02835

BLMA is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization



BEAVERTAIL LIGHTHOUSE
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 83
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

*BLMA is dedicated to preserving
America's third oldest light, providing
educational experiences reflecting the
best current thinking for all learners
and engaging in fund raising
activities necessary for enhancing
visitor experiences.*

Visit us on the web at
www.beavertaillight.org

Goudy Old Style

Address

Town, State, Zip



Mark your calendars and save the date!

The BLMA annual meeting will convene at the
Jamestown Philomenian Library at 7 P.M., *Tuesday, September 20, 2011*.
We have been fortunate to obtain a very special person as guest speaker. He
is John Hattendorf, PhD. Dr. Hattendorf is the
Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History, Chairman of the
NWC Maritime History Department, and Director,
Naval War College Museum.

It promises to be an interesting evening. Plan to attend.

