

Light House Acquisition Committee Update

Varoujan Karenz, Chair

BLMA has taken a major planning step toward preserving the lighthouse and improving the educational experience for the thousands of visitors to Beavertail Light. Your association, for some time, has been concerned about the disposition of Beavertail Lighthouse, when at some time in the future, the US Coast Guard chooses to deactivate the navigational aid and abandon the site.

While there are no immediate plans by the USCG or the US Department of the Interior, the government agency which controls the site, BLMA is examining contingencies in preparation for any future actions.

The present 7 acre lighthouse site, while folded into Beavertail State Park, remains the property of the US Government. There are existing agreement between the Town of Jamestown and the State of Rhode Island concerning certain lease back arrangements, all of which require re-examination.

The committee plans to study all of the various options for expanding the museum to include all the buildings and to petition the Town, State and Federal agencies for the purpose of securing the site under the 'National Lighthouse Preservation Act', at some later date and to prepare an initial 'proposal of intent' to be submitted by October of 2004 which will define the study options including site ownership considerations including outright deed, long term lease, common usage options, and site security. It will also identify the expanded museum educational exhibition possibilities and enhancements. A large number of excess light stations throughout the country have already been transferred to organizations either directly or on long term lease basis from state agencies. Varoujan asks that any BLMA members desiring to serve on the committee, contact him at (401) 423-0636.

A rare opportunity to climb the tower was enjoyed in July.

Photo by Varoujan Karenz



A Gull's Eye View

Beavertail Lighthouse
Museum Association
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PREIDENT

It doesn't seem possible that another busy season has come to a close. We express our sincere thanks to all of our wonderful docents, who have volunteered their time to entertain and educate our many visitors. So many people take the time to thank us, as they are leaving, for the information we have shared with them.

We welcome Frances Thompson as a new member of the Board of Directors. She is especially interested in lightships, and probably knows more about them than anyone else in our association. Frances has served as a docent for several years and is always willing to lend a hand. We also welcome Frank Meyer to his second term as a member of the Board. Frank has done a great job of keeping our grounds looking attractive and our Museum in good repair.

Jill Meyer has stepped down from her position as our docent coordinator after 3 years of doing an outstanding job. Many thanks are due to Jill, not only because she organized the docent coverage for the season, filling in herself for many hours whenever needed, but also for the great 'thank you' party at the end of each season, much enjoyed by all. Thanks Jill!

Our gift shop has enjoyed an excellent season, thanks to the imagination and efforts of Jim Filkins, our Gift Shop Coordinator. Jim is already thinking ahead to next year, looking for new and unusual items. If you have an idea for something that might be added to the shop, give Jim a call.

Please come and visit with us at the Holiday Craft Show on December 6th, Melrose Ave School 9 am - 3 pm, and join us for good food and fellowship at our Holiday Open House 1:00 - 3:00 p.m, December 7th in the museum,

See you at the Light,

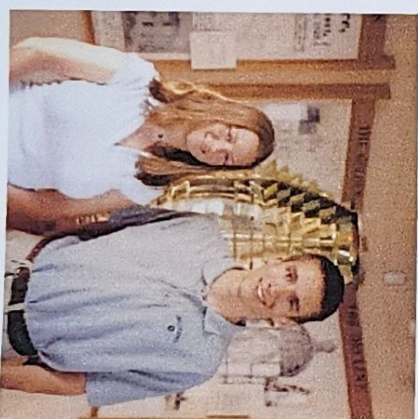
Miss Warner

And

The

Winners

Are...

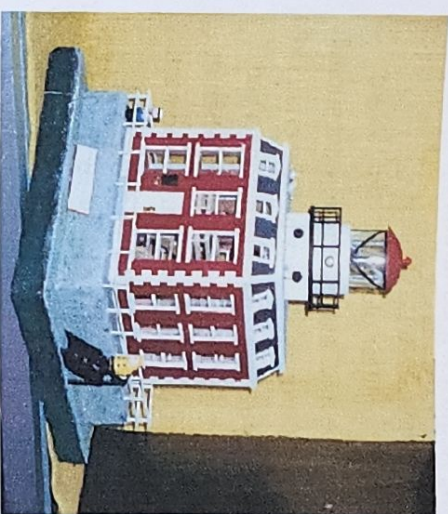


... These two smiling people

Hannah Lichtenstein and Matthew Gagne
each of whom was awarded a \$1000.00

scholarship from BLMA's

W. Craig Armington Scholarship Program



One of many handcrafted wooden lighthouse models constructed by Joe Bouchard.

Joe is a lighthouse enthusiast and active member of BLMA's Board of Directors. His models are often displayed in libraries around Rhode Island and he finds his inspirations and design ideas from books, calendars and magazines. This one is the New London Ledge Lighthouse in Connecticut

We report with deep sorrow, the loss of four very active participants in BLMA projects and programs. They will be missed by all of us and we extend our sincere condolences to the families of:

Laura Brasil
Leah Brown
Joan Frazier
Bill McCraw.

