

NAUSET LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2018 Newsletter

Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support. We have had a significant increase in memberships during the past year (32 new members, including 9 new Life Members).

We had a flurry of excitement in the summer of 2017 when Nauset Light went dark for several weeks. So many visitors and neighbors called, emailed and left Facebook messages to let us know the light was “out” and to express their concern (and to wonder if we had forgotten to pay the electric bill!). As our equipment ages and more and more lighthouses go to LED lamps, it can be difficult to get the parts needed to keep Nauset Light burning and turning. Fortunately, our multi-talented Board member Hawkins Conrad was able to fix the problem and get the light shining again. It’s nice to know so many people love the Light and miss it when it’s not lit.

We’re having lots of fun with our Facebook and Instagram pages. Shown here are some photos that people have taken of Nauset Light and posted on social media. See the back page of this newsletter to find us online.

Photos, clockwise from top: @dapixara; Mark Uchneat; Joe Rossetti.



MotorHome Magazine Visits Nauset Light



by Art Autorino, NLPS Board member

June 6, 2017, was a beautiful sunny day, just right for *MotorHome* and *Trailer Life* magazines to do a photo shoot early in the morning at the “Light.” Their purpose was to develop a cover for the September 2017 *MotorHome* Magazine, which would introduce a new Class B Motor Home named the CapeCod. Essentially it is a conversion van built on a Mercedes Benz 3500 170-inch

wheelbase. Developed by a new manufacturer, Grand Coach of Elkhart, Indiana, it has all the features of a home away from home — shower, lounge, LED TV, cooktop, Wi-Fi, GPS and lots of other amenities. For roughly \$150,000 you too can travel and camp in luxury as you tour the United States.



The Automatic Bulb Changer

by Hawkins Conrad, NLPS Board member
and past NLPS president

The “aerostyle” beacon installed at Nauset Light in 1981 introduced an innovation not available with the previous Fresnel lens: an automatic bulb changer. One changer was mounted in each of the two large drums that provide the red or white beams. The changer essentially consists of a horizontal bar which pivots in the middle, with a bulb socket and small reflector mounted on each end of the bar. Only one socket is active at a time: the socket which is located at the focal point of the large 24-inch parabolic mirror which focuses the light downrange. To set up the changer, the operator inserts a 1000 watt bulb in each of the sockets, and the end of the bar at the front of the light is pivoted against spring pressure to the rear until the bulb reaches the focal point of the mirror. The bar clicks into place, and is held in place by a latch. The changer is now “cocked,”

and ready for operation. The small reflector located with each bulb serves to reflect the unfocused light escaping from the side of the bulb not facing the mirror, back into the mirror to be focused into a stronger light.

The changer function comes into play if the active bulb burns out. The latch holding the bar in position is controlled by an electric relay. The relay senses the loss of current flowing through the bulb, and trips the latch. The spring pressure built up when the changer was “cocked” flips the bar end for end, clicking a new bulb into the active position.

This change of bulbs alone would probably be enough to keep the light going between maintenance services, but the Coast Guard added more insurance. A large relay box stood on the floor of the watch deck, and functioned to send telephone signals to the Aids to Navigation Team at Woods Hole.



If the bulb changer activated or the light rotation stopped, signals were sent, allowing the Coast Guard to remotely monitor the overall functioning of the light. The bulb changers were retired when the expensive 1000 watt bulbs were replaced by 400 watt halide bulbs, which cut our electricity bill in half.

WHAT, NOT AGAIN?!

by Art Autorino, NLPS Board member

Unfortunately YES, Nauset Light will need to be moved again due to erosion, but thankfully (hopefully!) not for a while...however, sooner than we estimated.

When the light was moved in 1996, it was only 43 feet from going over the edge. It was moved back 336 feet.



The cost was \$330,000 and it was estimated it would need to be moved again in 70-75 years, around 2071. At that time, erosion was averaging about 3 feet per year. Since then things have changed. Climate change, more Nor'easters (three this past winter), and rising sea levels have increased that erosion rate. Since 1996 we have lost 91 feet (4.3 feet per year). However, that average doesn't tell the whole story. The average erosion rate is increasing. From 2001 it was 5.1 feet; from 2003, 5.6 feet; from 2007, 6.4 feet; from 2010, 7.3 feet; from 2012, 9 feet; and it is estimated we lost between 8-10 feet in 2018. This means the light is now only 238 feet from the edge. At the recent erosion rate of 9 feet per year the light will need to move again in 26 years, or 2044 – 27 years sooner than we expected. Of course that could change for the better or the worse depending on Mother Nature.

New Wayside Exhibits at Nauset Light

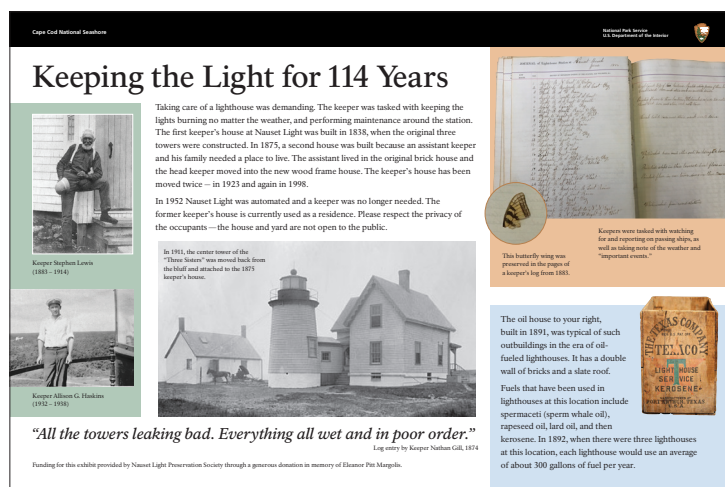
by Susan Abbott, NLPS vice president

For several years, we've planned for some additional signage at Nauset Light to help explain the history of the light station to visitors who stop by at all times of the year when no one is around to give a tour. These informational signs are known in the National Park Service as "wayside exhibits."

Right around the same time, the Cape Cod National Seashore received an inquiry from the family of Eleanor Pitt Margolis, asking if there were any projects at Nauset Light that her family could help with, in memory of Eleanor. Eleanor had owned a home on Nauset Light Beach Road, and the area was very special to her. The Seashore suggested the family may want to help with the two waysides we were beginning to design, and they were eager to underwrite the project.



NLPS Board members Art Autorino, the late Keith Sisterson, Jared Fulcher, Sherm Lovering and volunteer Russ Moehlich installed the first wayside exhibit in October 2017.



Creating a wayside exhibit is a complicated undertaking! The NPS has very specific requirements as to size, type fonts, photo resolution, and readability. Of course, accuracy is also an important factor. The challenge is to tell the story in a relatively small space, and help bring the history to life for our visitors.

The first exhibit, showing a timeline of history of the Nauset Beach Light Station, was installed in the fall of 2017. The second exhibit, highlighting the keeper's house and the oil house, is currently being produced and we hope to have it installed at Nauset Light by the end of 2018.

Membership News

Your membership in NLPS means you have joined a select group of people dedicated to preserving our heritage. We strongly encourage you to consider becoming a **Life Member**, paying your dues in one lump sum. Money from Life Memberships goes toward our endowment for future maintenance or repair projects. Please continue your membership so we can continue with the maintenance work and keep the light lit.

Memberships are now on a calendar year basis, so when you renew it will be for 2019 unless you have not paid 2018 dues. Those who see '2018' on this newsletter's address label are up to date and will receive a membership renewal letter in January. Those who see '2017' on the label need to pay NOW to remain active

members. You can send us a check as before (NLPS, PO Box 941, Eastham, MA 02642) or go to our website, select **About NLPS > Membership** and pay for your membership via PayPal or credit card.

Current membership levels are:

Individual	\$20/year	Life	\$200
Family	\$30/year	Family Life	\$350
Assistant Keeper & Family	\$50/year		
Keeper & Family	\$100/year		



Nauset Light Preservation Society

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A Tribute to Keith Sisterson

We regret to inform our membership of the death of NLPS president **Keith Sisterson** on May 3, 2018, following a four-month battle with cancer. Keith led NLPS for over 4 years, during which time he ably introduced the Society to new ideas and computer technology, resulting in more public awareness of Nauset Light and NLPS.

One such idea, combining his interest in mathematics with Nauset Light's prominent photo on every bag of potato chips made by the Cape Cod Potato Chip Co., resulted in a contest to guess how many bags of potato chips would fit inside the tower. Keith calculated the correct answer, and over several weeks, light house visitors from near and far entered the contest, which promised prizes donated by local merchants. More than 300 entries were received, and some came surprisingly close to the actual answer. It was a very enjoyable project that introduced many new people to Nauset Light. We miss Keith but we'll always remember his fine leadership, many contributions, easy smile and good nature.



2018 NLPS Board

Susan Abbott, vice president
Art Autorino
Hawkins Conrad, past president
Laura Drexler
Chris Ebert, clerk
Carl Ericson, treasurer
Jared Fulcher
Chris Kelly
Sherm Lovering
Cathy Mondon
Betsy Richards, president
Glenn Stockwell

Our board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except July, August, January, and February) at 5:30 pm in the Eastham Public Library. You are welcome to join us to see what's going on with NLPS.