The old vent ball was removed and placed on display in the lighthouse's museum. The new cast iron vent ball was put in place and topped with a new lightning rod. The very last step was the removal of the scaffolding. The aid to navigation team from the Coast Guard cutter Henry Blake (named after a keeper at New Dungeness) did the actual removal of the old and installation of the new vent balls.

Top right: Members of the crew of the Coast Guard cutter Henry Blake take a break with the old vent ball and its shiny new replacement. Bottom right: Volunteer board members Judy “J.P.” Persall, Roberta DeWitt, G.M. Chad Kaiser, Rick DeWitt, David Bromley, and Marcia Bromley celebrate the successful replacement of the old vent ball at New Dungeness Lightstation.

Left: With installation of its lightning rod, NDLSA General Manager Chad Kaiser puts the final touches on the new vent ball. Photos by Marcia Bromley.

This book is part of the Images of America series in which the book contains mostly photographs with a short paragraph after each photo serving as an extended caption. However, unlike most of the books in this series, North Point Milwaukee Lighthouse is a book about a single subject with great detail and has maps and documents added to provide more historical information.

The Wardius' have done a fine job of detailing the history of North Point Lighthouse itself, as well as the history of all of the various lighthouses in the Milwaukee area. They have produced a rich history of the keepers, including their families, involved with the lighthouse. They also cover the technical details of the lighthouse, with photos of the Fresnel lenses and their replacements through time, as well as the fog signals, the district depot, Milwaukee's Lake Park, and other elements of the lighthouses of the area.

In my opinion, this is one of the best Images of America-style of books I have seen and will give the reader a complete history of this very important early American lighthouse.


North Point Milwaukee Lighthouse
By Ken and Barb Wardius
Reviewed by Thomas Tag

I read many lighthouse books, and I found that Ken and Barb Wardius' book North Point Milwaukee Lighthouse is one of the best books about an individual lighthouse that I have read.