



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB

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Website: www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

USLHS Passport Program Turns 30

As most of you know, the Society turned 40 this year. But did you know that this also marks the 30th anniversary of the Passport Program, which began in 1994? Society founder, Wayne Wheeler, developed the idea of distributing a booklet resembling a government passport, encouraging visitors to fill it with stamps or pictures obtained at participating lighthouses. Collectors were also encouraged to leave a \$1 donation for local lighthouse groups (now we recommend a \$2 donation). The following year, recognition awards were introduced for filling passports with 60 entries. Since then, tens of thousands of passports have been purchased, and hundreds of thousands of stamps have been collected. Hundreds of new locations have been added and a by-mail option implemented. While we don't have an exact record of how much has been donated, a conservative estimate would be around a quarter of a million dollars—possibly much more. Wayne's idea has since become a signature part of the Society's mission to preserve lighthouses and their history. With many families now collecting stamps as part of their lighthouse travels, its legacy in lighthouse preservation efforts has been solidified.

Stamp Updates

Louisville Life Saving Station, KY

The Louisville Life Saving Station has a new design. LSS Station #10, the current office of the Belle of Louisville Riverboats, is better known as the Mayor Andrew Broaddus. This is the name of the site that is now a National Historic Landmark. The new stamp reflects this official name. For more information about the station: <https://www.belleoflouisville.org/mayor-andrew-broaddus/>



Greens Ledge Lighthouse, CT

There is a new stamp now available for the Greens Ledge Lighthouse. The stamp is offered by the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society on its public tours, overnights and during private events. For more information visit:

<https://savegreensledge.org/>

Oakland Harbor Lighthouse, CA

The stamps for the Oakland Harbor Lighthouse are once again available at Quinn's Restaurant in Oakland. The restaurant which closed earlier this year has reopened featuring a new menu of Vietnamese comfort food along with Quinn's traditional seafood and bar-and-grill favorite.

USLHS 40th Anniversary Stamp

To commemorate the Society's 40th Anniversary a special stamp is now available. This and other anniversary items can be purchased at: <https://uslhs.org/shop/specialty-items-40th>

2024 Year in Review

We have been busy this year with new designs and new locations in addition to replacing many worn out stamps. Following is a summary:

New Location & Design - These are new participating locations w/new stamp designs.

- Cranberry Island Life Saving, Maine
- South Fox Island, Michigan
- Minneapolis Shoal, MI
- Medway Head, NS

Additional locations - These are new locations & designs for stamps that are available elsewhere.

- William Livingston Memorial, MI (Design #2)
- Greens Ledge, CT (Design #3)
- Stannard Rock, MI

New Locations for existing stamps - While these stamps are not new, they are now available from a different source.

- White Shoal
- Florida Reef Lights

New Designs for existing locations - These locations requested a new design for their stamp. Some may still have a stamp with their previous design.

- South Manitou Island, MI (Design #2)
- Burnt Island, ME (Design #1)
- Old Mackinac, MI (Design #1)
- Scituate, MA
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, VA (Museum, Hog Island Lens & Lightship Portsmouth)
- Sheffield Island, CT (#1)
- Cape Lookout, NC
- Mayor Andrew Broaddus, KY (Previous stamp said Louisville Life Saving Station)

Anniversary Stamps

- Ludington North Breakwater (100)
- Little Sable Point, MI (150)
- Hereford Inlet, NJ (150)
- USLHS (40)

Coming Soon

Point Hueneme, CA

A new stamp for the Point Hueneme Lighthouse has been created to replace the stamp which has been unavailable for some time. An appropriate home is being arranged for and when it lands, we will update the website and report on its location in a future Flashes.

Chicago Harbor Light, IL - New Location, New Stamp

Cape Fear LSS Boathouse, NC - New Location, New Stamp

Part of the Life-Saving Station Series of stamps

Lost Lights Series VI

- Cuttyhunk Light, MA (Elizabeth Islands, Buzzard Bay)
- West Rigolets Lights, LA (West end of Rigolets Channel, Gulf of Mexico)
- Monroe Pier Light, MI (Western Lake Erie, mouth of the Raisin River)
- Semiahmoo Harbor Light, WA (Eastern part of Semiahmoo Bay, near the Canadian border.)

USLHS Lighthouse Enthusiast Community

Speaking of stamps, this is a reminder that the USLHS Lighthouse Enthusiast Community webpage (<https://uslhs.org/resources/community>) is a great way to keep track of your lighthouse passport stamps as well as your visits. You can also reference lighthouses seen on USLHS tours and determine the exact location of lighthouses for future trips using different methods, such as GPS waypoints and Google Maps. This resource is available to all lighthouse enthusiasts allowing you to share your experiences and photos with others. The page requires a login but just register a user name and password and you are ready to go. The Enthusiasts list was compiled by longtime Society supporter, Gary Riemenschneider, using the Lighthouse Friends website (<https://www.lighthousefriends.com/>) and the "List of All Existing U.S. Lighthouses" by Bob & Sandra Shanklin. The Enthusiasts list only includes lighthouses with a more classical tower that still exists (may have been modified) or at least some form of tower ruins. In any case, it provides a very comprehensive list of lighthouses in the U.S. and Canada and includes all of the lighthouses that are part of the passport program. Try it out. It is an excellent way for collectors to plan for and record your lighthouse stamp adventures.

Updates from Collectors

We wish to thank all of you who have sent emails to the Society (info@uslhs.org) or the Passport Club (passportclub@uslhs.org) informing us of a discrepancy between our website listing and what you have encountered in the field. Our volunteers contact every location early in the year but they are rarely informed of changes that occur later in the year. When we receive an email with new information, it is forwarded to the individual responsible for that region. Once verified, the website is updated but this can take several weeks or longer.

Collector Profile

Note: Beginning with this issue of Stamp Flashes, we will be featuring one of our Society members or their family highlighting how they got started collecting stamps and why they enjoy the Lighthouse Stamp Program. We begin with James Hill, who is at not only at the Pharos of Alexandra award level, but he has also visited every lighthouse in the United States. James has been a major advocate for the program, encouraged lighthouses to join and donated a number of stamps for participating locations in both the U.S. and Canada. He, along with several others, who will be highlighted in future issues, has been instrumental in helping the program become an important part of the Society's mission to preserve lighthouses and their history. Following is his story:

On July 12th, 2010 I visited my very first lighthouse in Ponce Inlet, Florida. After climbing the tower, a docent in the gift shop asked me if I would like to purchase a passport book and stamp to commemorate my visit. She explained to me how the program worked and, after doing research on the USLHS passport program, I decided to visit every lighthouse in Florida. My goal quickly evolved into a quest to visit every lighthouse in the United States and achieve the highest level possible in the passport stamp Hall of Fame. In addition, my passion for visiting lighthouses and collecting stamps challenged me to educate and recruit new lighthouse locations to the passport program. On November 30th, 2016 I visited Rubicon Point on Lake Tahoe and completed my quest to see every lighthouse in the United States. Despite completing my quest, every year I continue to revisit United States lighthouses in search of new passport stamps. One day, I will personally visit and donate my passport stamp collection to the United States Lighthouse Society Headquarters in Point No Point, Washington. Happy hunting and safe travels. *James Hill*