



Alabama Lightkeepers

Caring for Alabama's Lighthouses

Fall 2018

A newsletter for Lighthouse Lovers

Mobile Point Lighthouse

By Pete O'Neal

Can you believe it? We have a chance to restore Mobile Point Lighthouse after all these years.

The ALA Mobile Lighthouse Committee consists of Johnny Newnan (Chairman), David Smithwick, Jack Granade and Pete O'Neal.

Thanks to the hard work from Jack Granade and Thompson Engineering and the US Coast Guard who was presented with accurate drawings on the position of Middle Bay Lighthouse as represented on its original base.

The USCG's concern was that the lighthouse not interfere with the present navigational system located at Fort Morgan. From Jack's work, the ALA was able to show that the placing of Mobile Point Lighthouse on its original base would not interfere with the USCG's navigational aids. After meeting with the USCG Sector Mobile and presenting the drawings for review, both USCG Sector Mobile and USCG New Orleans has given the ALA written approval to proceed with the project under their supervision. GREAT NEWS.

Secondly, the ALA has worked closely with

the AHC and Heather Tassin (Director of Fort Morgan) and just signed an MOU allowing ALA to work with AHC in the restoration of Mobile Point Lighthouse and the placing of the lighthouse on its original base located on the southwest corner of the fort.



Above, the light as of today at Robinson Ironworks ALA File Photo



The light once restored at Ft. Morgan ALA File Photo

We are off and running with the first phase being the excavation of the basement under the original lighthouse. A new base is needed under today's present wind requirements. Since the basement was filled in for the 1872

Mobile Point lighthouse to have a foundation, the basement is a time capsule from that period. We hope to have the Archeological Department at the University of South Alabama excavate the base.

This is no small project with the total projected cost being estimated at \$442,000.00. We are on our way with grant applications and plans for fund raising to bring the first lighthouse back to Mobile Bay and Alabama where visitors can walk up to such an historical piece of American history.

More to come. It is time to jump in on a wonderful project of which we can all be proud.

At Half Mast

The current Board of Directors of the Alabama Lighthouse Association would like to recognize two outstanding contributors to the Association: Warren Lee, founding member and also served on the board of Directors for the Alabama Lighthouse Association and former member Mary Scarcliff whose husband Daniel served on the Board of Directors for the ALA and served as Chairman of the Sand Island Lighthouse in 2009.

Warren Lee, Founding Member

Warren Patrick Lee age 61 passed away on Friday June 1, 2018 at Springhill Memorial Hospital. He was a native of



Warren receiving an honor award at the ALA annual meeting in December of 2009. ALA File Photo

Mobile, Alabama. Warren married his high school sweetheart Paula Dean Murphey on April 27, 1985. He was fortunate to find his true love as both of them had a common interest for riding horses. They spent the next 33 years together as a true companions in pursuing common dreams and living life to the fullest. Warren valued his life long friends considering them family.

Warren spent his early year racing motocross, flying planes, riding horses, race horse announcer,

scuba diver, sky diver, boating and water skiing. Warren enjoyed Fowl River and Dauphin Island where at an early age he began interested in local history of Lighthouses around Mobile Bay. Camping on Sand Island Lighthouse in his youth Warren finally fulfilled a lifelong dream when in 1999, he formed the Sand Island Lighthouse Preservation Group. He worked with the Alabama Historical Commission and local Congressional Representative to acquire Sand Island Lighthouse from Government Services Administration for one dollar ultimately donating the Lighthouse to the city of Dauphin Island. Warren wrote and published the Sand Island Lighthouse Chronicles for the public's enjoyment. www.sandislandlighthouse.com. Warren earned a high school diploma attended University South Alabama and was employed by Degussa/Evonik Industries where he worked the next 31 years in many departments last title being Safety and Security Supervisor.

He is survived by a brother and sister and two nephews on the side. His heart was with his nephew and niece Garrison and Meghan Murphey and great nephew Collin Murphey and great niece Kendall Murphey. His brother-in-law Alan Murphey was like his brother. Mother and father in law Dixie and Ben Murphey were like his parents all still living at this time. Warren was laid to rest June 5, 2018 at Mobile Memorial Gardens with a truly moving service by coworker, friends and family. "I love you, Warren until the day I die and we are joined again." Paula

Published in the Mobile Register

Mary Scarcliff, Special Member

Mary Elizabeth Smyth Scarcliff was 64, born May 21, 1954 in Morocco, Africa on Nouasseur Air Force Base, to Mother Janice Potts Smyth and William Louis Smyth. Mary passed away due to terminal glioblastoma brain cancer at her home on Dauphin Island, AL. Mrs. Mary was best known and loved for the establishment of the Lighthouse Bakery LLP in 1997. Always involved with the community and fellow business owners, Mary served as a past President of the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years Daniel Harrell Scarcliff, son Captain Sean Emile Scarcliff and daughter-in-law Samantha K. M. Scarcliff, daughter Erica Elizabeth Scarcliff Pridgen and son-in-law Joshua A Pridgen, daughter; Christa Kathryn Jones and son-in-law Ricky L. Jones Jr, grandson Jonathon Harrell Scarcliff, grandson John Anthony Pridgen, grandson Jesse Elliott Pridgen, grandson Ian Emile Pridgen, grandson Stanley David Roberson Jr. and granddaughter Isabella Mary Roberson. Her sister Stephanie Elaine Smyth, brother John William Smyth, sister Kathryn Ann Smyth Litten, brother Edward Louis



Capt. Hal Pierce and Mary Scarcliff ALA Annual Meeting 2009. ALA File Photo

Smyth, sister; Theresa Janice Smyth, brother; Gregory Shannon Smyth along with many extended family members and a host of wonderful friends. A wake for Mary will be held at St. Edmond by the Sea Catholic Church on Dauphin Island, AL, Monday, July 30, 2018 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Funeral services will begin at 3:00 PM with Rev. Msgr. Leonardo Guadalquivier officiating under the direction of Pine Crest Funeral Home. Interment will immediately take place on the grounds of Catholic Cemetery on Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island, AL. In lieu of donation please consider one of the following organizations; Dauphin Island Cat Association, DICA, 1017 Desoto Street, Dauphin Island, AL. 36528, Sand Island Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 250 Mobile, AL. 36601 or the Dauphin Island Veterans Association.

*Published in the Mobile Register
and Baldwin County on July 29, 2018*

2018 Board of Directors

Stephen Quinlivan, President (251) 533-1623
Peter Tanner, Vice President (251) 454-2590
Marie Bidney, Ex. Director, Sec. (251) 517-9003
Dot Finnegan, Treasurer (251) 343-9049

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Mobile Point Light	Johnny Newman (334) 277-1081
Finance	Hal Pierce (251) 626-4743
Newsletter/Web Page	Marie Bidney (251) 517-9003
Speaking Engagements	Jack Granade (251) 342-5719

Please Remember!

If you have moved, or have changed your phone let us know!

alabamalighthouses@bellsouth.com

Need a speaker at your next function?

Did you know that the ALA has a speaker to speak to your organization or school about Alabama's Lighthouses?

Jack Granade is the person you want! Contact us at alabamalighthouses@bellsouth.net to get in touch with Jack to



Jack Granade



Come Join Us!

On another guided sunset tour to Middle Bay Lighthouse hosted by the Alabama Lighthouse Association

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
on Delta Safaris' Osprey
Departing from the
Grand Hotel Marina
Fairhope, Alabama

Arrive by 4:40 p.m.
Boat leaves promptly at 5:00 p.m.
\$55 per person paid in advance
Includes Wine and Hors d'oeuvres
(need 24 Lighthouse Lovers to make it happen)

RSVP by Saturday, September 8
Marie Bidney at 251-422-6344
by 5:00 p.m.

Photos from the last fun trip!



Are You Ready? Let's Go!!!

By Peter S. Tanner, Vice President

My history with the Lighthouses began over fifty years ago with my family going out to Middle Bay Lighthouse in my Dad's old classic Chris Craft Cruiser.



The Flagship
Hal Pierce File Photo

Fast forward to 1982, I and many others under the leadership of Captain Hal Pierce realized that the centennial birthday of MBL was coming close (first lit December 1, 1885). MBL was in horrific condition having been decommissioned, abandoned and threatened with demolition

we knew a plan of civilian action had to be developed. We began organizing ways to recruit volunteers, monetary and material donors to renovate MBL and thus the Mobile Middle Bay Centennial Commission was born. This marked the beginning of an incredible journey of camaraderie, friendship and unity of purpose.

The daybreak gatherings of volunteers at Capt. Hal's marina (River Yacht Basin) will never be forgotten. I lived on the river at the time. My pleasure would begin as I enjoyed my morning coffee and serene boat ride from my home by boat to join the crew at Capt. Hal's yacht "Flagship". The excitement and anticipation was always high and never disappointed.

The ride out usually provided the opportunity to meet and get to know new friends and reminisce with old friends. Any boater can tell you that each trip was also very different due to the ever changing weather and sea conditions. I could write a book with each chapter being dedicated to each trip with individual stories and experiences of the day...



Peter Tanner c. 1980s
Tanner File Photo

Perhaps one day that will become a reality.

As most of you know we have now evolved into The Alabama Lighthouse Association to include Sand Island Lighthouse and Mobile Point Lighthouse. As a group we hope to perpetuate our concern, care and effort with new participants and future generations.



Original lighthouse work crew in 1982 celebrating the completion of the original renovation. L-R) Hal Pierce, Dot Finnegan, Dee Wilson, Rick Drews, (baby and person behind unrecognizable) Jim Horner, Peter Tanner, Hali Tanner.
Provided by Max Tanner

President's Report

By Stephen Quinlivan, President

The Alabama Lighthouse Association is having a busy 2018! We continue to work with the Alabama Historic Commission to maintain the progress at Middle Bay Lighthouse and, with their help, gained major ground on one of the largest projects ever initiated by this organization - establishing a plan for the restoration of Mobile Point Lighthouse.



Stephen Quinlivan
President, ALA

As you know, Middle Bay Light requires constant care due to her unique situation in the middle of Mobile Bay. An article included in this newsletter covers the latest condition report of MBL. Also, take note of the September sunset cruise to see the current condition of the structure and to see firsthand some of the needed work. This trip is always fun with snacks, history, and trivia. We'll have some cool lighthouse swag for the winners, so don't miss it.

The project at Mobile Point is exciting and represents exactly why this organization exists - to restore and preserve Alabama's lighthouses! The ALA team overseeing this project is made up of lighthouse experts who understand the true historical value of this lighthouse and its importance to coastal Alabama. Every detail has been analyzed and the plan established to begin this work. Please reach out to us if you'd like to participate in this exciting project. Membership in our organization has been strong, but we are always looking to add other lighthouse lovers to our ranks.

If you know someone who may be interested, please urge them to join with us in these efforts. All the information they need is available on our web page.



Middle Bay Lighthouse at dusk
ALA File Photo

We appreciate your continued support of the Alabama Lighthouse Association. Without your involvement, we could not be successful. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about our organization or the work we do. My e-mail address is: stephen_quinlivan@yahoo.com.



Alabama Lighthouse Association

Caring for Alabama's Lighthouses

Application for Membership

Please Print

Name _____ Spouse Name _____
Last Name First Name

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Bus. Phone () _____

E-mail address: _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please select your Member

New Member Status **Status and Category** Renewal Status

- Member/Individual.....\$ 25 per year
- Watch Room (Family)..... \$ 35 per year
- Keeper (Individual/Family).....\$100 per year
- Inspector (All classes).... \$200 per year
- Grand Keeper..... \$300 per year
- Corporate.....\$750 per year

When mailing this application, use the address below and please include your check.
The Alabama Lighthouse Association is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. We thank you for your support to assist us in our mission of preserving Alabama's Lighthouses.

Sand Island Lighthouse

Middle Bay Lighthouse

Mobile Point Lighthouse

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Visit us on the web at www.alabamalighthouses.com

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Alabama Lighthouse Association

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- Change name/address as shown on the enclosed label and send to ALA.
- I receive duplicate copies. Please remove enclosed label and send to ALA.
- I am not a member or choose to discontinue my membership with the Alabama Lighthouse Association.

Middle Bay Lighthouse Update

By Stephen Quinlivan, President and Chair of Middle Bay Lighthouse



Workers help to repair Middle Bay
Provided by Stephen Quinlivan

Middle Bay Lighthouse underwent a significant restoration at the end of 2017 to address several urgent issues. This work was critical and was only possible thanks to a joint effort between the Alabama Lighthouse Association, the Alabama Historic Commission, and the Seamen's Foundation.

The project included replacement of severely corroded copper valley flashing, slate tile repairs, roof hatch replacement, exterior carpentry work, and an exterior paint job. This work was greatly hindered by weather and the challenge of accessing the worksite. The company that performed the work is owned by a fellow lighthouse lover who forged through the challenges to complete the project.

An inspection trip this summer found some new damage to the roof and to one of the above water tie rods. The Alabama Historic Commission responded quickly to the report and initiated a repair plan. The ALA continues to support these efforts whenever we can assist.

Significant restoration is needed to the gallery handrails which have become severely corroded in the past ten years. Additional interior carpentry and paint work

is needed as well.

Our focus this year is to establish an annual fund for the preventive and corrective maintenance needed to stay ahead of issues caused by storm damage, sea gull droppings, and errant boaters. Please keep an eye on Middle Bay Light if you visit by boat and let us know of any concerns.