

Chincoteague Natural History Association



The Piping Plover

Extra! Extra!



**Join us for the grand
re-opening celebration
of the
Assateague Lighthouse
Saturday, October 5, 2013
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

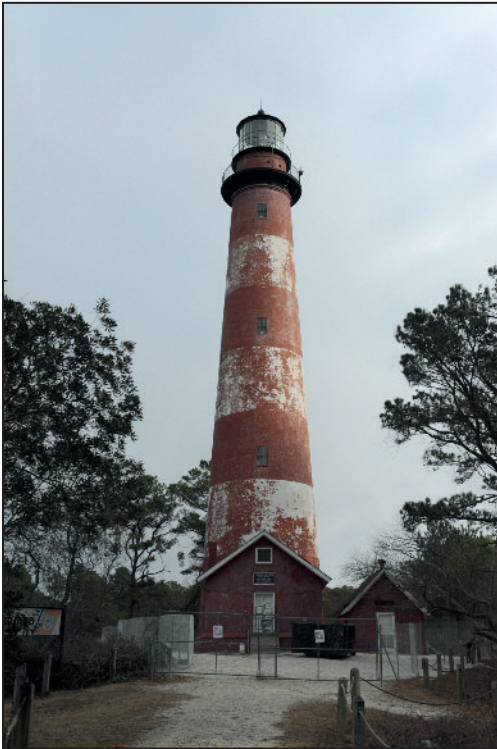
**Music
Free Refreshments
Children's Activities
Special Guests
Free Lighthouse Climbs
and More!**
**See the Schedule of Events
on page 3
for more details.**

Wow, can you believe it!

We are nearing the completion of "our" Assateague Lighthouse restoration efforts. What an accomplishment! From the moment I arrived in 2007, we have been planning, dreaming, and working towards the goal of fully restoring the Assateague Lighthouse, and that moment is at hand. I truly hope that everyone who has dared to dream and believe in our goal will come out and celebrate with the Chincoteague Natural History Association and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on October 5, 2013 for our grand re-opening celebration.

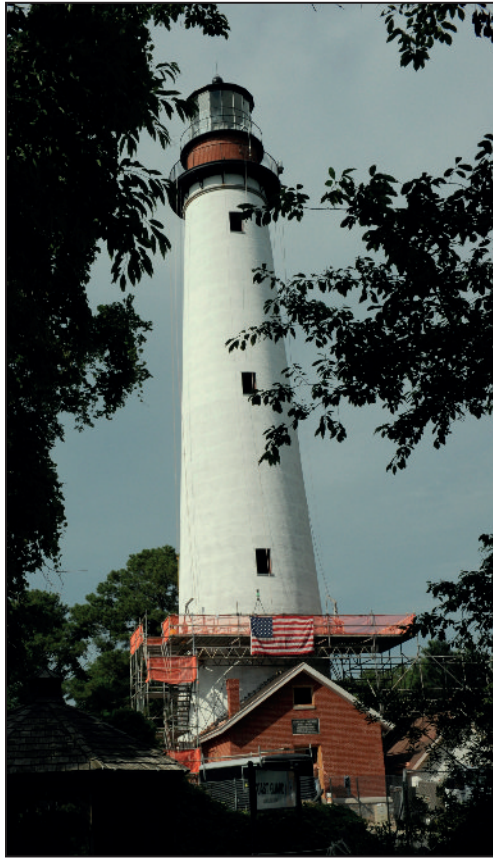
Lou Hinds
Refuge Manager

146 Years Old and Looking Good!



1

Prior to renovation: The Assateague Lighthouse was really showing its age (left)



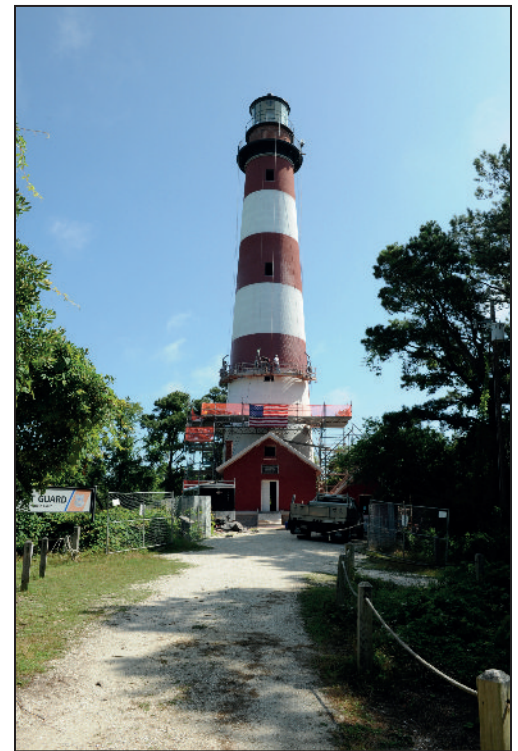
2

An unfamiliar sight: the Assateague Lighthouse without its red stripes (left and below left)



3

The final step: Workmen meticulously painted new red stripes on the Lighthouse (below)



*Photos courtesy of
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

A Much Needed Facelift

The Assateague Lighthouse has been closed to visitors this spring and summer while it received a much needed facelift both inside and out. The Lighthouse Trail was open, however, and many visitors had the unique experience of seeing the renovations in process.

At one point during the summer, workmen painted the exterior of the Lighthouse completely white. After completing the white base coat, they painted the familiar red stripes.

A brief history

The original lighthouse was made of whitewashed brick. Soon it became apparent that this lighthouse was ineffective in warning ships of dangerous shoals.

In 1859 funds were provided for a new lighthouse, but construction was briefly discontinued because of the Civil War. In 1866 work began again, and finally on October 1, 1867, the Assateague Lighthouse was fully operational at 142 feet tall (as opposed to the original's 45 feet tall). Interestingly, the red and white stripes, known far and wide as the "daymark" (or color pattern) of the Assateague Lighthouse, did not appear until 1968.



Assateague Lighthouse Grand Re-opening Schedule of Events

- 9:00 a.m.** Lighthouse Grounds
Opening Ceremonies
United States Coast Guard Flag Ceremony
Welcome from Refuge Manager
Eugene Marino, USFWS Historian
- 10:00 a.m.** Lighthouse Grounds
Donor Plaque Dedication
Ribbon Cutting and Re-lighting of the Lighthouse
Lighthouse Opens for Free Climbs
- 1:00 p.m.** Bateman Center Auditorium
Assateague Lighthouse History program by
Myrna Cherrix
Recognition of Lighthouse Keeper's Descendants
Award and Recognition Ceremony
Lighthouse Quilt Drawing
- 2:00 p.m.** Noah Williams Classroom
Lighthouse History Displays and Timeline
Gathering of Lighthouse Keeper's Descendants
Assateague Lighthouse Birthday Cake
Free Refreshments
Closing Ceremony

**Also, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., join us
on the Lighthouse grounds for free refreshments,
songs and music, children's activities, historical displays
and free Lighthouse climbs!**



"Friends of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge"

PO Box 917

Chincoteague VA 23336

Return Service Requested

Dear Friends:

As we prepare to open the newly restored and renovated Assateague Lighthouse, it is a great time to look back with gratitude to all who have helped complete this project over the past five years.

When the ownership of the Lighthouse was transferred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, both Refuge staff and Refuge volunteers stepped up to the plate, working in partnership with the Chincoteague Natural History Association to open the Lighthouse for regular tours, allowing this historic landmark to be enjoyed by countless visitors to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Over the years, the participation grew and included the CNHA Board of Directors, Refuge Staff and Lighthouse volunteers, as well as the many people who contributed to the Lighthouse fund, bought a Lighthouse medallion, or assisted with Lighthouse programs and events.

As we celebrate the Grand Reopening on October 5th, we will also be celebrating the 146th Birthday of the Assateague Island Lighthouse. Through working together, we have ensured that the Assateague Lighthouse will continue to shine through many more "birthdays" to come.

Beth Hanback

Executive Director,
Chincoteague Natural History Association

