

# FAULKNER'S LIGHT BRIGADE

A Commission of the  
Guilford Preservation Alliance

P.O. Box 199  
Guilford, CT 06437

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 6  
Guilford, CT

Return Service  
Requested



The Annual Faulkner's Island Open House will take place on Sept. 13th and 14th this year from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (see page 3).

Photo by Fred Farnsworth

FAULKNER'S LIGHT BRIGADE  
A Commission of the Guilford Preservation Alliance  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Chairman:</b> Fred Farnsworth	<b>Vice Chairman:</b> Joe Arnold	<b>Treasurer:</b> Ned Cosgrove	<b>Secretary:</b> Margaret Iacobellis	<b>Staff:</b> Ann Delaney
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	------------------------------

<b>Board Members</b>		<b>Membership Chairman:</b> Steve Worden	
Gustaf R. Bodin	Walter Mills	Guido L. Petra	<b>Chairman Emeritus:</b> Joel Helander
Lewis S. DeSanto, Jr.	Sally Richards	John T. Pohlman	
Jody Folk		Robert Walsh	



Published by Faulkner's Light Brigade  
P.O. Box 199, Guilford, CT 06437  
Richard S. DiNardo, Editor  
Mary Repetti, Graphic Design  
Rob Stevens, Printing  
*For information, please call  
(203) 453-8400 and leave a message.*

*Contributions to the Brigade are tax deductible*

Checks should be made payable to: **The Faulkner's Light Brigade** C/O The Guilford Preservation Alliance (FLB - GPA) and mailed to: P. O. Box 199, Guilford, CT 06437



- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Guardian of the Light</b><br>\$1,000 and up. | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Patron of the Light</b><br>\$250 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beaconer</b><br>\$50 - \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friend</b><br>\$10 - \$24       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Benefactor of the Light</b><br>\$500 - \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lightkeeper</b><br>\$100 - \$249         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mariner</b><br>\$25 - \$49  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Senior or Student</b> \$5 - \$9 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

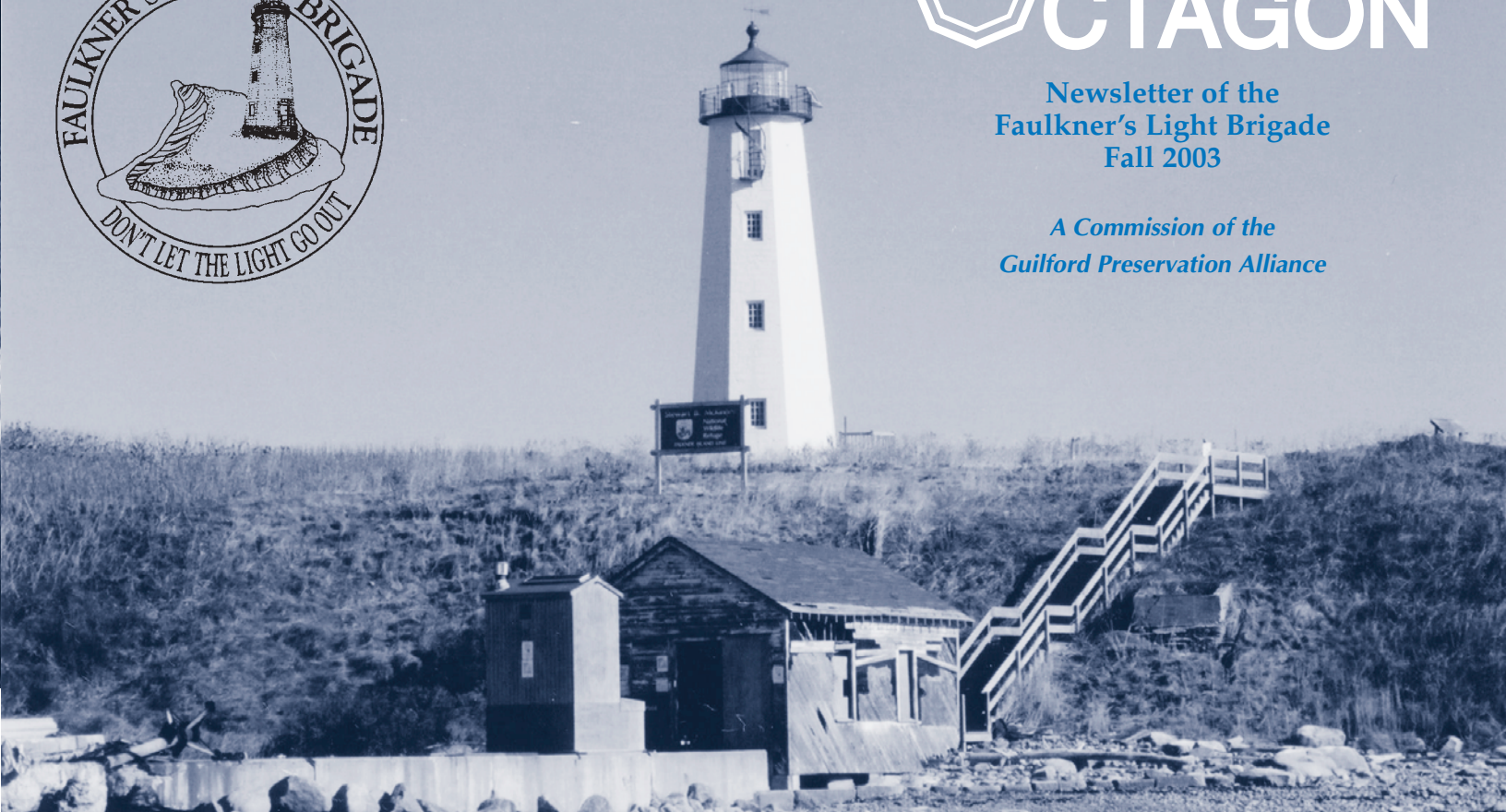
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in helping the Brigade as a volunteer. | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my company's matching gift form. |



# THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the  
Faulkner's Light Brigade  
Fall 2003

A Commission of the  
Guilford Preservation Alliance



Faulkner's Lighthouse is fully restored and a beckoning sight on our Soundscape.

Photo by Fred Farnsworth



## Tim Harrison Wows Guilford

Tim Harrison, founder of the American Lighthouse Foundation and editor of *Lighthouse Digest*, captivated the sizeable audience that turned out to hear him speak on August 9 at the Greene Community Center. Founded in 1994, the ALF has grown from its New England roots into the foremost nonprofit, all-volunteer organization in the U.S. dedicated to preserving lighthouses. It often works through a network of local chapters like the Avery Point Lighthouse Society in Groton. According to Harrison, Avery Point is now "the most endangered lighthouse" in America even though it was the last one built in Connecticut.

Festivities began with a special tour of the Faulkner's Lighthouse exhibit at the Henry Whitfield State Museum.\* FLB members and guests then enjoyed a convivial reception at the Guilford Mooring restaurant before heading to the community center for the main event. With a fascinating narrative and slide show, Harrison related tales of the

great successes - and failures - in the struggle to preserve historic lighthouses nationwide. Surprisingly to many, he numbered the Coast Guard and other federal, state and local authorities among the worst offenders in the destruction of these magnificent structures. Some readers may remember that in 1948, for instance, the Coast Guard tragically demolished the Shinnecock lighthouse, once the tallest on Long Island Sound. (see photos page 2). Harrison was quick to add, however, that lighthouses turned over to private owners have not fared much better. His conclusion was that only non-profit groups like his (and ours) have the proven vision,

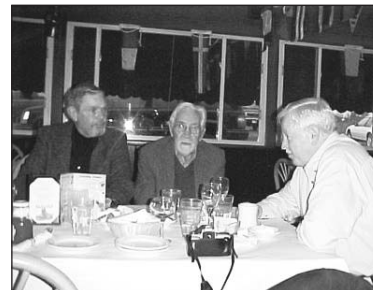
commitment, and resources to preserve these national treasures properly.

Readers are invited to visit the American Lighthouse Foundation website at [www.lighthouse-foundation.org](http://www.lighthouse-foundation.org), the *Lighthouse Digest* at [www.lighthousedigest.com](http://www.lighthousedigest.com), or to phone the ALF at (207) 646-0245.

\* Due to the state budget crisis, the museum is currently closed (See page3).



Above: Tim Harrison and FLB members bend the elbow down at Guilford Mooring before his talk on April 9. Photo by Dale Treadway



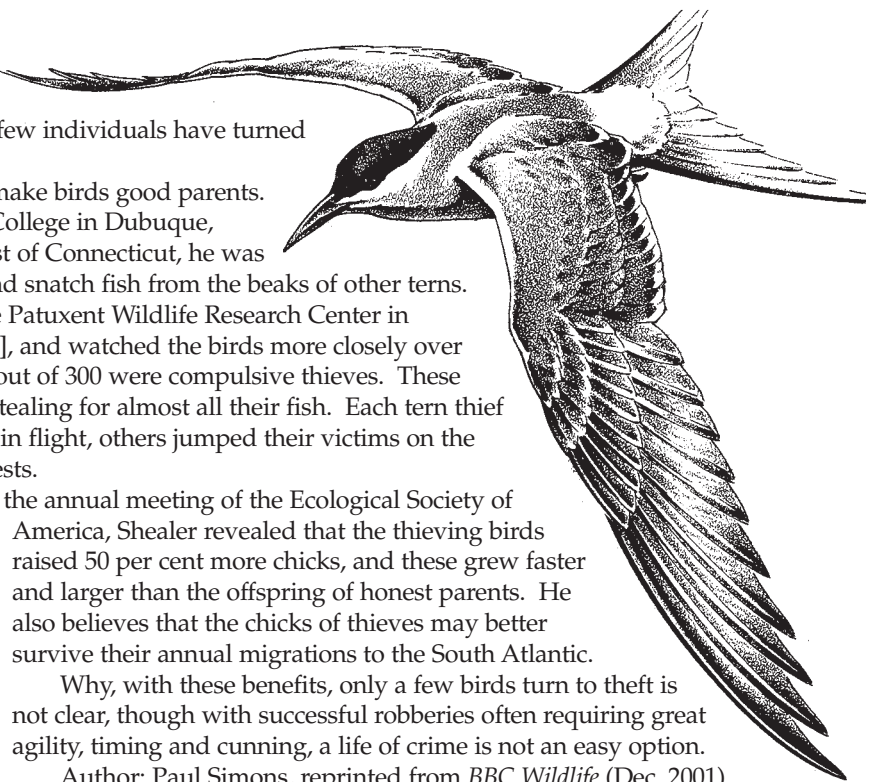
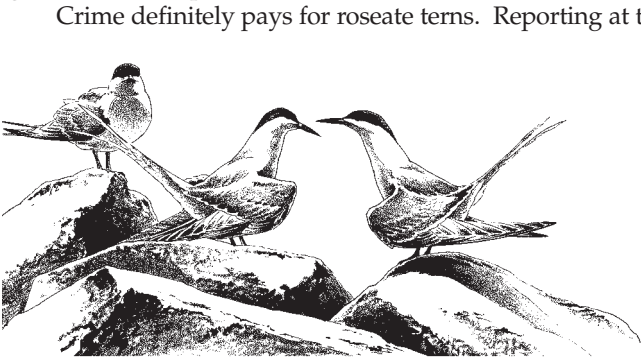
Top: Fred Farnsworth, Chairman of the Faulkner's Light Brigade, introduces Harrison to an eager crowd. Photo by Dale Treadway

# Tern Thieves

Thieving parents are good parents, at least for roseate terns. These seabirds usually hunt for fish, but a few individuals have turned to robbery - and are far better parents for it.

Biologists have long debated exactly what qualities make birds good parents. When behavioral ecologist David Shealer, now of Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, was watching a colony off roseate terns off the coast of Connecticut, he was surprised to see a mother bird swoop down in mid-air and snatch fish from the beaks of other terns.

Shealer then teamed up with Jeffrey Spendlow of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland [and director of the Falkner Island Tern Project], and watched the birds more closely over the next few years. Their study revealed that 10 parents out of 300 were compulsive thieves. These were mostly mothers who attacked males and relied on stealing for almost all their fish. Each tern thief appeared to have its own *modus operandi* - some attacked in flight, others jumped their victims on the ground and one pretended to be a chick in other birds' nests.



Crime definitely pays for roseate terns. Reporting at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Shealer revealed that the thieving birds raised 50 per cent more chicks, and these grew faster and larger than the offspring of honest parents. He also believes that the chicks of thieves may better survive their annual migrations to the South Atlantic.

Why, with these benefits, only a few birds turn to theft is not clear, though with successful robberies often requiring great agility, timing and cunning, a life of crime is not an easy option.

Author: Paul Simons, reprinted from *BBC Wildlife* (Dec. 2001)



## The Last Moments of the Shinnecock (Pon Quogue) Lighthouse in 1948

Notice the tower is cracking in half about three quarters of the way toward the top. As it came down, Mr. Howland, the 88-year-old man who torched the gasoline-soaked timbers declared, "She weathered blizzards, the hurricane, and many a howling storm, and if the god-darned


Government had left her alone, she'd a-stood for

a thousand years." Photos courtesy of *Lighthouse Digest* magazine, [www.lighthousedigest.com](http://www.lighthousedigest.com)



TOWN OF GUILFORD  
31 Park Street  
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437  
SETTLED IN 1639

TELEPHONE 453-8015  
FAX 453-8467



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

### PROCLAMATION

**W**hereas, we the Board of Selectmen would call upon all citizens and visitors to Guilford and her surrounding shoreline communities on September 7, 2002 to join with us in celebration of the Faulkner's Island Lighthouse Bicentennial; and


**W**hereas, for two hundred years, Faulkner's Light has been an ever-present and dependable neighbor to our town. By offering her land to our early settlers for farming and later, by guiding sailors to our shores, the Light has been a constant in Guilford's history; and

**W**hereas, Faulkner's Island has survived battles, nor'easters, fires and erosion, but for the last two hundred years the light has continued to be a presence in the shoreline community; and

**W**hereas, this celebration would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the members of the Faulkner's Island Light Brigade who have raised thousands of dollars and worked untold hours to restore the Lighthouse to its original glory.

**N**ow, Therefore, We the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Guilford, do hereby proclaim that Saturday, September 7, 2002 as Faulkner's Island Light Day in honor of the lighthouse's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and in recognition of her modern day lightkeepers the Faulkner's Island Light Brigade. We encourage our citizens, visitors, boaters and shoreline neighbors to join with us in celebration of the Light and in appreciation for those who make her shine.

Dated at Guilford, Connecticut this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.

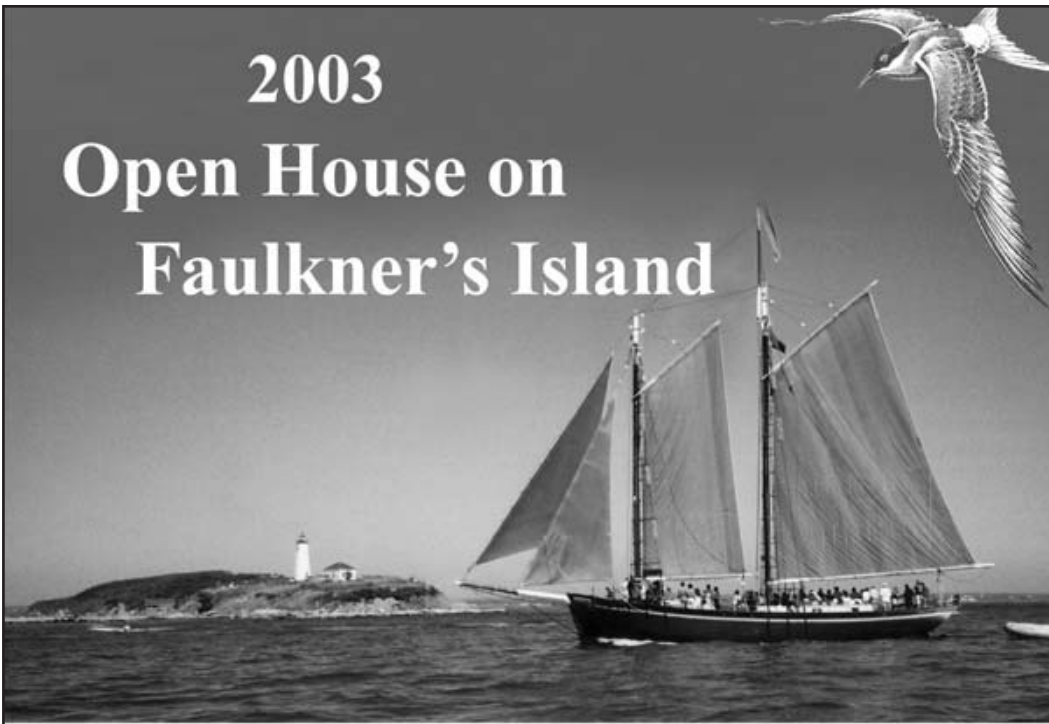


*Carl A. Balestracci, Jr.*  
Carl A. Balestracci, Jr.  
*Janet C. Poss*  
Janet C. Poss  
*Charles E. Bishop*  
Charles E. Bishop  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## Light Brigade Honored by Town

On August 19th 2002, the Town of Guilford officially proclaimed September 7th Faulkner's Island Light Day in honor of the Lighthouse's 200th birthday "and in recognition of her modern day lightkeepers the Faulkner's Island Light Brigade. We encourage our citizens, visitors, boaters and shoreline neighbors to join with us in celebration of the light and in appreciation for those who make her shine." (Photo above)

# 2003 Open House on Faulkner's Island



Hosted by Faulkner's Light Brigade  
the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard

*Saturday, September 13th &  
Sunday, September 14th  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm*

*In the event of inclement weather, call (203) 453-8400  
for updated cruise information.*



Visitors must supply their own boat transportation  
*Private vessels should anchor outside (west of) the wharf basin  
and take their own dinghies or kayaks to shore. Anchored vessels  
may also hail the water taxi provided for a nominal fee.*

## *Sail around Faulkner's Island*

The schooner *Quinpiack* arrives at Guilford Town Marina Thursday  
Sept. 11th at noon and will leave for two three hour cruises per day.

### Departures

Fri.	Sept. 12th	9 am and 1 pm
Sat.	Sept. 13th	10 am and 2 pm
Sun.	Sept. 14th	10 am and 2 pm

Adults \$35, Children \$15

Make reservations through Guilford Parks & Recreation Dept.  
At the Greene Community Center, 32 Church St. Guilford  
No ticket reservations by phone

## **Boating World** Features Faulkner's Light

In its August, 2003 issue, *Boating World* magazine features Faulkner's Light as the subject of its 20th article in a series by Harlan B. Hamilton on the lighthouses of Long Island Sound. Autographed copies of Hamilton's *Light and Legends* (1987) may be purchased (\$20) from the author by calling (212) 535-5690. *Boating World* is distributed free at marinas and marine stores, or by mail subscription. Its website is [www.liboatingworld.com](http://www.liboatingworld.com).



## Faulkner's Exhibit Runs Aground by State Budget Crisis

Despite rave reviews and near record visitors, the exhibit, Bicentennial Beacon: Faulkner's Island Lighthouse, 1802-2002, is threatened by the state budget crisis. In July 2002, the museum itself was first threatened with closure when the state withdrew funding. Thousands of people protested, including many FLB members, and monies were restored. The museum then remained open until January 2003 when the state laid off the museum's assistant curator (a fifty percent personnel cut). Since then, the Whitfield House has again been closed to the public, awaiting the new state budget.

As this update is being written, it is not clear whether the state legislature will fund the museum. If not, the exhibit will be dismantled and the artifacts returned to their owners. If funds are restored and staff rehired, the museum will likely reopen after Labor Day (hopefully by the FLB Open House Weekend). The exhibit would then run through December 2003, and possibly through the end of 2004 to compensate for the closed months. For the most current news and museum hours, call 203-453-2457 or e-mail [whitfieldmuseum@snet.net](mailto:whitfieldmuseum@snet.net).

Source: Michael A. McBride  
Museum Curator/Site  
Administrator  
Henry Whitfield State Museum