



NEWSLETTER

Lighting the Way



You haven't heard much from the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society (BLPS) lately, but that is because we have been extremely busy over the past two years. Restoration is never ending, but happily, we are making progress, though much of what we have accomplished has been behind the scenes. We are heartened by talks with the new central Government which assure us that our lighthouses will be getting more attention and support and will not be automated. The Bahamas National Trust also sees the Bahama lighstations as important parts of their growing heritage and environmental tourism plan.

Last summer, with the blessings of Marsh Harbour Port Department and the help of many members of our local Abaco and international lighthouse community, BLPS oversaw the

successful installation of the first replacement panels of curved weatherglass for the lantern room at Elbow Reef Light. There are many more panels to refit but the major logistical challenges are behind us.

Lighthouses the world over are endangered and many do not have sufficient involvement from their communities to survive the assault of time and nature.

With our national government supporting increased local community involvement we are excited by the current potential for the Lighthouses of Abaco which are the first built (Hole in the Wall- 1836) and the last still lit by kerosene: (Elbow Reef- 1864). The BLPS sees a brighter era for all Bahamian lighthouses, particularly the lightstations of Abaco. We are doing what we can to help

The Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society was founded in 1995 by Dave Gale of Hope Town in direct response to the Bahamian Government's intention to automate its remaining hand-wound, kerosene fueled lighthouses.

We are a non-profit, volunteer advisory organization which supplies parts, labor and technical support vital to maintain these historically correct lightstations. We work to improve the living conditions of the lightkeepers. By training Bahamians in the restoration of their national treasures, we hope to retain a vanishing part of the country's unique maritime heritage.



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