



LIGHTSTATION

[Keepers of the Light](#) | [History](#) | [Grounds](#)

Our Youtube Channel has 2 films!

1. **LAST LIGHTHOUSE ON THE PLANET** Drone video. BIG thanks to Brian Currier and Kiki Terrels for creating a fine film that reveals the uniqueness of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse!
2. Lighthouse Spotlight **INTERVIEW with DP PATTERSON**, ZNS Bahamas June 3 2019

NEW LOGO!

It was time for a brand overhaul for a new decade.

We executed a logo redesign to have an application that was more flexible, modern, clean and unique, yet still identifiable to the original. We also needed a formal and informal version of the logo.

The Tower image is also architecturally accurate.

1980s



2020



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Finding Our Way Forward Post Dorian

After five months, the determined Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society moves forward with its mission to preserve the lighthouse as an aid to navigation and an example of community collaboration.



State of the grounds, September, 2019

Previously, with the help of volunteers, professionals and private donations, we administered the restoration work which greatly limited the storm damage to the lighttower itself. All 96 panels of weatherglass installed 2017-2018 held strong against the storm but unfortunately, the rest of the station suffered damages.

Our first step is to repair the keeper's quarters to provide homes for our ERLS families to return to. We continue to receive small private donations towards this work. However, except for Hope Town United's pledge to assist us with the dock rebuild, no funds raised for Elbow Cay have been allocated directly for the lightstation's restoration. We need your help at this critical time. Be assured as in the past, donations to the Society will be directed towards the manpower and materials necessary to restore our beloved lighthouse.

Upwards and Onwards, one step at a time

We've only just begun!

The ERLS Team recently completed an onsite evaluation for construction supplies needed.

To listen to the post Dorian US Lighthouse Society's Podcast with Annie Potts, visit news.uslhs.org and scroll down to episode 36!



Restoration Foreman Jackson Blatch with Annie Potts at the January 15th ERLS Team lightstation inspection that was lead by Kent LeBoutillier. Head of Restoration.

Hands for the Light Crafted by Skilled Artisans

A Day at the Johnston Foundry, July, 2019

The final casting of molten bronze into the shape of our 'hands' may take only a day to complete, however the process of moulding and casting these wonderful pieces by Johnston's Foundry at Little Harbour, Abaco requires several steps and time spread over several months.

Making a mould into which the metal is finally poured is an exacting job which requires attention to detail—not only so the piece being moulded is perfectly replicated—but also so that the mould itself is strong enough stand the temperature and weight of materials used.

Where does wax figure into all of this?

A two part rubber mould is made of an original lighthouse door handle. But this rubber mould is not in the shape of our hand, rather it is a mould into which wax will be poured to make several wax replicas of the hand. Each of these wax hands will then be used for shaping a mould around them so that multiple castings can be poured at a time. 4 wax moulds are attached to each other and covered with a bonding agent followed by successive coatings of increasingly coarser sand. This sand and wax structure will become the form that the molten bronze will be poured into; the bronze will replace the wax which will melt away and thus be lost...



A 'Hand for the Light' may be purchased by contacting erlsbahamas@gmail.com



The Crucible used to heat up the bronze is over 2000 degrees and fueled by propane.



A rubber mould is removed to reveal the casted wax mould for our Hand. This mould will be re-used many times to make additional wax moulds

The lost wax process by which our hands were fabricated was first developed more than 6000 years ago as a way to duplicate a desired shape. Since then it has been the molding method of choice

when copies of intricate original works of art are made. Gold, silver, bronze and even glass have been formed in this way.



Richard Appaldo cleaning and sanding one of the casted bronze hands.

Samaritan's Purse Graced us with Gifts



In an incredible act of kindness, we were offered a gift from the Samaritan's Purse, Humanitarian Aid Organization, and we gratefully accepted their time, expertise and patience.

In order to dry in the Keeper's homes, they removed the shingles and nails, applied water shield and tarped the keeper's house roofs which were badly damaged. Windows on the keepers homes that were blown out were patched and dried in. The Principal Keeper's home was gutted and made sanitary by the removal of all drywall, tiles, debris, appliances and furniture. The whole house was sprayed for mildew with Shockwave Disinfectant and Cleaner. Holes were repaired and tarpaper was applied to the exterior walls. Porch decking boards which had been entirely torn away were replaced.

The warehouse roof was tackled followed by the gift shoppe roof which was water-shielded and tarped. The gift shoppe door and soffit were repaired. The team even raised the flag pole and made a new door for the generator house!



Lead by Team Leader Palmer Pisle, an avid lighthouse enthusiast. He brought two teams of volunteers. All together, they spent in excess of 400 man hours working at the lightstation.

Cleaning the inside of the lighthouse top to bottom was a huge help in removing the accumulated sand, glass and debris. The safety netting at the top of the lighthouse which had been mangled during the storm was carefully untangled and restored. The pillars and railings between the keeper's homes and lighttower were destroyed by tornadoes. Volunteers made this area safe by cutting all exposed rebar. Lastly and lovingly, Samaritan's Purse rescued the Abaco dinghy from under the collapsed shed. We are very grateful.

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Vital steps towards recovery

In efforts to begin the rebuilding of the keeper's quarters and to get the keepers settled back in their homes, members of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society met at the lightstation on 15 January, 2020 to identify labour and materials needed for the work. This meeting included the coordinated efforts of Mark Jefferson and Walt LaFleur of Jefferson Woodworking, Palm City, Fl., and Jackson Blatch of Marsh Harbour.



"We got a gift we can never repay!"

Jeffery gave each team a lighting as a 'thank you' —all left with love for the lighthouse and her keeper."

~Kent LeBoutillier, head of Restoration, ERLS

A Look Back to 2019

Our February luncheon at the Abaco Inn revealed the full scope of achievement that went into one of the biggest restoration efforts of our time. Speaker, Annie Potts, ERLS advisor and key figure in the success of this restoration gave an in-depth historical presentation.

Hon. James Albury, MP and Mr. Montez Williams, Deputy Parliamentary Secretary supported the vision we have for our treasured icon and we thank the MP for his donation.



DP Patterson with the Hon. James Albury, MP