

ILLUMINATOR

FALL 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello RLAMPS members. A big thank you to all of you who supported our last Education Night with Paul Hollander. It was so very interesting learning about the Life and Times of the Lady Elgin. This was a Covid first for RLAMPS. Not only was it successful in person, but RLAMPS has been blessed with the talents of Bill Frank taking our Education Nights virtual!

Because of this success, we are able to schedule back to back Education Nights with renowned experts in their fields: Cal Kothrade on the wreck of the Prins Willem V and Ken and Barb Wardius on Lighthouses of Racine. Mark your calendars for Oct. 20 and Nov. 12.

Not only have our board members been busy with Education Nights, but we have been updating records of our inventory. Bob Jaeck has been meticulously documenting artifacts, and we have been organizing our depleting retail items.

We will have retail items available for sale before Education Nights, and they can be delivered free locally. Available are Wind Point Lighthouse Ornaments and Lighthouse Trays (\$7 each or 2 for \$10 (mix and match trays and ornaments)) and Lands End Fleece (assorted sizes and colors for 1 for \$15 and \$10 for each additional ones.) **Please email orders to: btomasek@hotmail.com.** Please indicate desired size (Women's or Men's) and color choice.

We would also like to thank our members who have been prompt in renewing their memberships. If you have not renewed and would like to, please send your membership checks payable to Friends of the Wind Point Lighthouse to PO Box 44067, Racine, WI 53404. We depend on our memberships to present Education Nights.

Thank you for your support. Without your support, there is no RLAMPS.

Hope to see you on Oct. 20th!

Laura (Lauri) Tomasek
President, Friends of the Wind Point Lighthouse dba
Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society (RLAMPS)

Underwater photographer will tell the tale of the Prins Willem V at RLAMPS Education Night

Professional photographers travel around the world looking for beautiful scenes to capture with their cameras, but photographer and marine artist Cal Kothrade dives beneath the waves instead.

Kothrade, who specializes in photographing Great Lakes shipwrecks, will be the featured speaker at the Oct. 20 Racine Lighthouse and Marine Preservation Society (RLAMPS) education night. He will discuss the fascinating history of the freighter Prins Willem V, and, using his own pictures, what the ship looks like today. The Prins Willem V sank off the shore of Milwaukee in 1954.

Kothrade had been an underwater photographer for more than a decade, an avocation which combines his passions of photography and diving. He has photographed nearly 100 wrecks from among the thousands of ships resting on the bottom of the five Great Lakes. "They are so beautiful and each one has a story to tell," Kothrade said.

Kothrade will often take multiple dives to a wreck, and he never tires of revisiting a sunken ship. "The challenge of trying to get a better shot or a different angle is what keeps me going," he said. "They are amazing historical time capsules."

In his presentation, Kothrade will highlight his experiences photographing the wreckage of the Prins Willem V, a 258-ft, steel-hulled, diesel-powered freighter that sank about three miles offshore from Milwaukee. The ship now rests 85 ft. below the surface of Lake Michigan. The freighter, built in 1948, was owned by the Dutch shipping company, Oranje Line. The 258-foot freighter traversed back and forth between Europe and the United States via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

On Oct. 14, 1954, shortly after the Prins Willem V departed Milwaukee, the ship collided with a barge that was being towed toward Milwaukee. The freighter sank, bringing down with it a full cargo of printing presses, automobile parts, outboard motors, and musical instruments. Fortunately, the Coast Guard rescued the 30-member crew before the ship sank.

(Continued on Page 2)

Board of Directors — Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society

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Upcoming Education Nights:

COVID-19 Update: The October 20, 2020, and November 12, 2020 Education Nights will have a limited in-person presentation at Dewey's (Maximum of 35 people so we can properly Social Distance). Reservations are required and all attendees must wear a mask, there can be no walk-ins. Both Programs also will be live streamed. There is no cost to watch the live stream from home, but you must send in an email RSVP so we can email you the information needed to view the live stream. See Page 5 for Details.

October 20, 2020—Cal Kothrade will present on the wreck of the Dutch freighter Prins Willem V, a 258-ft, steel-hulled, diesel-powered freighter that sank about three miles offshore from Milwaukee. Come learn about the storied history of both the vessel and the wreck.

November 12, 2020 — Barb and Ken Wardius will present on “Lighthouses of Racine—Past and Present.” Ken & Barb will share some of the long and storied maritime history of Racine that involved several lighthouses. In addition to Wind Point, lighthouses in the harbor as well as the Racine Reef will be discussed.

Future Education Nights Programs:

March, 4 2021—Ron Luttrell will speak on The Great Storm of 1913, the white Hurricane of 1913.

May 2, 2021—Phil Block will present on Lights of the Lakes.

(Continued from Page 1)

“It is a fascinating shipwreck,” said Kothrade. “It’s a modern shipwreck and people are still around who remember it.”

More drama unfolded after the ship sank, noted Kothrade. A colorful diver and entrepreneur named Max Nohl was awarded an Army Corp of Engineers’ contract to remove any part of the vessel that was within 40 ft. of the surface and causing a navigational hazard. In exchange for removing a single boarding ladder, Nohl was given rights to the wreckage and for years he tried unsuccessfully to raise the ship. In 1987, with the passage of the federal Abandoned Shipwreck Act, all shipwrecks in the Great Lakes became the property of the states in which they were located.

See Page 5 for details on Reservations to attend.

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**Fathoms Deep but Not Forgotten:
Wisconsin's Lost Shipwreck Sites**

Part II: Racine County

Brendon Baillod *

Schooner ***Grace Channon***: (#85309) built 1873, 141 x 26 x 12 ft., 265.99 gt.

The schooner *Grace Channon* was bound from Buffalo to Chicago on August 2, 1877 with 600 tons of coal when she was struck by the propeller *Favorite* north of Racine. She sank immediately, taking the owner's 7 year old son with her. Her remains were located in 1985 by Kent Bellrichard and she is now a popular divesite in 205 ft of water.

Schooner ***Alice***: (#105020), built 1871, 45.0 x 13.7 x 3.9 ft., 14 gt.

The little lumber hooker *Alice* was lost with a load of Christmas trees for Chicago when she blundered onto Wind Point on December 10, 1877. She was a total loss. There is some question as to the identity of this vessel. There were two other small hookers named *Alice* active on Lake Michigan at the time.

Scow Schooner ***Eagle***: (#135158), built 1870, 71.6 x 19.4 x 4.2 ft. 40 gt.

The scow schooner *Eagle* was trying to enter the harbor on March 28, 1878 with 20 cords of wood when she missed the pier and was thrown against the pier at the end of Second Street. Her crew escaped but she was smashed to pieces.

Yacht ***Undine***: (no#), *a large locally built steam yacht*

On April 16, 1881 a spring flood of the Root River swept the schooner *Belle* and scow *Frost* down the river and into the yacht *Undine*, completely destroying her.

Schooner ***Speed***: (#22357), built 1848, 97.3 x 20.8 x 7.85ft, 104.44 gt.

On April 18, 1883 the venerable old schooner *Speed* stranded on Racine's north beach while bound from Pentwater, MI to Racine with a cargo of shingles. She was being towed in by the tug *Sill*, when the line parted and she was driven aground on her side. Her crew were rescued by the USLSS via breeches buoy. Efforts to free her failed and she had completely broken up within a week.

Schooner ***Elizabeth Jones***: (#8193), built 1867 184 x 23 x 13 ft., 636.47 gt.

The big schooner *Elizabeth Jones* stranded on the south side of Racine Reef while bound from Chicago to Buffalo with corn on November 11, 1883. Her bottom was badly damaged and she could not be refloated. Her cargo was partially salvaged and she was allowed to break up over the winter. Her hullbed has reportedly been located by divers but the identification has not been confirmed.

Scow Schooner ***Laura Johnson***: (#140527), built 1882, 50.ft., 34.23 gt.

The little gravel scow *Laura Johnson* was loading gravel off Racine's North Point on July 17, 1890 when a storm blew up and drove her ashore. She was a total loss of \$700.

Schooner ***Persia***: (#19672), built 1855, 95.5 x 21.1 x 6.8 ft., 96.69 gt.

The old schooner *Persia* stranded 3 miles north of Wind Point on June 2, 1892 while bound from Menominee, MI to Racine with a lumber cargo. The crew reached shore in their yawl, but the ship broke up rapidly, scattering lumber down the beach where area farmers scavenged it. Her remains were located just off the beach by Bob Jaeck in the 1990s.

(Continued on page 4)

Schooner ***Evra Fuller***: (#15956), built 1873 as the *Lena Johnson*, 132.6 x 26.3 x 9.9 ft., 228.87 gt.

The three-masted schooner *Evra Fuller* was bound from Menominee, MI to Chicago with lumber on October 8, 1893 when she went on Racine Reef while trying to enter the harbor in a dense fog. She broke in two just forward of her deck cabin and was a total loss. Her likely remains have been located 450 ft. east of the Racine Harbor entrance and are broken up.

Propeller ***Thomas H. Smith***: (#145284), built 1881, 130.5 x 27.6 x 11.1 ft., 281.11 gt.

On November 10, 1893 the steamer *Thomas H. Smith* was bound from Chicago to Menominee, MI in heavy fog for a lumber cargo when she was nearly cut in two by the steamer *Arthur Orr*. She sank immediately her crew jumping onto the *Orr*. As the *Smith* settled, water hit her boiler and it exploded, further destroying the ship. Reports place the disaster between 4 and 5 miles off Wind Point, but despite intensive searches, the *Smith's* remains have never been found.

Schooner ***Kate Kelly***: (#14031), built 1867 126.3 x 25.8 x 10.4 ft., 280.93 gt.

The three-masted schooner *Kate Kelly* struck Racine Reef on May 13, 1895 while bound from Sheboygan to Chicago with a load of hemlock railroad ties. She foundered shortly after striking the reef in 50 ft of water, taking her crew with her. The wreck was located by Dan Johnson in 1983 is a popular dive site.

Schooner ***George Barber***: (#10191), built 1857, 92.5 x 24.1 x 7.95 ft., 98.71 gt.

On March 1, 1895 the schooner *George Barber* sank in the river at Racine and was pumped out, towed out into the Lake and cast adrift, fetching up on the beach near Racine College, where she broke up.

Schooner ***Sunrise***: (#22349), built 1862 as a bark, 159.0 x 30.5 x 12.41 ft., 439.33gt.

The big, three-masted schooner *Sunrise* was running in ballast in heavy fog bound from Chicago for the Straits on May 21, 1896 when she fouled a towline between the steamer *William H. Gratwick* and her consort, whaleback barge 133. The barge struck the *Sunrise* taking off 15 ft of her bow and sending her directly to the bottom about midlake off Racine. Her 8 crew escaped.

Barge ***A***: (#30189), built 1895, 135'2 x 35.0 x 9.5 ft., 410gt.

The barge *A* sank in the river at Racine on May 15, 1900 with 150 cords of stone on board, just east of the Main Street Bridge. The tug *Sydney Smith* tore out her side and bow trying to move her as she completely blocked the river. Her cargo was removed by divers and her hull was towed out and beached outside the harbor.

Schooner ***John Eggers***: (#76714), built 1887, 58.7 x 14.0 x 3.4 ft., 25gt.

The little gravel *John Eggers* was collecting gravel off Wind Point on May 26, 1906 when she was driven ashore and was a total loss.

Gas Yacht ***Scorpion***: (#116447), built 1891 as a sail yacht, 35.3 x 12.0 x 4.7 ft., 10gt.

The yacht *Scorpion* was sunk and abandoned at Racine on September 11, 1912. The accident location is still unknown but may have been in the river.

Steamer ***William Rudolph***: (#80762), built 1880, 145 x 23.5 x 9.0.ft., 267.89gt.

The wooden steambarge *William Rudolph* had outlived her usefulness and was abandoned in the surf near Racine as shore protection from erosion on October 23, 1913.

* Reprinted from ***Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage***, March 2008 Issue with permission of the Author.

Parts 1 & 2 were published in the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 newsletters and Part 4 will be published in the next newsletter.

Important Information Regarding the October and November Education Nights

1. Reservations are required for both the In-person and Streaming options
2. In person reservations can be by email RSVP@RLAMPS.ORG (preferred) or by phone (262)639-8135 (leave a message with your name, the number attending, a return phone number and/or email)—you will get an email or phone call confirming your in person attendance
3. Streaming reservation must be made by email to: RSVP@RLAMPS.ORG, no phone streaming reservations will be accepted—we will send you a private link by email so you can view the program on YouTube.
4. I have resolved the issue with the RSVP@RLAMPS.ORG email where some emails were rejected.
5. There will be no cost to both Members and Non-members for both options, however a \$5 donations is suggested
6. In person attendance will be limited to 35 people so we can properly social distance
7. Masks will be required at all times for the in person audience
8. There will be no snacks available—Water will be available. There will also be a cash bar.

**Racine Lighthouse and Maritime
Preservation Society
"RLAMPS"**
Presents
A Limited In Person and Virtual Education Night

Prins Willem V: Milwaukee's Premier Shipwreck By: Cal Kothrade

The Prins Willem V, a 258-ft. steel-hulled, diesel-powered freighter, sank about 3 miles off shore from Milwaukee. Cal will describe his experiences photographing the wreck.

© Cal Kothrade

**October 20, 2020
At Dewey's (600 Main St.) &
On a Device* Near You**

RSVP's are required to Attend in Person (Limited to 35 People) & to receive the details to stream the Program

RSVP by email preferred to: RSVP@RLAMPS.ORG

RSVP by Phone (Leave Message with name, number attending and a call back number): (262)639-8135

No Cost to attend in Person or by Streaming—Donations will be accepted

*Internet connected Computer, Tablet or Smartphone

**Racine Lighthouse and Maritime
Preservation Society
"RLAMPS"**
Presents
A Limited In Person and Virtual Education Night
Lighthouses of Racine

Past and Present By: Barb & Ken Wardius

Racine has a long and storied maritime history that involved several lighthouses. In addition to Wind Point, lighthouses in the harbor as well as the Racine Reef will be discussed.

**November 12—6:30 PM
At Dewey's (600 Main St.) &
On a Device* Near You**

RSVP's are required to Attend in Person (Limited to 35 People) & to receive the details to stream the Program

RSVP by email preferred to: RSVP@RLAMPS.ORG

RSVP by Phone (Leave Message with name, number attending and a call back number): (262)639-8135

No Cost to attend in Person or by Streaming—\$5 Donation suggested

*Internet connected Computer, Tablet or Smartphone

RLAMPS has received a license to a number of historic images related to the Racine Reef Lighthouse. Watch for more photo previews in our newsletter, on our Facebook page, as well as our website.

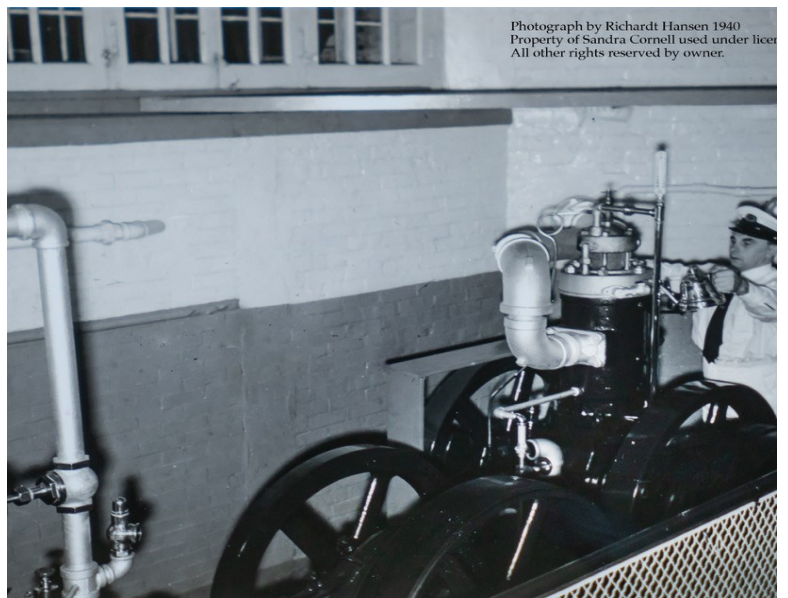
Assistant Lighthouse Keeper inside the lighthouse

Photograph by Richardt Hansen
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Racine Lighthouse and Maritime
Preservation Society



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RLAMPS
P.O. Box 044067
Racine, WI 53404

RLAMPS Highlights

September 2020 Education Night a Big Success

Our first Education Night post COVID-19 was a success. We sold out the in-person and had Over 25 people live stream the program on YouTube. Paul gave an excellent program on the Lady Elgin tragedy. He helped bring the people to life and provided some interesting insights into the sinking.

If you missed the program and want to view it on YouTube, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/7zNHO4cLi24>.

Membership Renewal Info Please visit our website www.RLAMPS.org. Or mail your membership form, along with your check, to: Friends of the Wind Point Lighthouse Treasurer, P. O. Box 44067, Racine, WI 53404-7001.



Please visit our updated website www.RLAMPS.org More and more Racine maritime history is being added on a regular basis.