

The Beacon

PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

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OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2016

CAROLE ADAMS— AN EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER!

By Abel Martinez, PBLS Volunteer

My wife, Toni, and I met Carole Adams in October 2002 when we began volunteering at Piedras Blancas Light Station (PBLS). Joined by a team of terrific volunteers, we were excited and eager to attack the first restoration program - the extensive removal of non-native plants at PBLS. As we started to remove tons (literally!) of invasive ice plant and a variety of other non-native plants, we quickly realized that Carole was a very diligent, determined and energetic worker who was always focused on stewardship. This native plant restoration program was the first of many projects that Carole was instrumental in developing, coordinating and accomplishing from 2002 to 2016. It was the start of a fantastic volunteer program spearheaded by Carole and she provided supportive leadership, guidance, boundless energy and enthusiasm, and a "we can make a positive difference" attitude. She welcomed volunteers with a warm hug and always worked with us on the varying projects while demonstrating and promoting a spirit of "teamwork" and stewardship. Carole devoted 14 years of outstanding volunteer work to restoring, preserving and protecting the spectacular light station, its significant history and environmental resources.



Carole giving the native plants a helping hand



Carole and Phil Adams dressed in period attire during a PBLS event

In 2004, Carole was honored by the U.S. Department of the Interior with the Bureau of Land Management's Volunteer of the Year Award for "Making a Difference on the Public Lands." There are so many projects, jobs and accomplishments in which Carole played a significant role and made possible. These include: coordinating the native plant restoration program; developing public and 4th grade school tours; editing The Beacon newsletter; developing and maintaining the PBLS Resource Library and research materials which includes an extensive collection of historical documents; recruiting/training college student volunteers; documenting and cataloging the accomplishments of volunteers, BLM staff and interns; establishing and fostering helpful communication with neighboring light stations; maintaining an extensive collection of PBLS architectural diagrams, charts and documents; co-authoring the impressive Point Piedras Blancas

book; conducting initial and refresher volunteer training.

Carole wasn't all work and no play...she also added a special amount of fun, humor and comic vitality to the PBLS volunteer experience. I vividly recall how excited and happy she was to lead her tour groups in singing the lyrics of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" in the lighthouse to showcase the beautiful acoustics of the tower. How could we forget when she and several other volunteers treated us to their lip syncing conga line rendition of "I Want To Marry A Lighthouse Keeper" at our fundraising event at the Hearst Castle Theater. Many joined in the fun conga line that was lead by nobody but Carole. And how can we not remember Carole at the Cambria Vets Hall at our community Halloween "Monster Bash" event...there she was in her wicked witch of Cambria costume, warts and all. During our annual BBQ event at San Simeon State Park, she almost won the gold medal during our Olympic ice plant tossing contest.



Carole, Toni and Abel pulling ice plant at PBLS

Carole Adams made a tremendous positive difference and was a very special volunteer at Piedras Blancas Light Station.

Carole is still volunteering her time and effort to our coastline. She is now coordinating the development of the coastal trail that connects the elephant seal viewing area to the light station and beyond. Thank you for your dedication and passion for this area, Carole. You are an asset and an inspiration to our community!



The Beacon is a joint publication of the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association and the Bureau of Land Management. The PBLSA is a non-profit partner of the BLM and provides support for the restoration, conservation, interpretation, and stewardship of the unique natural, historical, and cultural resources at the Piedras Blancas Light Station. © Copyright 2016



COOKING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Catherine Maude Rogers was born in 1891 in the San Carpofero mountains north of the light station. In 1908, she married Lorin V. Thorndyke, Jr. – oldest son of the longest tenured Head Keeper at Piedras Blancas Light Station, Captain Lorin V. Thorndyke. She kept a book of recipes, some of which were clipped from magazines or newspapers. As the following recipe demonstrates, printing exact baking instructions was not always considered necessary. It was assumed that a competent housewife would know how to cook anything!

Holiday Cake

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 3/4 C butter | 2 C sugar |
| 1 C milk | 2 1/2 C flour |
| 3/4 tsp salt | |
| 2 tsp baking powder | |
| Whites of 4 eggs | |
| 1 Tbl grated lemon rind | |

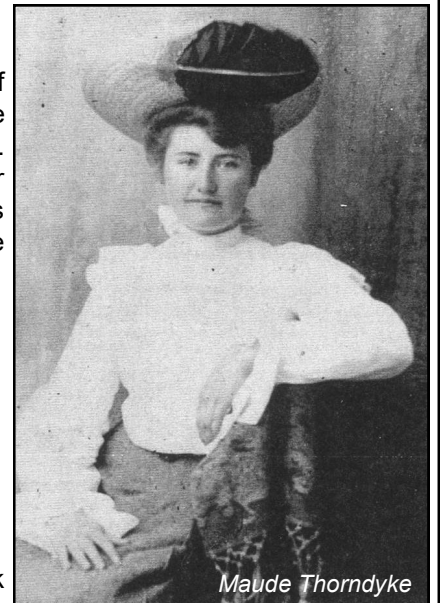
Cream butter and sugar and mix dry ingredients. Add beaten egg whites, flour and milk and beat hard. Take out one-third of this mixture and add:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon | 1/2 C citron |
| 1 tsp allspice | 1 C raisins |

Bake this mixture in one layer; bake other mixture in two layers. Use the spice layer in the center, with this filling between layers:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 C shelled walnuts | 2 bottles vanilla |
| 1 pound confectioner's sugar | |

Make an icing of confectioner's sugar and orange juice for the outside of the cake. Decorate with nuts and dates, if desired.



Maude Thorndyke

THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS, LEXI AND DREW!

Each summer we rely on local college students to help us during our busiest season. We hope they gain valuable work experience and enjoy their time in this unique setting. Here is some positive feedback from Lexi who is off to study abroad after working at the light station this summer. Good luck and safe travels, Lexi!

Interning at the Piedras Blancas Light Station was a blast. Being able to work and live in such a beautiful place was unlike anything I've experienced. One of my favorite parts was being completely immersed in sounds of nature, whether that be waking up to the screeching of the Peregrine Falcons or listening to the nonstop barking of the sea lions. The job itself definitely helped to prepare me in my future career. I learned about the ways in which government agencies and volunteers work together to preserve our natural areas. I have gained so much respect for the time and energy that the volunteers at Piedras Blancas have put into the restoration and preservation of the light station. Lastly, I was fortunate to work with many great people along the way. I am heading off to study abroad in the Indian Himalayas, but I look forward to helping out around the Lighthouse when I get back.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS RICHARD AND WENDY PEARSALL



Richard and Wendy Pearsall have always loved the central coast. While dating they toured up and down Hwy 1. When raising their family in Westlake Village, they camped from Pismo Beach to Big Sur. Twelve years ago they realized their dream and bought a home in Cambria where they are now full time residents and active volunteers. Wendy and Richard have always tried to give back to their community- Wendy through various local charities including National Charity League and Richard through coaching sports and Boy Scouts. The Pearsalls always arrive at the light station with smiles and we are happy to have them join our light station family.

***Interested in becoming a light station volunteer?
We have many different opportunities available!
Call our Volunteer Coordinator: 805-924-1807***



BLM UPDATE

Ryan Cooper, Park Manager

September marks the end of BLM's fiscal year. This is when we look at the past year's accomplishments and examine our goals for the next year. Public visitation at the light station has been a huge priority for BLM from the beginning of our management of the Light Station in 2001, and 2016 is no exception. We have accommodated over 6,600 visitors this year so far! The only way this has been possible is through the unwavering help of our volunteers.

Although we haven't completed any large construction projects this year, we have been busy behind the scenes. There has been progress on the seismic retrofit plans for the Fog Signal Building and lighthouse, the replica entrance gate design and construction has begun and the water tower/communications tower project is in the final stages. We should see a lot of physical progress on many of these projects in 2017.

2016 offered new opportunities for people to visit the light station. We had a photography tour, an open house self-guided tour for Jack's Helping Hand, and three very popular hike-in tours. These new tours have allowed visitors to experience the light station in ways they have not been able to in the past and we plan on continuing this trend in 2017.

Soon we will embark on a planning effort that will look at the future of the Piedras Blancas Light Station management. Our current management plan is now almost 10 years old. While it is a solid plan, and we have worked towards all of the goals it originally outlined, it is time to re-evaluate our goals for the light station and update our management plan. I look forward to working with all of you on this planning endeavor. Thank you to all who have been a part of the light station family and I look forward to working together to make the Piedras Blancas Light Station even better.

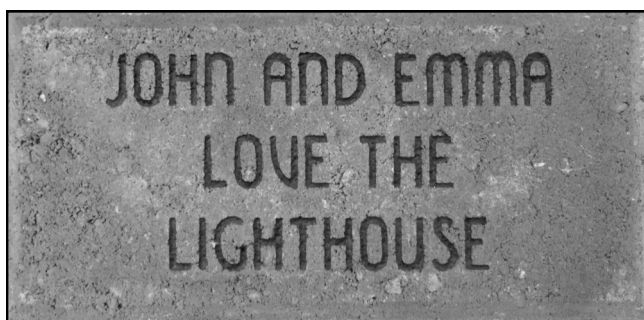
Looking for that perfect gift? Visit our online gift shop to purchase items unique to Piedras Blancas.

Free shipping, too!

www.piedrasblancas.org/store

MERCANTILE MUSINGS

Our online gift shop is growing! Many new items have been added and everything comes with free shipping. From custom wood ornaments to shirts and coffee mugs, there is sure to be something for any lighthouse lover. Our website is also an easy way to join or renew your membership or buy a custom engraved brick that will be installed below the lighthouse. What a unique gift idea!

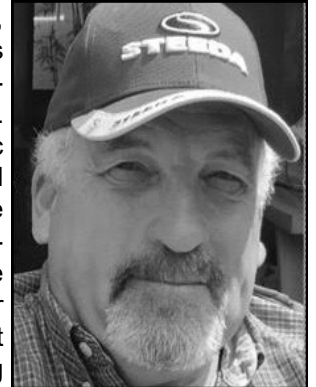


PBLSA UPDATE

Jim Harris, Chair

Meet our newest board member, Zale Schuster

Born and raised in Long Beach, California, Zale spent four years in the Air Force and is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He spent 40 years as a mechanic and engineer in the aircraft and aerospace fields. In 2014, Zale retired from United Launch Alliance and moved to Cambria. He enjoys cycling, hiking and is a car enthusiast. If you visit the light station, you may see him leading a tour. Thank you, Zale!



Piedras Blancas Light Station Association board members welcome your comments or questions.

Phone 805-927-3719 or email: contact.pblsa@gmail.com

Board meetings are held in the conference room at Rabobank in Cambria at 6 PM on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The public is welcome and encouraged to participate.

CRITTER CORNER

Peregrine Falcon



If you have been on a tour of the light station, you may have seen an aerie (the nest of a bird of prey) in the large white rock just offshore.

It is home to a pair of Peregrine Falcons that have been nesting at the light station for quite a few years. And if you were very lucky, you spotted Peregrine chicks inside the aerie or adults perched atop the lighthouse keeping a watchful eye.

Peregrine Falcons are found on every continent except Antarctica and prefer wide open spaces. They thrive near coasts where shorebirds are common and they can live up to 17 years in the wild. Peregrines prey on other birds in mid-flight, hunting from above and dropping into a steep dive or stoop that can reach speeds up to 200 mph. Our resident falcons may be seen all year, but are most visible during spring and summer.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBCAM?

Since it was installed last year, many visitors have written to say how much they enjoy the live 270 degree view from the light station. Depending on the time of year, you may see elephant seals lounging on the beach, waves crashing on rocks, flowers in bloom, and beautiful sunsets. It's easily accessible from our website!

www.piedrasblancas.org/webcam

PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION TOURS

Tours are offered year-round on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. From June 15 through August 31, tours are offered daily except Wednesdays and Sundays. There are no tours on federal holidays. Tours last about 2 hours and include the historic Piedras Blancas lighthouse and support buildings along with a half mile interpretive trail that provides spectacular ocean views and opportunities to view wildlife. Meet at the former Piedras Blancas Motel located 1.5 miles north of the light station at 9:45 AM.

Please do not wait at the gate to the light station!

For information, email piedrasblancastours@gmail.com
or call 805-927-7361

Groups of 10 or more
please make advance
arrangements.

\$10 for adults, \$5
ages 6-17, no fee for
children 5 and under.

Tours may be
cancelled on the day
of the tour due to
inclement weather.



Dress warmly and wear comfortable
walking shoes. Sorry, no pets!

PBLS Association
P.O. Box 127
San Simeon, CA 93452-0127
805-927-3719
membership.pblsa@gmail.com



All memberships include our quarterly newsletter. Your dues help with the maintenance and restoration of the Piedras Blancas Light Station.

- ___ \$50 Friend of the Lighthouse
(1 complimentary tour)
- ___ \$100 Acting Keeper
(2 complimentary tours)
- ___ \$250 Assistant Keeper
(4 complimentary tours)
- ___ \$500 Principal Keeper
(engraved brick)
- ___ \$1000 Superintendent of Lights
(engraved brick & private tour for up to 6)

***Help restore
and preserve
Piedras Blancas
Light Station
by joining
PBLSA***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to PBLSA
You may also join online at piedrasblancas.org

Thank you for your support!

PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION ASSOCIATION
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