the region. Thus the Virginia Chapter became the Chesapeake Chapter.

The first year the chapter was organized it was involved with the national Society's efforts in staging the Bicentennial of the Lighthouse Service at Newport, RI. Later activities included bus trips to lighthouses and cruises of the Bay.

In 1995, the Chapter established a Volunteer Preservation Program and began assisting various entities with the restoration of their lighthouses. Since inception, Chapter volunteers have assisted the Coast Guard by working at the historian's office and at the Coast Guard artifact warehouse at Suitland, MD. Other assistance has involved work at the Baltimore Maritime Museum, Chesapeake Lightship, Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse and even repairs to an active Coast Guard aid to navigation. This past year they helped organize the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, an event which they hope will be an annual affair.

The Chapter will continue to volunteer at various lighthouse locations in the Chesapeake Bay area, help the Coast Guard and tackle their most recent acquisition, the restoration and preservation of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse.

It has been a full 15 years and an era reflecting creative and consistent volunteer work in many areas. This active Chapter is a proud component of the national Society and deserves the admiration of lighthouse lovers everywhere.

Log on to their website at: www.cheslights.org.

Thomas Point Shoal Transfer

Annapolis, MD

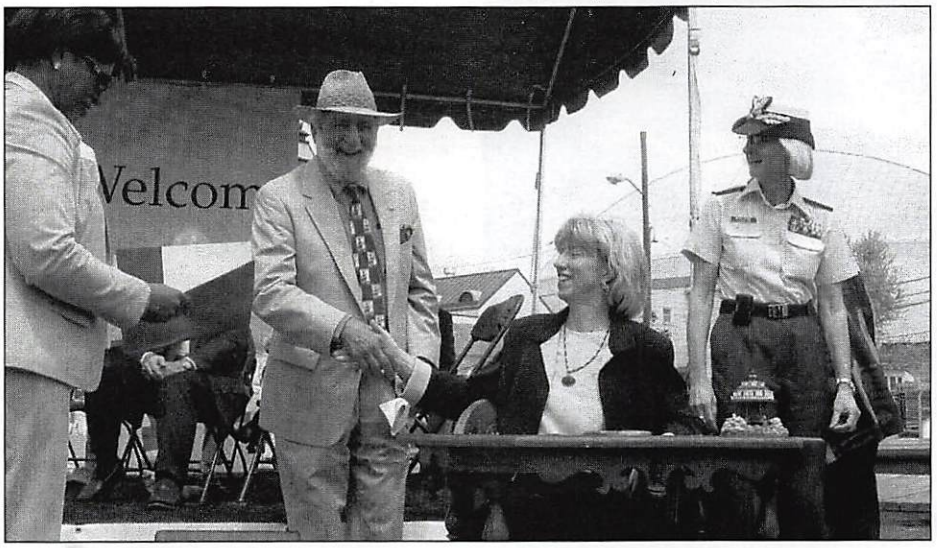
On Saturday, May 1, the Head Keep' attended the ceremony transferring the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse (TPS) from the Coast Guard, through Interior to a partnership of the City of Annapolis, Annapolis Maritime Museum and our Society. The Society's Chesapeake Chapter, which submitted the paperwork for the transfer of TPS, will restore the lighthouse and manage the property.

On hand at the transfer ceremony was Secretary Norton, Congressman Ben Cardin, RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer, GSA Regional Director Barbara Shelton, Chapter President Henry Gonzalez and President Wayne Wheeler. During the Head Keeper's talk he remarked to Secretary Norton, "Madam Secretary, just last week we were together when you transferred the Point Sur Light Station to the State of California and now, one week later, we're here in Annapolis to transfer another lighthouse . . . we MUST keep meeting this way."



Above – In front of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, from left Annapolis Maritime Museum director Buck Buchanan, John Hughes (the Secretary's husband), Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara and the Head Keep', Wayne Wheeler. Photo by Henry Gonzalez.

Below – The Head Keep' and Secretary Gale Norton at the transfer ceremony. GSA Regional Director Barbara Shelton at left, RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara at right. Photo by Candace Clifford.



During the ceremony Chapter President Henry Gonzalez was given the Society's Annual President's Award (a wood and brass plaque and $500). The Society also presented Henry, on behalf of the Chesapeake Chapter, with the Society's Annual Preservation Award of $10,000 to be used on the Thomas Point Shoal project. Another $10,000 was donated by the Maryland Worker's Comp. association as well as $2,500 each from the City of Annapolis and the Chesapeake Chapter and $1,000 from the Delaware Harbour Lights Collectors Club. For one-day – $26,000 is an excellent beginning.

After the ceremonies the principals were given a ride out to Thomas Point Shoal aboard a Coast Guard vessel and then treated to a luncheon by Mayor Moyer.

Assateague Lighthouse Featured in Duck Stamp

Chincoteague, VA

The Assateague Lighthouse was constructed in 1833 at a cost of approximately $55,000 and was rebuilt to its present form in 1867. Located on a hill some 22 feet above the mean high water, it is 142 feet high, with a diameter of 27 feet, 6 3/4 inches at the base. In 1933 the lighthouse was electrified. The current optic is rated at 800,000 candle power, and can be seen for 19 nautical miles. The Assateague Lighthouse has warned passing ships and local waterman of the shallow waters off Assateague for many years. The Assateague Lighthouse is an active navigational aid and is in the National Register of Historic places

The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is home of the lighthouse. The red and white-striped lighthouse is located on the Virginia portion of Assateague Island. The lighthouse is approximately 1/4 mile away from Chincoteague Island and visitors can drive there from Chincoteague in about 5 minutes. Some people elect to rent bicycles or walk along the trail that leads from Chincoteague over to Assateague Island. The trail is maintained by the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. Visitors to the Maryland side of Assateague can drive to this area in about an hour.



Society President Wheeler presenting the annual President's Award to Chesapeake Chapter President Henry Gonzalez at the Thomas Point Shoal transfer. Photo by Candace Clifford.

The refuge is an excellent place for bird watching and other outdoor activities after you visit the lighthouse. In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, artist Ron Loque painted a beautiful scene called Return to Chincoteague. Two greater snow geese are depicted in flight with the Assateague Lighthouse in the background. This image was selected as the 2003-2004 Federal Duck Stamp Print.

The lighthouse was recently transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are working to open the lighthouse in July with docents from the Chincoteague Natural History Association. It will initially be open only on weekends. Call 757) 336-6122 for current information. Information on the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the Assateague Island Lighthouse can be found on the web at: http://chibco.fws.gov/.



Cape Charles Lighthouse to be Excessed.

Smith Island, Virginia

The Cape Charles Lighthouse will be among the 300 plus that will be excessed by the Coast Guard over the next decade or two.

The first lighthouse at this site was completed in 1828. It was a 60-foot masonry tower that was painted white. In 1856 $35,000 was appropriated for a new tower. Work started in 1860 and at the start of the Civil War was only 83 feet tall. The Confederates raided the site and destroyed the light and took anything of value from the construction site. In 1864 an additional $20,000 was authorized and the tower was completed and lit in 1864. Erosion was active in the area and after a storm in 1889 the tower was condemned. A new cast iron skeleton tower was built and first lit on August 15, 1895. This is the current standing lighthouse that you see.

The 1st order Fresnel lens was removed in