

## September Open House Cancelled

The Board of Directors of the Faulkner's Light Brigade voted to cancel this year's Open House on Faulkner's Island originally scheduled for September 9.

The U.S. Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit in Providence, R.I. raised a number of concerns about safety issues on the island, including the poor condition of the main wharf, the wharf access ladder and the boathouse. The Coast Guard engineers recommended that no "tour groups" visit Faulkner's until repairs are made.

"This was a difficult decision, and very disappointing," FLB Chairman Fred Farnsworth said. "There is only a limited period each year in which the island can be opened for visitors who wish to see it and the restored lighthouse."

The Light Brigade maintains the lighthouse under an agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard, which owns the lighthouse and is responsible for operation of the light. The island is owned and maintained by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

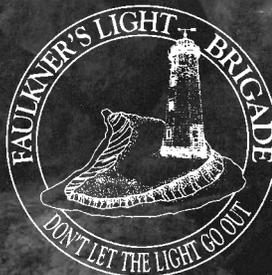
Farnsworth added a note of optimism. "The Fish & Wildlife Service has secured funds within its 2007 fiscal year budget to make needed repairs to both the wharf and the boathouse. That's good news." If the necessary work can be completed in time, the Light Brigade will plan for an Open House in 2007.

Check the Faulkner's Light Brigade website [www.lighthouse.cc/FLB/](http://www.lighthouse.cc/FLB/) for progress reports.

**Top: The deterioration of the boathouse was also considered a safety hazard.**

**Bottom: Safe access to the wharf was a concern for the U.S. Coast Guard Engineering Unit.**

Photos: Fred Farnsworth



# Norman Hall's Thoughtful Bequest

By Joel Helander

The largest private gift in the history of the Faulkner's Light Brigade – \$30,000 – was received by check this May. Under the terms of a charitable remainder trust established by the late Norman A. Hall, who died April 26, 2005, the gift

shall be utilized to establish an endowment fund, the income of which shall be expended for the “ongoing maintenance needs” of the historic lighthouse.

As a lighthouse aficionado, Norman Hall revered Faulkner's Lighthouse in Long Island Sound. After all, he had passed every summer of his life, 1938-2005, in the family's elegant summer home on Vineyard Point in the Sachem's Head section of Guilford. From Vineyard Point, Norman Hall had a fetching view of the island and government light station.

Norman's sister, The Reverend Marjorie H. Davis, reminisces about the adversities her brother faced in coping with a serious congenital defect, spinal bifida. Despite a lack of motor control in his legs, Norman mastered swimming at an early age, practicing in a tidal pool at Vineyard Point that had been scraped clean of barnacles for his welfare. He could walk for a short distance, but soon resorted to crutches for mobility.

As burdensome as his body seemed, Norm showed the world how to beat the odds. He participated in water sports, especially boating. At 12 years of age, he owned a dingy with outboard motor. As an adult, he



Norman Hall with his dinghy on the beach at Vineyard Point, 1978

Photo courtesy of Marjorie Hall Davis

always used a Boston Whaler runabout, teaching two generations of children how to water ski.

On Norman's 65th birthday, the extended family showered him with lighthouse-related gifts, including a

skit staged by his grand nieces and grand nephews that featured lighthouses. He was crowned with a lighthouse hat and even presented with a toilet plunger that had been cleverly converted into a lighthouse.

Norman was confined to a wheelchair for the last 10 years of his life, which curtailed boating activities. He was no stranger to the Faulkner's Light Brigade and would drive out from Wallingford in his specially equipped Buick to attend the Spring Lecture Series. His gentlemanly presence was unassuming and almost painfully reserved. He expressed great interest in the campaign of preservation on Faulkner's and, according to his sister, related every detail to family members. Until the day of his sudden death, he worked as an accountant at the Choate Rosemary Hall School.

Norman Hall's cash gift creates a perpetual legacy. We are grateful for his life in Wallingford/Guilford and for his confidence in the FLB campaign. A lighthouse guides mariners around obstacles and offers hope and salvation. Thank you, Norm, for you looked to lighthouses for personal strength and inspiration and you too, showed us how to get around obstacles.

# Thank You, GPA For Your Helping Hand

By Joseph Arnold

In 1991 Joel Helander concluded that the rapid acceleration of erosion on Faulkner's Island was threatening the island's historic lighthouse as well as the island itself.

As Guilford's longtime historian, Joel was particularly sensitive to the prospect of losing this most prominent marinescape, which is in full view from his home in Sachem's Head.

He quickly formed a group that shared his concerns and then launched a plan to find financial help and technical guidance.

Fortunately, the Guilford Preservation Alliance (GPA) found the effort to save Faulkner's Island and its lighthouse a perfect fit for its mission of preserving remnants of Guilford's history and it accepted Joel's coyly (well, somewhat) named group, Faulkner's Light Brigade, as a commission under its financial and legal responsibility.

With this critical support, FLB was able to pursue a variety of activities, including an extended public membership, now in the hundreds. Federal, state and private grants were pursued and they provided the financial funding for reinforcing the weakened island shoreline, renovation of the lighthouse and other FLB projects.

Now, after 15 years of pursuing its mission of stabilizing Faulkner's Island and restoring its lighthouse, FLB has developed its own capital resources and no longer needs the much appreciated support from GPA, which has accepted the Faulkner Light Brigade's request for separation as a reasonable and logical conclusion of their long relationship. Planning for this move is now underway.

Thank you, Guilford Preservation Alliance, for your generosity, guidance and encouragement over all these years.

## Bids Sought for Staircase Painting



Faulkner's Light Brigade has advertised for bids for the preparation and painting of the cast iron spiral stairs inside the historic lighthouse. This is the next major project scheduled by the Light Brigade as part of its regular maintenance effort.

The work will include the removal of the existing paint and loose rust, most of which

contains lead, and the repainting of the stair, platforms and small ships ladder at the top.

The lighthouse cast iron stair was installed in 1871 as part of a major renovation project. The original lighthouse was built in 1802. Because of the historic character of the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the work must be carried out under the guidelines of the U.S. Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

Bids for the work will be opened later in September.

## Faulkner's Island and the Roseate Tern Now Available On DVD Video

Aldimar Video Productions ([www.aldimarvp.com](http://www.aldimarvp.com)) in association with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, and the Faulkner's Light Brigade, has produced a DVD video with a unique view of Faulkner's Island and the endangered roseate terns during their nesting season.

Faulkner's Island is home to one of the the largest colonies of roseate terns on Long Island Sound and is open to the public only one day a year after the terns have nested, fledged and

migrated. This DVD video offers unseen views of the nesting tern colonies as U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Sara Williams performs a regularly scheduled inspection of tern eggs and fledglings.

Joel Helander, Guilford historian and author of the book *This Island Called Faulkner's*, provides an insight into the history of the island, its lightkeepers, and the role of the Faulkner's Light Brigade in saving the historic lighthouse and its island from almost certain destruction.

The DVD video, which runs

almost 40 minutes, is available from the Faulkner's Light Brigade (203-453-8400) or on-line at [www.aldimarvp.com](http://www.aldimarvp.com). Cost is \$12 plus shipping.

Aldimar Video Productions is a video production company specializing in the creation of business, travel and tourism related Internet and DVD video presentations. They are a husband and wife team who enjoy traveling and taking on challenging projects. Previous DVD releases include: "Nepal Adventure", "La Grande Avventura" and "Un'Altra Volta".

