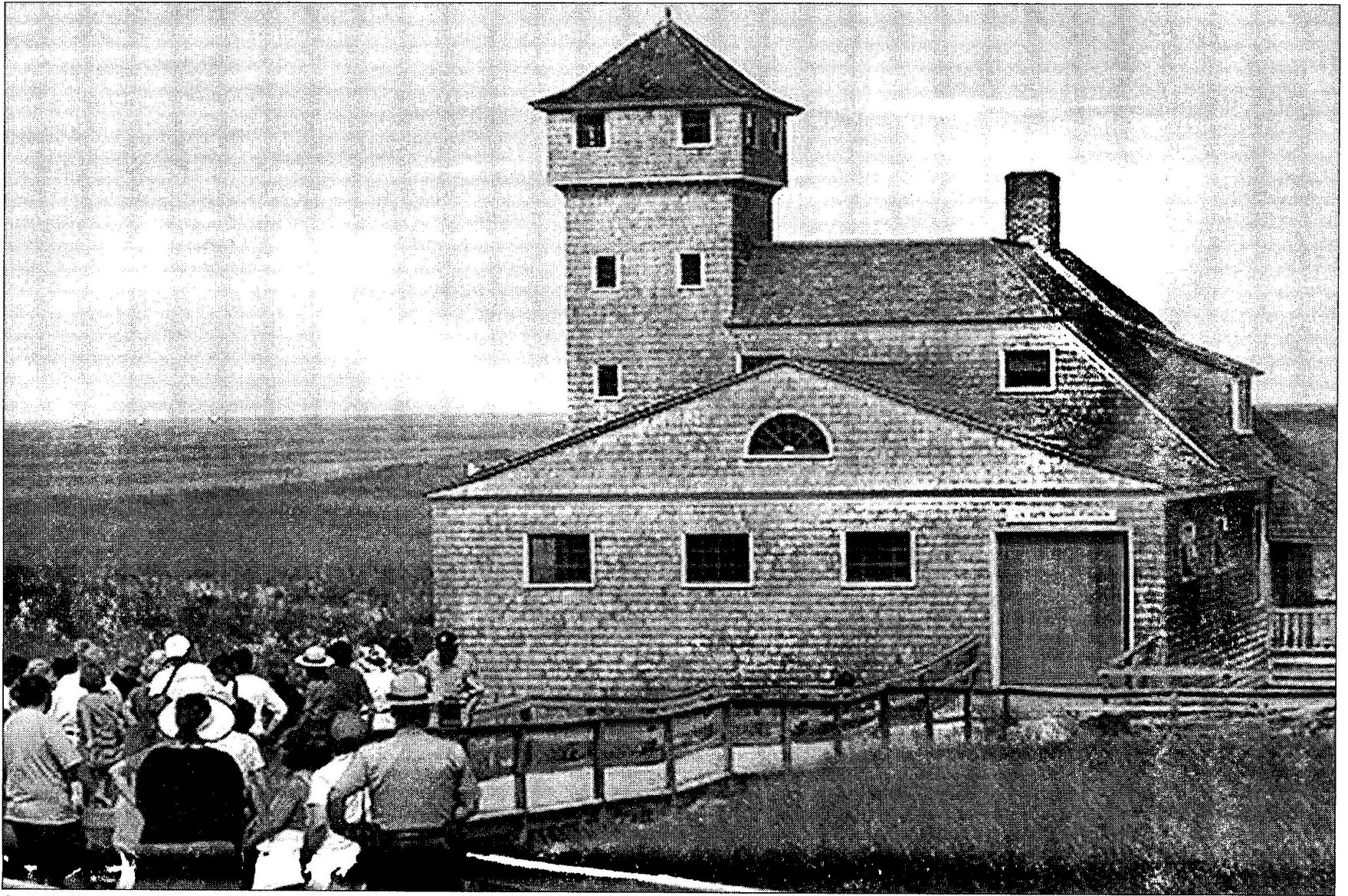


# OPINION



Among its many projects, the Friends secured furnishings and exhibits for the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station at Race Point in Provincetown. [COURTESY NPS]

## Hats off to Friends of the Seashore

**D**id you attend a free music or theater event at the Seashore's Salt Pond amphitheater?

Take a stroll through the Red Maple Swamp at Fort Hill?

Admire the stunning renovations at the historic Penniman house?

Enjoy the exhibits at the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station at Race Point?

As another great season comes to a close, it's a good time to recognize the many efforts of the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore, which has a hand in financing, organizing or sponsoring many of the park's activities and resources.

For more than 30 years, members of the Friends have committed energy, money, and brainpower to the park.

In 2016, the Friends initiated a community-wide campaign to raise funds for the swamp trail. The reconstruction and recent reopening of the trail now entices a new generation

of walkers.

This effort complemented the \$100,000 Friends' contribution rehab the iconic Penniman house nearby.

Members have also preserved a historic cranberry bog house in North Truro, secured furnishings and exhibits for the life-saving station, and

provided funds to keep the Province Lands Visitors Center operational.

Most recently, in response to a generous donor, the group tackled its first challenge grant, enabling the park to start repairs at five ponds in Truro, Wellfleet, and Provincetown—work that would have

otherwise remained on the list of needed improvements.

Its current project involves raising funds for Wellfleet's Atlantic White Cedar Swamp Trail, a multiyear effort that will guarantee boardwalk access to this unique ecosystem.

The group's efforts don't end when the tourists go home; it continues to sponsor films, concerts, lectures and other special events throughout the year.

These quiet volunteers play a key role at the Seashore, helping to maintain popular walking trails, serving as guides to summer visitors who wish to see and learn about the seals that haul out to rest on the Seashore's beaches, and assist park staff in clearing and burning brush at sites throughout the Seashore. This work often restores historic vistas.

Whatever the task, the goal is in concert with the mission of FCCNS: To support the educational, environmental, cultural, recreational, and

scientific purposes of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities within the Friends should email [volunteer@fccns.org](mailto:volunteer@fccns.org).

Help is needed in the following areas:

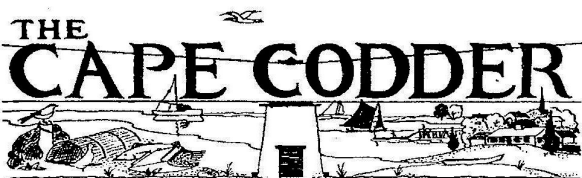
- \* Trail maintenance, through which you'll work on your schedule when "your" trail needs attention;

- \* Cut/pile/burn crew—from fall through spring, work with a group to improve areas targeted by the Seashore;

- \* Join the membership committee to help develop ideas for members-only events; greet people at summer events, and participate in special events such as Earth Day and Public Lands Day.

A lot of the work that the Friends does often goes unrecognized, but its behind-the-scenes contributions make a huge difference for all of us who love the Seashore.

Thank you, FCCNS! -- *The Editors*



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