

Guardians of the Light: Keeping the Flame Alive

Bahamian Project Photographers photograph the team behind the iconic Bahamas Elbow Reef Lighthouse.

HOPE TOWN, ABACO, BAHAMAS, March 7, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- After a lengthy delay due to the pandemic, [Bahamian Project photographers](#) are back to capturing the iconic images that have made the Bahamian Project the most significant art & culture project in Bahamian history.

The exciting third phase of the long-running project officially commenced at the end of last year when two of The Bahamas' most experienced and respected photographic artists travelled to Abaco, on their first family island assignment.



Elbow Cay Lighthouse photo by Donald Knowles

“

If the light was automated, then the soul of the light, the heartbeat of the light, would be gone, and it would just be a thing.”

Deborah Patterson

Photographers Donald Knowles and Ana-Lisa Wells were blessed with outstanding weather on their mission to Hope Town, where they photographed the team behind the Elbow Reef [Lighthouse](#), often referred to as the Hope Town lighthouse.

Yes, **that** lighthouse.

The well-known, beloved and iconic red-and-white striped Elbow Reef Lighthouse is the last manned, kerosene-fueled light station in the world. Construction on this tower began in 1862, becoming operational two years later - and it is still fully functioning today as an active aid to navigation. Images of this Bahamian treasure have been reproduced on Bahamian currency, postcards, stamps, the Bahamas passport, tourism ads, and in countless images by tourists and locals alike for over 150 years.

Donald Knowles photographed the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society - a group of five women

responsible for the never-ending and often challenging maintenance and repairs on the lighthouse. Working in collaboration with the Bahamas government, the Bahamas Port Department, and related agencies, they are unanimous in their passion for keeping it manually-operated and kerosene-burning. All other lighthouses across the globe have been decommissioned or automated. These women are the sole reason that The Bahamas is home to this historically authentic monument, recognized and loved around the world.

Knowles is a veteran of the photographic community, with decades of experience. His photography has taken him around the world on assignments. Starting his career as a newspaper photographer, Donald has created spectacular photographs under a wide variety of conditions. He now specializes in portrait and glamour photography.

Ana-Lisa Wells took behind-the-scenes photos, video and peripheral images to tell the story behind the photographic session.

Wells is a fine artist, photographer, graphic designer and owner of CocoLupe Creative Services, a full service marketing & advertising company located in Nassau. She is president of the Bahamian Project, and co-founder of the highly successful art initiative, along with her husband, Duke.

Both Donald and Ana-Lisa have previously photographed for the Bahamian Project collection.

Heather Forde-Prosa, one of the five women of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society, expertly coordinated logistics on the ground in Abaco, making a smooth travel and shooting process for



Women of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society, photo by Donald Knowles for the Bahamian Project.



Bahamian Project exhibition at the Central Bank Gallery, Nassau, Bahamas

our photographic team.

View the complete results of the highly successful Abaco photographic session on the Bahamian Project website at:

www.bahamianproject.com

About The Bahamian Project

Created in 2012, the Bahamian Project is an ongoing, fine-art photography project. It was created to document the character and preserve the legacy of Bahamians who best represent the heartbeat of Bahamian life.

Founded by Bahamas fine-art photographers Duke & Lisa Wells, the initial goal of the Project was to create a permanent collection of photographs to provide recognition, foster cultural awareness and create a historical record of people whose lives best represented the heart and soul of The Bahamas.

The first phase consisted of a body of work featuring studio portraits taken by Mr. Wells. The 52 portraits resulting from this series were displayed at the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas (NAGB) in a high-profile, well attended exhibition.

For the second phase of the Project, Wells invited other Bahamas-based photographers to collaborate in creating legacy portraits. More than a dozen local photographers joined the Project and independently photographed another 80 people. This second series of images was displayed at the Central Bank Gallery in an exhibition that exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

That initial goal of the Project was realized recently when all 130 portraits were donated to the newly created Bahamas National Portrait Gallery, an extension of the Bahamian Project. An online version of the portrait gallery displays images photographed during the first two phases of the Project. These portraits document the "Bright Lights and Raw Gems" that define the character of the Bahamas.

As The Bahamian Project moves forward, focus has shifted away from formal portraiture and towards slice-of-life, environmental portraits of people, highlighting how the people and environment of The Bahamas intertwine. Coupled with spectacular images of the island landscape and the intimate details of island life, these collections will represent the culture of the islands and the very fabric of Bahamian society.

Photographers - often accompanied by a videographer and a writer - are being sent to family islands to visually capture the stories of island life in a beautiful, positive way.

The Bahamian Project is also independently producing coffee table photo books centered around Bahamian themes.

For more information visit <https://www.bahamianproject.com>

Lisa Wells

Bahamian Project

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