



the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
www.floralighthouses.org

A Night to Remember

St. Augustine Lighthouse • January 27, 2007

The first quarter 2007 meeting of the FLA will be located at the St. Augustine Lighthouse. "Been there, done that", you say. Well, not like this! Unless you have participated in the Sunset / Moonrise event held monthly at the lighthouse, you have never seen the St. Augustine Lighthouse this grand. We will be having our meeting in the afternoon followed by dinner. We will then proceed to the lighthouse for dessert as well as a nighttime climb. One by one, we will ascend the 219 steps to the top and exit to the gallery. Standing on the outside gallery of this magnificent structure at nighttime, watching the immense beam from its spectacular 1st order Fresnel lens rotating across the horizon is like nothing you have seen before. It is an awesome and breathtaking experience!

Actually, the current tower is the second St. Augustine Lighthouse. The keeper lit the lens in this new tower on October 15, 1874. The lighthouse was automated in 1955 and the last keeper retired at that time. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary now maintains the light once a week. The keepers' house is a duplex with up to three lightkeepers and their families living in it at any one time. The house underwent many changes with the times. Indoor plumbing finally came to the lightstation in 1907 and electricity was installed in 1925. After the last keepers left, the house was boarded up and declared surplus property. The vacated house became the victim of time and neglect as well as of arson. A fire completely gutted the interior and left the brick exterior with smoke and soot damage. The damaged lighthouse was leased to the Junior Service League of St. Augustine in 1981 and has been gradually restored since that time. The first order Fresnel lens was shot out in 1986 by a 14-year

old vandal with a rifle. The Junior Service League raised the \$500,000. it took to replace the shattered prisms. The keepers' dwelling now houses the museum.

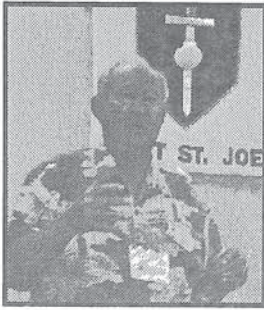
Our meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at Coquina Crossing in Elkton, Fl. This is approximately 10 miles from the lighthouse and easily accessed via I-95. Registration will begin at 1:30pm with the meeting starting at 2pm. Our guest speaker will be one of the maritime archeologists (Chuck Meide or Sam Turner) based at the lighthouse. They will tell us about their major archeological research program focused on the discovery and investigation of shipwrecks as well as other maritime sites. Dinner will be catered at 5pm. We expect to be finished by 6:30 and back to the lighthouse by 7pm. We will be having wine, dessert and other refreshments in the upstairs gallery of the keeper's house. In the event of a cold January evening in Northern Florida, the gallery will have seating available for anyone wanting relief from the cold. The gift shop will also be open for shopping. The cost of the meeting including all expenses and a donation to the lighthouse is \$41.50.

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Stan's Beacon...Comments from the President



In the last issue, we noted the number one problem for most non-profit volunteer organizations: *Apathy*.

If you had been at the Strategic Planning session June 17 you would *not* have seen apathy....but a *high-energy* team of 27 officers and directors who hammered out in a day-long interactive session a Strategic Plan to provide a clear direction for *FLA* in preserving, protecting and promoting Florida's lighthouses and rich maritime history. The team sharply focused on nine key goals (see below). The team revised the Bylaws to streamline our association. Ken Smith & Kathy Fleming crafted a new mission statement.

If you had been at the Cape San Blas meeting July 15, you would *not* have seen apathy...but a *vibrant* meeting with strong local support from the "Forgotten Coast."

If you had been at the Strategic Planning session August 26 you would *not* have seen apathy...but an *enthusiastic team* of more than two dozen officers and directors who identified more than 100 action items to support the Association's nine key goals. If you would like a copy of the report, please let me know.

If you had been at the 10th Anniversary meeting, you would *not* have seen apathy...but a sold-out event- filled *exciting* day. Meetings have become fun getaways. Plan now for a feel-good getaway to St. Augustine. And, if you were at these events you experienced the *high energy, excitement and positive attitudes*.

Some of you have asked me why I put in long hours and spend my own money to attend partner forums, like *Visit Florida* and *Florida Trust*. I believe success, happiness and personal fulfillment come from giving back and doing something worthwhile you love and are passionate about; making a difference that matters. We want to help you build a strong organization with lasting impact to continue our 10-year legacy. People are our strength, people who are committed to doing what they say they will do and believe in the mission. My role is to promote not myself, but the goals and inspire by serving and supporting you so by working in concert we achieve the goals. This is a special calling that requires a compelling commitment. I'm having a ball and it's rewarding to serve you. We have a good plan. As General Patton said: "A good plan violently executed today is far and away better than a perfect plan tomorrow." So let's act now! Go for it!

FLA Strategic Goals

1. **Develop Strategic Plan** to provide clear direction for the association. Issue to all members, media and strategic partners. Include in web site.
2. **Achieve specialty lighthouse license plate** for sustained funding (gift that keeps on giving) for FLA mission to support all 30 lighthouses.
3. **Forge strategic alliances and partnerships** to develop a combined powerhouse of **advocacy**, lobbying, networking and understanding of the government bureaucracy to stop teardown, fall down; and gain funding and grants; to promote lighthouses (*Visit Florida*): Tourism, cross promos, speakers, building buzz for our mission and the role of lighthouses in our maritime history.
4. **Develop a comprehensive and effective funding**, in addition to the license plate, including corporate sponsorship program; wooing donors, endowments, wills and estate planning, trusts, insurance policy designation.
5. **Increase and broaden membership**: Build a better sense of membership (by more volunteerism, boosting communications, and other actions).
6. **Support Local Lighthouse organizations**: "We exist to help all the Florida lighthouses." Information sharing (best practices). Product sales win/wins.
7. **Develop strong public and children education** programs and speakers.
8. **Hire an Executive Director** (office, phone, and other pre-actions).
9. **Have Fun!**

FLA membership renewal past due!

Membership Fee, tax deductible, was due September 30. If you have not renewed *better late than never*, so Please mail your check to: Dede Smith

VP-Membership
P.O. Box 149963
Orlando, Florida 32814-9963.

Please consider doubling your membership amount with a tax-deductible *gift membership* for a friend!

GENE OAKES MEMORIAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

By Stan Farnham

You are invited January 26 at 7:15 pm at the St. Augustine Lighthouse gallery room for a meeting on the specialty lighthouse license plate. The license plate is our **No. 2 Strategic Goal** as voted by the more than two-dozen officers and directors during the planning session. Since then we corresponded with Governor Bush, who provided help from his Policy Director, Janice Gilley along with others in her office. Mike Mancusco of that office visited the Department of Transportation and obtained documents and information for us. We have talked with others. The January meeting will outline where we stand, then sharply focus on action items to get a positive outcome for this goal.



Visit Florida's I-75 Fall Festival



Charley and Lottie Knox represented the Florida Lighthouse Association among 75 other vendors at *Visit Florida's* Interstate 75 Annual Fall Festival at the Visitors Center in Jennings, Florida on October 26, 2006. This volunteer work supports Strategic Goal No. 3 of forging alliances and partnerships. *Visit Florida* is important to FLA in helping promote lighthouses as this event showed.



The Knox's arrived early for their four-hour stint, but immediately had a challenge when the wind came up and blew the display all over the parking lot. After quick repairs and with the display on the table and tacked it down, they talked and passed out brochures to hundreds of people! Charley Knox said: "We found out that most of the folks we were talking to came down from the mid west and we heard a lot about Michigan's lighthouses. Most folks did not realize that we had 30 lighthouses here in Florida. Many of the visitors promised to try and visit our lighthouses."

Charley Knox added, "The visitors told us where they were going, we would point out the different lights that were in the neighborhood. If they were going down the east coast, we talked about St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, and Jupiter. If they were going to the Keys, we talked about Cape Florida, Key West and the Reef Lights. If they were going down the west coast, we talked about Boca Grande and Sanibel. We passed out brochures for both, St. Augustine and Ponce Inlet as well as our own. We only wish that we had brochures from more of the lighthouses."

This first Festival for FLA taught the Knox's several things to help with the next one December 1, 2006 at the Official Florida Welcome Center in Yulee, Florida, Interstate 95.

FLA Merchandise and Raffle

By Charley Knox

The St Augustine meeting will feature a new "FLA Ball Cap, which is royal blue with the FLA logo and "Florida Lighthouse Association", embroidered on the front, and our web address on the right side. These "one-size-fits-all" ball caps sell for just \$10. We will also have sun visors available.

The January meeting also kicks off our new raffle to support "*Gene Oakes Memorial Fund*," with a prize of a Plasma Screen HD Television, value of up to \$2,000. Tickets will be sold between the January meeting at St Augustine and the meeting at Amelia Island in April. We ask members to take a book of tickets (5 tickets) to sell to friends and relatives for \$20 each. With a total of 300 tickets, the odds are good with a one in 300 chance to win. This raffle should raise \$4,000 for our license plate fund. Please start thinking about folks you can sell tickets to! We have a limited number of our "Tenth Anniversary Tee-Shirts" available for \$22. Please call if you would like one: (386) 961-9031 or email at: charleyknox@bellsouth.net



Legacy Gifting

By Stan Farnham

Thank you for being a member. We are grateful for your continued support by your tax-deductible membership fee. Part of your meeting cost also is tax deductible and supports local lighthouses. Please consider another way to help by legacy gifting.

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have made headlines recently with their charitable endowment. Perhaps that's got you to thinking. You don't have to be the richest persons to help. Consider some easy ways that provide support without affecting your financial security.

Thinking about legacy giving brings up the topic of wills. If your will is outdated, or was prepared in another state as our wills were, then you need to update it. We did this recently with Joe Lindsay a lawyer and now an FLA member. In the process we learned some things to share with you about legacy giving.

FLA's future is in your hands

First, you can have your lawyer put in your will a sentence like, "I bequeath to the Florida Lighthouse Association, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation at 81 Lighthouse Avenue, St. Augustine, Florida 32080, _____ percent of my residuary estate for its general purposes." Instead of a percentage, you may want to simply specify a particular dollar amount.

Second, you can change the beneficiary of one of your life insurance policies to name Florida Lighthouse Association as the beneficiary. Simply write or call your insurance issuer. FLA could be a successor beneficiary, rather than the only or primary beneficiary of a policy. You might have your spouse as the primary beneficiary with FLA as secondary beneficiary.

Third, in 2006 Congress changed the law on IRAs. At age 70-1/2 you are required to take a minimum distribution, which is taxable income. With the changed law, you can make a direct contribution to a charity (FLA), which excludes it from gross income. This avoids having the income taxable. Here's a simple example: a donor in the 15 percent tax bracket who withdrew \$100 from his IRA has \$85 left to give after taxes. Now with the new law, sending it directly to the charity avoids paying on the amount as income. So you save and the charity receives more. Depending on your income bracket and size of the gift, the savings can be larger if it puts you in a lower tax bracket. In a nutshell, here's what you do; Send a letter as follows: "Please accept this letter as my request to make a direct charitable distribution from my IRA account. Please issue a check in the amount of \$____ payable to the Florida Lighthouse Association, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation." (You should check with your IRA account representative to confirm the required procedure for your particular account.)

We have had at least one person do this already after the law was changed. There are many ways to help provide funds. This article gives you three ideas.

The FLA Legacy Club.

If you would like to chair a new committee, *The FLA Legacy Club*, please let me know. This is an action item supporting our No. 4 Strategic Plan Goal of comprehensive and effective funding.



The Mission of The Florida Lighthouse Association

The Florida Lighthouse Association is a nonprofit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state's 1200 mile coastline. Once central to the economic growth and settlement of our nation, many of Florida's lighthouses face uncertain futures.

Our mission is to preserve, restore, protect and defend Florida's lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

Continued from page 1....

This meeting will mark the 1-yr passing of our past President, Gene Oakes. In his memory, we will be planting an oak tree on the grounds of the lighthouse on Friday, January 26. We extend our sincerest appreciation and thanks to Kathy Fleming, the Executive Director, for not only allowing us to have this living memorial but also selecting the location and providing the plaque at the base of the tree. Anyone wanting to visit this memorial is welcome to do so prior to climbing on Saturday.

On Sunday morning, the FLA will be having a special boat tour out to Ft. Matanzas at 10am. The Visitor Center is located on A1A only a short drive from the lighthouse. This tour involves a short boat ride and then approximately 45 minutes at the Fort allowing for

a tour and nature walk. There is no admission fee; however, in order to insure adequate seating room, we will need a count of those wanting to attend this private tour. The registration form for this meeting includes a place for you to make your reservation. This morning tour should be completed in time for our members to be homeward bound by noontime.

To add even more excitement to this meeting, the Nights of Lights Festival in historic St. Augustine runs through January 31. At this time, the colonial buildings, downtown parks, and the city's historic bayfront are illuminated by over 2 million sparkling lights. For more information about the festival, visit www.nightsoflights.com.

St. Augustine Lighthouse Night Climb January 27, 2007

<u>Meeting Agenda</u>	
1:30pm	Registration at Coquina Crossings Clubhouse, Elkton, Fl.
2pm	First Quarter 2007 meeting of FLA begins
5pm	Buffet dinner is served
6:30pm	Depart via private vehicles for lighthouse
7pm	Night climb and dessert at the lighthouse

Preferred Hotel

Hampton Inn St. Augustine Beach
430 A1A Beach Blvd.
St. Augustine, Fl. 32080
Phone: 904-471-4000

We will have discounted rooms available for Friday and Saturday nights, January 26th and 27th. A standard island view room rate is \$89. per night and an oceanfront room rate is \$109. All the amenities associated with the Hampton Inn including a deluxe continental breakfast are available at this facility. Reservations must be received by 12/26/06 to guarantee availability as well as rate. Please mention group code "LGT" when making your reservation.

Biographies of Guest Speakers:

Chuck Meide, LAMP (Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program) Director

Chuck Meide came to LAMP in March 2006. He was born and raised in the coastal town of Atlantic Beach, Florida, in Duval County north of St. Augustine. He attended Florida State University, receiving both Bachelors' (1993) and Master's (2001) degrees in Anthropology, with a focus on Underwater Archaeology. At FSU, Chuck had the opportunity to participate in and supervise a wide variety of maritime archaeological projects, including investigations of submerged prehistoric hunting and occupation sites and the wrecks of 16th- and 17th-century Spanish galleons, a 1622 Spanish *patache* or dispatch vessel, a Confederate ironclad and Union supply ships, the earliest Western river steamboat excavated by archaeologists, and La Salle's ship *La Belle* lost in 1686. He has worked on maritime archaeological sites throughout Florida and also in Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, Vermont, Bermuda, a number of Caribbean islands, and Ireland. He is currently completing his PhD research through the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg,

Virginia. Chuck is also an active NAUI scuba instructor, and taught basic and scientific diving courses at the FSU Academic Diving Program from 1992 to 2000.

Sam Turner, Director of Archaeology

Dr. Turner also started at LAMP in March 2006. He traveled extensively in South America with his family as a child and spent many years living in both Argentina and Puerto Rico where he became fluent in Spanish. He received a BA in History as a Social Science from Antioch College where he began to acquire his specialized knowledge of the early Spanish Colonial period in the New World. He did his MA in the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University and received his Ph.D. in Spanish and Spanish American Studies from King's College of the University of London in 1999. Dr. Turner has worked on shipwrecks and terrestrial maritime sites in the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. He also conducts extensive research in numerous archives and repositories in Europe and the United States working with both English and Spanish documents.

Nine for Nine

The following have attended the last nine meetings: Stan & Dottie Beckstrom, Charley and Lottie Knox, Gordon & Dianne Levi, Ken & Dede Smith, Dennis & Gayle Stemac and John & Judi Vankoolbergen. Attending eight of nine: Joseph Bennett, Stan & Mary Farnham, Beverly Oakes, , Eric Martin, Dean & Corinne Oleson and Harry & Jean Pettit.

Thanks for supporting FLA and Florida Lighthouses!

Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc. Member Meeting Minutes • Sanibel - October 21, 2006

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Announcements: Stan provided all attendees a list of announcements and briefly discussed them.

Invocation: Hib Casselberry gave the invocation.

Welcome: Stan welcomed all members and thanked them for attending the meeting; and then recognized new members attending their first meeting, many of them from Sanibel, and welcomed them to our Lighthouse Family. Stan introduced and recognized Jeff Gales (Pictured left), Executive Director of the USLHS, who had traveled from San Francisco to attend our meeting.



Donation to Cape St. George: Stan announced that the board had approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to the Cape St. George Lighthouse. The funds are designated to the fabrication of the lantern room. Total cost for this project is \$55,000, of which the St. George Lighthouse Association has secured \$50,000. Our one for 10 matching donation will enable the association to proceed with the fabrication of the lantern room and have it displayed at the future site of the lighthouse.

Founders: Stan awarded Ann Caneer with a certification of recognition as being the first president and one of the founders of FLA. Stan presented to the mother and sister of the late Thomas Taylor, a certificate of recognition as an organizer, founder, and past president of FLA. Kathy Fleming, who was unable to attend, was awarded a certificate of recognition as a founder and officer. Certificates for Bill and Frieda Trotter were given to Charley Knox who will present them at the next Mayport Lighthouse Association meeting. Paul Bradley and Hib Casselberry were presented certificates of recognition as founders. Cindi Para and Richard Johnson, who could not attend the member meeting, each received a certificate of recognition at the board meeting the night before.

Raffle: Tickets were sold for the St. Augustine Print, donated by Bill Trotter. Paul Bradley donated a print of the Sanibel lighthouse; The Raffield's donated 3 prints of the St. Joseph Point Lighthouse and Stan Farnham included two tickets to the Bok Sanctuary. More than \$1,300 was raised.

Distinguished Guest: Jeff Gales of the USLHS made a brief statement and congratulated the FLA on their 10th Anniversary. **Chief Christopher Brown**, USCG, who had arranged and volunteered to have the lighthouse opened for this FLA event, spoke briefly and congratulated the FLA on their anniversary. Stan presented Jeff Gales and Chief Brown each with a certificate of appreciation and a gift.

FLA History Board: Stan displayed a timeline of the officers, commissioners, committee chairs and board members of FLA for the past 10 years.

Guest Speaker: Stan introduced guest speaker, author and historian: **Charles LaBuff**, who also lived in one of the keeper's quarters at the Sanibel Lighthouse for 22 years. Charles discussed the history of the lighthouse and life on the island, which was accompanied by a slideshow. Stan presented Charles with a certificate of appreciation.

Nominating Slate: Rip Puls, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read aloud to the members the slate for the officer and district commissioners, which are as follows. *President-Stan Farnham; Ex. VP-Paul Wenglowksy; VP of Meetings & Events-Gayle & Dennis Stemac; VP of Membership-Dede Smith; VP of Fundraising & Merchandise-Charley & Lottie Knox; VP of IT, Webmaster-Stan Beckstrom; Secretary-Christi Sessions; Asst. Secretary-Sharon Puls; Treasurer-John Kennedy; Historian-Neil Hurley; Dist. 1 Comm.-Hib Casselberry; Dist. 2 Comm.-Ray Stewart; Dist. 3 Comm.-Rip Puls; Dist. 4 Comm.-Dianne Levi* **Judy Azbell moved that the nominations be closed and the election be voted on as presented by the committee. Seconded by Hib Casselberry and all members unanimously approved.**

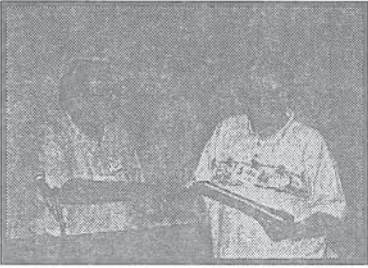
Dedicated Service Award: Stan Farnham awarded George Diller a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated service as Treasurer for eight years.



Officers Reports:

Secretary: The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No additions or corrections were noted. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer: George Diller, retiring after eight years of dedicated service, reported these figures thru September 31, 2006:
 Operating balance: \$60,052.22
 License Plate Fund: \$22,089.24



George Diller turned over the books to the new treasurer, John Kennedy. Thanks to John Kennedy for volunteering.

Ex. VP: Paul Wenglowsky updated the members on the Lighthouse Trading/Poker Run cards. Paul announced he submitted pricing to the board and received approval on some free samples of the set.

VP of Membership: Dede thanked Norm Collins for the computer and the database. Dede noted that we have a record of 911 members in the database. FLA had 350 active members in 2006 and to date 242 of those have renewed for 2007. We have received 24 new members since the last meeting.

VP of Fundraising: Charley Knox reported we had reached the goal for the Bill Trotter Print. He reminded everyone about the sale of 10th Anniversary shirts. With the purchase of a shirt buyers also get a commemorative pin. Charley said ball caps and sun visors would be offered at the next meeting. An Errata sheet will be produced for the Florida Lighthouse Trail book that is sold, he said. He will ask the lighthouses to review their information in the book and supply an update if needed.

VP of Meetings: Gayle Stemac gave a brief overview of the remaining of the day's events. She discussed the Limited Edition Pamphlets that were given to each attendee at the meeting. She announced "Door Prizes" would be awarded during lunch.

The next meeting will be a night climb at St. Augustine on January 27, 2007. Future meetings include: April 21st Amelia Island; July 21st Hillsboro; Oct (day TBD), 2007 Jupiter.

John Kennedy gave detailed information on routes to and from the lighthouse and historical village. He suggested carpooling to save on tolls and parking. John announced that water and snacks would be available at the lighthouse and were donated by Publix.

Special Recognition: Beverly Oakes recognized Stan Farnham for stepping in as president after the

passing of her husband, Gene Oakes. Beverly, along with Dede Smith and Gayle Stemac, awarded Stan a certificate of appreciation and a gift, on behalf of the members for the exceptional job he has done.

Break: The members took a brief break.

Trivia Time: Dorothy Butler challenged the members with trivia questions and awarded Ken Smith and Hib Casselberry with prizes for correct answers. She stumped the members on a few questions!

Presidents Report: Stan provided a list of reports available to members, via email or snail mail.

VP of IT, Webmaster: Stan Beckstrom reported a high volume of traffic on the website. We have had 14992 visitors since the launch. He updates the news page almost daily, which keeps us ranked #1 on the top 3 search engine sites. The on-line store should soon be on-line.

Special Guest: Sam Bailey fascinated the members with stories about the history of his family, which have been residents on the island since 1894. The Bailey's own and operate their store which has been open since 1897. Sam answered questions and took photographs with members.

Committee Reports:

License Plate Fund: Strategic Plan Goal #2 will have its first sessions at St. Augustine Lighthouse on January 26, 2007 from 7:15-9:15 p.m.

Education: Stan announced Hib Casselberry is retiring as chairman. Anne Stewart was appointed as the new chairman. Thanks to Anne Stewart for volunteering.

Newsletter: FLA is looking for someone to take over the FLA FLASH. Stan Farnham and Christi Session will produce the FLA FLASH until an appointment is made.

Archive: Gordon Levi is searching for information on the Arnold Shore photos that were loaned out in 1997-1998. Anyone with information should contact the Archive Chairman, Gordon Levi.

Publicity: Ken Smith reported Lottie Knox and Alfred King have both volunteered to join this committee. Ken acted as media liaison for the Florida Lighthouse Day activities at St. Marks Lighthouse.

Lighthouse Reports: See the "Lighthouse Reports" section for those that submitted information.



Drawing: Jeff Gales, USLHS, pulled the tickets for the raffle. The first ticket pulled was for the grand prize, Bill Trotter's Print, and the winner: Rip Puls (Pictured left).

2nd – 6th prize winners were: PB Print- Hib Casselberry; & the three St. Joseph Prints- Stan Beckstrom, Maureen Workman and Marilyn Horton. The tickets were won by: Steve Miller. Congratulations to all our winners and *Thank you* to everyone that bought tickets and donated prizes!

Adjournment: President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting in time for lunch to be served at noon.

Christi Sessions, Secretary



Here's a poignant moment of tired meeting planners, Dennis and Gayle Stemac, Meetings and Events Vice Presidents, after another successful sold out Florida Lighthouse Association meeting.

"Thank you", to Gayle and Dennis Stemac for your hard work on our memorable 10th Anniversary Meeting.

The WOW! Factor

Comments from the Sanibel Meeting

"It was a great meeting, thank you." Judy Azbell

"I had a great time. You certainly have a wonderful group of people." Jeff Gales, Executive Director, USLHS.

"The best meeting in a long time." Sharon and Rip Puls

"The meeting was high energy, lots of recognition, great speakers, comfortable room, good food and lots of happy lighthouse climbers." Dede Smith

"I've attended 2 or 3 meetings a year for the past 5 years, and this one was tops." Betty Phelps.

Come join us at St. Augustine January 27, and experience a meeting of your FLA first hand!

"Preserve and Restore the St. John's River (Mayport) Lighthouse "

By Charley Knox

The Mayport Lighthouse Association has a vision to preserve and restore both an area and national treasure. This vision dovetails with what other civic and government agencies would like to see for the Mayport Village (1859-2006).

Redevelopment of a mostly shuttered commercial waterfront area has occurred with major improvements during the past eight years of sewer system, new streets, lighting and sidewalks largely through the efforts of the Mayport Waterfront Partnership. More improvements will strengthen the economy and help save the imperiled fishing and shrimping industry. Developers have purchased several riverfront land parcels. A riverfront park (boardwalk), the uniqueness of the St. John's River Ferry Service and the new commercial district, will make the village a significant destination point for both tourists and natives. Restoring the St. John's River Lighthouse can be the final piece to make the area that destination point.

The St. Johns River (Mayport) Lighthouse, constructed in 1858 and lighted on January 1, 1859, was the third of four lighthouses built on what is now the Mayport Naval Station. Although deactivated in 1929 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, *it is not available to the public*. Further, the lighthouse base is buried 10 feet below ground from fill dirt used to construct the Naval Station runway; and its location next to water was also changed the airfield construction. With security issues at the Naval Station, no future public access or restoration is likely, so the association proposes to move the lighthouse to public land on the river, raising it to its original height to make a landmark for the area. This will increase Ferry Service use and help the financial success of the new commercial area.

October 2006 Lighthouse Reports

Mayport / St. Johns River Lighthouses:

The Mayport Lighthouse Association had their first official meeting since the summer break, Charley Knox reported. First item: get Ken Smith Architects to complete a feasibility study. He says he can complete it when we are ready. We will participate if the Florida Lighthouse Association decides to have a lighthouse challenge next spring. We plan to design a web page and get it up by the end of the year. Mayport Lighthouse Association again renewed their membership in FLA.

St. Augustine Lighthouse:

The St. Augustine Lighthouse thanks everyone for their support and letters to our St. Johns County Commission with regard to our Maritime Museum. We will be moving our fight to the City Commission, having won approval of the county. There has been some discussion and coordination of effort between the two commissions and we've been requested to appear before the City. Kathy Fleming chaired a meeting October 27th with the Bureau of Land Management, USCG and others to discuss issues and open the lines of communication on lighthouse transfers.

Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse:

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station offers a "by-reservation only" unique "Climb with the Keepers" tour, guided by experienced guides dressed in 1930s-era Lighthouse Keepers uniforms that provide visitors with an in-depth tour of the Light Station, grounds, and tower, including the Lantern Room normally closed to the public. Cost is \$50 per person (of which \$45 is tax deductible). Please contact Bob Callister at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18 or email bobcallister@ponceinlet.org. Two upcoming special events: "Thanksgiving Gifts at the Lighthouse" on November 24th, and a "1890s Christmas at the Lighthouse" December 16th. Special events will be on both days from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with live holiday music, guided tours, and fun workshops. Visitors on November 24th will also be able to attend a Canaveral lens maintenance demonstration from 1 to 2 p.m., and can talk with and have their photographs taken with the "Old Lighthouse Keeper" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors can see the newly redesigned Stephen Crane, Commodore, and Filibustering exhibit in the Principle Keeper's Dwelling along with the new Beach Racing exhibit. If you are not yet a member of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station or are interested in purchasing a

memorial brick for yourself or a loved one please visit us online at www.ponceinlet.org.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse:

Painting and restoration work on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse have resumed, with sandblasting completed. The day mark has been removed for two primer coats. Restoring the day mark will occur as the second layer of primer is applied in each sector. Rust mitigation is also part of the work. Progress also continues on the lantern room, which was removed for maintenance. Reattaching the original roof that will replace a replica, which was installed during the last painting of the lighthouse, has run into difficulty. Some century-old parts of the lantern room must be replaced, which requires the components to be individually machined by hand. Seemingly identical parts are slightly different, including the bolt threads. Lighthouse painting should be done by December. The work to restore lantern room components will delay replacing it atop the tower until early next year. The Coast Guard continues with maintenance on the rotating first order modern optic, which should be ready for the relighting in February.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse:

Florida Monthly Magazine recently voted Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Best Florida Lighthouse in 2006. A major rehab of the astragal glass system, to be done by mid-December, is underway. All panes are being replaced with thicker tempered glass and improved sealant. The WWII Naval Housing Building in Lighthouse Park received a \$1.1 million restoration by the Town of Jupiter; the Loxahatchee River Historical Society is preparing to sign a 60 -year lease and move into the entire building by Christmas to create the new Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. Dedication of the building will be on Pearl Harbor Day. We are trading our existing museum building on the other side of the inlet bridge for the historic building. The USCG has also added more of their property to our lease to allow for additional exterior exhibits. This next year will be very exciting (and expensive!) as we develop the historic corridor at the lighthouse.

Hillsboro Lighthouse:

Hillsboro lighthouse celebrated "Lighthouse Day" (Pictured: Capt. Jim Watson (L) - USCG-7D, Hib Casselberry (C) & David Nixon (R)) on September 16 with



a picnic at the Pompano Inlet Park directly across from the lighthouse. About 65 members attended. November 11 HLPS celebrated "Keepers Day at the Lighthouse." HLPS invited all the past "lighthouse keepers" and their families to spend the day, which included a tour and boat trip. HLPS planned a "Dutch Treat" dinner November 10 at "Cap"s Place for all the keepers and their families, HLPS Board and their spouses.

Sanibel Lighthouse:

Sanibel hosted the 10th anniversary meeting of the FLA on October 21. They are also interested in hosting the fall 2009 meeting, as that is the 125th anniversary of their lighthouse. A follow-on climb for members November 18 was scheduled.

Anclote Key Lighthouse:

Anclote Key Lighthouse hosted a successful Open House for Florida Lighthouse Day. Several people climbed the lighthouse for the first time; what an experience for them! The Eagle Scout has completed the Memorial Brick area. A ceremony to commemorate the completion is planned. Although the initial area for the bricks is done, this is an on-going fundraiser so anyone who would like to put a "lasting memory" at Anclote can find the order form at www.anclotecso.com.

Egmont key Lighthouse:

The Egmont Key Alliance planned their annual Discover the Island event November 11 & 12. Visitors took the Egmont Key Ferry from the Fort on Ft Desoto. The Alliance members talked about the history of Ft Dade, the Lighthouse, the Batteries, gopher tortoise, and the beach at 10 different sites around the island. "Please plan a trip to our beautiful island and see the Light and small display of 'Aids to Navigation' donated by the US Coast Guard."

Cedar Key Lighthouse:

Cedar Key had their Open House October 21 and 22 with 350 visitors the first day and 150 the second day, including some FLA members who had been at the FLA meeting Saturday. David D'Amicol said volunteers handed out all their supply of pamphlets, and some copies of FLASH on hot, muggy insect



laden days. Pam Darty (C), Ranger of Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, sent thanks to FLA members and volunteers Dave D'Amicol (L) and

Judie Trotter (R); "Three cheers for both Judie and David."

St Marks Lighthouse:

St. Marks Lighthouse Open House on Florida Lighthouse Day was a great success with about 300 visitors who enjoyed the lighthouse tours, exhibits, entertainment and wonderful weather. Ranger Andrew Edel led 15-20 tours into the tower. Because it had not been open for five years an enthusiastic crowd waited to go in. Inside the lighthouse were exhibitors from the Florida Lighthouse Association, St. George Lighthouse Association and Crooked River Lighthouse. Wakulla News online promoted the event with a nice article. Two Tallahassee television stations interviewed Ranger Edel at the top of the tower. A photographic history of the lighthouse prepared by professional museum curator Erik Robinson was displayed inside. The Coast Guard Auxiliary had a booth, Faith Eisdie signed her book "Voices of the Apalachicola," and Sammy and Sandy Tedder showed "Apalachicola: An American Treasure." Visitors enjoyed meeting the "Fines", the family who lived at the lighthouse around 1900 as



portrayed by local volunteers. (Pictured above) The main attraction, however, was the 164-year old Lighthouse and keeper's house with its lovely tower, four-foot thick walls, pine floors and fourth order lens. Special thanks to Refuge Manager James Burnett for making the open house possible, to the Coast Guard for allowing access to the Lighthouse and thanks to everyone for all you did. Together we were able to present to the public an important and historic Florida Landmark.

Crooked River Lighthouse:

The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association and the community celebrated the official opening of Lighthouse Park on October 14. The City of Carrabelle purchased the two-acre track surrounding the lighthouse with funds from the Florida Communities Trust—Florida Forever Grant Program within the Department of Community Affairs. Thanks to the efforts of the Carrabelle Lighthouse

Association members who applied for the grant over two and a half years ago and negotiated with two different owners, the site is designated as a natural conservation resource, open-spaced outdoor recreational park for public enjoyment. The City of Carrabelle erected a covered pavilion and eight new picnic tables to the site, funded in part by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council. The bidding process to hire the architectural firm who will oversee the upcoming "Extreme-Makeover-Crooked River Lighthouse-Edition" restoration project begins in November.

Cape San Blas:

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation selected the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters project "Sleeping Beauty" to receive one of their 2006 Preservation Awards in the Restoration/Rehabilitation Category. They presented the award at the Preservation Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 19, 2006 during the Florida Trust's 2006 Annual Conference in St. Augustine. Work is scheduled to begin shortly on the lighthouse tower. Eglin AFB personnel worked diligently to find additional funds to expedite the tower repair. Their funds, added to the grant awarded by the legislature, enables the work to be completed sooner.

Cape St. George Light:

The St. George Lighthouse Association signed a letter of intent in September with Allen Architectural Metals, Inc. of Talladega, AL, for the lantern room reconstruction. Six of the original rails will be re-used, but the remaining pieces sustained too much damage. Allen will cast and fabricate replacement pieces using the originals as patterns to insure lantern room historical integrity. The remaining original pieces will be treated for preservation in the Division of Historical Resources laboratory. The Franklin County Commission October 3 approved locating the lantern room on a fenced platform in a county park on St. George Island. The display should generate enthusiasm, credibility, and funding for the reconstruction. SGLA volunteers (Pictured Sitting L to R: Susan McClendon, Richard Saucer, Bill Bassett, and Mary Lou Bassett. Standing L to R: Jim McClendon, Mason Bean,



Dennis Barnell, Jim Kemp, Fred Stanley, and Terry Kemp, taking picture volunteer Penny Angel) cleaned 1,400 bricks on October 21, the first anniversary of the collapse of the lighthouse. Volunteer of weekend was Penny Angel. Perhaps 50,000 bricks will need to be cleaned for enough for the interior and exterior wall layers. The original tower had 180,000 bricks, so some reconstruction will be with new brick. A "brick cleaning party" was planned for November 11, with others in the future. Volunteers wanting a "hands-on" lighthouse rebuilding effort are welcome to attend! Call Dennis Barnell or Eric Martin for more information, or visit the website at www.stgeorgelight.org.

Saint Joseph Point Lighthouse:

Danny Raffield, owner, reports a new observation room roof was completed, a repair that should hold for many years. He expects the main roof to be completed before winter. Hurricane Dennis 2005 forced an outside stairway replacement and the kitchen. Joann was in charge of steering the kitchen project. Danny said: "thanks to her hard work and great taste we now have a beautiful new kitchen. All things considered we have had a good summer, and managed to get everything back to normal."

Pensacola Lighthouse:

Members and guests enjoyed an evening of ghost stories at the Pensacola Lighthouse Association's monthly meeting October 10. President Dick Callaway introduced the topic. Dick and several others told spooky stories related to their personal experiences while volunteering at the lighthouse during the past few years. Regularly scheduled tours concluded with our annual Halloween tour.

Sunday, October 29th at 2:25 p.m. we reached a significant milestone when the 9,000th visitor for the 2006 season arrived during the Halloween Open House, making it our best season yet. The special visitor was Theresa Osborne of Pensacola who was presented a Pensacola Lighthouse Association pin and several note cards depicting different views of the lighthouse.

Theresa was accompanied by her husband Dexter and their four sons. (Pictured right)

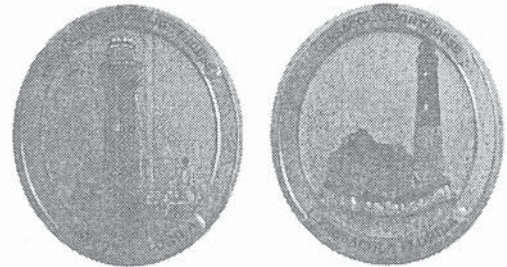


The Halloween tour marked the end of this year's Sunday visitation schedule at the lighthouse. Until May 2007, only scheduled private tours will be conducted.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....

We all have someone in our family, a friend or co-worker that it's impossible to find them the perfect gift. Well look no farther! We have a limited supply of the Florida Lighthouse Association "Lighthouse Series" Ornaments. Two have been released, St. Johns River (2005) & Pensacola (2006), with another release available soon. Each ornament is beautifully detailed, limited in production and comes in its own box. Each ornament is engraved with the series and year it was produced. Not only will your gift put a smile on their face this year, but each year the ornament is placed on the tree they'll think of you. Plus you can continue to add to the collection each year.



Don't forget to treat yourself this holiday!

Each ornament is \$15.00 + shipping.

Contact: Charley & Lottie Knox
Charleyknox@bellsouth.net
 386-961-9031



Karen J. Morris, author of *Lighthouse Lover*, attended the Sanibel meeting. Her book describes lighthouses that have overnight accommodations. For information, see her web site, www.lighthouse lovers.net.

Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses

Welcome to our new members!

Peter Adamson, Nick & Lorina Baldwin, Dr. Steve Belko, Julia & Corky Boyd, Doug & Kathryn Dietrich, Howard Elitzak, Larry & Mary Ann Evans, Jeanne, Mark, David & Anna Fastenau, Ron & Mary Joseph, Max & Jan Koletzke, Joe Lindsay, Jean Marani Ph.D., Elaine Marr, Emilie Massey, Michael & Lisa Miller, Karen J Morris, Carlton & Ingrid Palm, Lew, Helene, Dino, Kory & Kacie Phillips, Bob & Jean Scherer, Donald & Julie Schwartz, George & Patti Sousa, Ms. Lee Tauck, Gordon & Nieves Thompson, Shirley, James, Megan & Michael Traina, Charmaine Yeadon, Carl & Susan Webster, John & Marjorie Wilson, Ann Wilson

Membership year is October 1st through September 30th.

Membership Levels and Dues are:

Circle of Light \$1,000 – Watch Room \$250 – Commissioner \$100 – Inspector \$50 – Keeper (Family) \$35 – Assistant Keeper \$25.00

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The *FLA FLASH* is a quarterly publication of the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., and is a benefit of membership in the organization. The FLA is a non-profit Florida corporation that promotes the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the history and significance of those lighthouses and of Florida's unique maritime heritage. For information, contact:

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