



the FLA FLASH

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



AMELIA ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE



APRIL 21, 2007

By popular demand, we are most privileged to be visiting the Amelia Island Lighthouse as part of our second quarter 2007 meeting. This is the *oldest continuously operating lighthouse* in Florida. As most are aware, the lighthouse is in a residential area and gated. Consequently, it is not open to the general public on a daily basis. We will, however, have access to the entire grounds of the lighthouse compound including the 1962 keeper's dwelling and the oil house. We will be able to enter the base of the tower for photographs, but climbing will NOT be possible due to safety concerns.

This lighthouse was originally constructed on the South end of Cumberland Island in Georgia in 1820. It was dismantled and reconstructed on Amelia Island in 1839. It is a white, conical brick tower with a black cast iron lantern and 58 hand-hewn granite stairs. A third-order revolving Fresnel lens, which remains in the tower today, was installed in 1903 and automated in 1970. The night mark has a 10 second sequence flash. The flash is seen for 2.5 seconds and then is dark for 7.5 seconds. The lighthouse, oil house and surrounding property were given to the City of Fernandina Beach by the US Coast Guard in 2001. The Coast Guard currently owns only the lens and its related equipment. The City received a \$350,000

grant in 2002 for a major restoration project focusing on the lantern room and parapet, which was completed in 2004. The lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 13, 2003. Currently, it remains an active aid to navigation.

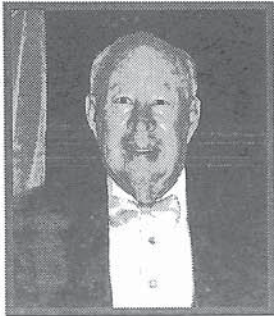
Our meeting will be held at the Clarion Airport Hotel & Conference Center in Jacksonville. As customary, we will begin with registration at 8:30am and the meeting starting at 9am. Our guest speaker will be longtime friend and FLA Historian, Neil Hurley. Along with his presentation, he will also tell us about the Willow Pond Range Light and the Amelia Island North Range Lighthouse. Hopefully, his new book on Florida's lighthouses in the Civil War will be in print by our meeting and available for purchase and signing. We will have a buffet luncheon at noontime followed by a charter bus trip out to Amelia Island.

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Stan's Beacon...Comments from the President



I've now completed an exciting and productive year as your president. My efforts reflect the desires of FLA members who shared their dreams and concerns with me during my "ask questions and listen" conversations, strategic planning sessions and our meetings. Thank you for your comments! My first and foremost concerns have been the top goals you voted for: *achieve specialty license plate, forge stronger alliances and develop comprehensive and effective funding.*

Together we have moved to a new level at FLA with record membership, record attendance at not only the general membership meeting in St. Augustine, but also at the strategic planning meeting on the specialty license goal and the Board of Commissioners meetings that preceded it. Our leadership goal is to raise the performance bar higher each year.

We issued a call to action on the license and many of you have responded by volunteering to help on the 20 key action items. Thank you. If you want to add your name to one of the items and join the northbound train, please let us know.

I've been very lucky. In the past, employees used to say, faced with difficulty, "Farnham luck will pull us through." I've really been lucky to be president of FLA with so many good hard working dedicated people who deserve the credit for our major results. Just take a look at the officers and commissioners on the back page. People willing to take an unpaid job, which sometimes gets recognized only through complaints and criticism; deserve your smiles and plaudits. Great organizations are built on feelings, attitudes and relationships and *Success* comes from volunteer's selfless contribution.

FLA is abuzz with some exciting steps of progress.

"The Governor's recommended budget includes \$5.0 million to be transferred to the Department of State for restoration of lighthouses statewide." From the budget, see at www.ebudget.state.fl.us.

Governor Crist's deputy director of scheduling has our next three meetings on the Governor's office calendar. He may....we hope....stop in at one of our meetings.

Not only is Neil Hurley, our long-time Historian (going back to the founding year), coming to Amelia to speak, Malinda Horton, Executive Director of Florida Association of Museums has agreed to come and share her expertise in working with the legislature.

Speaking of other actions on the forging strong partnerships and alliances:

- Jeff Gales, executive director of USLHS, called me to discuss some exciting collaborations, which go to the heart of our goal of forging stronger alliances.

- *Florida Trust for Historic Preservation* Passport Program of 70 historical sites includes five lighthouses. Next year we should work to have more. Several of us plan to attend the Florida Trust conference in Sarasota in May.

- *Visit Florida* continues to be a strong partner in promoting our lighthouses. Several of us intend to attend the next conference in September.

We have added Quick Books for Non Profits to boost our financial professionalism and to produce the needed reports for the State; and for the license plate when we get it.

If you want to receive FLA eNews, please send me your email address. Our email list now is above 300 names. If you'd like a copy of the report on specialty license plates (20 pages), the list of 20 action items (one page) or the Marketing and Financial Plan for the license plates (4 pages), please let me know.



FLA 365 CLUB



Stan Farnham, February 20, 2007

In the special Strategic Planning and Board Meeting January 26, 2007 at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Gallery Room, the Florida Lighthouse Association Board of Commissioners voted on several critical motions for the specialty license program. Forty-three members attended the meeting, which featured a power point presentation.

The proposed *FLA 365 Club* was one of the new programs approved. The main idea is to provide a club, other than the \$1,000 Challenge, for license fund raising and at a lower level, but one that would still be recognized by a certificate and listing in the FLASH newsletter. This dollar-a-day club also credits other tax deductible "contributions" toward the total.

© Your membership fee, for example, counts towards the total of \$365. That could be as low as \$25 and more if you choose a higher level.

© Your tax-deductible portion of your meeting fee counts. Dennis Stenac did a preliminary analysis of 2006 meetings and found \$5.58 tax deductible from the January meeting, \$2.09 plus \$10.19 for cancelled boat for April, \$13.48 for July and \$14.09 for October; total \$45.43 or approx \$90 per couple. If you attended meetings in 2006 you received a tax statement from Dennis so you know the amount.

© Any tax-deductible amount you paid counts. So let's assume you paid \$35 membership, two of you attended the four meetings this year \$90 and you put in \$40 on other. That would give you painlessly \$165. Then for a donation of \$200 to the license plate fund, you would be members of the *FLA 365 Club*! Of course you can simply donate \$365 and qualify, but we want to make it as easy as possible for a large number to help on the license plate. Consider that an incremental addition of \$200 a person amounts to \$20,000 if 100 people qualify.

The *FLA 365 Club* members will receive a free gift.

The *FLA 365 Club* includes all members (individuals or couples) with a total donation of \$365 to \$999.

The first member of the *FLA 365 Club* was Bill Trushel, followed by Kay Taylor, Jeanne Taylor, Ann Howard and George W. Evans.

Members of the *\$1,000 Challenge* this fiscal year include Mary Dorsey, Stan and Mary Farnham, Harry and Jean Pettit and St. Augustine Lighthouse.

Sign me up for the *FLA 365 Club*!

Name: _____	Membership Fees: _____
Address: _____	Tax Deductible Meeting Fees: _____
_____	Other Donations: _____
_____	Amount Enclosed: _____
Email: _____	Total (\$365-\$999): _____

It's that easy, join today!

Mail to: John Kennedy, FLA Treasurer, 1634 S. Hermitage Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33919.

Forging Strategic Alliances and Partnerships

By Stan Farnham

What is the secret to amplifying our voice? *Turbo charging our efforts by banding together with other organizations as we have been doing.* Forging and strengthening alliances, a top strategic goal, helps develop a combined powerhouse of advocacy, lobbying and networking to not only help preserve and restore Florida lighthouses (*Save Our Lights*) but also to help promote lighthouses (*Visit Our Lights*) and build buzz for our mission and the role of Florida lighthouses in our maritime history.

Alliances bring the voting power of all the memberships; *the power of many!* Listening to the experiences of others helps avoid the rocks and shoals on which so many have wrecked, just as lighthouse beacons guided seafarers safely to harbor. Working together lifts the rising tide of all boats because of "body count" and influence. FLA members can make a difference. For one thing, you are *constituents*, as opposed to lobbyists, and you can make a difference with a chunk of votes on issues vital to FLA. *Let's all show up!*

In the sea of politics, the tide never seems to go out in funding with high-stakes battles among environmentalists, industrialists, politicians, and preservationists. Politics, power and economic interests have historically won the battles. FLA needs to communicate our message (mission) to legislators in *an effective way and partnerships help.* Although there are *many* organizations, this article focuses on just four in which we are members and with recent vital involvement and because of space limitations. The Strategic Plan Appendix describes *many other important organizations*, crucial to FLA success.

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. www.floridatrust.org. Becky Clarke, President; Caroline Weiss, Executive Director. Since 1978, their mission has been to promote and preserve through advocacy, education and historic property stewardship. FLA membership provides for *five members* to attend their annual meeting at member's price. Kathy Fleming, Jack Burrie, Mary and I attended their May 2006 meeting. We plan to attend the conference May 17-19 in Sarasota. Others?

Visit Florida. www.visitflorida.org Bud Nocera, President and CEO. Visit Florida has field offices and five welcome centers. Charley and Lottie Knox handed out FLA brochures at welcome center open houses. Mary and I attended their forum in St. Petersburg in September 2006 and plan to do so again this year. With a staff of more than 100, they are an effective voice for Florida tourism....and our lighthouses.

Florida Association of Museums. www.flamuseums.org. Malinda Horton, Executive Director. FAM monitors legislation affecting museums and provides information to legislators. Kathy Fleming, St. Augustine said: "FAM has been an important partnership for developing our lighthouse over the years. It has a great conference that allows networking, learning and team building. FAM has been a fighter in keeping general operating support and cultural resources support from the State of Florida at today's healthy levels. There is much to be gained from partnering with and learning from other FAM members." Malinda, who is an effective lobbyist, has agreed to speak at our Amelia meeting in April. The FAM annual meeting is September 17-19 in Tarpon Springs.

United States Lighthouse Society. www.uslhs.org. USLHS has donated \$750,000 for lighthouse restoration during the last 10 years. They operate tours with proceeds going to restoration; and publish 48-page journal, *Keeper's Log*. Jeff Gales, executive director, attended our October 2006 meeting. We have discussed ways to collaborate and help one another, which includes a reciprocal use of "ads." *Keeper's Log* will run our ad, here's their ad. (We are partners, of course, with many lighthouse organizations).

Relationships. In addition to partners, we have important relationships; for example the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the backbone of the national preservation program which does both federal and state funding. Fred Gaske is Historical Resources Director *and also* the SHPO. fgaske@dos.state.fl.us. *Getting communication lines open*, not only with partners, but also with state and federal agencies, is a priority, which means collaboration and building relationships. People prefer to deal with people they know.

THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND!

The Keeper's Log...

Is the official quarterly journal of the United States Lighthouse Society...



- Lighthouse history with archival photos, diagrams and maps from cover to cover
- Features include both American and foreign lighthouses, past and present
- Technical articles, lightships and more

<www.uslhs.org> 415-362-7255
244 Kearny Street, 5th Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94108

Lighthouse Specialty License Plate Success, 2007/2008

By Stan Farnham

FLA has stair stepped up the success ladder with a series of interactive strategic planning meetings that resulted in *clarity* of purpose, vision, mission and goals. You voted the top goal of the license plate to meet the mission with a sustained funding source to help restore, preserve and promote Florida lighthouses. *Save Our Lights. Visit Our Lights.* The all-volunteer FLA is the most altruistic of all the lighthouse associations; it has no paid staff nor are officers reimbursed for personal expenses so the maximum funds go to meet the worthy, non-controversial mission.

Colin Powell said: "*Leadership is the ability to solve problems.*" That's a good definition of success, too. We identified the constraints, limiting factors and obstacles so we can mobilize the power of the members in focusing laser-like on *solutions* to these problems. Sustained concentrated effort on the goals will overcome the obstacles. Obstacles are what you see when you lose sight of the goal. What is needed for the submittal?

1. Phone call to Florida HSMV (Highway Safety Motor Vehicles). *Done.* Letter to HSMV. *Draft done and ready to go.* Letter to HSMV identifying a survey company. *Draft done and ready to go.* Survey company approval by Florida HSMV.
2. Survey Company do a scientific survey, per RS-20. Cost approximately \$12,000.
3. Short-term and long-term Marketing and Financial Plan. *Draft done.* If you'd like a copy to use when talking with potential sponsors or supporters, please let us know. The plan tells about FLA and answers questions of what the funds are used for, administrative costs and marketing steps.
4. Submit "package:" of letter, survey results, fee of \$60,000 (we have approximately \$32,000). (Fee refundable if not successful). Do all before November 1, 2007.
5. Have at least one legislative sponsor in both the Senate and House for 2008 session.
6. Following the October 2007 submittal, then we need campaigns to assure support in the House and Senate transportation committees, legislators (40 senators, 120 representatives) and Governor Crist to sign.

During the January St. Augustine meetings we outlined 20 critical action items needed to assure a positive outcome; after reviewing the work already done. Since the St. Augustine meeting many electrifying things have happened:

Rip Puls lined up Senator Mike Fasano (who won a 2006 Florida Trust leadership preservation award) as a sponsor for the legislation. Kathy Fleming drafted an excellent procedure for local organizations to submit to FLA for grants from license plate funds. Judy Azbell is getting together a mailing list of the 200 newspaper and 400 radio/TV stations for news releases. Betty Phelps has been working on potential advisory board members who might lend their name to this effort. The FLA 365 Club already has five members who donated \$365 or more to the license plate fund. Beverly Oakes has prepared a bookmark with the six publicly open lighthouses on one side and information on the other. Ask her for some to give to your legislator or mail to her/him. John Kennedy bought Quick Books for non-profit organizations to boost our financial records and reporting to meet state needs. Ray Hamel is checking with an attorney on fee protection.

Please let us know if *you* want to join in this grand effort to obtain a Florida specialty license plate to provide sustained funding for the vivid reminders of America's maritime history. Working together with determined persistence we can achieve the goal. *Go for it!* The clock is ticking.

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...

Due to vehicle limitations in the neighborhood adjacent to the lighthouse, our group will then divide into two segments. One group will go directly to the lighthouse and be met by Helen O'Hagan Sintes and her husband, "Jay" Sintes. Helen is the daughter of Thomas John O'Hagan, the longest keeper of Amelia Island Light and the last as member of the USLHS. She is the granddaughter of Thomas Patrick O'Hagan who preceded his son as keeper of this light. Maternally, she is a direct descendant of Amos Latham, the last keeper of the Cumberland Light and the first keeper of Amelia Island Light. Helen is a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and has served as keeper for the past 7 years. She will talk with each group about her life at the lighthouse and answer questions. There will be time to walk the

grounds, enter the lighthouse and take photos. The second group will travel down the road to Ft. Clinch State Park. The bus will stop in the Willow Pond area for photo opportunities of the ruins of the oil house. The bus will then proceed to the Fort and everyone will have the opportunity to access the Fort and grounds. We will be able to remain at each stop for approximately 1 hour at which time the groups will alternate sites. We anticipate the charter busses returning to the Clarion Hotel no later than 5:30pm. The cost of this meeting including all expenses at the hotel and Fort along with our customary donation to the lighthouse will be \$40. We expect this event to be very popular with our members and the seating capacity is limited, so please get your reservations in early.

Amelia Island Lighthouse

April 21, 2007

Meeting Agenda

- 8:30 am Registration at the Clarion Hotel
- 9:00 am Second Quarter 2007 meeting begins
- 12 noon Buffet luncheon is served
- 1:00pm Depart via charter buses for alternating Amelia Island Site visits
- 5:30pm Return to Clarion Hotel in Jacksonville

Preferred Hotel

Clarion Airport Hotel and Conference Center
2101 Dixie Clipper Road
Jacksonville, Fl. 32218
Phone: 904-741-1997

We have secured a discounted rate of \$79.99 for your choice of a standard double room or a king room for Friday night, April 20. Complementary continental breakfast is included in the price. Reservations must be received by 4/06/07 to guarantee availability.

Biography of Guest Speaker:

Neil Hurley has had a long term interest in the history of Florida's Lighthouses. He started out writing articles on the subject in the mid-1980's while serving as a Coast Guard Officer on the Staff of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. Neil's greatest accomplishment was to publish a listing of all Florida Lighthouse Keepers. What he originally expected would only take a few weeks has evolved into a part time labor of love which is still growing 20 years later. His "Keeper's of Florida's Lighthouses" is now maintained on CD-ROM, where its over 2,000 listings continue to be the most comprehensive source on when and where Florida Lighthouse Keepers served. But that's not all. Neil has published histories of the lighthouses of the Dry Tortugas, and Egmont Key. His Internet Florida Lighthouse Page" has served as an informative ready reference to thousands of web surfers since 1995. He has worked as a consultant on archeological digs at the site of the first Pensacola Lighthouse and was a founding member of the

Florida Lighthouse Association. He appeared in the Dry Tortugas episode of the PBS series "Legendary Lighthouses." He's given many presentations on various aspects of Florida Lighthouse history throughout the state and is currently working on a book on Florida's Lighthouses in the Civil War. Staying focused on Florida lighthouse history hasn't been easy. The last time he lived Florida was 1986. He's been stationed in the Coast Guard in Hawaii, California, Washington, DC, and most recently in Southern Virginia. In January of this year, Neil completed an assignment as the Senior U.S. Officer on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Yes, Haiti has a lighthouse or two, but the closest Neil was able to get to it was on a helicopter over flight. Recently, Neil retired from the Coast Guard at the rank of Commander. He currently works as a military analyst and training specialist for the US Joint Forces Command in Suffolk Virginia.

Ten for Ten

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

Thanks for supporting FLA and Florida Lighthouses!

Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

Member Meeting Minutes • St. Augustine, FL - January 27, 2007

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Invocation: Hib Casselberry gave the invocation.

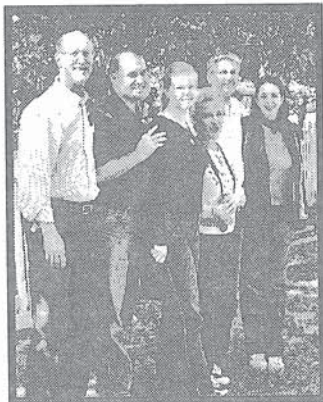
Welcome: Stan welcomed all members and thanked them for attending the meeting; and then recognized new members and members attending their first meeting. Stan recognized and awarded a prize to Janet Garcia from Hawaii, for being the member that traveled the furthest to attend.

Most Consecutive Meeting: Stan awarded prizes to The VanKoolbergens for attending ten of the last ten meetings and Joseph Bennett for attending the last nine consecutive meetings.

Donations: Stan presented a Certificate of Appreciation for Mary Dorsey, who was unable to attend, for her contribution of \$5000.00 and to Harry and Jean Pettit for their contribution of \$2000.00, both donations were designated to the Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund.

Appreciation: Stan presented Ray and Barbara Hamel with a Certificate of Appreciation for their help in organizing the St. Augustine Meeting. He also awarded a certificate to Kathy Fleming for her help and participation in the meeting.

Gene Oakes Memorial: Beverly Oakes introduced the Oakes family members (pictured left) including, Gene's brothers, Bowden and Avery, and daughter in law, Michelle. The brothers told stories of growing up with Gene and what he meant to them and their family. Michelle read a touching letter on behalf of her husband, Robert. The Oakes family thanked everyone involved in the tree planting ceremony at the St.



Augustine Lighthouse.

Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Project: Stan Farnham narrated a brief PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the items currently being completed by volunteers and encouraged other members to volunteer to help complete the tasks required for approval in 2008. Stan announced several motions were passed at the Specialty License Plate Meeting on Friday night, which was as follows:

Motions:

1. *Move that we continue to focus on license plate fund raising in lieu of annual appeal.*
2. *Move the adoption of the FLA 365 Club fundraising plan.*

3. *Move to accept Bill Trushel's generous proposal of financial help, if needed. The board thanked Bill for his generous proposal and deeply appreciates his dedication.*
4. *Move that District Commissioners write and visit if possible, legislators in their district. Recruit and galvanize members in their district to spur writing, emailing and calling on their representative(s). Details to be provided.*
5. *Move that the concepts in the preliminary draft of marketing and financial plan be approved.*
6. *Move that funds be transferred from general account to license fund as an internal "loan", if needed, to be transferred back if unsuccessful and paid back from revenues if successful.*
7. *Move we have a separate "P&L" for license plate and balance sheet; and both for FLA also. Use Quick Books. Take annual physical inventory and account for margins.*
8. *Move we designate former Governor Bush as an honorary FLA member with all privileges.*
9. *Move the Board appoint a committee to find distinguished people to serve on an Advisory Board for the license plate program. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3 authorizes advisory boards.)*

Break: Members to a 20 minute break.

Donations at the meeting: Kay Taylor, past president and founder Tom Taylor's sister, made a generous donation of \$500.00, toward the License Plate Fund.

FLA 365 Club: Bill Trushel became the first official member of the 365 Club. Bill donated \$365 at the meeting to qualify.

Officers Reports:

Verbal reports were omitted to save meeting time. The officers were introduced and members were invited to speak directly with them if they had any questions.

Reports at the board meeting were as follows:

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

Treasurer: John Kennedy reported these figures thru December 31, 2006:

Operating balance: \$60,317.08; License Plate Fund: \$31,826.79.

Ex. VP: Working on producing the Lighthouse Trading / Poker Run Cards.

VP of Membership: 928 members on record, 14 new members since last meeting.

VP of Fundraising: Hats and visors for sale. Offer Cape St. George Lighthouse as the next Lighthouse Ornament in the series.

VP of Meetings: Future meetings include: April 21st Amelia Island; July 21st Hillsboro; Oct (TBD) Jupiter; Jan-2008 Cape Florida.

VP of IT, Webmaster: Stan Beckstrom reported over 19,000 visitors to the website. He is still working on optimizing our position on search engines. Reciprocal links are being added. Click on the FLA logo in the right corner, to get back to the FLA Home Page. The weather forecast has been added to each lighthouse page, for current conditions at that light. The online store got its first order on December 20th. The next goal is to implement an online shopping cart and checkout.

Guest Speaker: Stan introduced guest speaker, Dr. Sam Turner (pictured left), a Maritime Archeologist with the St. Augustine Lighthouse program, L.A.M.P. Dr. Turner presented an intriguing slide show presentation and detailed information on the many shipwrecks along the Florida coast and specifically on his current quest of finding The Jefferson Davis.



Recognition: Stan recognized Paul Bradley, designer of the FLA logo and the Florida Lighthouse Specialty License Plate.

Presidents Award: Stan Farnham awarded the 2007 Thomas Taylor Award to Gene Oakes for his outstanding service with the FLA. Beverly Oakes, Gene's widow, accepted the award on his behalf.

Committee Reports:

Education: Anne Stewart reported that the board had approved to provide a \$100.00 bond, if one student or \$25 each for a team (up to five students), to the winner of The Florida Lighthouse Heritage portion of the Florida History Contest. Certificates will be awarded to each participate and for the family of the winner in each county, a 1 year membership to the FLA. Anne encouraged parents and grandparents to look into the contest in their area, and get involved.

Project Lights: Kathy Fleming discussed the meeting she and Charley Knox attended with the GSA and the impact of land ownership, and issues of the transfer of lights such as Egmont Key.

Publicity: Ken Smith and his committee, Lottie Knox and Alfred King, are preparing for the Lighthouse Challenge. They are looking at offering the challenge for spring 2008 which will include eight lighthouses on the east coast of Florida.

Presidents Report: Stan reminded the members that the next few meetings, including Amelia, will be limited space, so please register early.

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

Level A Report:

Cape St. George Lighthouse: Dennis Barnell, President of SGLA, thanked the FLA for their contributions. With the salvage work complete, the new lantern room on display and the cleaning of brick underway, the SGLA hopes to have the lighthouse reconstructed in two years.

Auctions: The meeting was turned over to Auctioneer Rip Puls, who raised \$518 in funds on the auction. Thank you to Suzanne Alston and Gene Hall for their contributions to the auction.

Paul Wenglowsky presented Dr. Sam Turner with a certificate of appreciation for his speaking to the members. Ray Hamel discussed the details of the tour to Fort Matanzas on Sunday.

Adjournment: Ex. VP, Paul Wenglowsky adjourned the meeting at 4:50 to prepare for dinner to be served.

Christi Sessions, Secretary

The WOW! Factor

Comments from the St. Augustine Meeting

Avery Oakes. Enjoyed the "special group of people we met at the awesome weekend."

Dianne Levi. "We heard you had a great meeting; wish we could have been there, but Gordon was still hospitalized."

Stan & Dottie Beckstrom. "Thanks for a great meeting. We have yet to attend a meeting we haven't enjoyed."

Dede Smith. "Everyone enjoyed themselves greatly."

Come join us at Amelia Island April 21, and experience a meeting of your FLA first hand!

Villages Lighthouse Group, Lady Lake, Florida. President John Cronin of the five-year old group sent FLA a check for \$100 to help with our mission. They have raised \$6,000 to donate to lighthouse organizations for restoration, which he noted "is fundamental to remembering our country's history and to keep the light burning for our future."

January 2007 Lighthouse Reports

St. Augustine Lighthouse

FLA Executive Vice President Paul Wenglowsky is Director of Maritime Education and reported several education events there. For more information on these and future events, call him at 904-829-0745 or visit website at www.staugustinelighthouse.com. St. Augustine Lighthouse has a number of student-oriented programs.

Working with Kids Safe Zone, sponsored by American Legion Post 194, helps at-risk student through maritime-based lessons. Twice weekly educators and volunteers use lessons designed around the student's curriculum, in a fun, learning atmosphere, to help complement their current learning and help get them ready for their spring FCAT tests. The *Light & Color traveling exhibit* organized by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) had more than 14,000 visitors; 350 students from R.B. Hunt Elementary took part in this hands-on interactive exhibit. The Lighthouse hosted, and helped organize the 62nd reunion of the Bilibid/Bago Prisoners of War and 37th Infantry, Philippine Islands, World War II, February 7. A temporary exhibit in the Keepers' House chronicled the four years of civilian imprisonment. Survivors came from as far away as Ireland. The traveling exhibit *S.S. United States* (the fastest ocean liner ever built by the U.S.), organized by the Mariner's Museum, Newport News, Va., opened March 2 in the Anastasia Gallery. It runs until April 27, 2007.

Registration for the *Wonders of Discovery Summer Camp 2007* opens April 2nd for Lighthouse members and for the general public April 16th. More than 190 children participated in the seven-week camp last year: with St. Augustine Sea Life for first and second graders; Age of Discovery for third and fourth graders. A fifth and sixth grade camp was added. This year a seventh and eighth grade camp has been added. Cost to attend one week of camp is \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers.

The *2007 Lighthouse Festival* will be March 17th from 11am – 6pm with fun, food, and activities for people of all ages. *Wonders of Nature* will present two wildlife shows. The Annual 5K Run will be held in the late afternoon. Bill Younger will be present to sign replicas of St. Augustine Lighthouse's First Order Fresnel Lens from 11am – 3pm.

Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse announced progress on two new exhibits to be unveiled in early spring: "Lighthouses of the World" will provide visitors with interactive multimedia experience that will allow them experience a "one of a kind" virtual tour of every lighthouse in the world; and the second exhibit will focus on radio communications and Coast Guard activity at the Ponce Inlet Light Station during World War II. It features Coast Guard artifacts, radio room equipment, and interpretive text panels, and a working HAM radio set from which the Light Station will resume broadcasting on April 20th, after more than a decade of silence. Contact Nancy at (386) 761-1821, ext. 10 or visit us online at www.ponceinlet.org for details related to the grand opening of this exciting new exhibit.

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is working on plans for a new archaeological survey of the existing light station. When completed, this survey will provide the staff with detailed information on both the geographic site and any historically significant locations that may lie just beneath the surface.

Maintenance personnel continue making significant progress in restoring and preserving historic structures throughout the station including the old Pump House, historic picket fence, and brick and mortar work on the Principle Keeper's dwelling. Thanks to all the FLA members who support this and other Florida lighthouses.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

Maintenance and restoration work on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse continues. Painting of the tower is complete and the lower gallery has been reinstalled. On the ground, progress continues to be made on the lantern room and reinstallation of its original roof. Some parts of the lantern room must be custom machined by hand since they are over a century old. Seemingly identical parts have proven to each be slightly different. The U.S. Coast Guard has now completed the maintenance on the lamp, a first order optic. Once the lantern room is complete, the lamp and lantern room will be hoisted atop the tower. Some time will be needed to establish the mechanical and electrical connections and replace the brick interior lining; then daytime testing of the light will be performed. The lighthouse relighting should be by this

spring. The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation will be having a membership relighting event aboard ship off the coast of Cape Canaveral.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

We are happy to report our move to the restored WWII building at the lighthouse is complete and we are now officially the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum! New address is 500 Captain Armour's Way, Jupiter, FL 33469. Our Florida in WWII exhibit has been well received and we will soon have a new exhibit about the lighthouse in the adjacent Oil House. Jupiter plans to move the 1892 restored Tindall House to the site to set up as a homestead exhibit. Soon after an outdoor Native American exhibit or two.

The big Jupiter Inlet news is the effort to establish the lighthouse and surrounding property as a federal Outstanding Natural Area--one of just two in the United States; the other being Yaquina Lighthouse in Oregon. Senator Bill Nelson plans to introduce legislation for this. We will keep you posted about this exciting process!

Hillsboro Lighthouse

Hillsboro Lighthouse celebrates its 100th anniversary with several activities in the next few months, which started with a special Centennial Newsletter, then a Centennial Lighthouse Tour for members February 24. Special activities at this Tour included music, birthday cakes, and boat safety displays. The Centennial Celebration, with ceremonies commemorating the anniversary will be March 7 at the Hillsboro Inlet Park (located across from the lighthouse).

Cape Florida

The entrance walkway to the Cape Florida Lighthouse Compound is being redesigned, with some of the original cast iron stairs and lighthouse bricks as part of a new interpretive display at the entrance. Some of the commemorative bricks sold in the 1990's by the Dade Heritage Trust to help fund the 1996 lighthouse restoration that had been damaged, are being reset. Cast iron benches will be installed along the walkway and under some of the palm trees, so visitors waiting for the tours may enjoy a peaceful respite from the sun. Bricks are still available for purchase at www.dadeheritagetrust.org. Contributions may also be made through the Friends of Cape Florida Inc. www.capeflorida.org

Reef Lights

The Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation has revived its website - www.reeflights.org - and email - info@reeflights.org - with the help of FLA Webmaster Stan Beckstrom.

Egmont Key Lighthouse

Each year volunteers string Christmas lights in a tree-shape from the lighthouse for all the boaters to view, and then these are removed in January. The volunteers are currently working on an on going project of removing exotic plants from the lighthouse compound area.

Anclote Key

Linda Seabol, President of the Friends of Anclote Key State Park and Lighthouse and Peter Krulder, Park Supervisor, placed the Historical marker on the Memorial Monument stating the dates the light had been established, discontinued and re-lit, and now serves as a private aid to navigation for the state of Florida. Several volunteers from the community, the CSO, and the Tarpon Springs Historical Society attended the January dedication.

Crooked River Lighthouse

The Carrabelle City Commission approved the winning bid for the lighthouse restoration to Kenneth Smith Architects, Inc. Funding for the project is from the State of Florida, Historical Resources Grants-in-Aid Program. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association is happy to announce the Extreme Makeover--Crooked River Lighthouse Edition-Season Premiere this spring. We will keep you posted on the progress. Our next step is to work on getting the one remaining Keeper's dwelling purchased from a private owner and moved back to its original site next to the lighthouse and open it as a museum.

Cape San Blas

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse project has been nominated for a 2007 Presidential Preserve America Award. Exterior work on the lighthouse structure is nearing completion. Interior work should begin soon. Soil abatement continued in January. Several pieces of period furniture have been donated for the keeper's quarters and work on the gift shop phase is forthcoming.

Cape St. George Light

The lantern room (pictured below) has been reassembled and is now on display in the County Park



at the center of St. George Island. Volunteers built a wooden platform for the lantern room, and assembled the pieces fabricated and cast by Allen Architectural Metals. Assembly was completed in time to decorate the lantern room with white rope lights and illuminate it along with the Christmas lights on the palm trees in the center of the island. It was truly an impressive sight! An SGLA member crafted a lovely wooden sign identifying the lantern room, and, unexpectedly, the County landscaped the area around the lantern room

display; a wonderful surprise Christmas gift for all the volunteers who have worked so hard to put the lantern room together again! The lantern room will be fitted with a temporary roof, and a new vent ball has been ordered.

Since cleaning the original lighthouse bricks started on the October 21 anniversary of the collapse, more than 40 people have worked over 600 hours and cleaned 6,190 bricks. The whole bricks are being stacked on pallets, and along with broken brick pieces are being stored for the future tower reconstruction.

The Association received a small grant from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council, which will be used to fund a brochure and publicity for the project. We have submitted an application to the state of Florida for a Historic Preservation Small Matching Grant, which, if awarded, will be used for the engineering and construction design work and the beginning of a piling foundation system. We are once again very grateful to the Florida Lighthouse Association for the generous financial support for our efforts. We could not have made such wonderful progress without your help. Please take a look at our website, www.stgeorgelight.org, to see your contributions at work!

Pensacola Lighthouse

The Pensacola Lighthouse Association celebrated its first anniversary at the January 9th meeting with a cake. The organization meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Warrington Volunteer Fire Department on Navy Blvd. On Saturday February 10th, however, the group met for lunch at the Lakeside Galley, Hwy. 98; instead of a business meeting that month. Anyone interested may attend.

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## *In Honor of Gene Oakes*

Two dozen Oakes family members and FLA officers gathered at the St. Augustine Lighthouse grounds Friday January 26 at 2 pm to plant a memorial oak tree in honor of Gene Oakes, past president, who died a year ago. Gene's brothers Bowden and Avery and widow Beverly spoke briefly in a poignant and moving ceremony. (Pictured, son- Bob Oakes and Beverly Oakes)



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 ALLIGATOR REEF  
 SOMBRERO KEY  
 SAND KEY  
 KEY WEST  
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 GARDEN KEY  
 SANIBEL  
 BOCA GRANDE  
 GASPARILLA ISLAND  
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 CEDAR KEY  
 ST MARKS  
 CROOKED RIVER  
 CAPE SAN BLAS  
 ST GEORGE  
 ST JOSEPH POINT  
 PENSACOLA  
 LIGHTHOUSE  
 LENS  
 FLASH  
 BEACON  
 FRESNEL

*Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses*

**Welcome to our new members!**

John Meserve, Janet Marchman, Toni Valaro, Tom & Jeanette Pippin III, Paul & Elizabeth Wilcox, Jr., James H. Brown, Patricia Bagwell, Ron LePage, Joseph Cocking, Carol & Marcus Risk, Roger Williams, Beth & Dave Burton, Robert Swain, Mike Johnson, Mark & Heidi Baker.

Membership year is October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
 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:

- Florida Lighthouse Association,  
 81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32080  
 WebSite: [www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org)  
 E-mail: [flapresident@gmail.com](mailto:flapresident@gmail.com)
- Stan Farnham, President
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- Dennis & Gayle Stemas, V-P Events
- Charley & Lottie Knox, V-P Fund Raising
- Neil E. Hurley, Historian
- Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls & Dianne Levi, District Commissioners

# AMELIA ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

APRIL 21, 2007

## EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: April 6, 2007

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### LUNCHEON

Luncheon buffet will be served with fresh dinner rolls and butter, regular and decaf coffee, and iced tea. It will feature house salad, deli potato salad, seasonal vegetable medley, sliced top round, haddock with lemon and herbs, roasted potatoes, and a choice of apple pie or chocolate cake for dessert.

Total number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40. pp = \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation to Gene Oakes Memorial Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make separate checks payable to the FLA)

Please make your check payable to the Florida Lighthouse Association. Mail with payment to:

Dennis and Gayle Stemas  
10847 Duck Hook Ct.  
San Antonio, FLORIDA 33576

- The FLA has a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.
- All reservations received **after** the deadline will be returned.
- For reservation confirmation, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.