



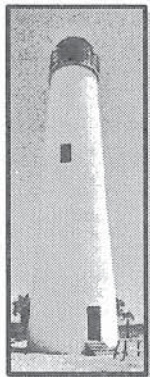
the FLA FLASH

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www.floralighthouses.org

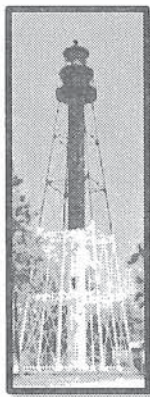
October 18, 2008

Cape St. George Light & Crooked River Lighthouse

REMARKABLE UNPRECEDENTED HAPPENINGS – These are the only words to describe the FLA's meeting on October 18, 2008. This truly will be a day to celebrate lighthouses in Florida.



When our beloved Cape St. George Light succumbed to the forces of nature and crumbled into the Gulf of Mexico on October 21, 2005, we all felt tremendous sadness. We thought we had lost a good friend forever. But, thanks to the unrelenting determination of Dennis Barnell and the St. George Lighthouse Association (SGLA), we will visit and climb the newly reconstructed sentinel at its new home on St. George Island. The museum and gift shop are open on the same site. The FLA provided financial assistance at two different times during the reconstruction process, so every member of the FLA can be proud of the efforts of the SGLA as well as that of the FLA in raising this fallen comrade. The light that we all knew was the third and final light and was completed in 1852; it stood 500 yards inland from the previous light, and pine pilings driven deep into the sand were used as a foundation. It was "built to last." In 1949, the Coast Guard installed an automated light, and by the 1950s lighthouse keepers were no longer needed, although the keeper's house and oil house remained on the island. Beginning in 1992, storms and natural erosion had once again placed the lighthouse in peril. The lighthouse was deactivated in 1994. The oil house and keeper's house were severely damaged by Hurricane Opal in 1995. By spring 2005, the lighthouse sat 20 ft out in the water and the concrete platform poured several years earlier had begun to see the effects of wave action. Immediately after its collapse, the St. George Lighthouse Association began to salvage the pieces and rebuild the light. Ironically, we will have the privilege of climbing the lighthouse just days short of 3yrs to the day that it fell into the Gulf.



Our next stop will be the Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle. The Crooked River Lighthouse was constructed in 1895 to replace the lighthouse on Dog Island that was destroyed by a hurricane in 1873. The 103 foot tall iron and steel structure was decommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1995. In 1999, despite its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, the Coast Guard had plans to surplus the lighthouse and auction it off to the highest bidder. It was at this time that the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association (CLA) was formed by a dedicated group of local citizens with the goal of preserving, restoring, and opening the lighthouse to the public. The CLA was untiring in their efforts and the lighthouse was deeded to the city in August, 2001. A huge milestone was reached last December when the beacon was relit and visitors were introduced to Lighthouse Park and a children's playground anchored by a 70ft long pirate ship, *the Carrabella*. We will

also have the privilege of climbing the Crooked River Lighthouse and enjoying Lighthouse Park.

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Stan's Beacon: Comments from the President

Top Goals Met. FLA is on the rise!

We have a strong vision (*imagine if all were restored and open*), integrity (*transparency, accountability and good "government."*), mission statement, goals, **sharply focused plan and dedicated volunteer team***. *Today we are living in what may be FLAs most exciting era ever!*

Two years ago (July 15, 2006 meeting), we noted progress with a Strategic Plan issued, FLA's new web site, Florida Lighthouse Day (Governor Bush), Bylaws modernized and revised, participation in Florida Trust conference, two new brochures, new partnership with Visit Florida, Gene Oakes memorial license plate fund above \$20,000. Since then:

1. FLA raised another \$54,000 by October 2007. This and other actions enabled us to apply for the specialty license tag, which was approved. *We met our No. 1 Goal.*
2. We had the first ever Lighthouse Grant Awards of \$1 million, which followed first ever Governor's Budget Initiative (Governor Crist) for lighthouse funding (2007). *Met our Goal No. 2.*
3. We participated in several *Visit Florida®*, *FLORIDA TRUST* and *Florida Association of Museums* conferences and forums; with reports on these *partnership* efforts in meeting the strategic *Goal No. 3* of building alliances for a stronger influence voice.
4. Local organizations have had major successes. Cape St. George rebuilt; Amelia, Crooked River and Cape Canaveral restored. See the lighthouse reports in this issue for some exciting and remarkable progress.
5. Florida Lighthouse Day Proclamation signed by Governor Crist for September 20, 2008. During Florida Lighthouse Day 2007, more than a dozen lighthouses had events.
6. I have had the honor to award Thomas Taylor "President" awards to Gene Oakes 2005, Hib Casselberry 2006 and Paul Bradley, Jr, 2007.
7. FLA has had a wealth of valuable and positive publicity with many articles statewide.
8. Strategic Plan, which provides a clear direction for FLA, updated. New initiatives of: FLA 365 Club, FLA eNews, the vibrant FLASH newsletter upgraded (Christi Sessions), separate bank accounts created and accounting software (John Kennedy), inventory of merchandise (Charley Knox), new position VP-Grants (Al King, III), and new grant procedure; six strategic reports issued. FLA's Number One Web site, has grown since April 2006 launch, with new features, travel section, and on-line store! *Stan Beckstrom.*
9. FLA has had a string of successful fun, informative and *fund-raising* meetings with many *firsts*. All require lots of hard work. *Thank you Gayle and Dennis Stemas.*
10. FLA has a team of officers and commissioners who have shown dedication and passion for the mission. We have some outstanding volunteers who make FLA go. I'm lucky to be president with so many good people. Success comes from volunteer's selfless acts.

*Eric Martin, Executive VP; Dennis and Gayle Stemas, VP-Meetings; Christi Sessions, VP-Membership; Charley and Lottie Knox, VP-Merchandise; Stan Beckstrom, VP-IT, Webmaster; Al King, VP-Grants; Beverly Oakes, Secretary; Sharon Puls, Asst Secretary; John Kennedy, Treasurer; Neil Hurley, Historian. Commissioners, Districts 1,2,3,4: Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls, Dianne Levi.

If you would like copies of reports, please let me know at FLApresident@gmail.com.

Stan Farnham

(Meeting information continued from page 1)

This meeting also marks the 12th Anniversary of the FLA. As mandated by our bylaws, we will have the election of officers at this meeting. This meeting will be all about the rebuilding of the Cape St. George Light and the restoration at Crooked River, so we will focus on this during the meeting. Our speakers will be Dennis Barnell who will tell us about the fall and resurrection of Cape St. George and Arlene Oehler who will talk about the restoration and building of Lighthouse Park at Crooked River. Each will do a slideshow presentation of their very successful efforts.

We will start the day with the Membership Meeting at the Eastpoint Firehouse at 26 6th St. in Eastpoint, FL. It is located at the corner of 6th St. and CC Land Rd. which is 2 blocks North of Hwy 98. The Firehouse is about 17 miles from the Franklin Inn, our preferred hotel. This may be one of the most significant meetings in the history of the FLA in that it epitomizes the FLA's mission – lighthouse preservation and restoration. This meeting has space limitations so please register early so you are not disappointed. The cost for this meeting including luncheon, rental fees, and a donation to both lighthouses is \$40. For lunch we will enjoy a "low country boil" that will be catered by LOCO Catering which is owned and operated by Roy Ogles, a member of the SGLA, and Lee Edmiston.

Meeting Agenda

- 8:30 Meeting Registration
- 9:00 Fourth Quarter meeting of the FLA begins
- 12:00 Traditional "Low Country Boil" is served
- 1:00 Climb the rebuilt Cape St. George Light and the restored Crooked River Lighthouse

Preferred Hotel

The Franklin Inn at Carrabelle

1589 Hwy 98 W
Carrabelle, FL. 32322
Phone: 850-697-4000

All rooms have either a king bed or 2 queens, a microwave, refrig, 27" flat screen TV, and wireless internet. A continental breakfast or full service restaurant is 50ft next door. Our discounted rate is \$72.00 including all taxes and fees. The rooms will be released Sept. 26, 2008 and rate and availability cannot be guaranteed after that time.

To Send or Not to Send? – That is the Question

By Dennis Stemas

For the past two years, the FLA has sent letters to everyone attending a meeting and/or making a donation identifying the tax deductible amounts that could be claimed on their income tax. Preparing and sending of this information is extremely time-consuming as well as costly for the FLA. Before producing this information again, we would like to know if receiving this statement has been beneficial for your tax preparation. Even if the majority of FLA members have not found this information useful and we no longer mail it to everyone, it will still be available upon request. So, please send us an email and let us know what you think. Our email address is lightedbeacon@gmail.com. We will consider anyone not responding as being not interested in receiving a tax statement. If we find that most will use the information then we will continue to send it out to all, but if only a few need that information we can send it 'on request' thus saving the FLA the extra postage and processing time. The results of this survey will be included in the next issue of the FLASH. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

Member Meeting Minutes • Florida Aquarium - Tampa, FL • July 27, 2008

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Stan asked the membership to stand and



applaud their selves for all the work, money and time that was given toward acquiring the

new Florida Specialty license plate.

He acknowledged working with Paula Stanfield at the Department of Safety to enlarge the original artwork so that the lighthouse is more visible. Stan said, "if we had all state employees like Paula Stanfield, we would have by far and away the finest state in the United States because she did a super job and was very cooperative; including letting us increase the size like 25% from the original art and she has expedited our plate. There is a possibility that we'll have this by November!" Stan also recognized Stan and Dottie Beckstrom for their artwork that appears on the specialty license plate. (Video shown about the USS Montana and a lighthouse discussing course changes! Thanks to Christi and Andre)

Stan pointed out the President's Report on the tables that highlights the fact "We have a strong vision (imagine if all were restored and open), Integrity (transparency, accountability and good "government."), mission statement, goals, sharply focused plan and dedicated volunteer team. Stan requested that all the officers stand and be recognized. Stan was delighted to inform the membership about Pensacola's Dianne Levi report of their reopening after being closed for almost a year. The event was attended by Governor Crist and other honored guests. George Diller from Cape Canaveral just came from a super annual meeting where they had a hundred in attendance with 26 new members.

New Members: Stan welcomed and introduced new members: John and Maureen Cronin, Tom and Bonnie Spade from the Villager's LH group. Graham and Judy Smith, Janica Johnson with Egmont Key Alliance Group, Thomas and Sondra Greer from Naples, Jim and Barbara Smith, Ron and Chris Ecker and Chief Robert A. Wooten.

Attended Most Meetings: Gayle Stemac awarded prizes to those members that had attended the most consecutive

meetings. She alluded to the fact that she and Dennis have attended 19 meetings and there is only one other couple that have also attended 19 meetings...Stan and Dottie Beckstrom, 16 meetings...John Van Koolbergen and Judy Azbell and finally with 13 meetings...Dean and Corinne Oleson.

Invocation: Hib Casselberry led the group in prayer.

Recognition: Stan awarded Harry Pettit a lighthouse tie for being an outstanding spokesperson during the review events in the house and the senate.

Host: Stan recalled the comments from last July's visit to Cape San Blas..."there must be something better for July". So this year's meeting at a non-lighthouse related, air-conditioned facility was really a fun thing to do. Being able to visit the aquarium and have the air-conditioning made the day very enjoyable by all.



Tom Wagner, Public Relations Manager and spokesperson for the Florida Aquarium was introduced by Stan. Tom

began a slideshow by explaining the mission statement of the Florida Aquarium. "*The Florida Aquarium is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to entertain, educate and inspire stewardship about our natural environment.*"

He also talked about the different venues that were available for those visiting the aquarium, Explore A Shore, Behind the Scenes tour, Swim with the Fishes and Dive with the Sharks just to mention a few. One unique thing about the aquarium is that it gets its salt water for the exhibits by barge from the Gulf. As the barge travels across the Gulf either from Louisiana or Texas, it picks up 300,000 gallons of water and brings it to the aquarium. The main benefits are 1) the water contains all the micro organisms that the fish naturally have when they are in the wild and 2) fresh water is not being taken from the city water supply and manufactured into salt water. Visit their website for more information about the Florida Aquarium and what it has to offer.

<http://www.flaquarium.org/>

Announcements: Christi Sessions encouraged the early membership renewal taking place at the July meeting.

Anyone renewing during the meeting would be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gas card.

After Stan introduced Christi Sessions as the new VP of Membership, he awarded Dede Smith with a certificate for serving as VP of Membership for the past three years.



He also introduced Beverly Oakes as the new Secretary.

Stan quickly talked about how far the organization has come in the last two and a half years since Gene Oakes as FLA President seriously began the drive to acquire the specialty license plate and how he must be smiling down from Heaven now that it has been accomplished.

Stan encouraged everyone to get some of the new business cards that Stan Beckstrom designed that has a picture of the specialty license plate on one side and our FLA email address with information on the back side. It is an easy card to pass out as you go through the day.

In its meeting on Friday night, the Board approved going from four meetings a year to three. The fourth meeting would be a Florida Lighthouse Challenge similar to what some of the New England states currently host.

Break: The members took a 15 minute break.

Stan recognized Chief Wooten and presented him a gift. He spoke about some of his lighthouse connections over the years. He announced the 150th celebration in November 2008 at Egmont Key.

Stan briefly talked to members about how to Raise Your Gaze by talking to other people. During his recent trip to Alaska, he took a boat trip to visit a couple of lighthouses. On the side of the boat was advertised "Lighthouses, Totems and Eagles". How many "Lighthouse Nuts" do you think were on the boat?

Stan finished reviewing his Raise Your Gaze slideshow with his four magic words...Ask Questions and Listen. He asked the members to think about their Top Three Dreams for our October meeting and one thing they would like to see the FLA do. George Evans already gave his

response and suggested that a video be made and available for the FLA. It would highlight the Florida lighthouses.

Officers Reports:

Secretary: Christi Sessions stated the previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No corrections or questions, so the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer: John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses. He reported that the savings account used for the specialty license plate fund was not longer needed. The savings account will now be the checking used strictly for receiving the income from the license plate sales. Key figures reported thru June 30, 2008: Total CH/SV/CD: \$60,093.70, Total Assets (including inventory): \$73,909.72
Exec. VP: Eric Martin did not have anything new to report.

Stan informed the members about the new grant forms and procedure that can be used to request a grant when the funds are available from the specialty license plate.

VP of Membership: Christi Sessions pointed out that some of the Florida Lighthouse Reports July 2008 document did not include the Cape Canaveral report. She did have other copies that contained Cape Canaveral if anyone wanted one. Since the last meeting, we have 17 new memberships for 32 new people. We have 344 paid memberships and three people renewed for 2009. Christi shared that we now have a new membership form. It includes individual and family membership on the top. The corporate and delegate membership is located on the bottom. The form is available online. The early renewal during this meeting was encouraged and then a drawing for a \$50 gas card at the end of the meeting. The application will be in the next FLASH. In September notices will be sent out to those that have not renewed and possibly go back to 2007 members that haven't renewed. A new email account has been set up for membership: flamembership@gmail.com. A New Members brochure is available for the lighthouse gift shops. Contact Christi for the brochures.

VP of Meetings: Gayle Stemac gave instructions for the rest of the afternoon while in the Florida Aquarium. Sandie Mallett gave instructions for Sunday's visit to Egmont Key lighthouse.

Gayle announced the October 18th meeting where we will climb both Cape St. George and Crooked River. The meeting

will be at the East Point Firehouse. In January 2009, we will have an afternoon meeting and climb Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at night. The April 2009 meeting will be in Pensacola. Gordon Levi has agreed to be our military sponsor and the meeting will be held at the Naval Aviation Museum. The FLA Board voted to only have three meetings a year with the fourth being a quarterly meeting. So sometime during the summer a Lighthouse Challenge will be scheduled. In 2010, our month schedule will change to February, June and October. In October 2009, an "out-of-state" meeting is being planned for St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Gayle also reminded everyone of the large "Get Well" card being signed by all the members for Lottie Knox.

VP of Fundraising: Charley Knox first thanked everyone for all the cards and letters that have been sent to Lottie during her recovery time. The new Sombrero Key ornament is now available for this year. An ornament for Boca Grande will be planned for next year. He is also looking for another source for the Florida Lighthouse maps that are now out of print. Another Pacifica trivet will be available soon of the Florida series. Also Neil Hurley's book, *Florida Lighthouses of the Civil War* makes a great coffee table centerpiece.

VP of IT, Webmaster: Stan Beckstrom mentioned the little business card he had made to inform people of the "Visit Our Lights" license plate available in early 2009. He will be ordering 5000 more of the cards to be used by the members for distribution and place in the various lighthouse gift stores. The FLA website has had about 64,000 visits now. A photograph of one of the Reef Lights has now been included on our website. The Cape San Blas lighthouse page has been updated to show they now have a gift shop in the keeper's quarters and are working on a small museum on the second floor. The St. Joseph lighthouse was added to the website with a picture and a write up. A new feature just added to our website is a listing of all the lighthouses. It will list some statistics of all the 29 Florida lighthouses.

Committee Reports:

2008 Florida History Fair Heritage Award Winner for Lighthouse & Maritime Heritage

Caitlin Dobson, Renee Fontana

"Mel Fisher and the Senora Nuestra de Atocha—Whose Treasure is It?"

—Junior Group Documentary

Clay County: Lakeside Junior High School;

Teacher: Robert Wilson

Education: Anne Stewart was not present. Stan Farnham reported Anne issued the certificates for the county winners for the Florida History Fair.

Newsletter: We are looking for a volunteer that would like to work with publishing the newsletter after each meeting. Christi Sessions will continue until a volunteer steps forward. Now don't be shy!

PR Committee: Ken Smith reported that they are trying to track the newspaper articles on the various lighthouses and Jack Burrie has been doing a good job on that. He also praised Cape St. George on not only their newspaper coverage during their rebuilding efforts but on all the TV coverage they have been afforded. They are available online.

Lighthouse Reports: See the "Lighthouse Reports" section for those that submitted information. Dianne Levi threw out a challenge..."those of us that have lighthouses over in the Panhandle will be having two meetings coming up; one in 2008 and one in 2009. I challenge you to come on over our way for a change!! So come on over!

Stan Farnham responded to a question about "Is there a requirement on how many specialty license plates have to be sold each year?" Yes, there is a requirement to sell 1000 license plates a year in order to keep the specialty license plate. He also reported that during the survey process of obtaining the license plate, each county was surveyed and we had to have 32,000 respond that they would purchase a license plate if it were offered. The other question asked was if the new plates become available in October and I just renewed in July, would I lose the money for the other nine months and the answer was yes.

Drawing: As an incentive to renew early, a drawing was held for a \$50 gas gift card from the names of those that renewed during the July meeting. I'm happy to say that yours truly,



Beverly Oakes, was drawn from the box by new member John Cronin from the Villages Lighthouse Group.

Adjournment: President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m. Rip Puls and Eric Martin began the auction which raised \$292.50.

Beverly Oakes, Secretary

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS JULY 2008

St. Augustine Lighthouse:

Major metal restoration work on the widows' walk above the red observation deck is on track to begin in September. During the 120-Days the restoration is scheduled the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum will remain open to the watch room as much as possible. What a great opportunity for lighthouse lovers to witness preservation in action!

Listen Up! The St. Augustine Lightkeeper's Audio Tour is now available. Sixty minutes of storytelling broken down into more than twenty different audio tour stops, explores the stories, family life, and maritime history of the St. Augustine Light Station and the Nation's Oldest Port.

Tour Stop # 2 , *The Shrimping Industry "Do you see the Salvador Seafood Packing House Sign? Here, along what is known as Florida's First Coast, Italian and Greek Families created the American shrimping industry and changed the eating habits of the country."*

There is something for everyone at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. To find out more about programs and opportunities like Days of Discovery Summer Camp, LAMP Boatworks, or a Lighthouse Wildlife Workshop, visit www.staugustinelighthouse.com or call (904) 829-0745.

Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse:

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce that the tower has recently acquired a new coat of protective paint on its cast iron stairway, interior and exterior railings, service room, gallery deck, widow's walk, and drum. Finished in mid-July, this extensive project required hundreds of man hours and over 6 weeks to complete. The Association is currently restoring both the Pump House roof and wash shed attached to rear of the First Assistant Keeper's Dwelling.

Restoration of the historic Chance Brothers Third Middle Fresnel Lens continues in the new lens restoration space located in the kitchen of the Principal Keeper's Dwelling. Lighthouse visitors have the opportunity to observe and interact with the restoration team while they work on this historic lens on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00. We encourage all FLA members to stop by and talk with our skilled lens restoration team during this important project. Once completed, the newly restored Chance Brothers lens will be installed in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building for all our visitors to enjoy.

As always, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse applauds the FLA for its ongoing efforts to preserve and promote Florida's historic beacons. Visit Our Lights!

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse:

The annual membership meeting of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation was held on June 14. Almost one hundred people were in attendance. The agenda

included a historical presentation followed by brunch and a visit to the lighthouse for pictures. Memberships in the Foundation now stand at 133.

Access to the immediate lighthouse grounds remains restricted due to the lead contamination problem. It is believed most likely to have been caused by the many previous layers of paint on the lighthouse over the years. The Air Force continues to study the extent of the problem and the options for removal. The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation has offered to the Air Force the possibility of constructing a boardwalk to the lighthouse as a temporary option until a remediation of the soil or some other permanent solution is implemented.

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation will host a fundraising event for the general public on October 11 which will include food, a program, live entertainment and a visit to the lighthouse for pictures. Once details are available they will be posted on the Foundation's web site at www.capelighthouse.org

The Air Force is offering a free monthly bus tour of the Air Force Space Museum and a stop at the lighthouse is now included. The tour is conducted on the second Wednesday of each month. To reserve a spot on the tour, call the Air Force Public Affairs office at 321-494-5949.

Hillsboro Lighthouse:

August was the 8th anniversary of the repair of the rotation system and relighting of the Fresnel Lens. We held a tour of the historic 101 year old tower on August 16th. A 49 passenger boat shuttled to and from the lighthouse about every 50 minutes from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. The Lighthouse Station closed at 4:30 P.M.

The Cultural Arts Committee of the City of Pompano Beach, coordinated by Marcia Hirschy, local artist, is celebrating the 2008 Centennial of the City with monthly Fine Arts Exhibits at two free sites, the Herb Skolnick Community Center (opened Aug 6) & Pat Larkins Community Center (opened Aug.7) During the evening of opening days there was a social gathering with light refreshments and a PowerPoint video of "Boat ride & tour of the Hillsboro Lighthouse including a climb to the top" presented by Hib Casselberry of Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society's Past President.

Cape Florida Lighthouse:

We have begun to upgrade the entrance to the Lighthouse Keepers House, to make the structure look more like a working home from the mid nineteenth century, rather than a twentieth century replica. Antique barrels, crates, nets and a lobster trap now adorn the porch, and a lantern now hangs from the porch rafters. Crushed shell replaced the Saint Augustine grass surrounding the home, and we hope to have a small dinghy or shallow draft sailing vessel resting on the shell shortly. If you know of any very inexpensive vintage

looking marine craft in fairly decent condition, kindly contact me or our park office.

In that regard we are duplicating the situation of our first light keeper, John Dubose, who complained bitterly to his supervisor William Pickney in Key West for months about the need to have a sail boat so he could conduct rescue's, salvage wrecks, go fishing and purchase supplies to avoid the costly shipping charges.

We have recently expanded our visitation hours from 9 am thru 6 p.m. from Thursday thru Monday with the addition of a new member to our staff. Tours continue on these days at our original times of 10 a.m. and again at 1p.m. We have been able to satisfy hundreds of additional visitors daily with our new expanded schedule.

Reef Lights:

We are donating copies of Tom Taylor's "Lore of the Reef Lights: Life in the Florida Keys" to libraries. The first copy has been sent and received. A nice "Thank-You" note came back.

We are looking into an assessment of the 3 oldest lighthouses as none have been done recently. The report will give us an estimate of time before major repairs as well as preventive measures to slow down the deterioration. Note - repairs can be made without harming the reef. Donations are being accepted for the study and grants maybe available.

If not already a member, consider joining. Check out our website at www.reeflights.org/

Boca Grande Lighthouse:

We just received the permit to build our storage facility which will enable the museum to bring in rotating exhibits. Ponce Inlet Light Station has generously offered to let us borrow one of their exhibits once this occurs.

Our museum was closed the entire month of August for some much needed exterior painting and new walk areas. However, people were still welcome to take photographs of the exterior. We officially re-open September 3rd because Mondays and Tuesdays we are closed until November 1st at which time we go back to open 7 days a week.

Cedar Key Lighthouse:

The July 5th openhouse at the Cedar Keys Light Station was especially wonderful this summer. The new observation tower at the water's edge was shaded with the sparkling canopy presented by FLA members and exceptionally dedicated volunteers, Alice and David D'Amico. Under that canopy, stood Ranger Pam Darty with the refuge exhibit and a spotting scope that allowed the visiting public to view baby pelicans being fed by the parent birds.

To celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, the Cedar Keys Refuge will host its annual Lighthouse Open House, on October 17th & 18th. Seahorse Key, a 54' dune, is always pleasant with cooler temperatures and the blustery autumn breezes. Both days, from 9am - 4pm, the lighthouse will be open for touring and photos. The

light keepers cemetery is more accessible in the fall because the mosquitoes are nearly gone by then. Fuschia morning glories drape across the dune line on the beachside of the island making a great backdrop for photos and family memories.

St. Marks Lighthouse:

The U.S. Coast Guard had contractor Aerostar continue sampling for lead contamination in the ground water under the St. Marks Lighthouse in early July. The first samples have been sent to the lab - no news yet. If the clean-up is successful, we feel sure the Coast Guard will move swiftly to transfer the Lighthouse to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Crooked River Lighthouse:

The floor plan has been finalized for the replica of the Keeper's House Museum. Plans have been submitted for approval by the Florida Historical Commission. A contractor will frame the building and prison inmates will do the inside finish work. A Carrabelle Lighthouse Association committee is writing protocols for climbing the Crooked River Lighthouse Crooked River Lighthouse information on the VISIT FLORIDA website has been updated. We received the good news from Elaine Rosenthal that the VISIT FLORIDA grant for a self guided driving tour of 4 Panhandle lighthouses is funded for the full \$5000 amount. (St. Marks, Crooked River, Cape St. George, Cape San Blas) The Crooked River Lighthouse brochure has been revised and should be printed shortly. Arlene Oehler, Barbara Revell and John Canetta joined Ken Smith in Pensacola when he received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for the restoration of the Crooked River Lighthouse.



Cape St. George Light:

Construction work on the Cape St. George Light is proceeding on schedule. The stucco work and painting have been completed, and the view of the lighthouse has been considerably improved by the removal of the construction fence and dumpster!

About half of the stairs have been installed, and that work has slowed as we await the arrival of the next shipment of heart pine. Meanwhile, framing for the windows in the tower is continuing, and most of the lantern room windows are in. A magnificent custom-crafted cypress door was donated to the lighthouse by E.F. San Juan, Inc., a custom millwork



company located in Youngstown, Florida.

Landscape architects have been engaged to create the design for St. George Lighthouse Park, which will be funded by a \$175,000 DEP grant.

The St. George Lighthouse Association is looking forward to showing our beautiful lighthouse to our FLA friends at the meeting in October!

Cape San Blas Lighthouse:

The "Sleeping Beauty" gift shop is now open Wednesday through Friday from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. ET and on Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00 P.M. Visitors from across America and numerous foreign countries have visited the site. We are elated with the number of visitors, their generosity, and support of the shop. Final work on the tower is to begin within the next two weeks and it is anticipated that it will be open for Florida Lighthouse Day.



St. Joseph Lighthouse:

We continue to make progress on the lantern gallery, we are happy to announce that we now have the lantern gallery painted. A three coat system was used, the top coat is white. We will now move to the next phase which will involve the installation of over two thousand pounds of glass work.

Pensacola Lighthouse:

For a year the Pensacola Lighthouse Association had been negotiating with the Coast Guard for a license agreement to conduct public tours at the lighthouse. Finally on May 29th we received the signed contract from them. The organization planned to open the lighthouse the first Saturday of June with just a simple ceremony – no fanfare. Then we received word that Governor Crist wanted to attend, but the ceremony would have to be Thursday, June 12th and adjusted to the Governor's busy schedule. Pensacola Lighthouse Association founder, Dianne Levi, planned the event assisted by the Governor's aide, Mike Burns. She pulled the ceremony together and a great time was had by all. This was a very rewarding day for Dianne, the Pensacola LH Association members and honored participants - RADM Joel Whitehead USCG Eighth District Commander, Captain Edwin Stanton USCG Sector Commander Mobile, BM1 Brian Day USCG ANT Pensacola, PLA President Richard Callaway, Representative Dave Murzin and the next Speaker of the House Ray Sansom. The Pensacola Lighthouse is now open Saturdays until the end of October from Noon to 4 p.m. with the last tour at 3:30 p.m. We are averaging well over 200 visitors each Saturday afternoon.



Rep Ray Sansom; Gov Crist; Admiral Whitehead; Richard Callaway.
Photo by Navy Photographer.

FLA Members create their own Lighthouse Challenge!

Submitted by Janet Cribb

For our last vacation, my husband and I did a lighthouse tour starting from Long Island, NY and ending in Wilmington, NC. We saw and climbed a number of lighthouses, enjoying their unique history and style. But without realizing it, we saved the best lighthouse for last.

Just southeast of Wilmington, NC is a very unique and different lighthouse. It is not really old, built in 1958, and it's not conical in shape but completely cylindrical. It also never has to be painted since the concrete itself is colored. It doesn't have a spiral staircase but instead has a series of ship ladders. Picture it: A series of ship ladders suspended between platforms. Climbing this lighthouse is not for the faint of heart because, once on the ladder, there is no exterior wall or central pole for support. Just a ladder surrounded by open air and a long way to the bottom. And would you believe that you can climb such a lighthouse? Yes you can!

The Oak Island Lighthouse at Caswell Beach, NC is open for climbing. But, there is a catch. If you want to climb to the top, you have to call ahead and make an appointment. Just think of it, your own private lighthouse tour. My husband and I were able to make such a climb. A wonderful volunteer named Bob Ashlers arranged for us to make such a climb and was your tour guide to the top. The climb was well worth the sweaty palms because the view was wonderful.

I just wanted other lighthouse climbers to know of this unique lighthouse. Please visit their website at www.oakislandlighthouse.org for more information and how you too can climb this lighthouse. It will be a climb that you will never forget.

It's time to Renew your FLA Membership

1. Fill out appropriate form. (General or Corporate or Delegate)
2. Make check or money order payable to:

3. Mail check to:

The FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION
FLA Membership – Christi Sessions
5066 SW Ichetucknee Avenue
Fort White, FL 32038



~PLEASE PRINT~

General Membership: Individual \$25 (single) or **Family \$35** (self, spouse & children under 18)

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

Please list additional family member's names:

_____ **Add. Cont:** _____

Ph: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Cell: _____ **Email address:** _____

Corporate Membership: \$100 (Includes 2 Individual Members, Ad on our website & Link to your website)

Company: _____

Member Names (2): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Ph: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Website: _____ **Email:** _____

(The webmaster will contact you to obtain the advertisement and link to your website.)

Delegate Membership: \$50 (Includes 3 Individual Members & Vote on Board of Directors)

Lighthouse Organization Name: _____

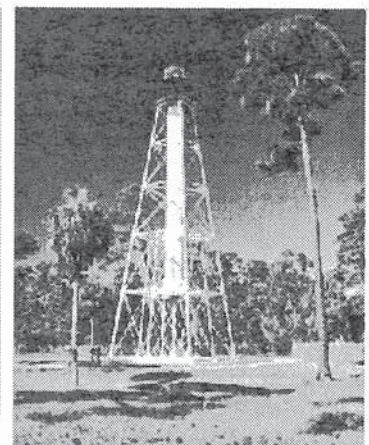
Delegate: _____ **Email:** _____

Alternate: _____ **Email:** _____

Alternate: _____ **Email:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Ph: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____



St. George Lighthouse Association Receives Tourism Grant from VISIT FLORIDA

The St. George Lighthouse Association, in partnership with the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, the St. Marks Refuge Association, and the St. Joseph Historical Society, has been awarded a Cultural Heritage and Nature Tourism grant by VISIT FLORIDA. The announcement of the award, in the amount of \$5000, came during the Commission's June 18 meeting in St. Augustine.

The grant funds, along with contributions from the lighthouse associations, will be used to produce a brochure that details a self-directed driving tour of lighthouses along the coast comprising Wakulla, Franklin, and Gulf Counties. Lighthouses on the tour will include the Cape St. George Light, the St. Marks Lighthouse, the Crooked River Lighthouse, and the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. The brochures will display a map of the drive between the four lighthouses, and with each lighthouse will include a history and description, contact information, a picture, the days and hours when the lighthouse can be viewed, and mention any amenities such as parks, museums, playgrounds, or visitor centers.

The brochures will be on display at the five Florida welcome centers, the welcome centers of neighboring states, the Tallahassee Airport, visitor centers, chambers of commerce, other lighthouses, and other locales frequented by tourists and visitors. Press releases describing the tour will be distributed to national publications of interest to lighthouse buffs, maritime enthusiasts, and history fans. The tour will provide another attraction of the type that emphasizes the family and eco-fun theme currently being promoted by the involved counties.

"We were pleased that VISIT FLORIDA and the Florida Commission on Tourism selected us from among a large number of grant applicants, during their most competitive grant cycle to date," said Dennis Barnell, president of the St. George Lighthouse Association. "These funds will be used to make more people aware of the maritime history of our area and show off the outcome of the many hours and great efforts that have resulted in restoration and reconstruction of several lighthouses in our region."

The grant was written by Elaine Rosenthal, director of the St. George Island Visitor Center, with planning and review by Terry Kemp of the St. George Lighthouse Association, Robin Will of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Arlene Oehler of the Crooked River Lighthouse Association, Sheila Hauser and Suzanne Zimmerman of the Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce, and Charlotte Pierce with the St. Joseph Historical Society. A long weekend with special events at each of the lighthouses is planned for early spring.

"The purpose of these grants is to help non-profit entities and local governments stretch their tourism marketing dollars in an effort to expand cultural heritage and nature tourism activities in Florida," said Kerri Post, Vice President of New Product Development for VISIT FLORIDA. VISIT FLORIDA, a private/public partnership, is the Florida Commission on Tourism's day-to-day operating corporation and the state's official source for travel planning.

Lighthouses in the picture, from left to right: the St. Marks Lighthouse, the Crooked River Lighthouse, Cape St. George Light, and the Cape San Blas Lighthouse

For more info, contact: Elaine Rosenthal 927-7744 or 850-323-1008 sglight@fairpoint.net



“When Harry met Jean”

By: Dennis & Gayle Stemas

Summer had come and it was finally time for vacation. The family had rented a condo in Ocean City, MD. and they had plans and expectations of seeing and doing lots of interesting things. One of these was a 'day trip' to the Assateague Island National Seashore to see the wild horses that inhabit the island. It wasn't a long trip. The Park entrance was only 8 miles South of Ocean City. The anticipation was high so it seemed like a long ride but they finally arrived and found a remote, windswept barrier island with a rather harsh environment. They drove slowly along the park roads trying to find the horses. Looking

toward the beach, they spotted them in the surf – more like ponies in size than horses with a rather bloated appearance. But absolutely awesome !! They continued driving around the island and getting toward the southern end, they saw the Assateague Island Lighthouse. Its horizontal red and white stripes were beautiful and majestic against the blue sky. They took pictures and vowed to see other lighthouses in the future. And they did. On a trip to Minneapolis some time later, they visited the Split Rock Lighthouse. That was it !! Harry and Jean Pettit loved lighthouses.

Most folks know Harry and Jean by sight. They joined the FLA in 1997 and come to just about every meeting because Harry inherited his Dad's interest in historic preservation. But few know a lot about this couple who make it their life's mission to make a difference.

Harry was born in Marietta, Ohio. Jean came from Pittsburgh, Pa. They met while both were attending college in Marietta and got married after Harry graduated and Jean completed her third year. Harry went to work for US Steel and Jean soon became a Mom. They had two kids and now have 7 grandkids. Their son and his wife live in Mt. Solon, Va. Both are Presbyterian Ministers and have 3 kids of their own. Their daughter and her husband currently are living in Sicily and have 4 children. Their son-in-law is a doctor in the Navy and has been transferred many times giving Harry and Jean many travel opportunities to see foreign places and foreign lighthouses.

Over the years, Harry and Jean have lived near Pittsburgh, Louisville, Atlanta, and Houston. The kids left home for college while they were living in Houston, so Jean went to work for a local department store. She quit “when it stopped being fun”. Harry retired from US Steel while in Houston and started a second career as a Manufacturers' Representative for a firm making electronic products. They came to Florida in 1990 so Harry could start his own Rep agency. “It was a very rewarding kind of work” says Harry to describe his contribution to providing products that aided in medical diagnoses.

Both have been involved in their Church. Harry is active in the music program and sings in 3 choirs. He is also an Elder. Jean's interest is in the food service area and she designed and developed the new commercial kitchen at the Church. Both participate in the Justice Ministry which addresses and helps solve community issues including indigent healthcare and drug rehab programs.

Now – back to lighthouses. They've seen a lot. They have been to all the Florida lights as well as some in NC, VA, Wisconsin, Maine, Massachusetts, RI, MD, Minnesota, Ohio, and Puerto Rico. Their foreign lights sightings is quite impressive : They saw 102 lighthouses in the Maritime Provinces and saw limited lights in Iceland, southern England, Sicily, Sardinia, and even a lightship on the Seine River in France. Their wish list for the future includes the West Coast and Michigan lights.

Now, you wonder, why have we singled out the Pettits. It's quite simple – without Harry, it is very likely that our license plate would not have survived the legislative committees. Harry attended two of the legislative sessions in Tallahassee because he “was worried it would falter right at the end”. During the House session, Harry stated that “Rep. Proctor did a great job. His summary was excellent and probably swayed the vote.” However, Harry's feelings about the Senate session were quite different. He told us that several Senators including the Senator representing his district were opposed to any new specialty license plates. Harry had a prepared presentation but, after hearing the Senators' objections as well as their attitudes and other extraneous issues, Harry put aside his notes and spoke from his heart. He needed some direction from Stan who made himself available by phone. The senators listened and approved our legislation. Senator Fesano chaired this committee and proved to be a strong supporter throughout this effort. Harry's comment about this session was that “I've had root canals that were more pleasant than this meeting.”

Many thanks to Harry for his contribution to the FLA's license plate effort.

Florida Lighthouse Day

September 20, 2008

Reef Lights: Boat to Sombrero Reef Lighthouse in the morning and membership meeting at Sombrero Resort. (In case of bad weather boats will go out Sunday morning.) Members rate at the hotel of \$99.00 a night. Visit Sombrero Beach Park to share birthday cake with the locals (Sombrero Key Lighthouse is 150 years old this year). www.reeflights.org/ for latest information.

Boca Grande: We are celebrating with tales from the Lighthouse Keeper's daughter, Dian Mckeithan Miller, crafts for children, free giveaways, and delicious cake and lemonade for everyone. Festivities from 10am to 4pm. The lighthouse keeper's daughter will only be there for a limited time (TBA), docents will be there throughout the day for personal

Ponce Inlet: 10:00am to 5:00pm, FREE ADMISSION TO FLORIDA RESIDENTS (*proof of residency required*). Family oriented activities, demonstrations, & kid's crafts. See new lighthouse exhibits, learn about Florida's many lighthouses, and see the Cape Canaveral Lens Maintenance Demonstration by 1930s era lighthouse keepers. No advance reservations required. Visit www.ponceinlet.org, for more information.

Cape San Blas: Will be re-opened for climbing. To celebrate the re-opening of the tower invitations are being extended to families who lived at the light and members of the US Coast Guard who were stationed there. The gift shop and lighthouse will be open to the public from 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. ET with a brief program at 2:00 P.M.

Cape St. George: We are HOPING we will be open for climbing on Florida Lighthouse Day. Assuming that everything continues to go according to plan, we will host an Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., people will be able to climb the lighthouse at no charge, and light refreshments will be served. (Climbing is subject to completion of interior construction. But we're pretty confident that we will be ready!)

Pensacola: Open from Noon to 4 p.m. Each visitor will receive a special card commemorating their visit to the lighthouse on Florida Lighthouse Day.

St. Augustine: FLA Members get free admission with membership card. No events planned, tower may be under restoration.

Jupiter Inlet: 10am-4pm Two-for-One Admission

Carrabelle: Members will be wearing their t-shirts and helping with the Coastal Clean-Up from 8 a.m. - noon. A group will start at the Lighthouse site.

St. Marks: Our Lighthouse Day is on Sept. 21st. Tours and exhibits from 10- 4, scheduled tower tours by ticket reservation. (Tower tours will go up about 60ft, lantern room will be closed) Parking at the saltwater boat ramp; an open air tram with interpretive guide will move visitors to the lighthouse. Discover its colorful past; tour the grounds, house and tower; and learn about future plans. Exhibits include the history of the LH, our "lighthouse keeper" Ranger Edel, Living History re-enactors, a video on the Lighthouse, St Marks Photo Club and other exhibits.

Welcome to our new members!

John & Maureen Cronin, Tom & Bonnie Spade, Stephen G Coone, Ron & Darlene Carlson, Janica Johnson, Virginia Blaetz, Denise & Richard Ladner and Tyler Murray, Josh, Wendy, Jordan, Abbey & Jake Mendelsohn, Heather & Robbie Allen, Nancy Quigon, Gayle & TD Molesworth, Dales Wilkerson, Linda Ganacy-Bergey & Roy Bergey, Beverly Long, Barbara Bateman-Bennett & Charles Bennett, Bob & Karen Gieser, Helen & George Bailey, Pamela & Merle Steward, Terry & Denise Martin

Membership year is
October 1st through September 30th.
Membership Levels and Dues are:

Individual \$25 – Family \$35 - Corporate \$100

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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.

For information, contact:

Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

15275 Collier Blvd. #201, PMB179 Naples, Florida 34119

WebSite: www.floridalighthouses.org

E-mail: flapresident@gmail.com

Stan Farnham, *President*

Beverly Oakes, *Secretary*

John Kennedy, *Treasurer*

Christi Sessions, *VP Membership*

Stan Beckstrom, *VP Web*

Al King, *VP Grants*

Neil E. Hurley, *Historian*

Eric S. Martin, *Executive Vice President*

Sharon Puls, *Assistant Secretary*

Dennis & Gayle Stemas, *VP Events*

Charley & Lottie Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls

& Dianne Levi, *District Commissioners*

Cape St. George Light / Crooked River Lighthouse
"The Forgotten Coast of Florida"

October 18, 2008

EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: October 3, 2008

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Cell _____ Home _____

LUNCHEON

Luncheon buffet will be a traditional "low country" boil. This includes sausage, shrimp, corn, and potatoes. The boil will be served with garlic bread. A vegetable plate will also be available. Dessert will be homemade brownies and cookies. Water and iced tea will be provided.

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

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.