



# THE FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC  
[www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org)

## Florida Lighthouse Day!!

### Special "Meeting" Draws Crowds

**M**ore than 3,900 persons attended our April "meeting" on a gorgeous Florida day, by visiting one or more of 16 historic Florida lighthouses on *Florida Lighthouse Day*. Gift shops did well, despite hard economic times. Some FLA'ers visited other lighthouses not open for the day, including Gasparilla Island, Sanibel, Mayport (2, St. Johns) and Cape Canaveral Lighthouses. The Reef Lights Foundation of six reef lights celebrated at Cape Florida Lighthouse. Thus 26

of the remaining 30 historic lighthouses were involved in some way in the celebration April 25. Nesting season prevented Cedar Key lighthouse from being open, one (Point St. Joe) is a private residence and two are in the Dry Tortugas.

Everybody loves lighthouses. *And why not?* They inspire. They are often the oldest structure in the community. You can learn more about early American history by reading about lighthouses than any



single source. On *Florida Lighthouse Day* they were ideal for FLA'ers to display the *Visit Our Lights* poster and hand out cards to promote sales.



Who visited four lighthouses? Who traveled nearly 900 miles (round trip) to visit a lighthouse? Who performed at

St. Augustine by singing an original song she wrote? Who played the dulcimer to end "a beautiful day" at Boca Grande? Who told about Seminole history at Jupiter? Who were the FLA Heroes for the Day? Some sparkling stories in this issue about the memorable record attendance day provide answers to these questions. The banners shown were at Ponce Inlet and Cape Florida.

Even the turtle at Ponce got into the act of advertising *Visit Our Lights* tag.





## Stan's Beacon

A good way to start the day is to list things for which you are grateful. You shift the way you feel. It's tough to complain or whine when you're grateful. Is that not cool?

I'm feeling *very grateful* as I write this column. British essayist Walter Bagehot said: "The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do..."

In FLA, we are blessed with an abundance of people for whom I'm grateful with nearly 600 members, who did what people said could not be done: getting a specialty license plate approved. I'm confident that with a galvanized group of FLA'ers we will do what *people now say cannot be done*: selling *Visit Our Lights* plates in volume above 1,000/year.

Among our members are volunteers for whom I'm especially grateful: the officers who provide a dedicated core strength: Eric Martin (Executive VP), Dennis and Gayle Stemas (VPs-Meetings), Christi Sessions (VP-Membership), Charley Knox (VP-Merchandise), Stan Beckstrom (VP-IT, Webmaster), Al King III (VP-Grants), Beverly Oakes (Secretary), Sharon Puls (Asst Secretary), John Kennedy (Treasurer), Neil Hurley (Historian); and the Commissioners Hib Casselberry (District 1), Ray Stewart (District 2), Rip Puls (District 3) and Terry Kemp (District 4); and the committee chairs: Anne Stewart (Education), Gordon Levi (Photography), George Evans (Video), Kathy Fleming (National Register); and the people who work with them. I'm grateful for Pat Biggs who recently volunteered to help with FLASH starting with the next issue.

I'm grateful for former officers: Dede Smith who served several years as VP-Membership, Dianne Levi long-time Commissioner and Lottie Keplinger, who served with Charley as VP-Merchandise.

I'm grateful for some folks who have been a big help to FLA, including Paula Stanfield, *DHSMV* (processing the license plate); Wrenn Harvey, *Cherry Communications* (license survey); Kerri Post, *Visit Florida*; Malinda Horton, *FAM*; Caroline Weiss, *Florida Trust*; Fred Gaske, *Florida SHPO*; Governor Charlie Crist, Senator Mike Fasano, Representative Bill Proctor, Representative Matt Hudson and others. We appreciate Tim Harrison of *Lighthouse Digest* for his support, Bob Trapani of *Maine Lighthouse Museum*; and Jeff Gales, *US Lighthouse Society*.

I'm grateful for FLA'ers who attended our April 25 "meeting" by going to one or more of the lighthouses. Some of us visited two or three...or four!!

I'm especially grateful for those who put in the extra effort on *Florida Lighthouse Day*. Congratulations to all. Some are profiled elsewhere in this issue, but among the **FLA Heroes**: Dottie and Stan Beckstrom, Alice and David D'Amicol, George Evans, Terry and Skip Kemp, Al King III, Charley Knox, Susan and Eric Martin, Steve Miller, Harry and Jean Pettit, Ken and Dede Smith, Gayle and Dennis Stemas, and Bill Wilkins.

Finally, as this column concludes I'm grateful for people I've left out and apologize to them but please know you too made a difference. Gratitude is a very positive emotion and brings with it a confidence in the future. Try it tomorrow for a blessed day.

**Important Notice about Photos in this issue.** Thank you to those who took them (see credits on back page). To enjoy them in color, please view the issue on the website, [www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org).



## FLA Heroes Florida Lighthouse Day

Isaac Newton noted an object at rest tends to stay at rest unless an outside force is applied to overcome the inertia. For people, passion motivates to overcome natural inertia. For FLA'ers, the passion for FLA mission pushed inertia aside, but for some not only did they overcome inertia but developed innovative ways to make a difference on *Florida Lighthouse Day*. They are **FLA Heroes** in recognition for the *extra* on this important day.

We deeply appreciate the sacrifices FLA'ers have made to help make *Florida Lighthouse Day* a success and promote *Visit Our Lights* specialty plate at many different venues. What better place and day to wear the FLA license plate shirt and hand out license plate cards than a historic Florida lighthouse?

FLA has a rich dedicated group of people. Although this recognition of **FLA Heroes** pertains to *Florida Lighthouse Day*, we hope to continue the **FLA Hero** award for the FLA volunteers who give of themselves without reservation or expectation in helping FLA achieve its mission and contribute to FLA success in meaningful ways. Your nominations for future awards are not only welcome but, please, we ask you to let us know so *volunteers deserving of recognition are not overlooked*.

### Dottie and Stan Beckstrom

Ah, a gorgeous day sitting on the porch of the lighthouse museum and gift shop! Stan and Dottie



handed out *Visit Our Lights* cards and chatted with visitors from nearly opening time until closing at 5 pm. They watched while Everett Osceola entertained a large crowd gathered on the lawn with stories of Seminole history and culture. See Jupiter report.

Stan said: "I don't know how effective we were in promoting the FLA or the license plate, but we did get to spend a very pleasant day on a shady porch with an ocean breeze, watching the boats going in and out through the Jupiter Inlet. We decided it would be a great place to live (of course they live in Jupiter)!"

Stan set up the web site under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Dottie designed our winning specialty license plate. They have been to all strategic planning meetings; and general meetings, but the extra effort of spending the day "working" deserves kudos.

### Alice and David D'Amicol

Alice and David joined just a few other FLA'ers in visiting four lighthouses. They started at Amelia, peered through the fence at Mayport and took photos, toured St. Augustine, and ended their sojourn at Ponce. Earlier, Ranger Pam Darty at Cedar Key Lighthouse strongly nominated them for all their hard work.



David took along ten of the *Florida Lighthouse Trail* books to complete a project of getting all the authors to sign. Hal Belcher, an FLA founder, signed on *Florida Lighthouse Day* to complete David's project. He plans to have these auctioned at a meeting for a fund raiser.

David earlier delivered our news releases to the Sanford Herald, New Port Richey paper and the Chief and Apopka paper. He has pictures of Cedar Key Light Station on display the Seminole County Historic Museum and gave one of the 18x24 photos with the tag information to the Cocoa Beach Library. David and Alice previously



served as officers, attend regularly, participated in Strategic Planning sessions, but have been very active in Cedar Key with many volunteer hours. They are the *event planners* for the February 2010 meeting in Cedar Key Lighthouse.

### George Evans

After a full day at St. Augustine promoting *Visit Our Lights* tags March 21, George drove round trip nearly 900 miles to the other side of the state for *Florida Lighthouse Day* to Pensacola to hand out license plate cards and promote FLA. Did anyone drive farther? In the photo George is with Gordon Levi in his lighthouse keeper's uniform and fellow FLA'er Terry Collins. Several visitors expressed interest in getting tags.



George Evans wrote many letters during our license plate campaign and serves as chairman of a committee (video); very involved in the long-term success of FLA and lighthouse restoration.

George said: "Yes, it was a wonderful positive experience, I rode home convinced that my time was well spent." As George declares to end his notes: "Have a blessed day."

### Skip and Terry Kemp.

After a spectacular dedication of rebuilt Cape St. George Lighthouse early in April, Terry took our news release and rewrote it adding local flavor. It was published in *The Apalachicola Times*, along with a photo of the Keeper's House opening at Crooked River. This led to a good turnout of perhaps 200 to climb the lighthouse for free on *Florida Lighthouse Day*.

Skip and Terry were key leaders in the magnificent rebuilding of Cape St. George. Both attended the recent strategic planning session, have promoted the license plate in St. George. Terry serves as District 4 Commissioner, which covers *The Forgotten Coast*; and the lighthouses of Pensacola, Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, Point St. Joe, Crooked River and St. Marks.

### Alfred King III

Al King traveled a big circle of 840 miles to visit Boca Grande Lighthouse, Gasparilla Island Lighthouse, Sanibel Lighthouse and Cape Florida Lighthouse. His odyssey took three days and included helping promote FLA at Cape Florida during *Florida Lighthouse Day*.

Al not only serves as VP-Grants, but did an outstanding job of researching Publix locations near lighthouses; and for providing research for a possible Florida Challenge.

Al, a good photographer who recently won first and third place in Lighthouse Digest contest, was "too busy to take photos" as he promoted FLA, so we don't have a photo of him!

### Charley Knox

A few days before Florida Lighthouse Day, Charley gave top notch presentation to the Mayport Village officers on a proposal to move the lighthouse at Mayport Naval Station to the village. See the article in lighthouse reports. Charley started the day at Amelia, where he assisted, and then traveled to St. Augustine where he linked up with Ken and Dede Smith and other FLA'ers. At Amelia he was thrilled to climb the lighthouse. See the photos in this issue of Charley with his car license and with others.



## Susan and Eric Martin



Eric Martin has been a positive example not only in FLA but FKRLF leadership and has served as Executive VP. For *Florida Lighthouse Day*, he led the effort for collaboration with Cape Florida supporters and Reef Lights for a joint event. Eric and Susan erected banners and passed out literature and license plate cards.

Eric said many had **not** heard about the tag.

"Rick Schulze, Al King and Susan were all big helpers. Ranger Art Levy brought us a table and chairs. He also led one of the tours of Cape Florida," Eric said.

## Steve Miller

Steve Miller, manager of a storage facility in Gainesville, decided to decorate the lobby with lighthouse memorabilia. Then he came up with a brain storm of having a contest among his customers to guess the meaning of his *Visit Our Lights* license plate, FRSNL, with a year FLA membership as prize. He had lots of participants and interest.

The winner of a year's membership in the *FLA* was Ron Jacoby (left in photo). Ron is, in turn, giving the membership he won to his mother, June Lowe who, in his words, "loves everything lighthouse". She was so excited when he told her that she immediately logged on to the FLA website! See the photo of Steve and Ron with the contest announcement he had displayed on the counter the week preceding *Florida Lighthouse Day*. Steve sent us a check in the amount of \$52.50 the donations he took in for the week.



## Harry and Jean Pettit

We met Harry and Jean as they climbed to the porch of *Boca Grande Lighthouse*, bringing license plate cards and big smiles. They climbed the ladder into the rarely open lamp room to see the lens and get a great view of the beach and nearby islands.

The photo shows Jean and Coast Guard seaman Kate, as Jean prepares to climb the steep stairs to the lantern room.

Jean and Harry also stopped to see the *Gasparilla Island Lighthouse*. See the lighthouse report on activity of this former Gasparilla Island Lighthouse.

Harry and Jean have volunteered as *event planners* for next year on the June meeting with Boca Grande being considered for the venue.

Harry was a top contributor to specialty license plate success with eloquent presentations at Florida Legislature committee meetings. He and Jean attended Strategic Plan meeting and are regular general membership meetings attendees, since 1997.





## Ken and Diana "Dede" Smith

Dede and Ken planned to spend Florida Lighthouse Day weekend on Ormond Beach and then visit and climb Ponce and St. Augustine Lighthouses. As Ken noted, "it was a perfect day to climb with our good friends." Dede also agreed to take photos for FLASH, so a number of her photographs appear in these pages. In the photo Dede and Ken pose with Ponce volunteers Allen Beswick and Arthur Hahn.



Dede Smith served as VP-Membership for six years and Ken Smith has not only brought in equipment, but co-chaired our mission statement effort. Both have stellar attendance. Ken said: "Charlie Knox met us at St. Augustine.

We climbed together enjoying a cool breeze, and then went to dinner at Salt Water Cowboy, a genuine Florida Cracker style road house built on stilts out over the Matanzas River.

We feasted on 'gator tail (Charlie's first time), shrimp, clams, okra and tomatoes, squash casserole and key lime pie; A perfect ending of a perfect *Florida Lighthouse Day*."

## Gayle and Dennis Stemac

Gayle and Dennis arose early, packed up supplies and a card table and chairs and headed for Egmont Key, where they spent the day talking up FLA and handing our *Visit Our Lights* cards. Earlier Gayle and Dennis on Thursday before Florida Lighthouse Day traveled to Tallahassee to visit with the USLHS tour people (44) and have dinner with them and Jeff Gales. See the article about the tour and behind the scenes FLA involvement.

Gayle and Dennis have been handling meetings, as VPs-Meetings, for more than six years, one of the most difficult volunteer jobs. They have been there for the last 13 consecutive meetings and the three strategic planning sessions.



## Bill Wilkins

Bill Wilkins manned a booth at Ponce Inlet all day handing our license plate cards and recruiting new FLA members. Bill appreciated Bob Callister's help: "He had everything set and we had the license plate display including the small cards, Florida Lights brochures and Ponce Inlet brochures."

Bill noted the Ponce volunteers were more interested in the plate than the visitors.

He signed up a new member. He said: "When we were leaving there were a lot of people coming and going and I was parked near the entrance and was able to get a lot of interest in the actual plate and I passed out cards."



**FLA's Bright Future.** FLA has a bright future because of these volunteers and other *FLA'ers!*



## FLA NEWS BRIEFS

**License Tag Guesses.** In the March 2009 issue, we displayed personalized license plates. Thank you to those who responded with their good guesses, including: Terry Collins, Elaine Gridley, Jack Mangus, Dianne Levi, Betty Lowe Phelps, Steve Miller, Judy Bowerman, Gladys Llanes, Craig Kittendorf, Stan and Dottie Beckstrom, and Mary Katzer.

**License Plate Gift!** Gladys Llanes celebrated her parent's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and father's birthday March 21 in grand style by giving them a *Visit Our Lights* plate with "21" on it! Later at an event in Homestead, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart surprised them with a gift of an American Flag that had flown over the Capitol and a certificate.

**Charles LeBuff's** memoir, *It's Been One Hell of a Trip*, is finished he reported. Copies are available in a signed and numbered limited two-volume digital edition. For more information, check out his Home Page at <http://www.sanybel.com>.

**Membership.** We have 392 memberships, including 59 reciprocal or honorary, and nearly 600 members.

**Challenges.** We plan to go to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthouse of Door County Wisconsin, June 13-14. On September 19-20, the Chesapeake Chapter of USLHS welcomes you to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. We have brochures from them so if you'd like one please let us know at [FLApresident@gmail.com](mailto:FLApresident@gmail.com). Send us your address and we'll mail you one, or see [www.cheslights.org](http://www.cheslights.org).

### FLA Visit Our Lights License Plates



Left to right: Ken Smith, Charley Knox and one of four displays of FLA Members Tags



Left to right: CWO Chris Brown, USCG; Beverly Oakes, FLA Secretary and Mary Farnham



## USLHS GULF COAST TOUR

By Dennis and Gayle Stemac

The FLA is like a top notch motion picture. Like a movie, lots of people come together at meetings and watch and enjoy the event. But, also like movies, lots and lots of things happen behind the scenes that few know about. Most *FLA* members, for example, have been unaware of the collaborative effort of the FLA and the US Lighthouse Society (USLHS) in planning the itinerary for their most recently completed tour – the *Gulf Coast Tour* April 19 – 26, 2009. The planning started in April, 2007 when Jeff Gales, Executive Director, sent an email to Stan Farnham inquiring about the FLA's interest in helping him "create a fantastic Florida lighthouse tour itinerary." Jeff stated, "I really want regional lighthouse organizations such as yours to share in the proceeds from tours conducted in their state."

The board approved Jeff's idea so we worked with Jeff on behalf of FLA. Ideas went back and forth and the itinerary changed many times. Finally, it looked good and some finishing touches were added. This entire project was great fun for everyone involved. Jeff invited us to join the tour group "at the point nearest your home" for dinner one evening, which is Tallahassee. It's a four hour drive from Tampa, so we stayed overnight with the group. Skip Sherwood, a volunteer at the USLHS also joined the group for this tour.



Gayle Stemac, Andy Edel, and Jeff Gales

We met the group on the afternoon of Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the St. Marks Lighthouse. We had the opportunity to speak with many of the tour participants who all had wonderful comments about the places they'd been and the things they'd seen. The excitement in the air was absolutely electric. The group had met in New Orleans and spent some time in the French Quarter before departing to visit the Port Pontchartrain Lighthouse, New Canal, Tchefuncte River, and Biloxi. The next day they visited the USS Alabama Battleship in Mobile, AL and later cruised to visit the Middle Bay Lighthouse. They continued to Florida and visited St. Joseph Point Lighthouse,

Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, and Crooked River before arriving at St. Marks. Although the tour was busy, everyone was happy and loving every minute of their trip. The comments about the incredible hospitality extended to them by all the lighthouse groups were impressive. Upon boarding their bus to depart St. Marks, the group gave a huge clapping ovation to Ranger *Andy Edel* and his volunteers for making this stop so memorable. As we walked out to the parking lot to follow the bus in our car, we noticed a "Visit our Lights" license plate. We learned it belonged to *Craig Kittendorf*, a volunteer at the lighthouse. We went in to find him and thank him for buying the plate. He truly is a wealth of information about lighthouses.

We traveled to dinner with the group aboard their tour bus to *Barnacle Bill's Restaurant*. Everyone seated near us had stories to tell and special incidents to talk about. The accomplishments of the various Florida lighthouse organizations took center stage. At dinner, the cameras came out and we saw pictures of their travels. Naturally, the Florida lighthouses were our favorites. The tour group was very impressed with all the efforts at New Canal, but disappointed at the same time at the lack of progress. After dinner and return to the hotel, we had the opportunity to spend time with Jeff and talk about lighthouses and more 'behind the scenes' possibilities for the future. Some great ideas were exchanged, so expect to see the FLA and the USLHS supporting each other whenever possible.

The next morning, we bid the group 'good-bye' as they left for Pensacola and a tour of the Naval Air Station Museum and a tour and climb at the Lighthouse (*see Pensacola report*); and then two more stops returning to New Orleans and flying back home. Both Jeff and Skip were extremely pleased with the tour as it was filled to capacity and had a 'waiting list'. It was so successful that they plan to repeat the tour again – possibly in 2011. And - the USLHS will be making a donation to the FLA once the financial calculations for the tour are complete.



# Florida Lighthouse Day Stories

## Amelia Lighthouse:



Chris Belcher said: "My Dad (Hal Belcher) and Helen Sintes did a great job of presenting the history of Amelia. Among our 125 guests, we had a surprise - Ed Livingston was able to join us for a couple of hours." Ed is a direct descendant of Felix Livingston - the "keeper" of our four lens and apparatus during the Civil War. Chris hopes to capture the history narratives of Helen Sintes, Ed Livingston and Hal Belcher (a founder of FLA). "These three jewels really need to be examined and captured forever!" The photo shows David D'Amicol and Hal Belcher. Comments of visitors were; why can't the lighthouse be open more, we didn't even know it was here, we really wanted to climb, and *what a beautiful lighthouse*. Chris explained they were lucky to have it once a year; the City owns the land and tower, and insurance issues prevent climbing. He did ask everyone to phone, write, and/or meet with City Manager or Commissioners. Helen Sintes plans to take the sign-in sheet to the City to show the interest.

## Mayport Lighthouse (St. Johns):

The Mayport *Times Union* newspaper highlighted the just before *Florida Lighthouse Day* effort by Charley Knox to move the historic lighthouse at Mayport Naval Station to a public area in the village. He outlined his plans at the Mayport Waterfront Partnership meeting April 21 to move the 150-year old threatened lighthouse. The brick structure is just east of the village, surrounded by security fence, where the Navy uses trucks which are hurting the lighthouse. "Our long-term goal is to get the lighthouse open to the people so they can see it," Knox said. "It's probably one of the most beautiful lighthouses in the state." Knox said the Mayport structure would need an acre in the village to include a replica keeper's house and parking lot. It could become a tourist attraction and draw more visitors to the village. Knox said he's going to start a committee to relocate the lighthouse, which was built in 1859 and was decommissioned by the U.S. government in 1910. Knox, who once lived in Mayport said: "What good is it going to be if it falls down? No one will be able to appreciate it."

## St. Augustine:

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum had a full day of events on Florida Lighthouse Day. Visitors enjoyed new education director Chris Kastle's music. She captivated the crowd with her singing and songwriting. Visitors learned about lighthouse lenses from expert Joe Cocking along with many other events in a day that saw nearly 700 visitors at this popular lighthouse, nearly double the attendance last year helped by the change of date to April. *Sea, Shore, Shrimp & Slime* summer camp starts June 15.

For more information on educational programs, events, or membership at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum visit [www.staugustinelighthouse.com](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.com) or call (904) 829-0745.



## Ponce Inlet:

FLA'ers tell the story at Ponce with Jean and Kay Taylor, Norm and Polly Collins, a group and three "lighthouse keepers," Allen Bestwick, John Mann and Arthur Hahn. Ponce had more than 630 visitors for the successful day.

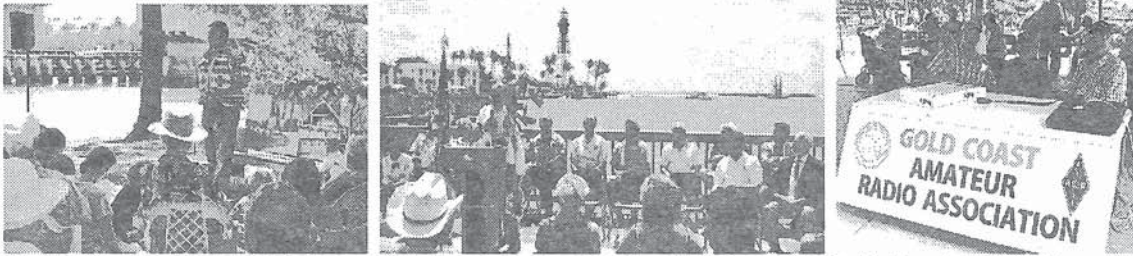


## Cape Canaveral:

The U.S. Air Force 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing conducts free monthly public tours on the second Wednesday of each month that includes a stop at the lighthouse. Visitors may walk into the lighthouse and climb to the second and third levels where the initial living and working quarters were located. For tour reservations, call the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Public Affairs Office at 321-494-5945 or 5949. Reservations are accepted up to a month in advance for U.S. citizens providing name, address, telephone and Social Security numbers. The minimum age is 12 years old. The bus is not accessible by the handicapped. For the tour, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Gate 1 pass and identification building of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station; on SR 401, which can be reached from the SR 528/Beach Line Expressway exit. Two forms of identification will be required. Cameras are ok. The tour returns at Noon. For further information on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, go to [www.CanaveralLight.com](http://www.CanaveralLight.com)

**Jupiter Inlet:** Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse attracted more than 150 visitors on Florida Lighthouse Day. One of the special events was Everett Osceola explaining to an audience of 100 on the lawn in front of the museum the culture and history of the Seminoles. Nearby was the scene of the Battle of Loxahatchee of the Second Seminole Indian War. See photo on next page. Jupiter was recently designated a national monument. Also see the story on Stan and Dottie Beckstrom.





Everett Osceola at Jupiter Lighthouse, Ceremony (center) at Hillsboro Lighthouse and Radio Broadcast at Hillsboro.

#### **Hillsboro:**

Joyce Hager said, "Florida Lighthouse Day was great. I had good sales at the gift shop, too." About 125 attended at Hillsboro Inlet Park. The event had more than 8 speakers including Mayors, Vice Mayors and Commissioners from surrounding towns, as well as Ron Klein, a U.S Congressman. Hib Casselberry said: "Our keynote Speaker was Rear Admiral Steve Branham, USCG Commander of District 7 (Carolinas to the Caribbean)." The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association transmitted from 1:00 PM to 4:00. See above photo. Music was provided by the "Old Time Jammers" until 4 PM. on Florida Lighthouse Day. For more information check out [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

#### **Cape Florida:**

Cape Florida Friends collaborated with Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation for a big Florida Lighthouse Day celebration with more than 300 visitors. See the related stories and photos in this issue.

#### **Reef Lights:**



The Reef Lights celebrated Florida Lighthouse Day at Cape Florida Lighthouse with a new banner. They met Sunday after Florida Lighthouse Day with 10 members attending. Key issues: Sombrero Key sign: moving closer to reality, pricing cost for approved sign installation at approved site; The Reef Lights Postcard: approved design; Fowey Rocks Passport Stamp: showed to board, design inspired by Paul Bradley's artworks; thanks to John Kennedy and FLA for assist with process and cost.. If you are interested in being put on the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation email list, please email Eric Martin at [ericlighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:ericlighthouse@yahoo.com)

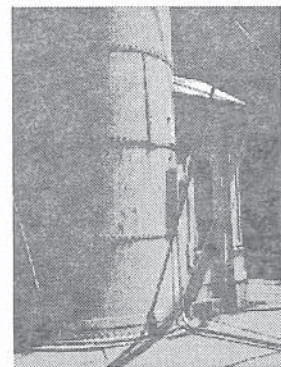
#### **Boca Grande Lighthouse:**

"We had a successful Florida Lighthouse Day," said Sharon McKenzie, Executive Director, with perhaps 150 visitors. I really think the change in date to April helped immensely." She noted they do not have the lamp room open normally, so this was a special moment for those of us who climbed the steep staircase to the small lantern room atop the house-style lighthouse. Some of the original founders of the lighthouse restoration visited; one flew in from the Midwest. The McKeithan sisters, Dian and Joyce were special guests. They lived at the lighthouse with their parents from 1941 to 1951, when their father Cody McKeithan was the keeper the last keeper.

Eddie Sadler, a dulcimer player, delighted the crowd with her music, which Sharon said was "a wonderful ending to a beautiful day."



#### **Gasparilla Island Lighthouse:**



The Barrier Islands Park Society (BIPS) has worked to resolve issues at this rusting lighthouse, formerly named the Rear Range Light. Until it was re-commissioned it had never in its history been a "lighthouse," but now is designated an active aid to navigation. The nine acres of land (beach) on which the lighthouse sits are owned by the Department of Army. The U.S. Coast Guard, however, owns the lighthouse. Efforts have been ongoing to get the land. BIPS leadership has contacted Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Connie Mack and others. Despite the efforts, the progress has been tortuously slow because of bureaucratic red tape. Meanwhile, residents have volunteered to paint the lighthouse, but to paint it requires a right-to-access permit from the Army and approval of the Coast Guard. The Boca Grande Woman's Club has donated \$1,500 for the work to get National Register designation. Application expert Mickey Hartig has been hired to prepare the application, which will be submitted in the name of *Florida Lighthouse Association* as we lend support to the effort.



**Egmont Key:**

The morning dawned with picture perfect blue skies and vibrant sunshine. However, there were heavy winds and high seas. The volunteer group heading out to the island aboard the Park Service boat experienced a ride that was "not for the faint of heart." The crowds visiting the island were less than expected as a result, but everyone arrived with enthusiasm and excitement.



Richard Johnson in full uniform greeted everyone and welcomed them into the lighthouse. Barbara Samuel manned the gift shop and Cindi Para handled the cash register. Several volunteers staffed the museum and gave each visitor a piece of "Florida Lighthouse Day" cake and their choice of lemonade or iced tea. Under the tent, the Egmont Key Alliance hosted a table for Membership. We also staffed a table to promote *Visit Our Lights* license plate sales. On the return trip via the Egmont Ferry, the volunteers and some island visitors were escorted for a time by a herd of six manatees that seemed determined to stay and entertain everyone. Once on shore, Assistant Ranger Boyd was called to an emergency on the beach where a pelican lay injured from multiple fishhooks. The day was filled with fun and adventure. The *FLA* and the Egmont Key Alliance both benefitted from many interested visitors that day who promised to visit the island again and buy a '*Visit our Lights*' license plate.

**Anclote Key:** Linda Seabol reported Anclote "had a pretty successful day" with perhaps 150 who climbed the light on Florida Lighthouse Day and 175 visitors. One couple said it was their first ever lighthouse climb! The next Open House is tentatively planned for September 12th to commemorate the sixth anniversary of relighting of Anclote.

**Cedar Key:**

Although Cedar Key was not open for *Florida Lighthouse Day* because of nesting season, it will be open Saturday, July 4th. The regular once-a-year opening is October 17th and 18th. Four volunteers are needed to assist with the open house & cemetery tours. "We will meet volunteers in Cedar Key 11:00 am on Friday the 16th for a ride to the island." Said David. Please call or email David D'Amicol if you'd like to help so he can arrange with Ranger Pam ([adamicol@cfl.r.com](mailto:adamicol@cfl.r.com)) or phone 407-697-6990). Please join us for an exceptionally different and beautiful experience!

**St. Marks:**

During *Florida Lighthouse Day*, for the first time ever, St. Marks asked visitors to sign a guest book. More than 600 visitors of the 800 attending the event signed the book. They traveled from 26 different cities in Florida, nine cities in Georgia and from Alabama, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Washington; plus Puerto Rico, Canada and Switzerland. St. Marks Wildlife Refuge Supervising Ranger Robin Will said historians Andy Edel and Gordon Perkins, in lighthouse keeper's uniforms conducted tours. She said: "Andy is not only a volunteer ranger at St Marks, resplendent in white lighthouse keeper's uniform, he also has been a big help as organizer and host at our St. Marks meetings and tour guide." The effort to transfer St. Marks continues. Transferring one federal property to another federal agency is really a very slow process! The DEP has asked the US Coast Guard to do more contaminant testing on the St. Marks Lighthouse.

**Crooked River:**

The replica of the Crooked River Lighthouse Keeper's House was dedicated April 18 in a ribbon cutting ceremony. The museum will contain display spaces, a gift shop and a meeting room for educational presentations. The museum is the final project to complete the Carrabelle Lighthouse Park, which already includes the restored and lighted Crooked River Lighthouse, a Pirate ship recreational playground, and a picnic pavilion, all nestled in a North Florida Forest habitat. In the celebratory photo are: **L-R, Standing:** John Canetta, Carrabelle Lighthouse Historian; Arlene Oehler, CLA President; Mayor Wilburn "Curley" Messer; Tamara Allen, CLA Liaison with City; Joan Matey, Museum Curator; City Commissioner Jim Brown. **Seated:** Lesley Cox, CLA Secretary; Mary Ann Shields, CLA Charter Member; Becky Jackson, Retired City Clerk; and Georgia Russell, CLA Treasurer. Arlene Oehler said: "This is a dream come true!"

**Cape St. George:**

Cape St. George had a big Florida Lighthouse Day after a spectacular dedication ceremony earlier in April. Even so they still had 200 attend on *Florida Lighthouse Day*. Plans now are to expand weekly hours from 21 to 40. As CSG Executive Director and new FLA member Elaine Rosenthal said: "One thing that helped our numbers was Harry A's, a local restaurant hosted Rock by the Sea, an all-weekend musical event that gets bigger every year. For the rockers to get from Harry A's to the gulf they had to pass by the lighthouse; so many of them chose to take advantage of the free climb!" Dennis Barnell and visitors.





**Cape San Blas:**

Even though there were many events going on competing, including Apalachicola's, boat show, Carrabelle's waterfront festival and St. George and Crooked River lighthouses open, we were pleased with having nearly 40 come through. As Beverly Doud said: "it's hard to have everyone at everything, but. WATCH OUT next year! We'll get you all to come to Cape San Blas Lighthouse!"

**Pensacola:**

Pensacola opened on a day not usually open from 10 am to 6 pm for *Florida Lighthouse Day* after hosting the USLHS tour (see related story on page 8) the day before as the tour concluded its stay in Florida. More than 200 attended on *Florida Lighthouse Day*, despite many other events locally."The new gift shop did well," Dianne Levi said. Earlier for the tour group, BMI Brian Day, Officer in Charge of ANT, "keeper" of the lighthouse spoke to the USLHS tour group and stayed to answer questions until they left. Dianne said: "We gave each of the group a gift bag and travel bag, which included a number of items and the 150th anniversary commemorative pin. The USLHS sent a complimentary and appreciative letter to Pensacola for their hosting of the tour. Pensacola Lighthouse had a triple celebration: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hosting USLHS tour and *Florida Lighthouse Day*."



**"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,  
but by the number of moments that take our breath away."**

Anon.

We hope you had moments that took your breath away on *Florida Lighthouse Day*,  
And this issue brings back warm memories of a fun day;  
And if you were unable to travel, as some of our members are not,  
We fervently hope this special issue allows you to vicariously enjoy this day!

*Stan Farnham*

### ***Welcome to our new members!***

Amanda, Curtis Leroy & Shaenna Anderton,  
Martha McDonald, Charles & Linda Dixon,  
Paul & Dolores Drew, Elaine Rosenthal,  
Meredith SS Smith, Ray & Helen Haruben,  
Tony Flohre, Jane and Darrell Powell, June Lowe

#### **Membership Year**

October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
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.**

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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 VP*

Sharon Puls, *Assistant Secretary*

Dennis & Gayle Stemas, *VP Events*

Charley Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Hb Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls

& Tony Kemp, *District Commissioners*