



The FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC

www.floridalighthouses.org

April 2010

Florida Lighthouse Association Boca Grande Lighthouse

June 5, 2010

Boca Grande is a special place and this promises to be a very special meeting. The city is located on the Grand Barrier Island called Gasparilla midway between Ft. Myers and Sarasota and is truly a step back into 'old world' Florida. It is a quiet community that seeks to protect its quality of life and is the home to two lighthouses. Tourism and fishing is the economic base on this tranquil 7-mile long island that has no high rises and no traffic lights. But, perched atop iron pilings at the extreme southern end of Gasparilla Island are the beautifully restored Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and its look-alike companion. The lighthouse consists of a one-story dwelling with a square tower protruding through the center of its hipped roof. Atop the tower is a circular lantern room originally housing a third-and-a-half order Fresnel lens. Nearly seventy feet away, a nearly identical building, minus the tower, was built for the assistant keeper. The complex was originally built for cattle cars coming from the Peace River on their way to Cuba. But, due to a rich phosphate discovery in "bone valley" Peace River basin in the 1880's as well as the inability of Port Tampa to handle the additional traffic, a new port needed to be found. The lighthouse was activated on December 31, 1890. Due to the naturally deep channel at Boca Grande Pass as well as the location of sandbars, a rail line was extended to Port Boca Grande in 1907 and by 1969, it was Florida's 4th busiest port. The lighthouse was automated in 1956 and abandoned by the Coast Guard in 1966. The historic lighthouse was almost lost as the sea eroded the island and lapped at the foundation by 1970. A local conservation group was successful in having the lighthouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The lighthouse was fully restored in 1985-86. In 1989, a small group of local citizens formed the Barrier Island Parks Society (BIPS). Ten years later, the group was successful in opening a museum in the lighthouse.

The second Gasparilla Island Light was constructed in 1881 and served as the Delaware Breakwater Rear Range Light until it was moved and reassembled on Gasparilla Island in 1927. It served as the rear entrance range light for Port Boca Grande with the front entrance range light approximately one mile off shore.

Our meeting and luncheon will be held at **The Lighthouse Church of Boca Grande**. This is on Gasparilla Island in the town of Boca Grande and located on Gilchrist Ave at Third St. As our guest speakers, we are extremely fortunate to have Dian Miller, the daughter of keeper Cody McKeithan, and Robert Johnson, a 3rd generation harbor pilot, join us.

After the meeting, we will divide into two groups in order to allow everyone to visit both lighthouses. US Coast Guard personnel from the Aids to Navigation Team in St. Petersburg will be present at both locations. The first group will visit the historic Boca Grande Lighthouse. A docent will be available to answer any questions. The gift shop will also be open. Everyone will be able to climb the lighthouse. The second group will visit the Gasparilla Island Light (formerly known as the Rear Range Light). It will be open and anyone wishing to climb will be permitted to climb only to the first window for safety reasons.

In addition to attending the FLA meeting, participants are being invited to return to the lighthouse that evening and "Howl at the Moon". This is the name given to the 6th annual invitational tarpon tournament. This year all money raised will benefit the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum. Wine and cheese will be served at the lighthouse beginning at 7:30pm. The contestants begin fishing at 8pm until 1am. There will be a marine radio on the porch of the lighthouse all evening for everyone to hear the tournament.

The Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority charges \$4.00 per vehicle to cross over to the island. There is also a park entrance fee of \$3.00 per car. The cost of this meeting including luncheon, donations, and all associated fees is \$45.

The thanks and appreciation of the FLA is extended to Harry and Jean Pettit for organizing and coordinating this event. They have done an outstanding job.



Stan's Beacon

Look up at the lifesaving beacon shining into the darkness and symbolizing a gleaming future. Consider stepping in and serving in one of the key positions.

Thank you for the honor to serve as your President for more than four years. And to those of you who have volunteered and helped and deserve the credit for some sparkling successes, I can't thank you enough. Success comes from volunteer's selfless acts, so I've been lucky to have been involved with so many talented people.

Among the 17,000 non profits in Florida, FLA is unique, because we have no paid staff, no reimbursement of officer's personal expenses, no grant funds, no state or federal funding and no stimulus package. FLA has worked hard, however, to help get state grants and funding for local organization with some outstanding successes. Unlike other lighthouse organizations, we do not own, operate or restore lighthouses, but FLA supports local Florida organizations that do. We do not run tours, but have helped others, such as USLHS on theirs. We have helped local organizations go from six full-time publicly open lighthouses to nine. *Imagine if all were restored and open.*

Our mission clearly states "*dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses.*" Thus, we don't get involved financially with new ones, or faux ones, or those long gone. You are a member of a *unique* non-profit organization with its major strength truly **you**, the members and volunteers who share their time and talent.



CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

WHEREAS, lighthouses have played a significant economic and historical role in the settlement and development of Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 1824, lighthouses have protected coastal shipping and guided mariners into Florida's rivers and ports; and

WHEREAS, 30 of the 59 lighthouses constructed are still standing on the land and in the waters of the Sunshine State; and

WHEREAS, lighthouses are tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, Florida's lighthouses represent the romantic spirit and sense of adventure of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, it is in Florida's best interest to preserve, protect, and promote these treasures of our seashores;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 24, 2010 as Florida Lighthouse Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 6th day of February, in the year two thousand ten.


Governor



THE CARTON
Tallahassee, Florida 32399 • 1-800-468-2277 • Fax (904) 912-4272

Florida Lighthouse Day, April 24

Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed April 24, 2010 as Florida Lighthouse Day.

Of the 30 historic lighthouses, nine are open to the public: St. Augustine, Ponce de Leon Inlet, Jupiter Inlet, Cape Florida, Key West, Boca Grande, the recently rebuilt Cape St. George, the newly restored Crooked River and Cape San Blas lighthouses.

These nine and several of the historic lighthouses not normally open to the public, plan special events for April 24. All the lighthouses will be celebrating the new *Visit Our Lights* lighthouse specialty tag.

The *Visit Our Lights* plate is available at the County Tax Collectors office. The additional \$25 for the plate, which is tax deductible, provides sustained funding for Florida's remaining historic lighthouses. FLA allocates the funds through grants. The Board of Directors recently approved the first two grants to St. Augustine Lighthouse, for \$10,000 and Boca Grande Lighthouse for \$2,425.

The lighthouses in Florida's Panhandle plan a *Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge* April 24 and 25 with Cape San Blas, Cape St. George,

Crooked River and St. Marks lighthouses participating. FLA supported the effort with \$500 grants from general funds for each of the lighthouses.

Megan Clementi, who won the Miss Florida USA title last July plans to participate in the Challenge. She visited and climbed the Cedar Key Lighthouse Friday February 19 as part of her commitment to visit all 30 of Florida's remaining historical lighthouses. She launched her statewide tour at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse during their 150th anniversary celebration, January 10. She not only brings awareness to Florida's maritime sentinels and *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate, but also promotes the Susan G. Komen fight against breast cancer as she *Climbs for the Cure*.

Don't forget to renew with a beautiful *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate!! The *Visit Our Lights* license plate funds help shine a shimmering light on the rich cultural heritage for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

MEETING AGENDA

- 9:00 am Meeting Registration at The Lighthouse Methodist Church
- 12:30 pm Lunch is served
- 1:30-4pm Visit the historic Boca Grande Lighthouse and the Gasparilla Island Light
- 7:30-?? "Howl at the Moon" - optional event (see above)



PREFERRED HOTEL

Hampton Inn & Suites Venice Bayside, 881 Venetia Bay Blvd., Venice, FL. 34292 Phone: 941-488-5900

Hampton offers all customary amenities including complimentary continental deluxe breakfast and high speed internet. A renovation of the hotel and all rooms has recently been completed. There are many restaurants nearby. The FLA discounted rate for a standard room is \$79, \$99 for a king study, and \$115 for a standard suite. These rates will be honored for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The cut off date is **5/19/2010**. Cancellation policy is 7 days prior to the event to avoid charges.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dian Miller and Robert Johnson were childhood friends at Port Boca Grande known locally as South Dock. Our program will engage Dian and Robert in a trip down memory lane. Dian McKeithen Miller is the second of two daughters to Lighthouse Keeper Cody McKeithen who served at Port Boca Grande Lighthouse from 1941 – 1951. Dian was three years of age, her sister Joyce eight, when they moved from the Egmont Key Light Station (at the mouth of Tampa Bay), with their mother Viola, and father Cody, for his new tour of duty at the Gasparilla Island Light Station (as it was officially called back then). Dian's memories of the lighthouse as her home are rich and have influenced her way of life to this day. After Cody's retirement, from the Light House Division of the U.S. Coast Guard, the McKeithens moved to Sarasota, where Dian met her husband, Richard 'Dick' Miller, who shares her love of the water (SCUBA, shelling and fishing) and nature in general (backpacking in the mountains and animal photography). After raising four children and Dick's retirement from the Sarasota Police Dept., the Millers traveled from Atlantic to Pacific, across the U.S. and Canada, visiting and photographing many lighthouses. According to Dian, "All lighthouses are beautiful in their own way, but none can compare to the beauty of that 'Great Lady' on Gasparilla Island," known today as Port Boca Grande Lighthouse. Cody McKeithen passed away in October of 1960, Viola in September 1995. Daughters Joyce Kuhl and Dian Miller both currently live in Sarasota.

Robert W. Johnson was born in 1938, not in the shadow of Gasparilla Island Light, but in the loom of the light about 1,000 feet to the north. He grew up on the south end of the island. His parents became friends with lighthouse keeper Cody McKeithen and his family shortly after their arrival in 1941. Carey Johnson, Robert's father, was a Port Boca Grande Harbor Pilot, so it was only natural that a Johnson/McKeithen friendship would evolve. Robert graduated from Boca Grande High School in 1956 and attended three years of college. After marrying island-girl Roberta Presley in 1959, he began the required 4-year Pilot Apprenticeship and in 1964 became a Harbor Pilot at the Port. In doing so, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather going back to 1888. Robert continued his duties as Harbor Pilot through 1979 when the last phosphate ship departed Port Boca Grande. He became licensed for the port of Key West in 1984 where he plied his trade until retirement. Robert and Roberta's Boca Grande home is the historic Quarantine Station House built in 1895, which was restored in 1995 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Miss Florida USA 2010 Visits Cedar Key Lighthouse

Megan Clementi, who won the Miss Florida USA title last July, visited and climbed the Cedar Key Lighthouse Friday, February 19 as part of her commitment to visit all 30 of Florida's remaining historical lighthouses. She launched her statewide tour at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse during their 150th anniversary celebration, January 10. She not only brings awareness to Florida's maritime sentinels and *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate, but also promotes Susan G. Komen breast cancer awareness as she *Climbs for the Cure*.



She traveled by boat to Seahorse Key with Florida Lighthouse president Stan Farnham and his wife, Mary, and David and Alice D'Amicol, Board members representing Cedar Key Lighthouse. They also chaired the sold-out FLA meeting at Cedar Key Saturday, February 20 at Cedar Cove Beach and Yacht Club. Her father, Mike Clementi and Cedar Key Beacon bureau chief Kellie Larkin also toured.

The Cedar Key Lighthouse can be reached only by boat. The lighthouse is rarely open to the public. The building is leased by the University of Florida for a marine biology laboratory.

Clementi later attended a dinner in her honor at the Cedar Key Beach and Yacht Club restaurant before the Florida Lighthouse Association board meeting Friday evening. More than three dozen board members and guests attended. The Florida Lighthouse Association, a statewide all-volunteer nonprofit corporation with nearly 600 members has no paid staff. Officers are not reimbursed for their personal expenses so the maximum can go to the mission. The association supports Florida's 18 local lighthouse and historical organizations with their more than 5,000 members.



The Florida Lighthouse Association *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate is available at the County Tax Collectors office.

The additional \$25 for the specialty plate, which is tax deductible, provides sustained funding for Florida's remaining historic lighthouses for preservation and restoration.

Clementi, 26, who entered the pageant as Miss South Miami USA, earned the chance to compete in this year's Miss USA pageant. The winner of that event will represent the United States in the Miss Universe pageant. She could make history with a win at the pageant at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas as she would be the first Florida woman to win.

She graduated with a degree in engineering from UCF last year. She was a former Miss University of Central Florida, crowned in 2006. She was the first runner-up for Miss Florida that year. A five-year veteran of the Orlando Magic's dance team, Megan served as a captain.

The 30 Florida historic lighthouses, which string along like bright diamonds on a coastline necklace, from Amelia Island to Pensacola, are a national resource treasured for their historic, cultural and scenic values. They represent our heritage as "America's Castles." Florida's six reef lights along the Florida Keys are "America's Eiffel Towers".

Lighthouses are among the oldest standing historic buildings in America. The First Congress of America passed its first Public Works Act that essentially created the United States Lighthouse Service in 1789. Amelia Island lighthouse is more than 170 years old. Egmont Key and Pensacola lighthouses celebrated 150 years last year and Jupiter Lighthouse this year.



Farnham said: "If we don't value our rich history and ancestors, we leave out a big part of who we are. FLA helps with sharing these structures with others and future generations to learn from our maritime history.

Europe saves its castles; here we want to *save our lights*. Imagine if all were restored and open!" The association Web site, www.floralighthouses.org, provides detailed information about the association and Florida lighthouses.



Stan Farnham, Megan Clementi, David D'Amicol

At the top of Sea Horse Key Lighthouse



Plates on parade

Right is a picture of Mary Johnson-Rodgers with her new plates

Visit Our Lights
Specialty License

When the FLA *Visit Our Lights* specialty plate was issued in December 2008, the first month sales were 215. In 2009, total *Visit Our Lights* tags sold: 1,738. In January sales were 157, February sales were 132.



FLA NEWS BRIEFS

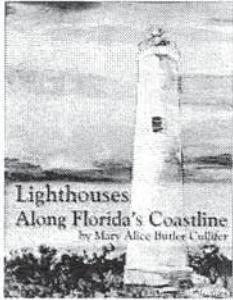
Knowledge Express

BOOK CAPSULES



Lighthouses Along Florida's Coastline

By Mary Alice Butler Cullifer (Target Copy, 68 pages, 2005).



This book, filled with exquisite colorful paintings of all of Florida's remaining historical lighthouses is out of print, but the publisher plans to reprint after including Cape St. George rebuilding. Mary Cullifer, known as the Lighthouse Lady of Lynn Haven, has painted lighthouses in Georgia and South Carolina. Her painting collection is on display in Lynn Haven, but not for sale. Cullifer also published

Beacons, "the memoirs of a Georgia Farm Girl Born in 1916." It



includes how St. Marks Lighthouse influenced her life. Lighthouse captured her imagination, when as a child she saw the magical lights of the St. Marks Lighthouse. The 114-page 2009 second edition is available from Fresnel Publishers, 215 W. College Ave, Suite 504, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Lighthouses and Living Along the Florida Gulf Coast

By William Roberts



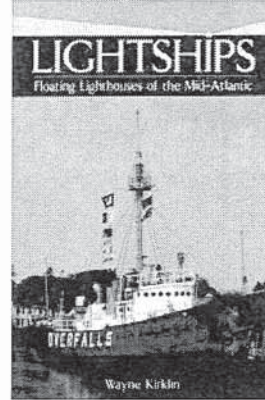
Do you know anyone who grew up in a lighthouse? Well, here is a true story of the Roberts family's three generations of lighthouse keepers in the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Their dedication and devotion began in 1894 when grandfather was assigned to the Cape St. George Lighthouse; and lasted for 58 years and three generations. This story, recorded by a family member, is all about their

lighthouses, family lives, duties of maintaining and operating the lighthouses along with childhood stories of the growing up on lighthouse stations during the Great Depression years.

Lightships-Floating Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic

By Wayne Kirkland

Floating lighthouses, or lightships, played an indispensable



part in keeping the Nation's waterways safe for navigation during a period of one hundred and sixty-five years. Today these lightships are largely unknown to the general public and taken for granted by the maritime industry. Relatively little has been written about them recently and their crews are almost forgotten. Although modern technology has rendered these vessels unnecessary a student of history should find the description of the design, life and adventures of these heroic vessels

fascinating. This narrative is about the eighty-six ships that staffed the forty-five stations along the middle Atlantic coast of America ranging from New York Harbor to the southern border of North Carolina. It includes those vessels placed in the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays and the two sounds of North Carolina. Book can be ordered at www.overfalls.org (Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation, Lewes, DE 19958). Book sale profits go to OMMF.

Lighthouse Keepers

By Beverly Douds Dream Catchers Publishing Co., Atlanta, GA. 2004. 130 pages. It sells for \$16.95 plus \$3.00 S&H.

Beverly's book covers almost all the Keepers and their families from Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, and Beacon Hill Lighthouses. The book includes a few of the U.S. Coast Guard members at the lighthouses.



Beverly, the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Lady, has authored two other books but they're on Gulf County and Apalachicola.

Rescue and Refuge: Florida

By Jerry Biggs

Historian and FLAer, Jerry Biggs has produced a book, which fills a gap in Florida's maritime lore. It is loaded with

RESCUE AND REFUGE: FLORIDA



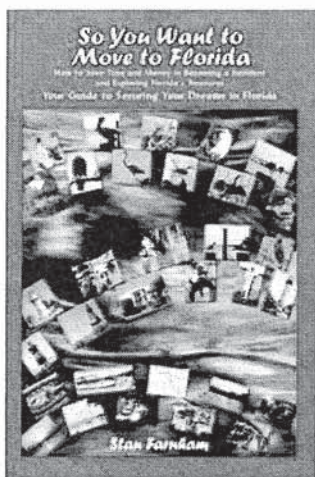
By Jerry Biggs

rare historical images of life-saving stations, lighthouses and keepers who served in them. The book covers Florida's entire shoreline frontier with true-life heroic rescue tales of shipwreck survivors, homicide on the high seas, hurricanes, primitive living conditions and long periods of isolation broken by moments of sheer terror.

Biggs has written a number of stories for *Lighthouse Digest*. The book is available directly from him at Biggs, P.O. Box 5576, Navarre, FL 32566 for \$26.00 includes shipping.

So You Want to Move to Florida

By Stan Farnham. Author House, Bloomington, Indiana. 2004
274 pages,



This book tells you how to save time and money in becoming a resident and exploring Florida's treasures. You'll learn the top three birds, animals, *lighthouses*, wildlife refuges, beaches, day trips, mini-vacations, Florida "castles" and three interest or expertise levels for activities. The book provides keen insights on moving to and living in Florida, including establishing Florida as your domicile. **Chapter Sixteen,**

The Lure of Florida Lighthouses, describes all the Florida lighthouses. The book is available at Amazon and booksellers for \$16.95.



Florida's Fabulous Lighthouses

By Tim Ohr. World Publications, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 2007

Tim Ohr's book is one of sixteen in the *Florida's Fabulous series*, but truly fabulous with 80 pages packed with striking and colorful lighthouse photographs and sparkling text. FLA'er and

Historian Neil Hurley contributed by editing the text. Other FLA'ers contributed photographs to Tim's comprehensive book including Stan Beckstrom, Hib Csselberry and Charley Knox. Tim says the next edition will include the rebuilt Cape St. George Lighthouse. Tim said: "I do not make money or royalties on sales, but I am very proud of this book. I do not feel it would be nearly as good a book if it were not for Neil Hurley doing the editing." Ohr arranged the book with lighthouses in alphabetical order, which makes it easy to find a lighthouse. Page has a map of all locations.

Did You Know?

Of our remaining 30 historical lighthouses, 17 are on the National Register for Historical Places: Amelia 2003, Mayport 2003, St. Augustine 1981, Ponce Inlet 1972, Jupiter 1973, Cape Florida 1971, Carysfort 1984, Sand Key 1973, Ft. Jefferson 1970, Sanibel 1974, Boca Grande 1980, Anclote 1999, St. Marks 1972, Crooked River 1978, Cape St. George 1974, Cape San Blas 1981, and Pensacola 1974.

Magic Threes!

Top Personal Growth and Attitude Builders: *listen, learn, laugh*. Top Three "Mirror" Test: *Did I do the best I could? Was I fair. Did I do what I said I would do!* Top Three Great Organization Characteristics: *Feelings, attitudes, relationships*.

FLA Lighthouse Stamp Donations (DRAFT August 28, 2009; Rev 9/4/, Rev 9/11/; Rev 9/16/; rev 9/21/, Rev 9/22, 9/29; Rev 10/22/09)); Revised January 7, 2010; Revised January 11, 2010; Rev Feb 21, 2010, Rev Mar 2, 2010

By Stan Farnham

Name	Stamps	Value
George Evans	100 +80	\$79
Chris & Ron Ecker	60+60	\$52
Steve and Kathy Miller	100	\$44
Stan & Dottie Beckstrom	100	\$44
Charlotte Pierce	80	\$35
Betty Phelps	60	\$26
Doris Underwood	60	\$26
Harry & Jean Pettit	40 + 20	\$26
Alice & David D'Amicol	60	\$26
Stan & Mary Farnham	50	\$22
Jean Marani	50	\$22
Pat & Jerry Biggs	40	\$18
Pat & Jerry Biggs, 17-cent		\$75
Arlene Oehler	40	\$18
John Canetta	40	\$18
John & Kathy Kennedy	40	\$18

Alfred King III	40	\$18
Elaine & Charles Gridley	40	\$18
Skip & Terry Kemp	40	\$18
Janet Garcia	40	\$18
Charles & Jean LeBuff	20	\$9
Linda Peck	20	\$9
Michael Koontz	20	\$9
Barbara & Ray Hamel	20	\$9
Jack Mangus	20	\$9
Steve & Marlene Bysted	20	\$9
Judy Bowerman	20	\$9
Susanna Taranto	20	\$9
Frank Johnson	20	\$9
Gail Nash	20	\$9
Rosalie Hull	20	\$9
Craig & Gayla Kittendorf	20	\$9
Nina & Joseph Steg	20	\$9
Ellen Halberstadt	20	\$9
Wanda Mayo	20	\$9
Denise Ten Eyck	20	\$9
Janet Cribb	20	\$9
Total	1,600	\$781

IRISH BEAUTIES

FLA'ers John and Kathy Kennedy traveled to Ireland last year with the U.S. Lighthouse Society. Here are four photos from the trip. From left to right: Chain Tower, County Antrim, 1888; St. Johns, County Down, 1844; The Baily, County Dublin, Original one 1667 but this one 1819; Metal Man at Rosses Point, County Sligo, 1821.



FLA'ers Lighthouse Keepers/Tour Guides in Michigan

By Stan Farnham

Jerry and Pat Biggs recently bought a condo in Ludington, MI for summer stays and to rekindle lighthouse memories. The condo is near a lighthouse where they used to serve as volunteer tour guides.

They were the first couple to open Big Sable Point Lighthouse for public tours in 1995. Visitors had to walk two miles one way to get to the lighthouse. Just the two of them kept it open for tours five days a week, seven hours a day, April to October. More than 8,500 people visited the 112-foot tall lighthouse and climbed its 130 steps.



The association at Big Sable Point had asked the Biggs' to live in the lighthouse just to keep vandals away. As long as they were there, they suggested opening it to the public. The association said okay as a trial. Before then, the lighthouse opened to the public just three times a year. The association bused people to the site for a fee. They averaged a couple of thousand dollars each time. The income for the first summer with Pat and Jerry conducting tours took in a stunning \$18,000!

Pat Biggs said: "The small lighthouse membership at the time never expected the response that we had. We opened it to get money for a new roof. We knew Big Sable Point would attract people, but not to this extent when they had to make a four-mile round trip in the dunes to get there. It was great fun."

What started as an experiment, snowballed into a major program. Association now operates three lighthouses and all are opened April-October. Typically each lighthouse has three couples during the summer as volunteer tour guides and live-ins rotating every few weeks.

After the Big Sable stint, Jerry and Pat moved to Point Iroquois Lighthouse in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for one year. Despite one of the worst winters in Michigan history, more than 27,000 people visited that summer. Visitors came from every state of the US, eight of the nine provinces of Canada and a number of foreign countries.



The next summer Jerry and Pat lived in Mackinaw City. They worked with the local newspaper editors and Dick Moehl, the long-time president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. The association started in 1984 and Dick has served as President for a quarter century. The Michigan Alliance includes 50 local lighthouse and preservation associations.

Jerry wrote newspaper stories about the area lighthouses, to get people interested in lighthouses, and in hopes to get the Mackinaw Point Lighthouse open. He also wrote stories for the Beacon, the GLLKA newsletter and Lighthouse Digest.

They moved to Northport, Michigan from Mackinaw City, where they worked for two years at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse, giving tours and selling merchandise in the gift shop.

They spent a few years as snowbirds in Florida; and then sold the house in Northport and moved full-time to Navarre, Florida. Pat said: "Now we will go back to being snowbirds in our old age, with summers in Michigan."

Among the fond memories of serving in the lighthouses, Pat mentioned the "strange people." Pat said: "One lady looked up the tower stairs and said 'are these the same stairs we have to come down.'" Another one said she was a university college grad and insisted that there are tides in the Great Lakes.

(photos above – top is the Big Sable Point Lighthouse – bottom is the Point Iroquois Lighthouse)

Egmont Key Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

By Neil Hurley, FLA Historian

The first Egmont Key lighthouse operated only ten years (1848-1858). A hurricane damaged it in its first year. Even though repairs were made, the 40 foot-tall lighthouse was replaced by the current tower.

At other Florida locations where lighthouses were replaced (as on Garden Key and at Cape Canaveral), the older tower foundations still exist, just even with ground level. Could this be true for the first Egmont Key Lighthouse? This possibility had intrigued Richard Johnson (of the Egmont Key Alliance) and me for years. An 1888 lighthouse property survey shows the "foundation of the old tower" 100 feet northeast of the current tower. With nothing visible on the soil surface and disturbing the historic property strictly prohibited, there was no way to find out. ... until modern technology came to the rescue. Ground penetrating radar, once rare and prohibitively expensive, now is widely available. Today's portable equipment is widely used. Using radar waves, the equipment looks several feet into the ground with clarity good enough to distinguish individual bricks.

With a trip to Egmont Key planned for February 2010, I contacted, GeoView Inc. of St. Petersburg. They surprised me by saying they would be happy to help FLA and would do the survey for *free!* Next step was to get permission from the Egmont Key State Park. They forwarded my request to Tallahassee, where we found that any survey looking for man-made objects, even a remote sensing survey that doesn't disturb the site, requires a 1A-32 permit issued by Florida. With only 10 days to go, the project looked sunk, but I contacted Kelly Driscoll, an archeologist with Florida History LLC, St. Petersburg. Kelly had done other work on Egmont Key. Kelly and her company were not only were enthusiastic about the project, but agreed to discount their \$800 per day fee to only \$200! They quickly prepared the permit paperwork. The Florida Lighthouse Association Board voted a grant to cover the costs in an overnight e-mail voting spree.

The permit was processed in half the normal time, and the Egmont Key State Park came through with transportation to the island. On Thursday, Feb 18th, Barbara and John Schmidt of EKA, Chris Johnson from GeoView, our monitoring archeologist, Paul Jones from Florida History LLC and I motored out to Egmont with 80 pounds of equipment.

Chris was a very busy person. Setting up his equipment and flagging the survey area went quite quickly, but the foundation of the lighthouse proved to be a very elusive target. Chris made multiple passes over the 70 x 90 foot target area (a large area to ensure we didn't miss the foundation) using different frequencies of radar waves. He also scanned the area using a frequency domain electromagnetic detector. The rest of us explored the lighthouse and surrounding area.

Chris's initial data didn't find the large brick foundation structure we were hoping for. He's doing more work to convert his results from two-dimensional information to a three-dimensional product. Hopefully, the 3-D view will pick up details of the foundation the 2-D view missed. Barbara Schmidt pointed out a curved 10-foot section of brick and mortar outside the survey

area. It could possibly be a part of the 1848 lighthouse tower. Chris used his Ground Penetrating Radar to look under the ground around this feature to see if it is "the tip of the iceberg" of a more massive brick structure.

Before we left the island, Park Ranger Tom Watson gave us a great tour of the Fort Dade mine casemate building, gun batteries, brick roads and guard house. History is everywhere on Egmont Key; there's lots and lots to see.

Perhaps the original Egmont Key lighthouse foundation was bulldozed away many years ago, or perhaps it had an extremely shallow foundation of loose brick that was dug out and reused for other purposes. We accomplished our goal of determining if any remains of the foundation existed. We also learned that getting permits is not difficult and we can learn more about lighthouse sites without disturbing the soil. We also strengthened our relationship with the State Park Service and within the archeological community. Thanks again Florida Lighthouse Association for funding this.



Rear: Barbara Schmidt, Paul Jones, Chris Taylor; Front John Schmidt, Tom Watson



Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
Member Meeting Minutes • Cedar Cove Beach and Yacht Club
Cedar Cove, Florida • February 20, 2010

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Invocation: Hib Casselberry led the group in prayer.

Welcome: John Kasbohm, Refuge Manager of both Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge welcomed the FLA to Cedar Keys area. There are 13 keys that belong to the Cedar Key NWR. The important key for us is the Seahorse Key where the Cedar Key Lighthouse is located. Pam Darty, Ranger, gave us a quick overview of our afternoon excursion to the lighthouse. Another special guest was Kelly Parkin from the Cedar Key Beacon News.

Gayle Stemas recognized our "snow-bird" members, Ron and Shirley Drummer and Ron and Mary Joseph with a "Seashells & Palm Tree" gift. Also receiving the unique gift were Bill and Judy Newblom and Neil Hurley as our 'out-of-state members, Colorado and Virginia, respectively. She also thanked David and Alice D'Amicol and Kay Taylor for their exceptional work in planning and in making arrangements for the Cedar Key lighthouse meeting.

Stan shared about the visit from Miss Florida USA, Megan Clementi and her father, Mike Clementi. They climbed the Cedar Key Lighthouse on Friday before the FLA Board meeting and were guests of Stan and Mary Farnham and David and Alice D'Amicol at the lighthouse.

President's Comments: Stan described a few of the items that had been donated for the raffle. Tickets were sold prior to the meeting. Some of the unique items were donated by Jeanne Taylor, mother of Tom Taylor, one of our past presidents. She donated five of Tom Taylor's books.

Stan reviewed the FLA specialty license plate sales and the recent affects from the state's change in license fees.

Stan announced that the FLA Board had approved the evening before, \$10,000 to St Augustine LH and \$2425 to Boca Grande LH through the FLA grant process. Ray Hamel thanked the FLA on behalf of St. Augustine LH & Museum for the grant awarded them.

Stan was excited that the board, through a quick-response email approval, had given Neil Hurley a \$300 grant toward the Egmont Key LH survey.

Stan informed us that April 24, 2010 has been proclaimed Florida Lighthouse Day by Gov. Crist and copies of the proclamation are available to display in the different lighthouses.

Stan recognized one of FLA's Heroes, Al King, for his hard work during Florida Lighthouse Day 2009 with a certificate presentation and a copy of Stan's book, 'So You Want To Move To Florida?'

Stan showed the powerpoint that contained pictures from over the years of Hib Casselberry and his service to FLA. Hib is the first-ever *District Commissioner Emeritus*.

Stan reviewed the jobs that will be available this fall. He encouraged everyone to think about volunteering ...President, VP Meetings, VP Membership and Treasurer.

Stan gave "Thanks" to Stephanie Dingler from Mobile, AL for providing the Cedar Key LH pins at the meeting and to Miller Bearings and Motion for their corporate membership!! They show a lighthouse on the cover of their magazine, Miller Beacon, every month.

New Members: Stan recognized the new members...hands were raised all over the room! The "first-time" attendees were Dave and Beth Burton, Larry Davis & Harriet Abo, Ted and Sandy Dickerson, Ron and Shirley Drummer, Gary and Linda Keene, Allen Kivitt & Patricia Prusak, Roderick and Catherine Lundquist, Mary Randi, Merle and Pamela Steward, Larry and Lanora Sylvester, and Bruce Wright and Judy Williams.

Officers Reports:

Secretary: Beverly Oakes stated that copies of the Lighthouse Reports were available on each of the tables. The previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No corrections or questions, so the minutes were accepted as written. flasecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses.

Key figures reported thru January 31, 2010: Total Cash/License Plate/CD: \$102,763.18, Total Assets (including inventory): \$129,143.98.

Executive VP: Eric Martin reported on a meeting he attended in Tallahassee. He noted that since the SLP fee changes last fall, that the state has been losing money and the SLPs have not made as much money as in months prior to the

fee change. As president of the FKLHF, Eric reported they have the Passport stamps if anyone needs their Passport book stamped.

VP of Meetings: Gayle Stemas gave instructions for the afternoon and for visiting Seahorse Key where Cedar Key LH stands. Gayle announced the next general meetings will be at Boca Grande on June 5, 2010 and the October 2, 2010 will be at Pensacola LH. She suggested that members make their reservations now for the Boca Grande meeting. Harry and Jean Pettit are the planners for the Boca Grande meeting. See the FLA website for registration and hotel accommodations in the area.

VP of Memberships: Christi Sessions was not able to attend the meeting. Christi can be reached at flamembership@gmail.com. Stan said we have 379 memberships which translate to 553 members. We have 28 of the 30 Florida lighthouses as members of FLA which is the largest ever!

VP of Fundraising: Charley Knox was not able to attend the meeting. He did want to let everyone know the new ornament for St. Augustine was available. You can send your name, address and payment and he will mail them to you. Price is \$15.00 plus shipping. The next ornament will be for American Shoals lighthouse which is celebrating its 130th birthday. When you visit the FLA website, please visit the store as new items are always being added.

VP of IT, Webmaster: Stan Beckstrom announced that you can now join FLA or renew your membership right online by using PayPal on the website. He was pleased to say that we passed a milestone of 100,000 visitors to our website. He noted we have had a collection of interesting groups visiting our website.

Committee Reports:

Education: Anne Stewart was not able to attend. Stan reported about a Naples school teacher that had her 4th grade class use lighthouses to teach them about computers. Stan would like to give them a website, FLA4KIDS. Then Cathy Lemus at Stewart Middle School had her 6th grade class do a lighthouse project and they were honored to be featured at the 2010 Florida State Fair in February.

Newsletter: Pat Biggs said she has enough stamps to mail out the next two newsletters. Any stamp donations are still welcome and can be sent to Stan Farnham or Pat Biggs.

PR Committee: Our latest connection is with Miss Florida, USA, Megan Clementi. She would like to climb as many of the Florida lighthouses as she can before her reign ends in July 2010.

Break: The members took a 15 minute break.

Host: Stan introduced our guest speaker, Toni Collins, historian. Toni presented a wonderful monologue of the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper Catherine Hobday. Certificates were presented to Toni Collins, John Kasbohm and Pam Darty for being our hosts.

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

1) Terry Kemp said she had posters for the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge that will be held April 24-25, 2010 over the Florida Lighthouse Day weekend. It will include four lighthouses...Cape St George LH, St Mark's LH, Cape San Blas LH and Crooked River LH.

2) Neil Hurley gave a report about the 'ground penetrating radar' survey that was done on Egmont Key to determine if the foundation of the first Egmont Key Lighthouse from 1848 still exists. He said they have excellent positioning information from a survey conducted in 1888, however, they don't know if the foundation is still present but buried under the sand, or if it was removed sometime in the last 120 years. They think that there is a strong probability that it is still there but buried. Unfortunately, because the grounds are within Egmont Key State Park, no digging is allowed. Neil finished his report that nothing had been located but the data from the survey was still being analyzed...maybe some pilings could be found. He also thanked the FLA for providing the money for the survey at such short notice.

3) Stan thanked John Cronin of The Villages for a \$200 donation from their group.

4) Wanda Mayo invited everyone on over to Pensacola's activities during the Florida Lighthouse Day weekend!

Raffle: Jean Pettit and her helpers assisted Stan with a very successful raffle. All items were donated for the raffle. We also thank Jean Pettit, Lynn Strickland, Mary Farnham and their helpers for handling the raffle ticket sales. The raffle raised \$508.

Janet Garcia was our member that came the farthest distance to attend the meeting...all the way from Hawaii!!

Dennis Stemas was excited to announce that this meeting was our largest (130) attended LH meeting ever and the largest number of new members ever attended!!

Adjournment: President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Beverly Oakes, FLA Secretary

FLASecretary@gmail.com

Lighthouse Reports

Anclote Key:

Visit www.anclotecso.com for more information and schedule of activities.

Cape Canaveral:

The Cape Canaveral lighthouse is currently being surveyed for the lead contamination that was found several years ago. While doing the survey, they will also hopefully uncover the remnants of the original brick walkway and perhaps some of the pilings from the foundations of the keeper's homes. Descendant's day is April 24, 2010 to correspond with Florida Lighthouse Day. It is the one time a year that family members of the displaced residents to visit the grave sites. Information for the free tours held the second Wed. of each month is available on web site. www.CanaveralLight.org



Cape Florida:

The lighthouse will be open **Saturday, April 24** for **Florida Lighthouse Day** as well as **National Lighthouse Day** on **Saturday, August 7**. Friends of the Cape Florida Lighthouse are also planning their **75th Anniversary Event** on **December 17, 2010** with a relighting ceremony.

Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, Crooked River, St. Marks Lights:

These lights are part of the *Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge*, Florida Lighthouse Day, April 24 Saturday and Sunday April 25. The Challenge will offer the opportunity to climb four North Florida lighthouses. Tickets will be available at participating lighthouses on Challenge days, at the cost of \$10 per individual or \$25 for a family of up to five people. Each admission charge includes a Challenge tote bag. All participants will receive a souvenir at each lighthouse and a completion souvenir for visiting all. All the lighthouses will have raffle prizes and other special events. A special Challenge guest will be Miss Florida USA, Megan Clementi. The first ever Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge is funded in part by a generous grant from the Florida Lighthouse Association. Thank you, FLA! The event is also the weekend for the annual Riverfront Festival in Carrabelle.



Cedar Key:

See the February meeting story and photos.

Egmont Key:

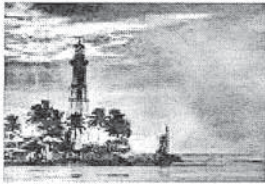
Egmont Key Alliance has set the date for the annual island special event/open house as Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14, 2010. Plans for Florida Lighthouse Day are in the works.

Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation:

This group represents six "Reef Lighthouses", all located on the world's 3rd largest reef in south Florida. Membership starts at \$1.00 a month for individuals and \$2.00 a month for a family. Since membership expires at the end of the year you could join today at \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. If interested in volunteering, talk to Eric or email at ericlighthouse@yahoo.com or call 407-658-0046.

Hillsboro Light Station:

Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse's remaining 2010 scheduled tours are April 24th, May 29th, August 7th (US Lighthouse Week) and November 13th, all Saturdays in 2010. Centennial Commemorative Brick Patio has been designed, but waiting for foundation design engineering and approval by the USCG. We have over 100 bricks sold with requested sayings. See website, www.HillsboroLighthouse.org and click on "BRICK" for details.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum:

For **Florida Lighthouse Day**, the *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse 150th Anniversary Celebration* continues with Two-for-One Admission for children, children's activities & crafts, lighthouse history education, Seaside Chat with author James D. Snyder, live music, and of course promotion of the Florida Lights plate!

Mayport:

The village of Mayport has applied to the National Park Service to have the village designated as a "Preserve America Community." If this package is accepted, it will open the door to grant money which could help our efforts to have the Saint John Lighthouse moved off the Naval Station to the village.

Pensacola:

Historically, the Lighthouse has been closed during winter months because of inclement winter weather, low attendance, and extreme humidity conditions inside the Tower which coats all the ironwork with moisture. This year, the Lighthouse will open the first weekend of April instead of May. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, reservations may be made to watch the Blue Angels practice from a lofty perch on the catwalk 150 feet above the ground! Another keenly popular addition has been Moonlight Ghost Tours one weekend each month. The PLHA has a full-time employee – Operations Director Jon Hill! The Keepers' Quarters has been furnished to provide a glimpse into 1880s lighthouse life. The website has a great new look: pensacolalighthouse.org. A gala Celebration is planned for Florida Lighthouse Day weekend with living history exhibitions, music, crafts, food and fun! Come join us!

Ponce Inlet:

The Principal Keeper's kitchen is now open to the public. The rehabilitated space is now home to the museum's Lighthouse Airways exhibit which includes numerous text panels outlining early 20th century aerial navigation and airfield lighting technology and artifacts from that exciting period. Additional restoration work at the Light Station is underway. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse will offer guests the opportunity to participate in a wide range of educational activities April 24 to celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day. These offerings, from 10 to 2, will include family-oriented workshops, lens maintenance demonstrations, and interactive kid's crafts. Visitors can test their knowledge of historic Florida beacons with the Florida Lighthouse Challenge; to learn about crystal radio sets at the top of the tower; and to interact with Lighthouse volunteers dressed as 1930s-era keepers as they perform routine maintenance on the historic Cape Canaveral rotating first order Fresnel lens. All activities are included with the price of regular admission, no advance reservations required. As always, *FLA members will be admitted free!*

St Augustine:

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum is committed to preservation and maritime education. As a method of reaching at-risk and under-served children the museum has created an educational outreach tool, The Traveling Sea Chest that contains games, activities, and most importantly a hands-on learning experience with a maritime focus. For more information visit [www. staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org).

Braddock point –New York: Wanted to let you know the following..... We are members of FLA as well as owners of the historical Braddock Point lighthouse in Western NY on the shores of Lake Ontario. We are the private owners of this still working, Coast Guard maintained lighthouse from 1896. As Florida Bed and Breakfast innkeepers, we spend our summers at the lighthouse.

This summer for the first time- we will be opening up for a limited time- Braddock Point as a bed and breakfast. Guests will be able to stay in the original keepers home as well as absorb the history of this magnificent property. We are in the process of redesigning the website with photos and more info. In the meantime- anyone interested can contact us at the information posted below.

Thanks for help passing the word

Town Manor On the Lake
585 State Road 559
Auburndale, Florida 33823 USA
Telephone (863) 984-4008
Cellular (863) 289-4008
Fax (863) 984-1801
www.townmanorweddings.com
www.townmanor.com



Welcome to our new members!

Donald & Nandy Town
Nancy & Calbert Hyland
Pamela Cook
Catherine & Roderick Lundquist
Debra & Gary Queen
Mary Randi
Maria Sullivan
Margo & Emil Peyrot
Noel & Christine Toike
Patrick, Susan & Taylor Harmon
Toni Collins
Sandy & Janie Coates
Gail Kristopher Rachel & Joe Perry

Miss Florida-Megan Clementi
Michael & Kathy Houser
Dan Brown
Ted & Sandy Dickerson
John Vaughn III
Carol Krafft
Jim & Donna Dunkin
Bob & Maryann Scroope
Eric Kucera
Susan & Ronald Kosciulek
Kevin & Elizabeth Killilea
Bill & Jill Ward
Roderick Keegan

Membership Year

October 1st through September 30th

Membership Levels and Dues are: Individual \$25 – Family \$35 – Corporate \$100



The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc
15275 Collier Boulevard #210, PMB 179
Naples, Florida 34119



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 Boulevard.#201, PMB179 Naples, Florida 34119

WebSite: www.floridalighthouses.org Email: flapresident@gmail.com

Stan Farnham, *President*

Eric S. Martin, *Executive VP*

Beverly Oakes, *Secretary*

Sharon Puls, *Assistant Secretary*

John Kennedy, *Treasurer*

Dennis & Gayle Stemas, *VP Events*

ChristiSessions, *VP Membership*

Charley Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Stan Beckstrom, *VP Web*

Al King, *VP Grants*

Joyce Hagar, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls, Terry Kemp, *District Commissioners*

Neil E. Hurley, *Historian*

Hib Casselberry, *District Commissioner Emeritus*

Photo credits

Alice D'Amicol

Kellie Larkin

John Kennedy

Stan Farnham

Dede Smith

Neil Hurley

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Boca Grande Lighthouse

June 5, 2010

EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: **May 24, 2010**

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Cell _____ Home _____

LUNCHEON BUFFET

Luncheon buffet will include tossed green salad w/Italian or ranch dressing, wild rice, Key Lime chicken, fresh fruit bowl, rolls & butter, and apple crisp for dessert. Iced tea, water, and coffee will be served. Coffee and water will be available throughout the meeting.

Total number of persons _____ X \$45.pp = _____

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

Dennis and Gayle Stemac

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.