



The FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC

www.floridalighthouses.org

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SPECIAL COLLECTORS EDITION



Celebrations-Special Edition

First Ever Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge a Huge Success
Florida Lighthouse Day April 25, 2010 Draws Crowds
Boca Grande Meeting Features Two Lighthouse Climbs
Annual Meeting at Pensacola October 2 to Celebrate 10 Lighthouses Open Full Time

When Cape St. George Lighthouse fell into the sea in October 2005, six of Florida's lighthouses were open publicly full time. With the announcement June 2010 of Pensacola Lighthouse opening on a full-time basis 10 are now open, including the fully rebuilt Cape St. George and restored Crooked River and Cape San Blas Lighthouses. All now have gift shops and museums! The earlier six: St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter, Cape Florida, Key West, and Boca Grande. FLA's vision: "imagine if all were open." Ten others are open one day a year, a few days or on a part-time basis: Amelia, Anclote, Cape Canaveral, Cedar Key, Egmont, Gasparilla, Hillsboro, Sanibel and St. Marks lights. You can see, but not climb Tortugas Harbor (Garden Key) Lighthouse when visiting Fort Jefferson.

Stan's Beacon

Serving you as president has been a privilege, an opportunity, and a satisfying and rewarding job. We have had the best time meeting nice people all over the state. Hey, I didn't think when you elected me in January 2006, I would serve for nearly five years! But *tempus fugit*!

In the economic turmoil of the past couple of years, we have continued our membership base and strong financial position, without government help. In the process you, and the local organizations, have accomplished much, including some "can't's". Some people said the specialty license plate was impossible, but *Visit Our Lights* is a sustained funding reality. Florida had never provided funds for restoring lighthouses; but did legislate \$1 million for a first time. Some people said Cape St. George volunteers couldn't rebuild a collapsed Cape St. George Lighthouse. The opposite of *can't* is *try*. And *try* paid off. We haven't sought funds for ourselves (FLA), but to help local organizations protect, restore and preserve our remaining 30 lighthouses.

We are proud to have facilitated the strategic planning sessions that focused efforts with laser-like intensity on the vital few priority issues you selected. We are proud of the people who carried out the plan. Gold is in the execution. I'm particularly proud of the officer, commissioner, and delegate team. Thank you to a talented group.

In five years, you have met and conquered some daunting challenges and done a lot. Local volunteers spearheaded efforts that rebuilt Cape St. George and a replica keeper's quarters/museum, restored Crooked River and built a replica keeper's house/museum and pirate ship, restored Cape San Blas and two keeper's quarters and opened a



gift shop, completed a \$1 million restoration of Cape Canaveral and opened a gift shop; completed nearly \$1/2 million improvements at Anclote and finished restoring Amelia from the state grant, began some restoration efforts at Loggerhead and Garden Key (Dry Tortugas), furnished the quarters at Pensacola and completed some restoration work, finished a restoration project on the St. Augustine lantern room, painting and landscaping at Cape Florida and Hillsboro, and restored a number of Fresnel lenses at Ponce Inlet; did restoration work at Boca Grande and St. Augustine using *Visit Our Lights* grants. The *Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation* erected a sign for Sombrero Key Lighthouse in a park in Marathon. Award-winning Vineyards Elementary (Naples) and Stewart Middle school (Tampa) lighthouse projects that introduced young people to lighthouses. Hillsboro celebrated 100 years in 2007. Egmont, Pensacola and Jupiter Lighthouses each had celebrations of their 150th anniversary in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. Jupiter was named in 2008 an Outstanding Natural Area, the first one west of the Pacific Coast and only the third in the U.S. St. Augustine recently allied with the Smithsonian. Imagine what can be done in the next five years!

I'm looking forward to *more travel, more writing and more time with family*. Mary and I have six children, 13 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

For information, contact:

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Dede Smith

Stan Beckstrom

Al King III

Beverly Oaks

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reserved: Thank you!

Pensacola Lighthouse

October 2, 2010

Florida Lighthouse Association

Appropriately, with the announcement of Pensacola opening to the public full-time, FLA's annual meeting will be at Pensacola.

The Pensacola area is undoubtedly one of Florida's best kept secrets. The area is one of the few places that can offer the best of both worlds and something for everyone. There are 52 miles of white sandy beaches with emerald waters in Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key alongside quaint historic areas. Whether you like art galleries, museums, bird watching, golf, restaurants, collecting seashells, or shopping, there is something for you in Pensacola.

The current lighthouse is the second Pensacola Lighthouse and is located approximately ½ mile west of the original site. The construction of this lighthouse was completed in 1858 and the lamp in the



tower's first-order Fresnel lens was first lit on New Year's Day, 1859 by Keeper Joseph Palmes. During the Civil War, the Confederates took control of the tower and removed the lens. Five months later, the tower fell under Union control and was relit again in December, 1862 with a temporary fourth order lens. The original first-



order Fresnel lens was recovered after the war, and was re-installed in the tower's lantern room in 1869. This lens remains in the tower today. Its nightmark is a white flash every 20 seconds. In 1870, the tower was given its distinctive black and white daymark. The lighthouse was electrified in 1938 and automated in 1965.

Today, the lighthouse remains an active aid to navigation. It is located on the grounds of the Pensacola Naval Air Station which is home to the famed Blue Angels. The US Coast Guard owns the site and maintains the lens. The Pensacola Lighthouse Association (PLA) has an exclusive lease to the grounds and is solely responsible for the maintenance and operations of the lighthouse. The PLA has extended a warm invitation to the FLA to come and enjoy their city and visit their magnificent lighthouse and keeper's quarters.

We are planning some special happenings during this meeting as well as a very busy day at the Naval Air Station. The meeting will be held at the Mustin Beach Officers' Club located at 253 Radford Blvd. on the US Naval Air Station. It is a beautiful building with outstanding views of Pensacola Bay.

Dr. John R. Bratten, a nautical archaeologist and conservator at the Archeology Institute at the University of West Florida, has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at this meeting. Dr. Bratten is the Chairperson of the Division of Anthropology and Archaeology as well as an Associate Professor at the University. His professional interests include artifact conservation and preservation as well as maritime archaeology. In addition, Dr. Bratten is a noted author of multiple publications. Needless to say, we are both privileged and honored to have him as our speaker.

After the meeting, put on your walking shoes as our group will be divided. Half the group will visit the National Museum of Naval Aviation, the second largest air and space museum in the world, located a short distance from the lighthouse. The museum features an IMAX theatre with movies every hour, a flight simulator, as well as an interactive history of naval aviation with 150 restored aircraft and over 4,000 artifacts and many exhibits. The second group will visit and climb the lighthouse and tour the keeper's quarters. Members of the PLA will be available to offer assistance and answer questions. Of course, the groups will rotate so everyone can experience both facilities to their fullest. The cost for this meeting, all associated fees, as well as a donation to the lighthouse is \$45.

We are planning an optional event on Saturday evening after the meeting – but it is NOT for the ‘faint of heart’. As everyone is aware, the Pensacola Lighthouse is considered to be one of the most haunted lighthouses in the US. Anyone seeing the TV film, “Most Haunted Lighthouses” will agree with that. It is said that a century of keepers are still roaming the halls of the keeper’s quarters, tower, and grounds and their presence can be felt. There have been countless sightings and mysterious occurrences over the years – the sounds of heavy breathing, doors slamming, and faint whispers. There have been reportings of a woman walking on the catwalk and others have seen a man in the windows of the lighthouse. The Ghostseekers of Texas, a paranormal group, have visited with positive reports. So – if you dare – join us for a **GHOST HUNT**. Climb the 177 steps under the cover of night and we shall see what we shall see. The cost of this tour will be an additional **\$15.** per person with all proceeds going to the Pensacola Lighthouse Association to assist them with costs associated with their current restoration projects. You can reserve your place on this tour by completing the associated space on the reservation form and adding the additional charge to your payment check. Those brave enough to attend will meet at the lighthouse at 7pm on Saturday evening.

Meeting Agenda

8:30 am	Meeting Registration
9:00 am	Annual Meeting of the FLA begins
12:00 pm	Luncheon buffet is served
1:30 – 5pm	Visit the lighthouse and the Museum of Naval Aviation
7pm	<i>Ghost Hunt</i> at the lighthouse

Preferred Hotel

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

307 New Warrington Rd.

Pensacola, Fl. 32506

Phone : 850-696-2800

Rooms will be available both Friday and Saturday evenings for a discounted rate of \$89. These rates will be guaranteed until **9/11/2010**. A deluxe breakfast and all the amenities of a Holiday Inn are included in the price. Cancellation policy is 3 days prior to the event. A forfeit of one night’s room and tax for each room may be assessed.

Boca Grande Meeting Comments

“I certainly enjoyed the meeting at Boca Grande. It was great to be able to climb BOTH lighthouses. I went back for the evening event as well which was a real treat. I’m so glad I did that.” George Diller

“Just wanted to thank you for a fabulous weekend! The program, the lighthouse tour and the people were all wonderful. It takes a lot of dedicated volunteers to produce a meeting of this caliber. Thanks for your leadership!” Nina P. Berkheiser

“The meeting was excellent. Dian Miller did a great job conveying her story of life at the lighthouse.” Sharon McKenzie did a wonderful job (doing double-duties) working with the Coast Guard at both locations and speaking at the event.” Al King III

“We had a great meeting and got to hear wonderful stories from Dian Miller, and we climbed both the Boca Grande and rarely opened Gasparilla Lighthouse”. Dede Smith

“It was a wonderful meeting. A big thanks to all of you who arranged it. Lots of hard work.” LaHoma Cloeren

“The meeting went well and the food was excellent.” Christi Sessions

“We enjoyed the meeting! Gill loved that he got to climb two lighthouses not normally open to climb. It was exciting speaking to the reporter & being part of the photo shoot. I hope we all can somehow get a copy of that picture!” Tracey Waddell

Port Boca Grande Meeting Features Climbing Two Lighthouses



The Port Boca Grande Lighthouse meeting had many highlights including climbing *two* lighthouses rarely open for climbing, a speaker (Dian Miller) who received a standing ovation, a raffle of two dozen prizes (many of them lighthouse replicas), a review of the lighthouse history by host and executive director of the Barrier Islands Park Society, *Sharon Mckenzie* (see photo), a major gift of a collection of lighthouse collectibles from FLA'er *Doris Underwood*, officer reports, introduction of new members and a delicious lunch at the Methodist Lighthouse Church. District 3 Commissioner *Rip Puls* conducted the successful raffle with *Jean Pettit* and *Judy Azbell* selling the tickets.

Following the luncheon, the attendees met at the Gasparilla Light for a group photo and then tours of the Port Boca Grande and Gasparilla Lighthouses.

Dian McKeithen Miller, daughter of Cody McKeithen the Boca Grande Lighthouse Keeper, 1941-1951, shared poignant memories of her life as a child at the lighthouse. Her trip down memory lane with rich memories stirred the sellout crowd at the Methodist Lighthouse Church. They gave her a rousing sustained standing ovation.



Harry Pettit, Meeting Organizer presents certificates to Sharon McKenzie and Dian Miller. New members Marilyn and Don Franks with Stan Farnham.



Alice D'Amicol, Hib Casselberry and Judy Azbell on Boca Grande Porch. Dennis Stemac, Gayle Stemac, Beverly Oakes, Ken Smith, pose with Coast Guard members.



Beverly Oakes, Secretary; Gayle Stemac, VP-Meetings; Christi Sessions, VP-Membership; Nina Berkheiser, new member; View of Gasparilla Light with rust. Photos above by Dede Smith.

Florida Lighthouse Board Meeting

Following an informal dinner at Bella Brezzia, three dozen FLA'ers met in the meeting room of the Hampton Inn-Venice June 4. As has been the custom, members are welcome to attend as observers but only Board members vote. We again had a good turnout of officers and board members and guests. Although the Board discussed several issues, the key item was Board approval informally of a transition time in having a president-elect so that everything would not have to be done all at once after October 2. Ken Smith agreed to serve and had talked with board members before the meeting. He also sent them letters describing his background, willingness to serve and vision for the future. See photo of Stan Farnham and Ken Smith at Gasparilla Light June 5. In other matters, Al King presented a grant request form Anclote which did not meet the license plate criteria but members agreed to review it for a grant from general funds at the next Board meeting. Ken Smith introduced Nina Berkheiser of Your Non Profit Advisor, Inc., who told briefly of her organization in providing management, marketing and fundraising for non profits. She is an FLA member. Stan Farnham reviewed license plate statistics (sold 610 through April, 2010) provided thank you letters from Florida Trust for annual meeting sponsorship, Boca Grande and St. Augustine for grants and Cape St. George. Sharon McKenzie personally thanked the Board and noted the boardwalk between the Keeper's Quarters and Assistant Keeper's Quarters had been completed and all could see it during the tour. Linda Laundergan thanked the group on behalf of St. Augustine Lighthouse for the grant for porch restoration. Terry Kemp attended to thank the Board on behalf of the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge support. Officers all provided reports. Jack Burrie told of attending a Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremony and urged members to attend these. A key motion was Board approval for presenting the 2010 Thomas Taylor award to Fred Gaske.





Photo Left: Beverly Douds, J. C. Ford and Pamela Turner, first to finish the challenge and Charlotte Pierce, President, St. Joseph Historical Society. Photo Right: Beverly Douds registers Challenge Climbers.

Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation



The *FKRLF* supported the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge by having a table at Cape St. George Lighthouse for the two-day event, with President *Eric Martin*, wife *Susan* and *Al King III* handing out pamphlets from 10 am to 5 pm both days. In the photo Eric and Al pass out literature.

Eric Martin said about 200 people came to the *FKRLF* table. "We took in \$350. Susan stamped a lot of passports. We also sold a few books, T-shirts and a fair amount of postcards, as well as a couple of Sombrero Christmas ornaments."

He added they have all six stamps with most people donating \$6. Two people signed up as members, but others are expected later as all visitors received a *FLA* pamphlet and/or a lighthouse specialty license plate *Visit Our Lights* business card.

Cape St. George Lighthouse As mentioned in the *Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge* overview, Cape St. George had a low country boil dinner fundraiser Saturday night. Here are some photos from Cape St. George.



Photo left: Terry Kemp, Miss Florida USA Megan Clementi; Dennis Barnell, Miss Emerald Coast Teen USA Cassie McFarland and Skip Kemp. Photo Middle: Megan autographs for Ken Smith. Photo right: Low Country Boil entertainment.

Crooked River Lighthouse



Photo Left: Crooked River Keeper's Quarters and Museum. Photo right: Arlene Oehler, President Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, at Registration Desk.

Library Box Replica Dedication at Crooked River

Arlene Oehler noted Joan Matey, Curator of the Crooked River Lighthouse Keeper's House Museum, took advantage of the presence of Miss Florida and her attendants during the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge Event, to dedicate a replica of the USLH Issue Library Box constructed by local antique restorer, Jack Stewart. Visitors have taken lists of the original books lent by USLHE to see if they can find them to donate. Oehler said they would place a replica of the original book plate in each one.



Picture L to R: Miss Emerald Coast Teen USA, Cassi McFarland; Miss Northwest Florida, Morgan Mount; Miss Alachua County Teen USA, Natalie Martinez; Curator, Joan Matey; Miss Florida USA, Megan Clementi.

Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge Finances

Terry Kemp reported the organizers paid event expenses solely with the grant money received from FLA (\$2,000), Franklin County Tourist Development Council (\$2,000), Gulf County TDC (\$1,000) and \$700 raised from selling "lodging sponsorships" to local lodging providers. "After all the bills were paid and grant reimbursements received, each of three lighthouses received \$1,400." Terry Kemp said. St. Mark opted not to take a share because they profited from their NWR entrance fee, which they could not waive. Kemp said "Once again, we are very grateful for FLA's support. We are proud of the success of the first Lighthouse Challenge in Florida, and hope we contributed in some small way to the realization of the mission of FLA." This first-ever lighthouse challenge in Florida was a great success.

St. Marks Lighthouse



Andy Edel and Ken Clineman in period costume (left), Ken's wife Connie, in period costume and Andy and Beverly Oakes, FLA Secretary and widow of past president, Gene Oakes.

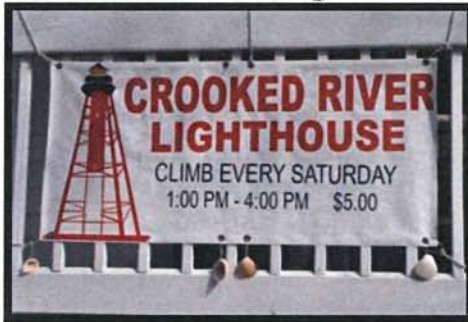


Point St. Joe Lighthouse.

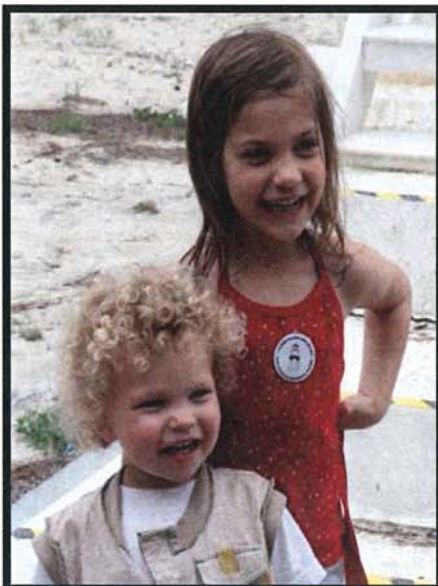
Of the remaining 30 historical Florida lighthouses, only one is privately owned by FLA'er Danny Raffield. It is not open for tours, but here's a *Florida Lighthouse Day* photo by Dede Smith.

Check it out online for a color photo view along with all the other photographs in this issue with top-notch photographs taken by FLA'ers during the celebratory weekend April 24-25.

Signs of the Florida Lighthouse Day Celebration.



Photos top left to right: Crooked River, St. Augustine and St. Marks. Next row: Cassie McFarland and Megan Clementi look out over the Challenge scene in St. George Lighthouse Park from the porch of the Lighthouse Keeper's House Museum and banner at Cape San Blas.



The Youngest Climber

Valerie Silverman and her two children, Illyanna and Ceton, climbed three lighthouses on Saturday and Sunday visited St. Marks.

Beverly Oakes snapped their photo at Cape San Blas. Ceton, just 2-1/2 years old climbed the lighthouses...his mom didn't carry him! If you know of a younger one who met the challenge, then let us know!

Valerie said: "Illyanna and Ceton really enjoyed themselves. It was a great mix of learning, fun, and adventure. We are now planning on seeing more of the lighthouses throughout Florida."

She added: "My daughter even brought her stamped card to school to share with her class."

Lighthouse Reports and Meeting Minutes

The Lighthouse Reports were passed out at the meeting and are available upon request, from FLAPresident@gmail.com. The minutes of Boca Grande meeting will be available at the Pensacola meeting. Minutes are also available upon request.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY – THANK YOU!

COLOR COPIES ON DEMAND

We hope you enjoy your full colored copy of the *Flash*. We thought this “Special Collectors Edition” should be made really special with all color.

We will offer a “*Color on Demand*” for any future issues. This means when you get your black and white *Flash* and want a full color copy, you may contact us with a check for \$5.00 and we will send you a full colored copy of that months issue. If we get a great response on this program, you may request a “*Color On Demand*” copy on a yearly basis. Pay for one year and automatically get a colored copy without delay.

See next issue for more details on where to mail checks etc.



Florida Lighthouse Association Membership

Mail your check / money order to the address provided below
or Join / Renew and pay via PAYPAL!

Visit our Website, www.floridalighthouses.org

Click on Join and Choose your Level.

(PayPal will open in new window)

OR

1. Fill out appropriate form. (General or Corporate)
2. Make check / money order payable to: **The FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION**
3. Mail check or Money Order to: **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: _____

List additional family member's names below:

Ph: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Email: _____

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

Company: _____

Member (1): _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Member (2): _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Website: _____

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



The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc
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Membership Year

October 1st through September 30th

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

Welcome to our new members!

Christi Sessions, VP-Membership sent a big Thank You to David and Alice D'Amicol, who supplied all of the lighthouses during the *Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge* with FLA flyers and applications. This resulted in a number of new members. Alice wrote enthusiastically about the event: "It was a SUPER weekend!!!!Great job by everyone!!!!"

Robert Knight
The Light; Lighthouse Point News & Beyond - Roberta & Larry Turner
Nina Berkheiser
Discovery Cruise Line-Anthony Parker & Hanns Hahn
Carol & Tony Sims
Paris Wiley & Caroline Brenner
Rose & Charles Poole
Fonda Thomas
Linda Laundergan
Mary & David DeMersseman
Martha Crawford & William Fulton
Marilyn & Chuck Turk
Carole Yankus
Peggy & Louis Carilli
Garrett & Nancy Smith
Margaret England

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

Pensacola Lighthouse

October 2, 2010

EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: **September 17, 2010**

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Cell _____ Home _____

LUNCHEON BUFFET

Luncheon buffet will include a 2 hot entrée buffet of the chef's choice with a house salad w/your choice of 2 dressings. The buffet will also feature a starch and a vegetable dish of the chef's choice. Coffee, iced tea, and water will be provided. Dessert will be assorted cookies/bars or brownies.

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

Number of persons attending Ghost Hunt ____ X \$15.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.