



# FLASH

## FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

### FLA Revamps Web Site

*Stan Beckstrom, VP IT and Webmaster for FLA, has revamped our Web site including the way we handle membership records*

**Page 3**

### FLA's October Lighthouse Congress

*Three lighthouses, two-and-a-half days, twice the speakers and presentation of any previous meeting. We had to call it more than a "meeting" -- it will be a CONGRESS*

**Pages 1, 4 & 5**

### Lighthouse Reports

*Read about all that is going on among Florida's 30 remaining historic lighthouses.*

**Page 8**

## OCTOBER 21-23, 2011 FLA LIGHTHOUSE CONGRESS

### Cape San Blas Lighthouse

Ron Ecker, Vice President Meetings/Events is pleased to announce the Florida Lighthouse Association first ever LIGHTHOUSE CONGRESS. The meeting is officially hosted by Cape San Blas but we will also visit and have the opportunity to climb Cape St. George and Crooked River over the two-and-a-half days.

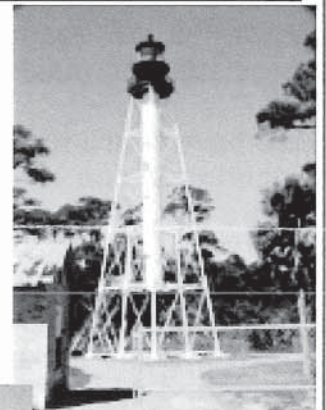
We start Friday night with the producer of the PBS documentary "Lighthouses of the Gulf Coast: Sand Island to St. Marks" telling us about his passion for lighthouses and the process of creating this nationally award-winning piece. He will then show us the documentary on the big-screen. We will have finger food and a time to socialize.

Speakers on Saturday include representatives from St. Joseph Historical Society telling of their preservation efforts at the Cape San Blas lighthouse and keepers' houses. Also, Danny Raffield who will tell us of his 40-year quest that started with purchasing the St. Joseph Point lighthouse and recently climaxed with topping this beautiful lighthouse with a new lantern room. Lunch will be a low country boil, famous in this region of the State.

Sunday will bring speakers from Cape St. George and Crooked River groups. Lunch will be sandwiches.

There will be three opportunities to visit and climb Cape San Blas, Cape St. George and Crooked River. One visit will be a night climb opportunity. See pages 4 and 5 for more details and 11 for registration form.

Cape  
San  
Blas



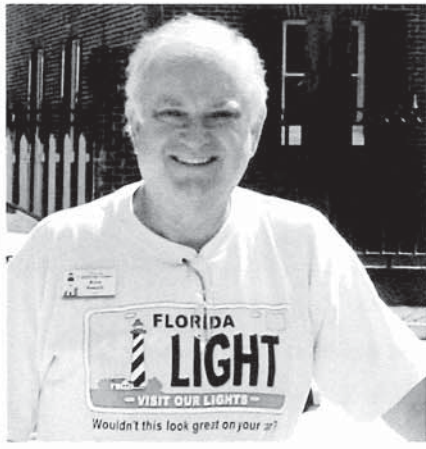
Cape  
St.  
George

Crooked  
River





## FLASH



Thank you to all who made the Anclote Meeting in May a huge success. A meeting that features a visit to a lighthouse on a remote island will always be the most challenging we will ever have, but often it is also the most rewarding.

Florida Lighthouse Day was a huge success with most of our lighthouse members having special activities. We thank Gov. Scott for signing the proclamation making the day official.

We have heard from many of you about the last few meetings. You have asked for more content and more specific program material centered on maritime and local history and issues. The October meeting will be our largest ever. In fact, so much content that we have now booked a full two-and-a-half days and expanded to three official lighthouse visits and opportunities to climb (and one unofficial visit). One of those will be a night visit and opportunity to climb.

You have also asked for more "social" time -- time where we can get together and just socialize. We have made it official. At Anclote we had "Movie Night" on Friday night and 85 of you came. The Anclote Key documentary was very interesting. For the October Lighthouse Congress we will have Mike Rowan, producer of the nationally award winning PBS documentary "Lighthouses of the Gulf Coast: Sand Island to St. Marks" as our guest. He will talk about it, then we will watch it. The Meetings Team has arranged for finger food, wine and soft drinks and just some down time so we can enjoy being together.

**Keep the light shining,  
Ken Smith, President FLA**



65 years ago BB Sorenson came to Cape San Blas as the Lighthouse Keeper. Here he raised his family and tended the light. Granddaughter, Dawn Evans Radford, who still lives in the area, has shared these pictures of life at the lighthouse at the end of the oyster shell road with a neighborhood of eccentric Florida crackers. BB loved the solitude, the fishing, and his garden with tomatoes, peas and collards.





FLASH

# FLA Has New Web Site

## More User Friendly Powered By Wild Apricot



Go to [www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org) and check it out. All the same features you are used to but much friendlier -- and it also features a new "Member's Section." What is Wild Apricot? They now host our Web site and give us the ability to have our membership records on line and totally secure. We can also conduct all our business on our secure site so you can renew your membership, help your friends become members, purchase products from our store, register for meetings and much, much more. If you are a member you have already been contacted about how to log on, change your password and verify all your personal information. Thank you Stan Beckstrom VP IT and Linda Peck VP Membership and your teams for your hard work in merging your areas and making our Web site better.



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**Cape San Blas, Cape St. George and Crooked River Lighthouses****October 21-23, 2011****HOTELS****Mainstay Suites**

3951 E. Hwy 98 North  
Port St. Joe, FL. 32456  
850-229-6246

\$71.99 per night queen  
\$79.99 per night two queens

**Port Inn**

501 Monument Ave.  
Port St. Joe, FL. 32456  
850-229-7678

\$90 per night queen  
\$108 per night two full beds  
\$144 per night suite

**El Governor Motel**

Mexico Beach,  
FL 32410

850-648-5757  
\$75 high rise  
per night  
(12 mi. W.)



# Florida Centennial Building

300 Allen Memorial Way  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32450

- The historic Centennial Building was built in 1937 to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the signing of Florida's first constitution. We will start Friday night with the Movie Night showing of "Lighthouses of the Gulf Coast: Sand Island to St. Marks." General meetings will be here Saturday and Sunday mornings.

- The cost for this two-and-a-half day meeting including three lighthouse visits and opportunities to climb, Friday night finger food, Saturday and Sunday lunches, and donations to the three lighthouse preservation groups is **\$80** per person for members and **\$95** for non-members.

**MEETING AGENDA**

- Friday, October 21, 8:00 pm "Movie Night" and social time
- Saturday, October 22. 9:00 am-noon, morning meeting
- Lunch will be a low country boil
- Saturday afternoon opportunity to visit and climb one lighthouse
- Saturday evening opportunity to visit and do a night climb of second lighthouse
- Sunday, October 23, 9:00 am-11:30 am, morning meeting
- Lunch will be sandwiches and salads
- Sunday afternoon, opportunity to visit and climb third lighthouse

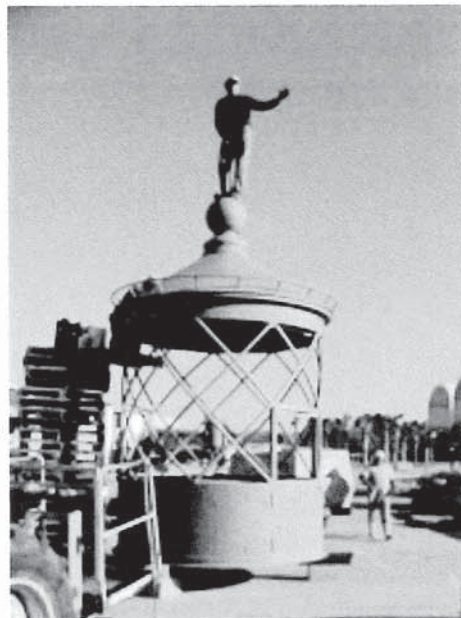


### Danny Raffield to be Keynote Speaker

Danny Raffield first fell in love with the old St. Joseph Point lighthouse as a teenager. He bought the old dilapidated house, moved it to a lot on the bay and spent the next 43 years restoring her to her previous splendor. Danny will tell us his story and show us the forty-year quest in pictures. He is our keynote speaker on Saturday, October 22nd.

This picture is of Danny standing on top of the lantern room before it was painted and placed on top of the house.

The picture below is the lantern room being placed on the house by a crane.



### Representatives from St. Joseph Historical Society To Tell "Sleeping Beauty" Story

The pictures below are the "before" and "after" pictures of "Sleeping Beauty," one of the keepers' houses at Cape San Blas. The St. Joseph Historical Society has taken the dilapidated house and completely restored it. Sleeping Beauty is the house on the right in the right-hand picture. The Society now uses both of the houses for their museum, gift shop, offices and sleeping space for volunteers. The Historical Society will be telling us about their work on Saturday morning.





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## The Anclote Meeting

May 21, 2011



On the program -- FLA Pres. Ken Smith, Friends of Anclote VP Scott Tucker, Michael John, soloist Taylor England, mayor David Archie, Pastor Doug Zipperer and Light Keeper Patricia Eldon



Tarpon Springs Mayor David Archie presents FLA President Ken Smith with an official welcome and key to the city



Light Keeper for the meeting Patricia Eldon, grand-daughter-in-law of Anclote Key Light Keeper C. C. Eldon with "FLASH"



Local historian and guide Michael John was our host for the day



Fresnel lens expert Dan Spinella of Artworks-Florida was our keynote speaker. Ken Smith gives him "thank you" plaque



Left -- Featured speaker Mike Bennett, Director of Operations, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, gave a wonderful visual report on recent restoration efforts partly funded by an FLA License Plate Fund grant

Right -- The Riverside was a wonderful meeting place with fantastic Greek food





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The boat ride to the remote island of Anclote Key was worth it all. Here are members departing the boat with the Anclote Key lighthouse ahead of us.



Friends of Anclote member and former FLA VP Eric Sharpe was one of our guides



FLA members Ed and Dorothy Butler coming down after climbing the lighthouse



FLA members standing in line to climb -- another hot, humid day with plenty of mosquitoes but a wonderful view from the top

365 Club and Challenge Club members were treated to a guided tour of the sponge docks after hours. In the top photo our guide, Michael John, and Thomas the singing waiter serenade the group with Greek folk songs



Michael John introduces Omar, the old surfer, to the Club



Lens builder and expert Dan Spinella spent the afternoon on the island with several lens pieces and talked to FLA members about lenses and his work in restoration and construction of replicas



Beverly Oakes, FLA secretary and 365 Club member, samples Cuban Coffee. 365 Club and Challenge Members also enjoyed sampling Greek wine and baklava



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## Winter 2011 Lighthouse Reports

### Amelia Island:

Florida Lighthouse day was a success with over 100 people visiting the Lighthouse. Helen O'Hagan Sintes, Tommy O'Hagan, Hal



Belcher and Ed Livingston were on hand to provide a living history of our light.

The Coast Guard has "down-selected" a vendor to replace the turning mechanism for our 3rd order Fresnel lens. We hope to have the motor, drive train, and bearings replaced within the next few weeks.

The City of Fernandina Beach offers tours every first and third Wednesday at 10am. Helen O'Hagan Sintes is the docent for these tours. Note - tower climbs are still not allowed! For more details and reservations, please call (904)277-7350.

### Anclote Key:

A group from US Lighthouse Society visited in April. We had Open House the week after State Lighthouse Day, due to a



commitment for an Earth Day celebration. Our next Open House will be in September to celebrate the anniversary of the re-lighting.

Visit [www.anclotecso.com](http://www.anclotecso.com) for more information and schedule of activities.

### Cape

#### Canaveral:

The Air Force is conducting tours every week on Wednesday and Thursday. Call Patrick



Air Force Base Public Affairs Office at 321-494-5945 or 321-494-5933 to reserve.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation is excited to finally be starting a brick buying campaign. We will be selling bricks to create walkways to the old keepers' cottages. Markers will be placed at the sites of the cottages until enough money is raised to rebuild them. For more information on the bricks visit our web site at [www.canaverallight.org](http://www.canaverallight.org).

### Cape San

#### Blas:

The St. Joseph Historical Society, Inc. was recognized on May 12, 2011 at the 2011



Tallahassee / Leon County Historic Preservation Awards Program for their efforts to restore and preserve the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Sponsored by the Florida Heritage Foundation,

Inc. and the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc., the Society was honored with a "Preservation Project of Regional Impact" Award. Other project partners included the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, MLD Architects; Restocon Corporation and Richard Givens, Structural Engineers Group.

### Cape St.

#### George

#### Light:

Florida Lighthouse Day was a huge success with a record 377 people



climbing to the top of the lighthouse at no charge and enjoy BBQ chicken dinners and music on the porch of the Keeper's House.

Sunset/Full Moon Climbs will continue throughout the summer. Please check our website at

[www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org) for dates and times. Hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon are offered each month. After sunset, the lighthouse remains open for a short time for full moon viewing.

Production of exhibits for the Lighthouse Keeper's House Museum is underway, with a target opening date for Phase I still anticipated sometime around the start of the summer season.



**Cedar**

**Key:**

The Cedar Key Sea Food Festival and Light Station Open House will be October



22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We welcome volunteers to help out this weekend. It is a great experience to have.

end of Egmont in 1866 after a boiler explosion. We want to also snorkel on the sunken gun batteries on the south end of the island. We are interested in putting together a scuba diving trip to the same locations.

We have launched our Commemorative Brick Program and I will have order forms for anyone interested in participating. We will display them on the island until we determine a suitable location near the lighthouse.

new T-shirts featuring Carysfort Lighthouse which turns 160 next year.

Looking for volunteers, see Eric or email [ericlighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:ericlighthouse@yahoo.com)

**Crooked**

**River:**

on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm we gather with positive hearts for a safe hurricane



season. Church leaders from the Carrabelle community shared a blessing for the coast from the top of the lighthouse tower. Light refreshments were available after the half hour ceremony.

**Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation:**

**Boat Trip Sunday, December 4, 2011.** Carysfort Reef Lighthouse is



the hardest reef lighthouse for the average person to get to...SO we are having a 2nd boat trip in December to go there. The boat leaves Key Largo SUNDAY, December 4th at NOON. The trip is estimated to take 4.5 to 5 hours.

Original deadline has passed so the cost is \$70.00 for non-members that are not going to the trip the day before add \$5.00. For more details, <http://www.reeflights.org> under Meetings and Events.

Lighthouse items will be available, so bring your check book or cash. Get your chance to win a single digit Harbour Lights American Shoal model by buying a raffle ticket for \$5.00 or 6 for \$20.00. Check out our

**Hillsboro Light Station:**

See the HLPS website,



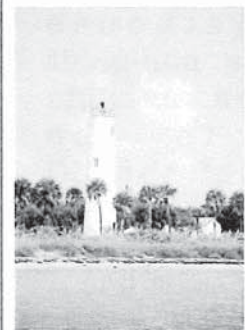
[www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org) for details of upcoming events.

**Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum:**



The Loxahatchee River Historical Society was

recently honored by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County with the prestigious 2010 Judge James R. Knott Award for historical contribution. The Society's work in historic preservation, not only of the Lighthouse and mound, but the Keeper's Workshop and surrounding grounds, were recognized by the County's historical organization. The Palm Beach Post recently polled readers in the county about their favorite top local landmark and the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was voted their #1 favorite garnering 49.3% of the votes!



**Egmont Key:**

We are in the planning stages of a visit by the Bay Area Reef Runners dive group to visit the island and snorkel on the wreck of

the USS Narcissus, a Union tugboat that sank off the north



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The Breakers Hotel on Palm Beach came in second with 12.1% of the votes. We are delighted to be honored by the public and by the show of appreciation and recognition of the importance our maritime heritage and our Jupiter Light! Shine On!

**Pensacola:**

Visitors are flocking in from all over the globe these days. Our wonderful Coast Guard men in blue



recently completed some much-needed, long-overdue electrical work to the lamp changer, lens motor, and lens room. It seems government funds are hard to come by these days... Our septic system has just been replaced since the original 1939 pipes finally "gave up the ghost". There was much cheering and celebrating when the Porta-Potties finally drove away!

All the porch decking is being replaced with shiplap instead of tongue-and-groove, all the fascia & soffits top and bottom are being replaced, the railing spindles are being reworked, and then everything will be painted and sealed. What a wonderful facelift. Thanks FLA!

Blue Angel tours on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings continue to sell out every month and when you're up in the Panhandle this is a MUST SEE! Light of the Moon tours are held each month near the full moon.

**St Augustine:**

The Nation's Oldest Port Finders Keepers Summer Camp 2011 was a huge success.

Three different camps were offered over 6 weeks. All camping sessions included arts and crafts, creative writing, science and technology, an offsite excursion, games, lunch, snacks, and of course climbing the Lighthouse.



**LAMP** (Archaeological Maritime Program) hosts an accredited maritime archaeological field school each summer. This 3-week field practicum is open to graduate, undergraduate, and non-traditional students wishing to learn the basics of archaeological recording, underwater excavation, remote sensing survey, artifact collection & analysis, and laboratory procedures while working on one or more historic shipwreck sites. For more information, follow the links at our website.

In April, the First Light Maritime Society hosted two wonderful events. First, Dr. Ford Bell, President of the American Association of Museums spoke on the role of Museums. "Museums are much more than mere civic amenities. And they are much more than a part of communities. They are our communities, large and small, all across America," Bell said. "We must all communicate the

value museums bring to this country." The second event was a Presentation on Jackson Walker's History Art Collection: Legendary Florida. Dr. Gary Mormino, an accomplished historian, narrated Walker's paintings while Robert Kerr, violinist, provided an original soundtrack inspired by the collection.

For more information about daily and ongoing events come visit us at [www.staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org).



Florida Lighthouse Association is a non-profit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state's 1200 mile coast line.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible.





## Florida Lighthouse Congress

October 21 - 23, 2011

### EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline Oct 7, 2011

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print):

1) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print):

2) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### LUNCHEON

Lunch on Saturday will be Low Country Boil (shrimp, corn, potatoes, and sausage), Salad and drinks. Lunch for Sunday will be Sandwiches, Salad, Chips and drinks.

I want to join the Florida Lighthouse Association (check one)

Single Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Membership \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

I want to make a donation \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Social Hour and Meetings

Total number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$80pp = \_\_\_\_\_

Non- members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$95 pp = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we will attend the Friday Social Hour.

The order that I wish to Visit the Lighthouses ( Second choice is the night climb)

Cape san Blas \_\_\_\_\_ Cape St. George \_\_\_\_\_ Crooked River \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION. Mail this form and your payment to:  
 Ron Ecker, PO Box 372153, Satellite Beach, FL. 32937

The FLA has a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.

An e-mail will be sent for reservation confirmation; if you do not have an e-mail I will mail you a confirmation.

All reservations received **after** the deadline will be returned.



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE  
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1676

St. Petersburg, FL 33731

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STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 214

**Give a gift of FLA membership to a someone you care about.**  
**It is a great gift and you will be helping to preserve Florida lighthouses.**

**Florida Lighthouse Association Membership**

- |                                                 |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Fill out form                                | Individual membership \$ 25 |
| 2. Make check to Florida Lighthouse Association | Family membership \$ 35     |
| 3. Mail to: FLA Membership Linda Peck           | Corporate membership \$100  |
- 2081 NE 27th Street  
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064
- For more information or to give a membership on line:  
[www.FloridaLighthouses.org](http://www.FloridaLighthouses.org)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_