



# FLASH

## FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

### Cape San Blas

*The lighthouse and keepers' houses are in danger of collapsing into the quickly eroding Gulf of Mexico. See pics and learn what you can do.*

**Pages 1 and 2**

### FLA's October Sanibel Meeting

*Details of our second Lighthouse Congress.*

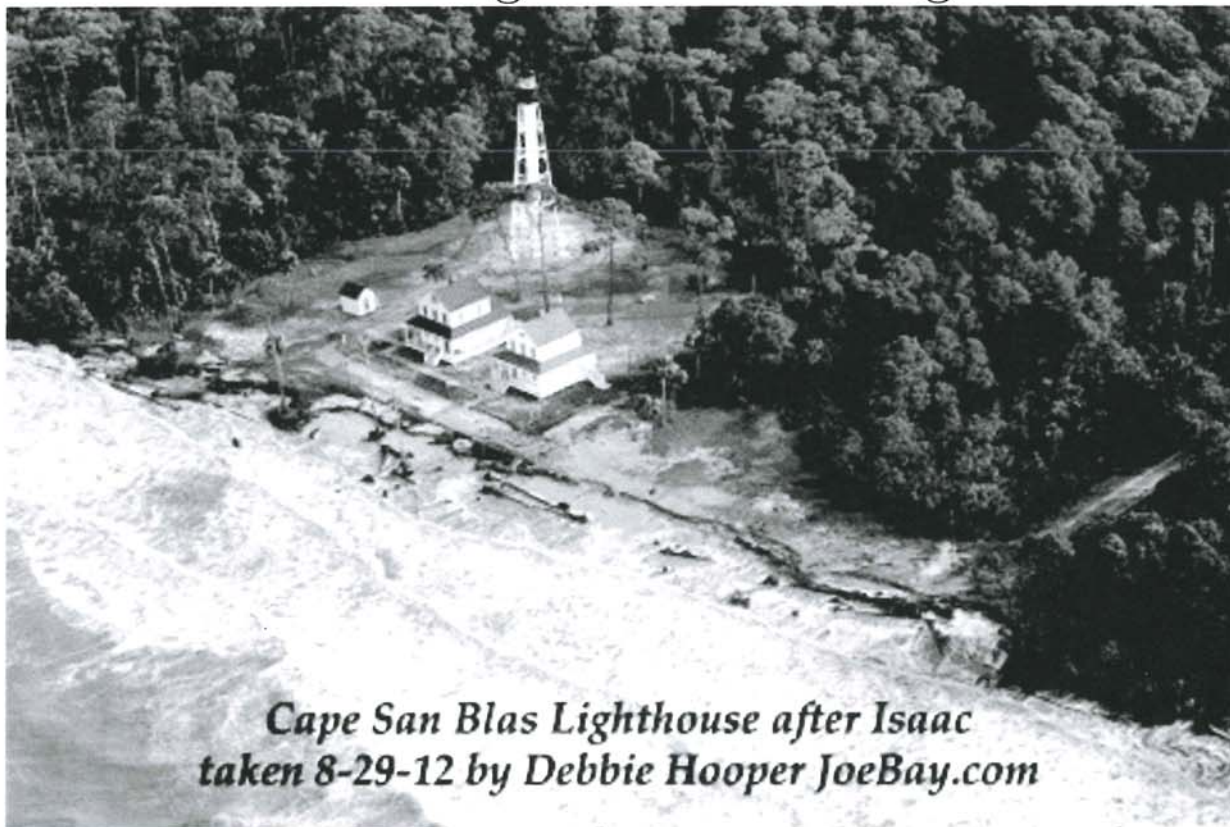
**Page 5**

### Projects and Work Happening at Florida Lighthouses

*Pictures and stories of the restoration work going on with Florida Lighthouses*

**Pages 6 - 10**

## CAPE SAN BLAS Florida Lighthouse In Danger



***Cape San Blas Lighthouse after Isaac  
taken 8-29-12 by Debbie Hooper JoeBay.com***

98 years ago the Cape San Blas Lighthouse was moved a quarter mile inland after a hurricane destroyed the keepers' houses and left the tower in knee-deep water. The sands of the Cape continue to shift and after hurricanes Debbie and Isaac the buildings and tower are once again in jeopardy. As you can see, the road has washed completely away with this year's storms. The next storm will surely bring the Gulf up to the front porches of the historic houses.

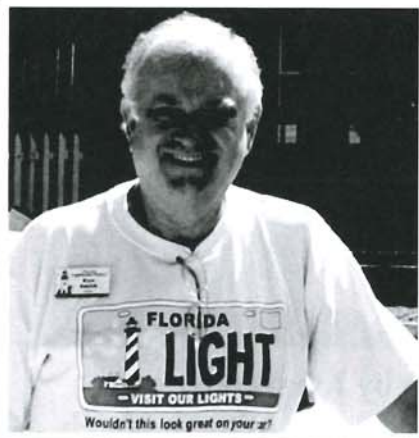
# FLASH

The picture at right is a historic picture that shows the lighthouse a quarter mile from the beach after it was moved in 1916.

The tower was built in 1885 1,500 feet from the Gulf of Mexico. By 1890 the 98 foot tower was only 144 feet from the water. The beach continued to erode until the hurricane of 1916 forced the lighthouse to be moved.

The picture below was taken in 2003. You can see the barracks at the shoreline is the same building located quite a bit inland in the picture on the right.





We are all alarmed at the erosion that has caused the Cape San Blas Lighthouse to be in danger of falling into the Gulf of Mexico. The pictures say it all. This year Hurricanes Debbie and Isaac

have moved the shoreline even closer to the keepers' houses that now house the St. Joseph Historical Society Museum and welcome center (including "Sleeping Beauty," the beautifully rescued and restored keepers' house on the right side), the recently restored oil house and the lighthouse.

The Historical Society, the City of Port St. Joe, the US Air Force, the US Coast Guard and others are working to move the buildings and tower to a safe area away from the shifting sands. This will require approvals from several government agencies and money. These approvals take time -- time we do not have.

Go to their web site at [www.capesanblaslight.org](http://www.capesanblaslight.org) to see the latest pictures and check on the progress. This is a race against time. It is likely that when the next storm comes (and it will) that we will lose that race -- that the keeper's houses and oil house may be lost.

We believe in the work being done. For that reason, the Florida Lighthouse Association has given a \$25,000 Gene Oakes Lighthouse Fund Grant for the rescue of this important historical lighthouse and other buildings.

We all need to work together on this important rescue. We cannot afford to lose this lighthouse. Our Association will be giving more to this -- the Board recently discussed this and are enthusiastic about it. Will you help? Will you consider making a tax deductible donation to the Florida Lighthouse

Association today to help this and other efforts to preserve all Florida lighthouses?

There is a lot of other things happening, too. At Pensacola the restoration of the old Carriage House is complete. This was an important restoration done by the Pensacola Lighthouse Association. Our Association is proud to have helped with a Gene Oakes Lighthouse Grant.

At Hillsboro Inlet the important repair work is going on. Replacing and repairing doors and mitigating rust damage is important to preserving the lighthouse. The local Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society has taken the lead on this. Again, we are proud to have helped with a Gene Oakes Lighthouse Grant.

The work at the Cedar Keys Lighthouse is very impressive. The University of Florida approached us about matching funds to complete this work. You will see on page 6 of this newsletter the amazing pictures of the results. Also impressive is the side-by-side pictures of before and after. Again, we were able to help fund this work through our Gene Oakes Lighthouse Fund.

At this writing it appears the National Park Service is asking that the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse be turned over to them. The Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation has made contact with park officials offering support. This may be an important alliance, but this important reef light is in need of work. It is likely the National Park Service through the Reef Lights group will ask our help. We will be there offering whatever help we can through grants and asking our members to provide expertise.

As you can see there is much work to do. All of this work takes money. And we are fortunate to have the Specialty License Plate income, but it is not near enough. Will you consider helping? If you have given in the past please consider giving again. And if you have never given to help this important preservation work this is the time to consider giving.

Thank you for all you do to help keep the lights shining,

See you at Sanibel --  
Ken Smith, President

FLASH

www.FloridaLighthouses.org

# LIGHTHOUSE BOOK REVIEW

By Eric Martin

Executive Vice President - Florida Lighthouse Association  
President - Florida Keys Reef Lights Association



## KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT

Myrna Kanekkeberg

A history of the St. Marks Lighthouse and  
the Gresham Family, Wakulla County  
History, Florida

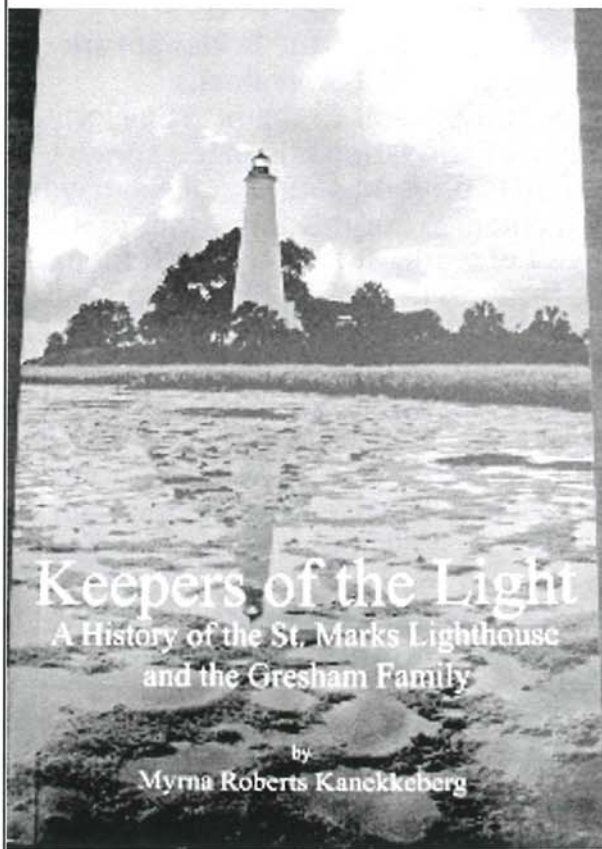
The introduction is written by John Roberts, the brother of the author, who handled much of the research. In the introduction we learned part of the reason this book was written was due to the fact that the Florida Lighthouse Association had a false statement in a pamphlet used by docents at St. Mark's Lighthouse. The statement indicated that Charles Fine, John's great-grandfather had been killed and devoured by an alligator! While it made a great story it was simply not true, he had died of natural causes. John also explained that many of the pictures had the wrong names of the people in the photo and the keeper's list had mistakes.

Chapter 9 entitled, "EPISODES FUN, NEAR TRAGIC AND UNIQUE," is an interesting chapter. Items covered include: Halley's Comet, the dirigible USS Shenandoah, the Ringling Bothers' yacht, burning of the Dispatch, sponge fishing, early airplanes and Eskimos. Yes! They had Eskimos visit the lighthouse.

Then we learn or are reminded that this lighthouse was isolated for many years. To visit the lighthouse one had to go by boat. In 1931 the WPA (Works Projects Administration) built the road to the lighthouse. This is the same year the St. Marks Refuge was established. After the road was built the number of visitors increased so much that they had to have a schedule for visiting so that the work could be done at the light station.

This book includes many family stories and details of everyday life at the lighthouse. Also many excerpts from the keeper's log books are used, which to me is always interesting.

Thanks Myrna and John for correcting and adding to the St. Marks Lighthouse history.



Keepers of the Light  
A History of the St. Marks Lighthouse  
and the Gresham Family

by  
Myrna Roberts Kanekkeberg

HOTELS



**West Wind Inn**  
 3345 West Gulf Dr.  
 Sanibel Island, FL 33957  
 (239) 472-1541  
 \$115.00 call hotel and mention FLA



**Holiday Inn Sanibel Island**  
 1231 Middle Gulf Dr.  
 Sanibel Island, FL 33957  
 (800) 443-0909  
 \$149.00 island view



**Hampton Inn and Suites**  
 11281 Summerlin Square Blvd.  
 Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
 (239) 437-8888  
 \$89.00 plus tax



**Candlewood Suites  
 Fort Myers-Sanibel**  
 9740 Commerce Center Court  
 Fort Myers, FL 33908  
 (239) 210-7788  
 \$65 queen, \$75 king, \$85 king suite

**Sanibel Lighthouse Congress  
 October 26-27, 2012**



**MEETING LOCATION**

You may register on line at [www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org)

The Florida Lighthouse Association is proud to welcome the American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee to this meeting. The ALCC is a Non-Profit Corporation composed of a consortium of organizations and individuals dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of American lighthouses. The ALCC isn't a traditional lighthouse heritage or preservation organization; it's a consensus-driven group presenting concerns on lighthouse policy issues with a unified voice. It will be interesting to hear what they are doing for American's lighthouses.

Our meetings will be held at the **Sanibel Island Community Center** on Sanibel Island starting with the board meeting Friday night at 6:00 PM, followed by our Social event around 7:00. There will have a variety of food items: shrimp, scallops, dipping veggies, cheese, nuts, and beer/wine. The Saturday meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and will feature two speakers; lunch, which will include sliders, fruit, cheese, veggies and drinks, will be served about 12:00.

The Lighthouse will be open for climbing from approximately 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Saturday afternoon. In addition to climbing the Lighthouse, meeting attendees are able visit the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village ( <http://www.sanibelmuseum.org> )at no additional cost.

Cost for this event will be \$65.00, which includes the Friday night Social, the Saturday meeting and lunch, the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village, and a donation to the Lighthouse. We hope to see you in October!

**On the reservation please indicate if you will be at the Friday night Social Hour and also if you desire a vegetarian meal.**

# CEDAR KEYS LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION

A cooperative effort between the University of Florida and the Florida Lighthouse Association



The Cedar Keys Lighthouse first shined on August 1, 1854. The lighthouse on a hill with a tall 75-foot focal plane marks the entrance to the Suwannee River. Quickly, commerce grew around the islands of the area and by 1860 a railroad connection was completed to Jacksonville. Cedar Key became the most important port on the West Coast of Florida. Now, 158 years later the lighthouse continues to serve, but now as part of a University of Florida's Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory. This recent restoration was done by the University with matching funds provided by the Florida Lighthouse Association through our Gene Oakes Lighthouse Grants program.



2010



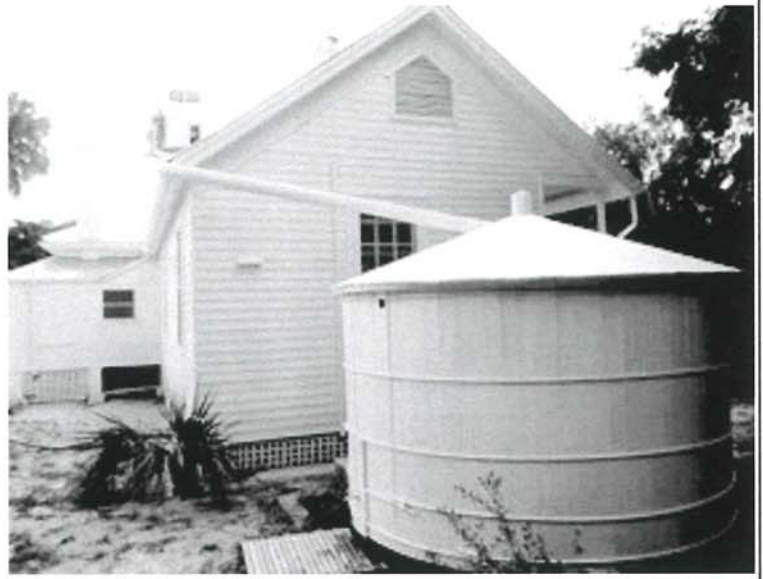
2012

Photos by Al King

These before and after photos show the trim work, painting and roof cleaning that was part of the restoration work. Note especially the skirting and shiny roof. Seahorse Key and the Cedar Keys Lighthouse is held in trust by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The lighthouse has been leased to the University of Florida since 1951.

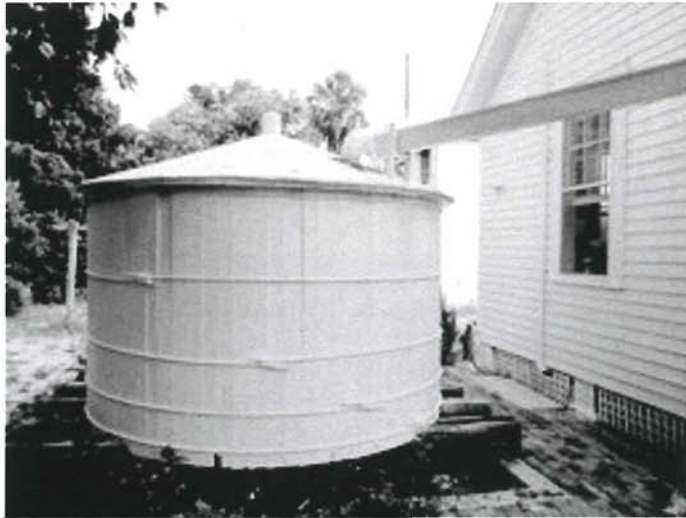


2010



2012

This before and after pictures shows the paint and gutter work as well as the completely restored cistern



Top left: restored cistern



Top right: restored roof



Bottom left: Recent open house



Bottom right: Back porch showing painting, roof acid wash

**AUGUST 18-19 LIGHTHOUSE FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP AND BOARD RETREAT**



Wanda Mayo, District 4 Commissioner lead the first session with District Commissioners meeting with local lighthouse organizations. Our goal is for the Florida Lighthouse Association to work closely to provide resources for these groups. Conducting this fund raising workshop is a prime example of the way we all work together.



Nina Berkheiser of Your Nonprofit Advisor facilitated this custom designed seminar. Nina is our consultant and has help the Florida Lighthouse Association out in so many ways, including help keeping us compliant with legal responsibilities as a nonprofit organization, helping us in our own fundraising and organization.

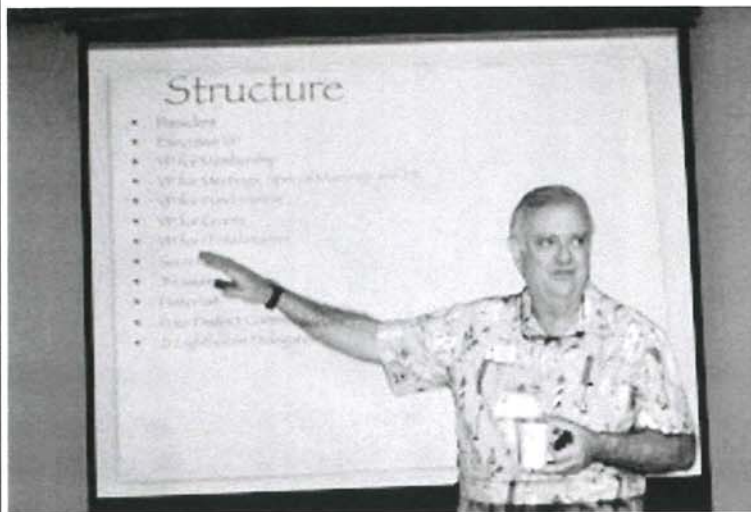


Representatives of many of our local lighthouse organization members took advantage of this training. Since our goal is to preserve, protect and restore the 30 remaining historic lighthouses of Florida it is important that all of the local organizations have the benefit of the knowledge of effective on-going fund raising.



This is the new t-shirt design by our financial development team. It features a lighthouse keeper inside a large Fresnel lens lighting his lamp. It is captioned, "Faithfully Keeping The Light, Florida Lighthouse Association." This is now available on line and will be available at the October Sanibel Lighthouse Congress.

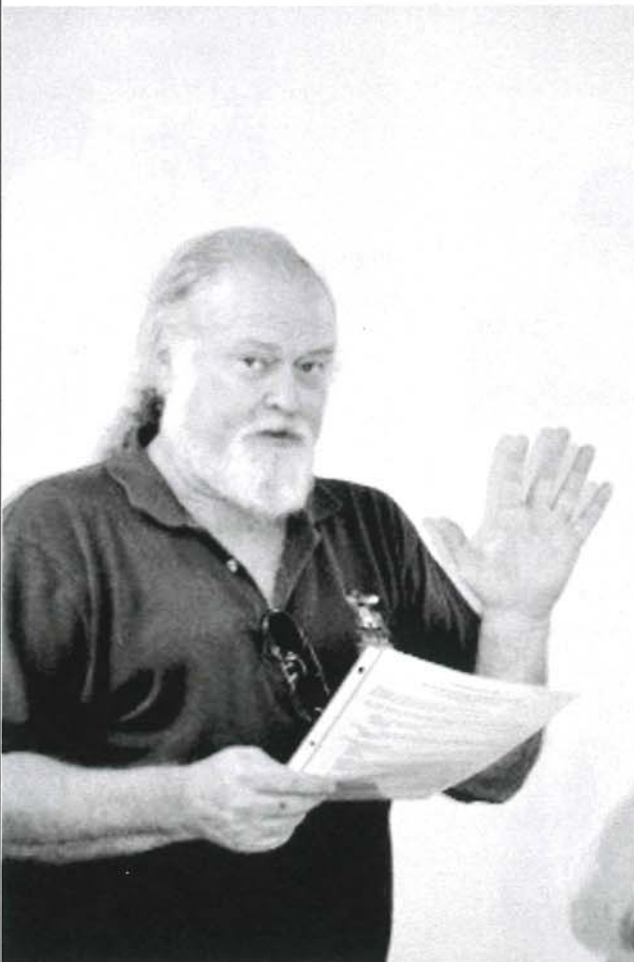




Ken challenged the Board during the retreat to examine the way we run our organization. You can be very proud of the Association leadership. These folks take very seriously the work at hand.



Olivia Larkins, District 1 Commissioner, Ron Ecker, VP for Meetings, and Teri Long, VP for Fund Raising are part of the Economic Development Team. Our financial need is vast. We are fortunate to have the License Plate income, but the need is much larger.



Goals and plans will be presented for approval at the Sanibel meeting and will be on line before the meeting so all members may review.



Florida Lighthouse Association Board is made up of elected officers and representatives of all our local lighthouse preservation groups. Meetings like this help us plan and provide to preserve all 30.

Jack Burrie, Board Member representing Hillsboro Lighthouse, helped lead the Membership Team.



FLASH

www.FloridaLighthouses.org

# THE JUPITER MEETING - June 15-16, 2012

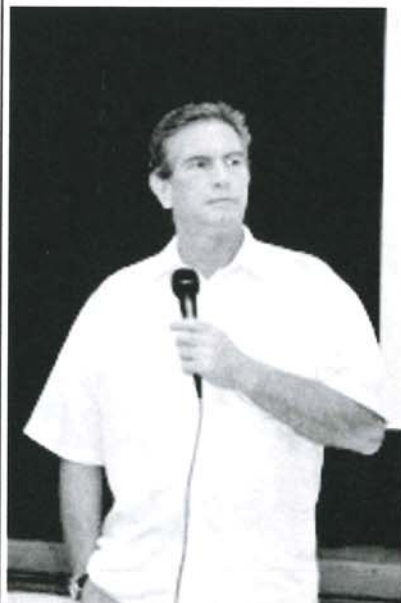


Spectacular view of the city from the top at night

Steve Kruspe was our Keeper for the Day



Checks for important preservation work were presented to representatives of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society and the St. Joseph Historical Society (Cape San Blas Light)



Left -- Keynote speaker, Wayne Miers, talked of the recent restoration efforts his company made at Jupiter Lighthouse

Right -- Jamie Stuve and Kathleen Gover shared with us the operation and recent update work at Jupiter Inlet

Below -- Florida Lighthouse Association members relaxing under the Banyan tree at the lighthouse





**SANIBEL LIGHTHOUSE ~ October 27, 2012 Registration Form**

*Reservation Deadline: Mailed Registration must be received by October 12, 2012*

**LUNCHEON:** Lunch will include SLIDERS, FRUIT, CHEESE, VEGGIES AND DRINKS.

DUE TO INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS,  
YOU MUST BE A FLA MEMBER TO CLIMB THE LIGHTHOUSE.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**FLA MEMBERS:** Total number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65pp = \_\_\_\_\_

**ALCC Members:** Total number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65pp = \_\_\_\_\_

American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee Mbrs registration includes a 1-month family FLA membership. If you do not have the registration code please contact ALCC or email Meetings@FloridaLighthouses.org

**NON Members:** Total number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$100 pp = \_\_\_\_\_

The meeting registration includes the cost of a family membership for 1 year.

*Number Planning on Attending the Friday Night Social Hour* \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

Mail both form & payment to Ronald Ecker, PO Box 372153, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

**NAME 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt of payment confirms reservation. Reservations received **after** the deadline **will be returned.** You will also receive an email confirmation; if you do not have an e-mail FLA will mail your confirmation. **Please note FLA has a no-refund policy.**



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE  
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1676  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (CH8757) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

**Help Save Florida's Lighthouses!**

FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts. Only 30 lighthouses remain today. **The most recent State of Florida study estimates that it will take almost \$20 million dollars to preserve these towers.** Florida Lighthouse Association members and donors made it possible for FLA to give local lighthouse preservation groups \$103,377 in grants last year!

**Yes, I/We want to make a philanthropic gift to help save lighthouses for future generations.**

Make checks payable to FLA and mail to FLA, PO Box 1676, St Petersburg, FL 33731.

You may also charge your gift on FLA's website at [www.FloridaLighthouses.org](http://www.FloridaLighthouses.org).

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list my/our name on FLA's donor recognition list as: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide me with information on wills, trust and estate gift arrangements

*Please call FLA for information on how to make any of the following gifts to help save lighthouses:*

*Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds, Savings Bonds, Paid-up Life Insurance, & IRA distributions*

**FLA membership:** Circle one

**Individual \$25 Family \$35 (spouse & children under 18) Corporate \$100 (2 members & logo on website)**

Names for the membership card: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail our gift membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make any changes/corrections to your address at the top of this page.***

**Email Additions/Changes:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This is important - FLA uses email for e newsletters, meeting information, membership confirmations and gift receipts.*