

the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
www.floralighthouses.org

FLA QUARTERLY MEETING TO BE HELD AT JUPITER LIGHTHOUSE !!

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My first comment as President of the FLA is to say "THANKS" to Tom Taylor. Tom did an outstanding job as president of this organization. It has grown from a very small and humble beginning to a significant position in helping with lighthouse preservation.

I believe we have a lot of work to do in supporting all of Florida's lighthouse organizations. The top project for this coming year will be pushing for a Florida lighthouse license plate. This will provide significant annual income to support the ongoing preservation needs of our beloved lighthouses. This year I hope that all of us will get involved with one of the lighthouse groups around the state in some way or another. I also hope that as the FLA moves forward you will consider helping as needs are presented. We really

need YOUR support to make this whole thing work. We would appreciate your input for future programs as we want to make our meetings as interesting as possible. Please share your ideas.

I feel very overwhelmed with this new challenge. I definitely need your support and help this coming year. We all want to see the FLA rise to the challenge of being a leader in lighthouse preservation.

Keep The Flame Burning,
 Wayne Hawes

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Chances are you are looking at this Newsletter and saying, "hmm...something is different." My apologies to everyone. My computer wiped out on me and I lost my entire database. I am completely reconstructing this newsletter one day before the deadline and praying that I have everything in here that is necessary for you, our readers, to stay informed. I have now learned what backing up means ...

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

... until you have renewed your membership. All FLA memberships expire on September 30th. Check the address label on the envelop of this issue of the FLASH. If it says RENEW 9/30/02, you need to send a check for your

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membership dues made payable to Florida Lighthouse Assn. Forward your check to Linda Koestel, FLA Membership, 1072 Grizzly Ct., Apopka, FL 32712-3059. Dues are Assistant Keeper (individual only) \$25, Keeper (family) \$35, Inspector \$50, Commissioner \$100, Watchroom \$250 and Circle of Light \$1,000.

If you are currently a member and your address, phone number, or e-mail address has not changed, all I need is your check. Otherwise, please send me your current information. As our organization grows, it is sometimes necessary for us to restrict our meetings and/or trips to MEMBERS ONLY. Keep your membership up-to-date.

FLA VISITS SANIBEL & BOCA GRANDE

By Barbara McClure

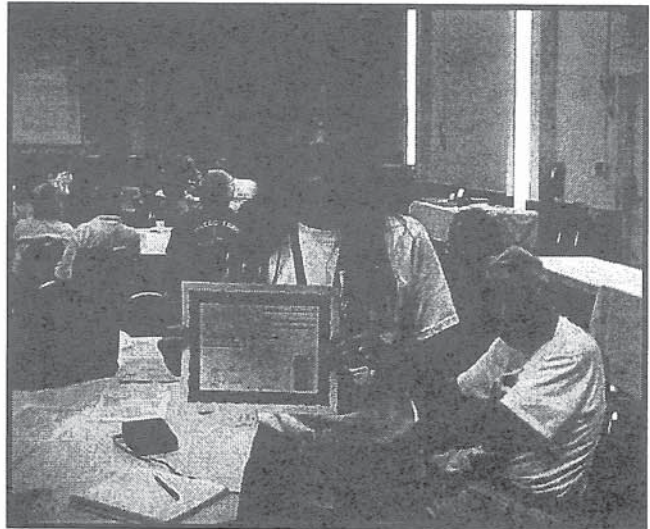
Some places never change and this is a good thing, especially in the case of Sanibel Island. Its beauty always takes me by awe. Driving along the small streets lined with gorgeous shrubbery and a multitude of beautifully maintained houses and stores is a wondrous thing, especially here in Florida where growth seems to be beyond anyone's control.

The October meeting was held at the Sanibel Community Center and was hosted by Jodie Brown. Our thanks to you for your kindness! George Diller announced that our Crooked River donations were up this quarter which is great. We hope that you will continue to support this wonderful group as they strive for their goals. Linda Koestel also announced that we have a total of 712 members.

The upcoming meetings are as follows: Cape San Blas, April 12th; Cedar Key, July 26th; and Cape Canaveral, October 11th.

The Photography Contest winners were announced and I did not envy the job the judges had in final decisions. All of the pictures submitted were gorgeous. The winners are as follows: First Place - Gordon Levi; Second Place - Joyce Burk; and, Third

Place - BonnieJean Exum. Congratulations to each of you, and great job to all who submitted their photographs. It was truly impressive. You can view all of the photographs on FLA's website.



BonnieJean Exum, Third Place Winner, FLA Photo Contest

Board Officers were elected as follows: President (Two year term) Wayne Hawes. President-Elect (Two year term) Kathy Fleming; Vice-President for Membership (continuing term) Linda Koestel; Vice President for Special Events (continuing term) David & Alice D'Amicol; Vice-President for Fund-Raising (continuing term) Judie Trotter & Geneva Hopkins; Treasurer (continuing term) George Diller; Secretary (continuing term) BonnieJean Exum; Historian, Neil Hurley; District 1 Commissioner, Hib Casselberry; District 2 Commissioner, Brenda Altmeier; District 3 Commissioner, Richard Johnson; District 4 Commissioner, Barbara Revell.

Special presentations were made by out-going President, Tom Taylor, to Hib Casselberry, George Diller, David & Alice D'Amicol, Richard Johnson, Cindi Para, Judie Trotter, Linda Koestel and Barbara McClure for their dedication. Each person received a replica of the Efficiency Star which was delivered to the Keepers of lighthouses during the early 1900's who had the highest efficiency ratings during quarterly

inspections.

Newly elected President, Wayne Hawes, on behalf of the entire FLA, presented Tom Taylor with a stunning Appreciation plaque. Tom has provided thousands of hours to the preservation of lighthouses and their histories. He is now the President of the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation, Inc. and plans to plunge into developing that Foundation in the Keys.

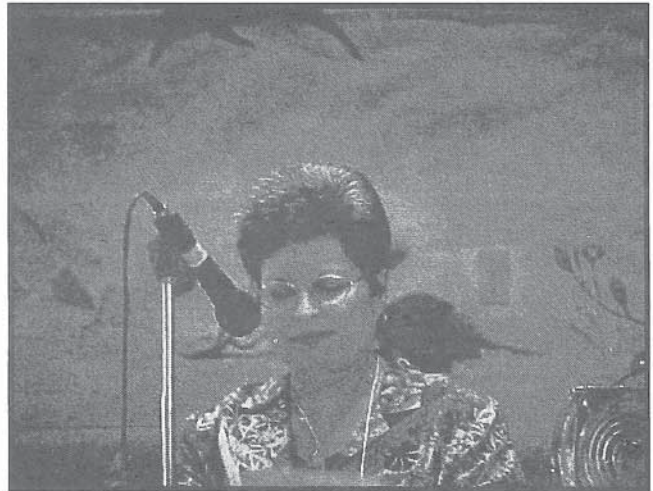
An introduction of the Lighthouse Credit Foundation who have produced a Lighthouse Cookbook was made by Wayne Hawes. Representatives Terrie McGowan and Daren Ulrich presented the FLA a \$500.00 check from the proceeds of the cookbooks to date. For more information regarding this great company and the cookbook please visit their website at: www.lighthousecredit.org.

Following the organizational business we were fortunate to meet Mae England, the wife of the last Keeper stationed at Sanibel Lighthouse. Her daughter brought a video-taped interview of Mae discussing what it was like to be living at Sanibel lighthouse. And to follow-up that stunning video and the charming Mae England,



Ms. Mae England

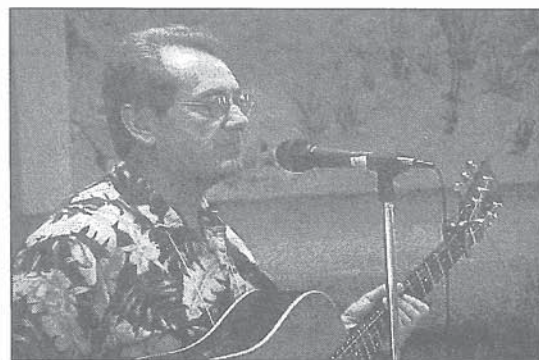
we were fortunate to hear from Betty Lowe Phelps. Betty Lowe Phelps discussed her grandfather, Benjamin Howard Lowe, who was an Assistant Lighthouse Keeper at Fowey Rocks, Loggerhead, American Shoals, and Sanibel lighthouses. He is not mentioned in the records as a lighthouse keeper and it is Ms. Phelps' plan to change that. You can read for



Betty Lowe Phelps

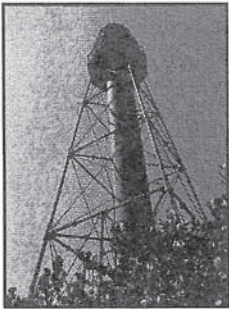
yourself the story of her grandfather in this issue of the FLASH.

In conclusion of the general meeting, we were given a pleasant surprise. Bryon Clinger brought along his guitar and sang a beautiful song written by Floridian Mark Smith entitled "Lighthouse Keeper". The song can be found on Mark Smith's third cd, "The Sun of Winter".



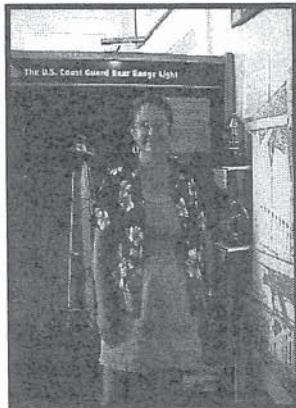
Bryon Clinger

After lunch, some departed on their trolley rides while others simply headed over to the lighthouse. Unfortunately, the key to the lighthouse did not work so we did not get to tour the lighthouse as we hoped. We did, however, get inside the Keepers' cottage and view the beautifully maintained (and decorated) home thanks to its current occupants, who opened it up for the FLA attendees.



The following day many of us went to Boca Grande to attend the open house. Marilyn Hoeckel greeted the visitors and presented a wonderful talk on the history of the lighthouse and the establishment of the museum. The museum has developed into quite a showcase. What a great job

the volunteers have done there. Thank you, Marilyn, for your courtesies.



Marilyn Hoeckel



Rear Range Lighthouse



Great lighthouse, great tour, great families !!

January, 2003 Quarterly Meeting at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

by Michael Zeidman, Curator



The Loxahatchee River Historical Society is pleased to host and welcome the Florida Lighthouse Association quarterly membership meeting, Saturday, January 18th. The Loxahatchee River Historical Society was formed in 1971 as a non-profit entity

to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of Florida, particularly emphasizing the Southeast region, and the area where the Loxahatchee River meets the Jupiter Inlet.

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society operates the DuBois Pioneer Home, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, and the Loxahatchee River Historical Museum.

The *DuBois Pioneer Home* stands on a Native American shell mound, or midden, 20 feet high, and originally 600 feet long. It is now only about 90 feet in length. The home was built in

1898 and is the second oldest house in Palm Beach County. The original house was one-story with a living room, dining room, and bedroom constructed of Florida pine with cypress shingles, which were later replaced with cedar. Other outbuildings included a privy, cowshed, chicken coop, duck house, and woodshed. Laundry was done in a large iron kettle over an outdoor fire behind the main house.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was completed and first lit on July 10, 1860. It is the oldest existing structure in Palm Beach County. The Lighthouse stands on an ancient Native American shell mound, dated around 700 AD, and is 156 feet tall with 105 steps from the base to the top. The Lighthouse itself is 108 feet high while the mound is 48 feet high. The light was produced by a state-of-the-art first order Fresnel lens made by the Henry LePante Company in Paris. The lens shines a fixed white light varied by a brighter white flash every 90 seconds and can be seen approximately 20 miles out at sea.

George Gordon Meade, a Lieutenant at the Bureau of Topographical Engineers and later the general who defeated Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg, designed the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. Work began on the mound in 1853, but slowed when the inlet filled with silt, the Third Seminole War erupted from 1855 to 1858, and the purgatory of heat, humidity, and insects bore on the workmen.

After the light was lit in 1860, a group of Confederate sympathizers, including some of the Lighthouse Keepers, sneaked into the tower and removed enough of the lamp and revolving mechanism to make it unserviceable. Throughout the war, the light remained dark. After the war, sections of the lens assembly were returned, and the light once again beamed on June 28, 1866. Captain James Armour became the lighthouse keeper and would serve for forty-two years.

A telegraph signal station was added to the lighthouse grounds in 1898. The original

keeper's dwelling burned down in 1927. The light station was electrified in 1928 and damaged by a hurricane later that year. During the storm, the top of the tower was reported to have swayed up to 17 inches. Several windowpanes were broken at the top of the tower and one of the bulls-eyes sections of the lens was shattered.

During WWII, the lighthouse was dimmed through the use of a low-wattage bulb. Several ships sunk offshore, and the sad duty of recovering the bodies as they washed ashore fell to the Lighthouse Keepers.

In 1959, the two-story Lighthouse Keeper's dwelling was torn down and new quarters were built. In 1973, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was put on the National Register of Historic Places. For a number of years, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was painted a "firehouse" red, but during the 1999 restoration, the tower's color was returned to the natural red brick. The work on the tower took 8 months and cost \$850,000.

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society administers the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. The lighthouse is owned and maintained as an active maritime aid to navigation by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Loxahatchee River Historical Museum, formerly the Florida History Center & Museum, presents photographs and artifacts depicting regional Florida history including the conservation of the coastline, pioneer fashion, Spanish contacts, inhabitants of the region such as Alligator Alice and Trapper Nelson are explored through exhibits, which include an iron cannon from a 1659 shipwreck, fossil shells, and Seminole artifacts. Visitors can also view a replicated authentic Seminole Village, and Palm Beach county's oldest known "cracker-style" home, the 1892 George Washington Tindall House.

From December 12 through March 23, visitors will be able to view the temporary exhibit, "Spirit of the River," which will feature artwork

depicted of the Loxahatchee River by two Florida artists: photographer, Judy Norton, and water colorist, Ron Parvu, along with artifacts from Museum. Judy Norton, from Palm Beach Gardens, has been a photographer the past 11 years and has exhibited in five shows and won two awards, most recently at the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach. Ron Parvu, from Tequesta, has been in 23 exhibitions, which have included: Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI, A.E. Backus Museum, Fort Pierce, Michelson Museum of Art, Marshall, TX, and the Bennington Center for the Arts, Bennington, VT.

[Ed. Note: Michael reports as of November 26th that there will be a possibility of a dinner and activity Saturday night but nothing could be confirmed prior to publication. If you are interested, should the dinner and activity occur, Michael suggests that you be prepared for the cost of \$20-\$25. He will announce the planned activity at registration if it is confirmed.]

THE SANIBEL YEARS OF THE B.H. LOWE FAMILY 1939-1944

By Betty Lowe Phelps

[Editor's Note: Ms. Phelps is interested in having any individuals who would like to learn more about this historically unknown lighthouse keeper to contact her at prine43@aol.com, especially if they have more info on the Lowe family in Sanibel.]

Benjamin Howard Lowe - or Howard - as he preferred to be called, was born in Key West in 1898. Howard rarely talked about his 15 years of lighthouse employment and lost most of his official papers to hurricanes and robberies at his various Miami residences. The information provided here is taken from a family genealogy, interviews, photographs and other material provided by surviving family members. Hib Casselberry conducted a video history with one surviving son, Roy Lowe, for the FLA in September, 2001.

His parents were newlyweds when they emigrated from the Bahamas in the late 1880s. Two of Howard's Key West brother-in-laws were also assistant lighthouse keepers - Anthony Canelejo and Stanley "Mickey" Saunders. Prior to 1939, when the Lowes arrived in Sanibel about the lighthouse tender *Ivy*, Howard had served as assistant keeper at three light stations. His first position was Fowey Rocks in 1929, then Loggerhead Key in the Dry Tortugas, and American Shoals after that. He apparently took the job in Sanibel so that his family could be together full-time for the first time in ten years. A photo of the four children was taken in front of one of the keeper's cottages in April 1940.

The importance of lighthouse families, especially the wives, is emphasized in lighthouse resources such as the St. Augustine museum. The Lowes were truly a family in need of their father's presence because Mary, their mother, was chronically ill. Mary Louise, the eldest child, was crippled, and Roy was always testing the limits. When they lived in Key West Mary's three daughters from a previous marriage had helped out. Now they were grown and starting families of their own and remained in the Keys when Howard and Mary, with their family, moved to Sanibel.

Howard's first job at age 17 was as a cook for a sponge boat so he had experience when he took on the role as the family cook. Family members can recall the desserts he made, like "duff", Key Lime and Date pies, as well as his wonderful fish stew. Julia claims that it was her job to keep the floors clean in case the district supervisor, Mr. Demerit, showed up for an unannounced visit. She had to help with her eldest sister as well. When Mary Louise was no longer able to use the walker, Julia would drag or carry her sister around on her back. Roy was often out fishing as it was his passion and he provided for many family meals. Howard, Jr., the eldest son, joined the Coast Guard in 1942 or '43 and was not with the family their last year at Sanibel.

There was a great deal of work in taking care of the property. Trees had to be trimmed and the yard and walkways had to be cleaned. In addition to their responsibilities at the station on Sanibel, the lighthouse keepers and assistants were also responsible for maintaining the buoy lights along the coast, in the vicinity of Charlotte Harbor and San Carlos Bay. Roy often worried that his father might now return some evening. The task of replacing those large heavy tanks from a rocking boat seemed dangerous even to a teenager who was fond of taking risks himself. Roy once got into big trouble with his father for using the exterior lighthouse structure as a jungle gym, just as Charles Le Buff's son, Chuck, did in later years.

Howard and Richard Palmer, the Keeper at Sanibel, had worked together at Fowey Rocks. From Roy's reflections he believes that "old man Palmer" had about 6 children, although some them were grown and on their own. Palmer's eldest son, Elliot, was very fond of Mary Louise. Another son was just starting school. Mr. Shanahan, a former Keeper at Sanibel, was the island mail carrier. Roy courted one of his daughter's. Roy skipped school so much in Key West that he was behind several grades. A teacher, Sarah Robinson, wanted Roy's father to sign a paper to bump him up a few grades, but Howard, a strict and religious parent, wanted his rebellious son to learn to follow the rules or suffer the consequences.

For entertainment on weekends, the family occasionally went to Andy Rosse's pier on Captiva where they could get a bite to eat and socialize with other islanders. Roy went to high school at Ft. Myers where he was eager to play football. The after school practice, however, often made it impossible to catch the last Sanibel ferry so his father put him up in a boarding house on the mainland with his mother. Roy continued to skip school, did not keep his grades up, and became ineligible. A pattern he repeated when he went to Miami in 1942 to live with relatives who wanted him to play ball for Edison High School.

Howard's wife, Mary, weakened by what the family suspects was cancer, came down with the flu and died in a Ft. Myers hospital on Christmas eve, 1943. Howard became extremely disheartened. He had been consulting with doctors about his own heart. In the summer of 1944 he retired and moved back to Key West with his daughters and then eventually moved to Miami where he resided until his death in 1989 at the age of 90. Mary Louise and Howard, Jr. both preceded their father to the grave. Julia currently lives in Michigan with her daughter's family. Roy was able to make a good living doing what he loved most - fishing. He actually got started his vocation at Sanibel where, as a teenager, he would take the sportsmen who came to the island to fish, along with him. He refused money for his services in the beginning, but soon realized the profit that could be made. For over four decades, starting in the 1950's, he was known in the Florida Keys as Capt. Roy Lowe, the Native Guide. He currently resides in Lakeport, Florida.

CEDAR KEY OPEN HOUSE

By BonnieJean Exum

I would like to thank all of you that made it to Cedar Key Open House. I hope each of you had as wonderful a time as we did. We had quite a few FLA members attend the Open House and even had a few join the FLA while they were there.

Thank you to everyone that purchased a raffle ticket, either before the event or during. Your donations will be used to help restore the Cedar Keys/Seahorse Key Lighthouse. Dave Foster of Gainesville, FL, won the watercolor of Cedar Keys Lighthouse that was donated by Brenda Stanfield of *The Water's Edge and Island Gallery*; Voncile Smith of Boynton Beach, FL won the Cedar Keys Harbour Light replica.

The University of Florida has asked our association to help with the restoration of the tower. We will need to replace the wood of the catwalk, scrape/sand blast the tower and stairs,

repaint the tower and stairs, and fix the loose stair on the stairwell. Anyone that is interested in joining the work crew, please e-mail me at BJEXUM@floralighthouses.org. We will be staying the night(s) in the lighthouse until the work is done.

The next Cedar Keys Open House will be on Saturday, July 5th, 2003. The boats will run again on a first come, first serve basis. FLA members: please be aware that the FLA's July Quarterly meeting is scheduled for the 26th and will also be held at Cedar Key and tours of the lighthouse and graveyard will be available after the meeting. We expect to have the Refuge Manager and the Great-Granddaughter of the first lighthouse keeper as guest speakers.

ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MUSEUM MOVES TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION

By Kathy Fleming

Only eight short years after opening to the public full-time, the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum is beginning the two-year, intensive study process that will hopefully result in museum accreditation by the American Association of Museums ("AAM"). *"Accreditation signifies that a museum has voluntarily undergone a rigorous process of self-study and peer review, by which it has demonstrated that it meets or exceeds both the eligibility criteria for accreditation and the characteristics of an accreditable museum. When a museum achieves accreditation, it can proudly state that it operates, on all levels, according to current professional standards and practices."* - AAM Web Site. The first step in the accreditation process is a rigorous self-study that will take the museum through an internal review of governance and staffing procedures, collections and facilities management, and ethical, legal and financial practices. The museum's Board of Trustees is launching the self-study for accreditation as part of an initiative for continuing public service at the Light Station. Only two other lighthouse

museums across the nation - St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum, St. Simons Island, Georgia and the Museum Division of the Dept. of Recreation & Parks of St. Mary's County, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park, Colton's Point, Maryland, are listed as currently accredited by the AAM. You can learn more about this process for your museum by visiting the American Association of Museum's Web site at www.aam-us.org.

EDUCATION REPORT

By Hib Casselberry

The Florida Lighthouse Association, formed in 1996 to foster the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and to research and publish their histories, has funded a series of Lighthouse Awards for students who compete in the Florida History Fair. The National and State theme for 2001-2002 was "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History". During this past summer the award winning Florida lighthouse exhibits have been used as traveling displays.

The FLA will continue the 2002-2003 Lighthouse Awards and look forward to another round of fantastic entries by Junior and Senior High Schoolers and quite possibly this year by the Elementary Schools. The 2002-2003 theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History". Entries must explore the history of a Florida lighthouse (or lighthouses) and the people and families who lived or worked in them, while addressing this theme. The FLA is also going to honor the winning student's teacher and their school. As with other special awards, students must apply to be considered, using the Student Award Application form. Each County's Florida History Fair Coordinator must file the forms with the FHF office in Tallahassee before January 17, 2003. Students must apply through the County History Fair by early March, 2003. For additional information, please contact: Mrs. KC Smith, Florida History Fair Coordinator, Museum of Florida History, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 or by telephone at (850) 487-1902. For those with e-mail capability please visit <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/museum/fhfinstnrx.html>

and <http://www.NationalHistoryDay.org>.

LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS

Amelia Island: No Report.

Anclote Key: Rip Puls states that the walkway to the Lighthouse has been completed and now they are moving forward with renovations hopefully in January, 2003. The Gulf Alliance hopes to have the lighthouse re-lit the same day that it was originally lit which was 9/15/1887, just 116 years later. The Ranger's house is scheduled to be built by the old cisterns to stop theft and vandalism which has been a big problem at the lighthouse.

Boca Grande: See Quarterly Meeting Report.

Cape Canaveral: A clam bake will be held off-site on February 15th. To put your name on a waiting list for tickets, e-mail Barbara McClure at BJMC2610@aol.com. The charter member pins are diminishing, too. Contact Membership Chairman, Ginny Davis, at CGIDavis@BellSouth.Net for an application.

No conclusive evidence could be found at this time as to whether the roof on the oil house was either copper or tin. The Air Force has decided to replace the roof with copper, like Ponce Inlet's oil house. Grant money was suppose to be in as of October 1st, 2002, but had not yet been received. Restoration on the oil house will start as soon as the money is received.

Cape Florida: No Report.

Cape San Blas: No Report.

Cape St. George: No Report.

Cedar Keys: See article.

Crooked River: the Bureau of Historic Preservation has said that our next step is to hire an architect. As exciting as that sounds, it will take money! If you know of any funding sources or where we can apply for grants, please let us know! The fence around the lighthouse has finally been repaired. It took a year just to find someone to fix it! Volunteers have agreed to paint the fence. Sea Oats Garden Club has placed a skiff in front of the lighthouse and it is planted with Heather. The Club plans to plant vines to cover the fence after the fence is painted. Our membership

has dropped from almost 200 down to 92 members. We encourage you to join or renew your membership. We need your help! Membership is \$12 per year for individual and \$25 per year for families. You can contact the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association at P.O. Box 373, Carrabelle, Florida 32322.

Dry Tortugas: No Report.

Egmont Key: The Discover the Island open house held at Egmont Key on November 2nd & 3rd was fantastic. Over 500 visitors were ferried to the island on chartered excursion boats. Once on the island there were four walking tours featuring Nature, Beach Dynamics, Military fortifications, and History of the Island. The old lighthouse keeper made an appearance. The weather was outstanding the visitors had a wonderful time.

The holiday lights on the lighthouse tower were lit on November 30th. Strings of lights are arranged from the ground to the top of the tower so as to give (more or less) the appearance of a Christmas tree. The lights are on every night through the first of the year, and are visible from Ft. DeSoto Park on Mullet Key from the Gulf Pier. The lights are a particular hit with the cruise ship passengers entering and leaving the bay.

Also, the Coast Guard has fixed the beacon that they believe was hit by an electrical storm, but now it rotates counter-clockwise instead of clockwise.

Hillsboro Inlet: The October 5th Hillsboro Lighthouse HLPS Tour was a success. There were about 120 people at the Hillsboro Station at any one time with the chartered shuttle boat delivery and removal from 9:30 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. for a grand total of about 450 people. A newspaper reporter interviewed a number of people with many quotes of satisfaction. The Preservation Society thanks both Group Miami and Coast Guard Auxiliary for their help in addition to District Seven of the U.S.C.G. for opening the Station for this tour. 2003 HLPS tour dates are being worked out now.

Jupiter Inlet: The Loxahatchee River Historical Society is pleased to announce the second exhibit, "Spirit of the River", of the season at the Loxahatchee River Historical Museum located at

805 N. US Hwy. 1, which will last until Sunday, March 23rd. See the Quarterly Meeting Article for further information as well as information concerning the January quarterly meeting to be held at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

Key West: No Report.

Pensacola: The lighthouse is closed for the winter months to the public and will reopen the first Sunday in May 2003 from noon to 4 p.m. Special group tours only will be conducted throughout the winter.

Ponce Inlet: No Report.

Reef Lights: The annual meeting will take place on January 25th in Marathon at 10:00 a.m. at Porky's (47.5 mm). Special tours to Sombrero Key on Saturday and American Shoal on Sunday have been arranged. Contact Tom Taylor (305) 743-7541 to arrange to become a Reel Lights member and schedule yourselves for these special events.

Progress has been made toward the marina project and oTom Taylor and Dan Gallagher spoke to the public at the Marathon Community Workshop concerning the museum being built at the Marina. The response was marvelous and Tom & Dan plan to follow-up at the additional community workshop meetings being held on December 5th and January 23rd.

Sanibel Island: See Quarterly Meeting Article. Jodie Brown reports that the Coast Guard is no longer interested in the responsibility of maintaining the lighthouse. The City of Sanibel has applied for ownership but found out that the Coast Guard does not own the property and that the Bureau of Land Management does. The City has forwarded its application to the Bureau of Land Management for a 25 year lease to establish a museum in the Keepers Quarters and open the Lighthouse to the public.

St. Augustine: Barbara Hamel announced that Lands End would be taking pictures at the St. Augustine Lighthouse to put on the cover of next year's catalog. For the first time in four years, visitation is down by 4%, but the lighthouse now has over 80 active volunteers.

St. Augustine also hosted the Today Show and its special guest, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. Secretary Norton was interviewed via

satellite from the Today Show's New York City studios regarding the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. During the show Secretary Norton stated that St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum could serve as a role model for other organizations aspiring to own and operate a lighthouse and that "so many people have said the St. Augustine Lighthouse is "the place". In that regard Executive Director Kathy Fleming was inspired to host a first-of-its kind National Maritime Heritage Seminar in Historic Lighthouse Management during the week of March 9 - 15th, 2003 in cooperation with the *National Park Service Maritime Heritage Program*. The seminar will include in-depth study and training in lighthouse care, administration, preservation and management from nationally recognized experts in the lighthouse field. See article re: accreditation, too.

St. Johns: No Report.

St. Joseph Point: No Report.

St. Marks: No Report.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the new members who have joined us in the past quarter: Cheryl Aker, Donald & Louise Black, Derek & Kat Braun, Patricia Costell, William T. Domanski, Chuck Evans Dooley & Mack Constructors, James Elder, Richard & Amy Felter, James Goldie, Deanna Jenkins, Paul & Jane Jenkins, Dianne Mastrodicasa & Justine Digirolamo, Chris & Wendy Orsini, William Roberts, Gayle Sallee, Tracey & Gill Waddell, Donald Boo & Frances Welch. WELCOME!

FLA BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONER DIRECTORY, October, 2002 CONTACT INFO:

Wayne Hawes, President:

president@floridalighthouses.org

Kathy Fleming, Executive Vice-President:

staugh@aug.com

George Diller, Treasurer: george.diller-

1@ksc.nasa.gov

BonnieJean Exum, Secretary:

bjexum@floridalighthouses.org

Linda Koestel, Membership:

lkoestel@worldnet.att.net

Check or money order for Membership should be sent to: 1072 Grizzly Ct., Apopka, FL 32712-3059.

Alice & David D'Amicol, Special Events: meetings@floridalighthouses.org

Judie Trotter, Fundraising:

jtrotter@cfl.rr.com

Geneva Hopkins, Fundraising:

genevaimages@aol.com

Thomas W. Taylor, Past President:

Tom_fla@hotmail.com

Ann Caneer, Past President, Ponce de Leon

Inlet Lighthouse: lighthouse@ponceinlet.org

Neil Hurley, Historian: lthouse@erols.com

Hib Casselberry, Dist.1

Commissioner/EducationChair:

EducationChair@floridalighthouses.org

Brenda Altmeier, Dist.2 Commissioner:

brenda.altmeier@noaa.gov

Richard Johnson, Dist.3 Commissioner:

Captrj@aol.com

Barbara Revell, Dist.4 Commissioner:

benbar7@aol.com

Amelia Island Lighthouse: Hal Belcher,

Amelia Island Lighthouse & Museum:

hal@net-magic.net

St. Johns River (Mayport): Andy Liliskis,

Mayport Lighthouse Association, Inc.:

beaks@fdn.com

St. Augustine Lighthouse: Kathy Fleming, Director: staugh@aug.com

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: Ann Caneer:

lighthouse@ponceinlet.org

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse: Barbara McClure, Secretary: BJMc2610@aol.com

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse: Jamie Stuve,

Director: jstuve@lrhs.org

Cape Florida Lighthouse: Lee Niblock, Park

Manager: capefla@gate.net

Reef Lighthouses: Tom Taylor:

Tom_fla@hotmail.com

Key West Lighthouse: Claudia Pennington,

Key West Art & Historical Soc., (305) 295-6616.

Sanibel Island Lighthouse: Charles LeBuff:

SanybelCL@aol.com

Gasparilla (Port Boca Grande) Lighthouse:

Marilyn Hoeckel, Barrier Island Parks Society, (941) 697-7750.

Anclote Key Lighthouse: Gulf Island GEO

Park, (727) 469-5942

Cedar Keys Lighthouse: Kenneth

Litzenburger, Refuge Manager, (352) 493-0238.

St. Marks Lighthouse: BMC David Justice,

USCG, (850) 234-8139.

Crooked River Lighthouse: Barbara Revell:

benbar7@aol.com

Cape St. George Lighthouse: John Lee.

Cape San Blas Lighthouse: Director, Environmental Management, Eglin, AFB

St. Joseph's Point Lighthouse: Privately Owned.

Pensacola Lighthouse: Dianne D. Levi:

dlg@infi.net

David Hanko, Photography Committee:

jackalope@earthlink.net

Tim & Lynda VeArd, Website:

tim@veard.com; lynda@veard.com

Barbara McClure, Editor, FLA Flash Newsletter, 2610 Via San Marino Court,

Merritt Island, FL 32953; (321) 453-7202 (No calls after 10 pm). E-Mail:

flash@floridalighthouses.org



Rip Puls & other gold replica winners at the HL Regional Conference held in West Palm pose with the Youngers.



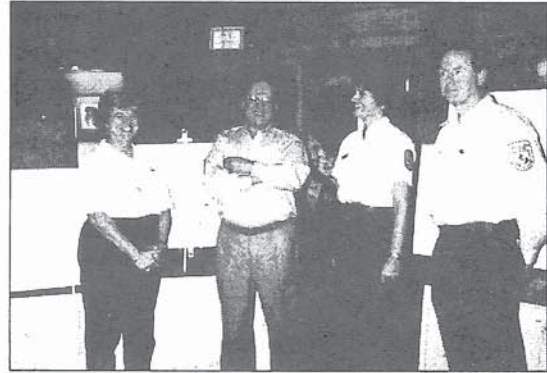
"We Can't Climb? I'm gonna cry!" Wayne Hawes goofing for the camera at the Sanibel Lighthouse Tour.



Stephanie Dingler, Boca Grande



Pensacola Lighthouse Volunteers at Halloween Open House



Lee Cook, Refuge Auxiliary, Kenneth Smith, Architect, Robin Will, Ranger, James Burnette, Refuge Manager
St. Mark's Lighthouse October 10, 2002

THE FLA FLASH IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., and is a benefit of membership in the organization. The FLA is a non-profit Florida corporation which promotes the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the history and significance of those light-houses and of Florida's unique maritime heritage. For information, contact: Florida Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 34-0028, Tampa, FL 33694-0028, Phone and FAX: (813) 968-5640 Option 3 Fax: (813) 960-2065

Website: www.floridalighthouses.org

e-mail: info@floridalighthouses.org

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Tim & Lynda VeArd, Web Design



Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

P.O. BOX 34-0028, TAMPA, FL 33694-0028

Phone:(813) 968-5640 Option 3; Fax:(813) 960-2065

Website: <http://www.floridalighthouses.org> E-mail:info@floridalighthouses.org

2002 ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE CROOKED RIVER LIGHTHOUSE, CARRABELLE, FLORIDA

Dear Friend of Florida's Lighthouses:

For the second year, the Florida Lighthouse Association is making an Annual Appeal for one of Florida's endangered lighthouses. Our organization, now just five years old, has made an astonishing record in the preservation of our state's maritime sentinels. We organized a campaign to save the keeper's dwelling at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse when it was in danger of being washed away by the sea. The United States Air Force finally came to the rescue. We forestalled a drive by commercial interests to convince the U. S. Navy to permit an unnecessary move of the historic, 1859 St. Johns River Lighthouse, the last original vestige of the old town of Mayport. The Navy turned them down. We have helped form local non-profit organizations which can, under a new federal law which we supported, now obtain abandoned lighthouses from the federal General Service Administration for restoration, and we are raising funds for the restoration of several lighthouses. In 1998, we contributed to the salvation of the leaning and greatly endangered Cape St. George Lighthouse. Last year, we raised \$10,000 toward the restoration of the 1842 St. Marks Lighthouse, the second oldest in the state.

This year, the Florida Lighthouse Association is seeking to raise funds for the Crooked River Lighthouse, located in a section of the state which can greatly benefit from the tourism that this lighthouse will generate. This lighthouse has just been turned over to the City of Carrabelle and will be managed and restored by the new, non-profit Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. We are hoping to raise state-wide a minimum of \$15,000 to help get this new lighthouse restoration project underway, and we need YOUR help.

The Crooked River Lighthouse was built in 1895 as a steel, skeletal tower, to replace the long-vanished Dog Island Lighthouse which guided ships into St. George Sound and to the port of Apalachicola. When the Crooked River Lighthouse was built, the new port of Carrabelle was busy with shipping timber from its lumbering industry. The original lens for this lighthouse, which still exists today, is believed to be the first bivalve style lens ever installed in a lighthouse in the United States, an important historical feature of this lighthouse which is on the National Register of Historic Places. During World War II, the lighthouse guided in oil tankers who filled a pipeline carrying petroleum to Jacksonville. In recent years, the lighthouse marked the eastern end of the western section of Florida's Intracoastal Waterway. It should be restored to continue service as an important navigational aid for fishermen and small boat sailors. When the lighthouse is restored, we hope it will be re-activated as a "privately maintained" aid to navigation.

Our Annual Appeal this year will feature levels of support by which you can qualify for special gifts. As an individual, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a project that will last. Most of our lighthouses have been around for more than a hundred years, and with our help, they will last another century as monuments to that maritime heritage which has made this state so great. Florida's lighthouses have saved thousands and thousands of lives. Now that they are endangered by neglect and age, it is time that we offer back a little bit of support to help bring these sentinels of safety and maritime heritage back from the abyss of deterioration.

As a business, you can receive state-wide recognition for your generosity. Mention of your business will go into our quarterly journal the *FLA FLASH*, and we will encourage our members to patronize your business whenever possible. Donations above \$100 also bring a certificate or plaque which can be displayed in your office or showroom as physical proof that you have done your part in the preservation of Florida's valuable maritime heritage. Lighthouses have a lot of public appeal right now, and contributions to lighthouse restoration is not only politically correct but also something which the general population applauds. Donations to the Florida Lighthouse Association are also tax deductible.

Please contribute to our Annual Appeal for the Crooked River Lighthouse. Your donation, no matter how small is very much appreciated.

The Internal Revenue Service has approved the Florida Lighthouse Association for 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status. Donors may now deduct contributions to us as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to the FLA or for our use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code. Copies of the I.R.S. letter are available by request from the Association office.

PETITION FOR A FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

I/We, the undersigned, hereby state my intent to purchase a Florida LIGHTHOUSE specialized license plate, if approved by the legislature and offered by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

By signing this petition, I/we understand that the plate would carry an additional cost of \$15 annual use fee, plus a \$2 processing fee per year per vehicle. I/we certify that I am/we are the legal owner/lessee of a motor vehicle registered in the State of Florida, and said vehicle is eligible for a specialty license plate.

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