



the FLA FLASH

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

Presidents Message

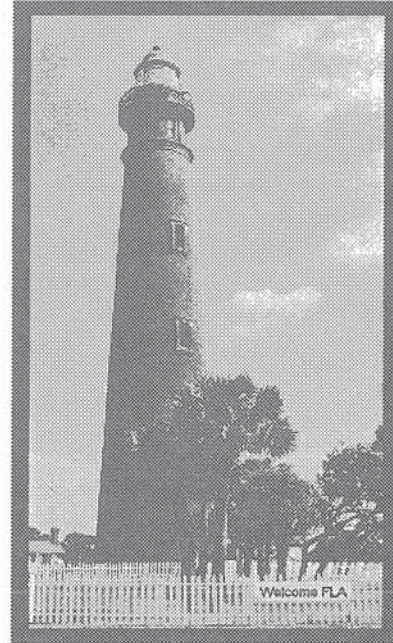
Hello again everyone. Our next meeting, which is the Annual meeting with elections, will be held at Ponce Inlet Lightstation. What a wonderful location to close out 2004. It doesn't seem possible that two years have flown by and my term as president is coming to an end. It has been quite a ride. I do hope everyone will come to Ponce Inlet for a GREAT meeting featuring Elinor DeWire.

We had a great weekend in Key West for our July meeting. Those that made the journey were well rewarded. Our tour of Garden Key and Fort Jefferson was led by Ranger Mike Ryan. What a tremendous individual with a passion for what he does. Our boat Captain was also terrific, he got us close to Loggerhead Key and Sand Key lights for the "photo buffs". Key West was open when we returned to cap off a most memorable day. A big THANKS to Dennis & Gayle Stamac for putting the whole thing together.

As this is my last President's message, I have to thank everyone in the FLA for all the help that has been given. We have had to work through many issues but are coming out the other side a better organization. PLEASE GIVE YOUR UTMOST SUPPORT TO THE NEW BOARD.

Thanks,
 Wayne Hawes - President

Gaila 1800-237 8483
985 462 775



Contents:

Presidents Letter	1
2004 Officer Elections	2
Specialty License Plate	2
Quarterly Meeting Notice	3
Florida Lighthouse Reports	7
Newsworthy Notes	9
New Members	15

Membership Dues Are Due

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All FLA memberships expire on September 30. Check the address label on this issue of the FLASH. If it says RENEW 9/30/03, please send a check for your membership dues made out to:
 Florida Lighthouse Assn. to Linda Koestel, FLA Membership, 1072 Grizzly Ct., Apopka, FL 32712

Current members, please note changes in your address, phone number, or email address. New members 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.

Membership year is October 1st through September 30th. Membership Levels and Dues are:
 Circle of Light \$1,000 – Watch Room \$250 – Commissioner \$100 – Inspector \$50
 Keeper (Family) \$35 – Assistant Keeper \$25.00

2004 Officer Elections

The nominating committee for 2004 is:

Mike Hancock, Chairman	727-572-5063
Charlie Knox	386-365-3211
Ken Seabol	727-734-4555

The current Executive Board is as follows:

President	Wayne Hawes	Vice President-Mktg/Fund Raising	Judi Trotter/Geneva Hopkins
Executive-Vice President	Kathy Fleming	Historian	Neil Hurley
Secretary	Linda Kalpin	District 1 Commissioner	Hib Casselberry
Treasurer	George Diller	District 2 Commissioner	Open
Vice President-Mbership	Linda Koestel	District 3 Commissioner	Richard Johnson
Vice President-Meetings	Dennis & Gayle Stamac	District 4 Commissioner	Dianne Levi

Please call one of the above committee members to make your nominations no later than September 15th, 2004.

Specialty License Plate Committee Report

As reported in previous FLA Flash editions, the recipient of the FLA Annual Appeal fund will be the application process for a State of Florida Specialty License Plate with a lighthouse theme. A committee to pursue the application was formed at the Mt. Dora meeting this past January.

The Committee has made significant progress in our attempt to obtain a Specialty License Plate for Lighthouse Preservation. The Business Plan has been written and was reviewed in detail at the Board Meeting. The Committee has begun negotiations with a Scientific Survey Company regarding the survey that is required by the state. The design for the plate has been completed, reviewed by the Board and accepted as the Association's design to be submitted to the state. This design will be presented to the membership at the October meeting at Ponce Inlet. The Committee has begun discussions with the Association's CPA regarding financial reports to submit to the state and begun

discussions to garner support for the project from the State Historical Preservation Office in Tallahassee.

The Committee submitted a request to the Board to change the By-Laws of the Association to more precisely define the method of application for Lighthouse Delegate Membership in the Association. The change was necessary to better qualify recipients of potential grant funds accruing from sale of our Specialty License Plate. That change was unanimously adopted.

The Board also discussed funding for the project. The cost for obtaining a Specialty License Plate is significant. The Committee has begun a campaign to identify potential corporate sponsors but has not been successful in locating a benefactor. The Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership regarding potential donors and fund raising ideas

Fund raising has begun!

Please make a contribution to the FLA Florida
Specialty License Plate Fund using the pre-

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION - QUARTERLY MEETING

PONCE de LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE - OCTOBER 9, 2004

The final meeting of the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION for 2004 will be at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse on October 9, 2004. Our group has not met at Ponce Inlet since January 1998 and much has happened at this fabulously preserved beacon since then.

The Ponce Inlet Light is the tallest lighthouse in Florida and the second tallest light in the nation. The lighthouse is one of only a handful to have all its original buildings still intact, and those keepers' dwellings and other historic light station buildings are now home to a lighthouse museum. The Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building was begun in 1994 and completed in 1995. It houses one of the finest collections of restored Fresnel lenses in the world, including the rotating first order Fresnel lens from the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse which was restored and placed on display in 1995 and the newly restored original Ponce Inlet Lighthouse first order Fresnel lens which was restored and put on display in 2003.

The light station was completely automated in 1953 and the keepers and their families left for the last time. The Coast Guard abandoned the light station in 1970 and extensive vandalism occurred on the property. In 1982, a full restoration was begun and the light in the lantern was restored to active service. More recently, another major restoration was undertaken in 2000-2001. The Ponce Inlet 1933 rotating third order lens has been completely

restored by the lens restoration team and has been returned to active service in the tower. The switch was thrown on this lens on April 30, 2004.

During our visit to Ponce Inlet, we will also have the privilege of seeing costumed interpreters reenact the lens maintenance routine for the Cape Canaveral first order rotating lens. The interpretation is as it occurred in 1931, the year this lens was electrified. The "keepers" use a set of reproduction tools created by Gary Knappenberger of Jacksonville using drawings from the national archives.

Our meeting and luncheon will be at the *INLET HARBOR RESTAURANT* located at 133 Inlet Harbor Road in Ponce Inlet. The restaurant is located on a series of piers on the Halifax River about a mile northwest of the lighthouse. We do have a seating capacity at this restaurant so please send in your reservations early. During our meeting, we will have the honor of a presentation by our keynote speaker, noted author Elinor DeWire. Mrs. DeWire always does a most interesting presentation due to her vast knowledge of lighthouses interjected with her own special humor. It will be a presentation long remembered by all. The cost for this event including lunch and facility rental will be \$25.00 per person.

Speaker Bio – Elinor DeWire



A native of Frederick, Maryland, Elinor DeWire has been researching, photographing, and writing about lighthouses since 1973 when she moved to Maine with her husband on a military assignment. Since that time, she has lived on many coasts and visited more than 500 lighthouses. Currently, she resides on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State where she writes and lectures. Ms. DeWire has authored seven books and more than 100 magazine articles about her favorite topic – lighthouses – as well as 3 astronomy books for children, and *The Florida Night*, a guidebook to the night skies over Florida. She has authored many magazine articles on

science, history, and travel and has worked as a contributing editor and columnist for several publications. In 1992, she received an award from the National League of American Pen Women for her short fiction piece, "The Lei", set in Hawaii, where she lived from 1983-1985. Her latest publication, *Lighthouses of the Southeast*, which includes highlights of the Anclote Key Lighthouse was released in May, 2004.

A letter to FLA from Elinor DeWire

KEEPERS IN SKIRTS

Women in the Lighthouse Service
Elinor DeWire
Seabeck Washington

Hundreds of dedicated women served at U.S. lighthouses, many of them in Florida. Meet some of these unusual lady lightkeepers at the October 9, 2004 FLA meeting in Ponce Inlet when I present "Keepers in Skirts: Women in the Lighthouse Service."

I first became interested in this topic in 1973 when I bought a copy of Edward Rowe Snow's book, *Lighthouses of New England*. It was a cold, snowy winter in Maine and I was expecting my first child. Getting cozy with a good read was just the right thing. The final chapter of Snow's book profiled Ida Lewis of Lime Rock Lighthouse. She was a famous rescuer and lighthouse keeper who was featured on the cover of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in July 1869, received lifesaving medals, and met President Ulysses S. Grant.

The idea of women as lightkeepers caught my fancy!

A few years later I visited Newport, Rhode Island to see Ida's lighthouse. At first, I couldn't find it. The problem was that I was hoping for something grand – perhaps a tall masonry tower with many steps spiraling upwards and waves dashing against its base. At the very least, I thought it should look like a lighthouse. I soon discovered Lime Rock Light was a rather ordinary-looking house with a lantern perched in a bedroom window to shine a feeble guiding light over Newport Bay. The legend of Ida Lewis, I decided, far outshone her lighthouse.

Ida Lewis started me thinking about the true meaning of lighthouses. Yes, they are pretty, even dramatic, and we love to draw and photograph them and collect models of our favorites. Many of us have an overabundance of lighthouse stuff – mugs, placemats, Tee-shirts, hats, keychains, magnets, bumperstickers, holiday ornaments, lamps, ceramics, etc. I'm hoping many of you also have a sizeable collection of lighthouse books!

But lighthouses have much greater meaning than any of these media can convey. Lighthouses are more than monuments of stone, bricks, mortar,

metal, and glass. We know this is true now that so many are automated or abandoned – empty places under lock and key. The people are gone from lighthouses, and people are what made them interesting. People designed them, people built them, and people kept them. They were meant to be homes. That's why we decided to call them lighthouses and why they have such great stories to tell us.

Women were an important part of that story. As I learned more about them, I discovered such characters as teenage Grace Darling of England's Longstone Light and Abbie Burgess of Matinicus Rock Twin Lights in Maine, tiny Katie Walker of New York Harbor's Robbins Reef Light, brave Harriet Colfax of Michigan City Light in Indiana, lonely Florence Martus of the Elba Island Range Lights in Georgia, and genial Emily Fish of California's Point Pinos Lighthouse. Some were official lightkeepers, while others gained fame as intrepid wives, daughters, and sisters of lighthouse keepers. The more I researched, the more amazing lighthouse ladies I found to color my files.

In 1986 I wrote an article about some of them for *American History Illustrated*. Since I had few pictures to offer, the editor opted to create some of his own. The opening page of the article featured a model in 19th century dress and hairstyle climbing the stairs inside a lighthouse with a lamp in her hand. When I asked the editor which lighthouse he had chosen for the scene, he responded: "Oh, the one in California." That gave me a chuckle but also fired my resolve to write more about lighthouses. (We all know California has more than one lighthouse!)

Later, I included a chapter about lighthouse women in my 1995 book, *Guardians of the Lights*. I received many letters about it, most saying something like: "My grandmother was a lighthouse keeper's wife....." Also, I created a program called "Women on Watch" and delivered it for the first time in 1996 at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to celebrate Women's History Month. A woman who had grown up at a lighthouse was my special guest – Barbara Beebe Gaspar of Block Island North Light and Southeast Light. She spent a few minutes sharing her memories and got a standing ovation from a grateful audience, mostly cadets.

Since that time, I've talked about lighthouse women in practically every book and program I've written. This is true of my two latest books, which I'll bring to the FLA meeting on October 9th. *Lighthouses of the South* (Voyageur Press) brings to light (please pardon the pun) some unusual lighthouse belles, including Barbara Mabry of Key West Lighthouse. *Florida Lighthouses for Kids* (Pineapple Press) also gives the ladies their due and helps to fulfill another important goal – educating kids.

As a former elementary classroom teacher and a member of the education committee for the FLA, I want to help prepare the next generation of lighthouse preservationists for the big job ahead. Youth education is an important aspect of our mission. We need to reach out to schools, scout troops, youth centers, children's libraries, children's museums, and other educational entities to ensure

that youngsters become informed and passionate about saving lighthouses and perpetuating their history and lore. I hope *Florida Lighthouses for Kids* will be a useful tool in that endeavor. Even more, I hope it is the first of many lighthouse books I'll write for kids in other regions around the nation.

I look forward to visiting Florida again and meeting veteran and new FLA members. Bring my old books with you if you'd like them autographed, and bring cash and checks to purchase new ones (sorry, no credit cards). I'll have lots of copies on hand. You can preview or order on my website www.sentinelpublications.com. I'll be doing numerous other appearances and programs during my visit to Florida. Email me at lighthousequeen@earthlink.net to find out where and when or if you have questions or lighthouse stories you'd like to share.

Gulls on the Ferry Sunset on Mobile Bay



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION - QUARTERLY MEETING

PONCE de LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE - OCTOBER 9, 2004

Agenda – Saturday, October 9, 2004

- 9:00 Registration – Inlet Harbor Restaurant
- 9:30 Call to Order – Quarterly Meeting with guest speaker, Elinor DeWire
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30 Costume reenactors – Lens Exhibit Building – Ponce Inlet Lighthouse
- 3:30 Visit the museum and grounds and climb the lighthouse
-

Hotels

Palm Plaza Oceanfront Resort - AAA 3-Diamond accommodation

3301 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores --
Ph: 386-767-1711

- All Oceanfront efficiency rooms
- Free continental breakfast
- Upgraded room available
- \$68 for standard room (FLA discounted rate)

Beachside - AAA 3-Diamond accommodation

3309 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores --
Ph: 386-788-5569

- Total non smoking facility
- All oceanfront efficiency rooms
- Free continental breakfast at Palm Plaza Oceanfront
- \$62 for standard room (FLA discounted rate)

Both Hotels are located approximately 7 minutes driving time from the Lighthouse.

Driving Directions

To the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station, 4931 South Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127, 386-761-1821: from I-95 take exit 118 and travel east on Dunlawton Avenue. Cross the bridge to the beachside and turn right (south) on South Atlantic Avenue. When you reach Beach Street (about 5 miles) turn right and go one block west to Peninsula Drive. Turn left on Peninsula and you will see the entrance to the Light Station on your left. If you are coming for a conference, please drive through the parking lot to the employee parking area (unpaved lot).

To the Inlet Harbor Marina and Restaurant, 133 Inlet Harbor Road, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127, 386-767-5590: take South Atlantic Avenue. About 4 ¾ miles south of Dunlawton Avenue, turn right onto Inlet Harbor Road which ends at the restaurant.

Please be aware that the 35 mph speed limit on South Atlantic Avenue is strictly enforced.

The Florida Lighthouse Reports

A. Amelia Island. No New Report.

B. St. Johns. No New Report.

C. St. Augustine. See *Newsworthy Lighthouse Notes*, below.

D. Ponce Inlet. No New Report.

E. Cape Canaveral. See *Newsworthy Lighthouse Notes*, below

F. Jupiter. Schedule of activities at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse for September 2004 to June 2005

Many scheduled events have restrictions and/or require reservations. Call 561/747-8380 for details and questions.

Wednesday, September 29 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Wednesday, October 27 at sunset Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Saturday, October 30 - Twilight at the Light - Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Annual Fundraising Event.

Sunday, November 21 at 7 pm, Jupiter Beach Resort - LECTURE Sir Robert Marx: The Voyage of the Nina II

Wednesday, November 24 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Wednesday, December 29 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Wednesday, January 26 at

sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Thursday, January 27 at 7 pm, Town Center of Juno Beach – LECTURE Local Treasures: the Juno Beach Wreck with shipwreck treasurer hunter Jud Laird.

Monday, February 14, 6 - 8 pm, Valentine's Day Toast at the Top, at the Lighthouse at sunset.

Wednesday, February 23 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Thursday, February 24 at 7 pm, Town Center of Juno Beach – LECTURE Buried Treasure: Tales from Jupiter Cemeteries with local genealogist and author, Lynn Lasseter Drake.

Friday, March 25 at 7 pm, Jupiter Community Center – LECTURE An Evening with Zora Neal Hurston, with scholar Phyllis McEwen portraying writer and anthropologist Zora Neal Hurston

Wednesday, March 30 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Wednesday, April 27 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Friday, April 29 at 7 pm, Jupiter Community Center – LECTURE Multi-Colored Memories with Kitty Oliver and fellow jazz musicians.

Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm, Town Center of Juno Beach – LECTURE Natural Treasures at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse with Faye Winters, Federal Bureau of

Land Management Field Biologist.

Wednesday, May 25 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Wednesday, June 29 at sunset, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

G. Hillsboro Inlet. The next Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Tour is set for Saturday, October 23, 2004. Although to take part in the tour you must be a member of the HLPS, you may join THAT DAY when you arrive. Memberships begin at \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families for a 12 month period. Other activities and an 8-page newsletter "Big Diamond" go out to all members. Since 1997 we have averaged 3 tours each year. Check HLPS Website, www.HillsboroLighthouse.org for updated information.

A chartered bus is scheduled to run with the first bus departing at 9:00 a.m. and the last bus departing for the lighthouse at 3:30 p.m. from the Pompano Beach City Parking Lot, two blocks north of Atlantic Boulevard on North Riverside Drive (across from the Sands Harbor Hotel). The USCG closes the lighthouse station at 4:45 p.m.

Come tour the grounds, enjoy the views and learn a bit more of South Florida's interesting history. Hillsboro Lighthouse merchandise will be available that day, as well as at our online Gift Shop.

Elinor DeWire, noted author and

speaker will be presenting a "Power Point" show in south & central Florida in the first full week of October. She is traveling with 4 different stories. Here is her schedule: Wednesday, Oct. 6th at Cape Florida, Thursday, 7th, Hillsboro Inlet, & Saturday, 9th, Ponce Inlet.

Currently the lighthouse tower is being renovated with a new steel door, foundation struts cleaned, primed, & repainted, and the ground lowered to its original level within its area. The Observation Deck railing is also being cleaned, primed, & painted.

H. Cape Florida. No New Report.

I. Reef Lights. No New Report.

J. Key West. No New Report.

K. Sanibel Island. No New Report.

L. Port Boca Grande. No New Report.

M. Boca Grande Rear Range Light. No New Report.

N. Egmont Key. No New Report.

O. Anclote Key. No New Report.

P. Cedar Keys. Annual Seafood Festival, October 16th & 17th, 2004. in the town of Cedar Key. The lighthouse will be open both days. Boat transportation only, from Cedar Key.

Q. St. Marks. No New Report.

R. Crooked River. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association (CLA) and the City of Carrabelle held a joint celebration at the Crooked River Lighthouse on July 2, 2004. The CLA celebrated the fifth anniversary of its formation in July 1999. The City hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling a large new sign adjacent to Highway 98 that announces the City acquiring, with the Crooked River Lighthouse, adjacent land through the Federal Lands-to-Parks program. The event also officially opened the land that the City acquired which had recently been cleared of dense underbrush. City, county, and state officials attended. Invited guests included Jim Brown, the Mayor of Carrabelle, city and Franklin County commissioners, state Senator Al Lawson and state Representative Will Kendrick. Senator Lawson praised the City and CLA for their efforts to preserve the historic Crooked River Lighthouse. Senator Kendrick mentioned the importance of the lighthouse to the maritime history of the area and said he

looks forward to the day the lighthouse will be open to the public. Refreshments were served by the CLA and guests had an opportunity to look inside the lighthouse.

S. Cape San Blas. Eglin Air Force Base personnel have indicated their lease with the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will be finalized in August. Upon receipt of the lease, refurbishing of the lighthouse keepers quarters will begin. Grant monies approved in the amount of \$300,000 will be used for this project.

The 2004 Florida Legislature appropriated \$49,600 in Historic Preservation grant-in-aid funds for Architectural and Engineering plans of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Project.

A grant-in-aid application, in the amount of \$380,000 for the Historic Cape San Blas Lighthouse Phase II project has been submitted to historical resources. This request will be reviewed in September.

T. Cape St. George. No New Report.

U. St. Joseph. No New Report.

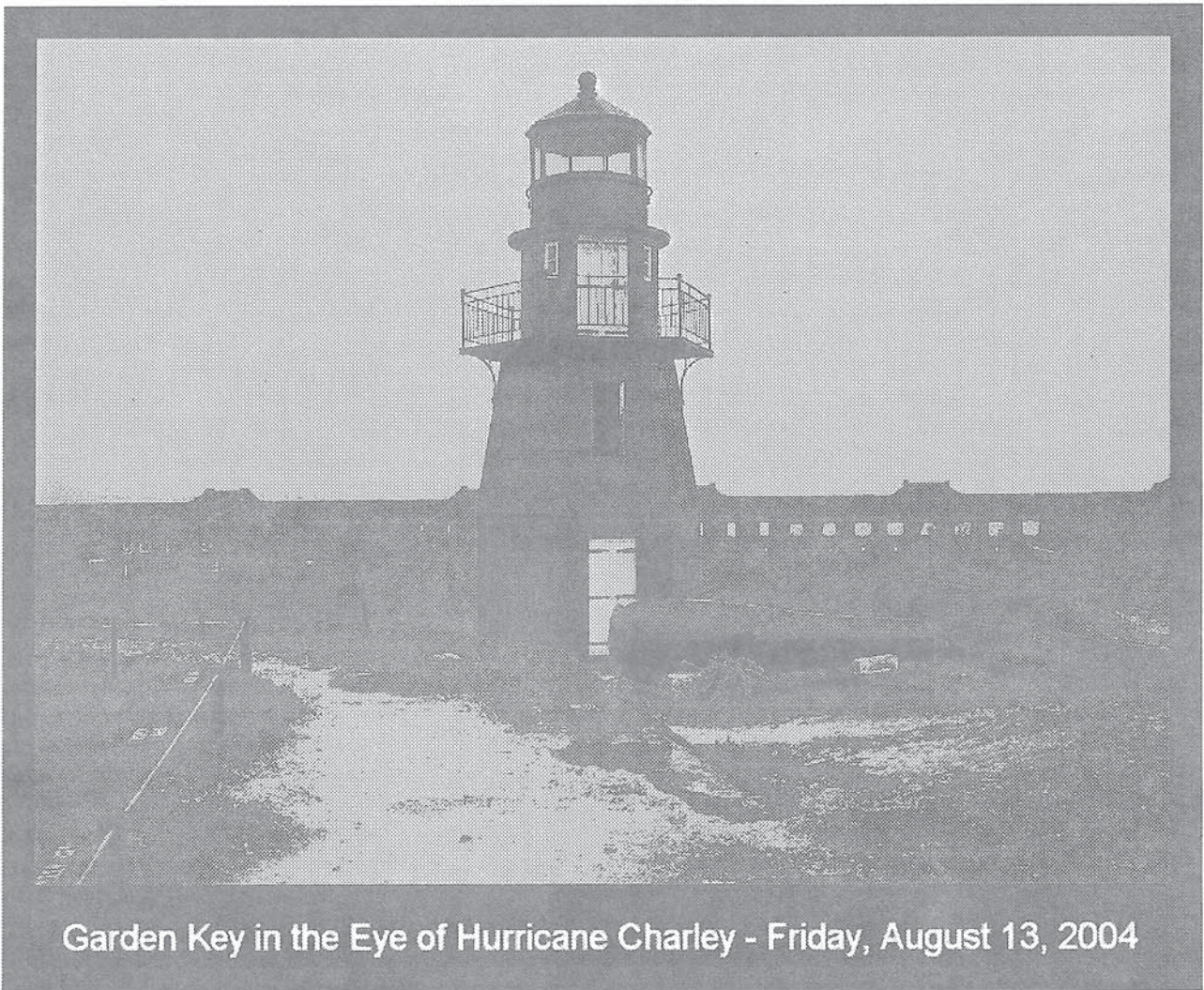
V. Pensacola. No New Report.

Newsworthy Lighthouse Notes

Hurricane Charley Runs Over the Dry Tortugas — Mike Ryan, NPS Ranger

Hurricane Charley struck a direct hit on the Tortugas, with winds estimated at 130+ mph. The eye passed over Garden Key at approximately 9:00 AM on Friday, August 13. For the seventeen individuals sheltered within the fort it was a very interesting morning, but we all survived without a scratch. Many of our quarters had multiple leaks,

with wind, water, and the occasional leaf blowing through the seams of our walls and floor boards. "It sounded like a freight train!" is an often used, yet accurate description of this memorable morning. Thanks to Hurricane Charley, we all have a great deal of respect for this massive, seemingly indestructible fort.



Garden Key in the Eye of Hurricane Charley - Friday, August 13, 2004

In advance of the storm the park was closed Wednesday afternoon. Preparations continued through Thursday evening (filling sand bags, hanging shutters, removing park boats from the water, etc.). As we nervously went to bed that

evening, everything was eerily quiet.

Alas, things are quiet again, but now there is much to repair and clean up. Garden Key took the brunt of the damage. Many of the beautiful trees inside the

fort and within the campground were lost. The moat wall was damaged, especially along the western front. Brickwork along the top of the fort's walls was stripped away, including much of the vegetation on the terreplein--scoured away as though it were the target of a large sand blaster. Windows in the Garden Key Lighthouse and the Superintendent's Quarters were blown out. The flag pole was severed. The Audubon bird fountain destroyed.

The areas outside the fort resembled a war zone. The finger piers and auxiliary pathways were torn away and thrown onto the island. Damaged trees lay everywhere. Picnic tables were scattered, some finding their way into the moat. The fate of the landbridge connecting Bush Key to Garden Key swung in the balance. During the eye of the storm (when we walked out to access the damage), the landbridge was completely submerged. Since then it has returned, but its profile--and the profile of all of the islands--has changed slightly. There were a few dead birds, but miraculously most of the wildlife managed to survive. We rescued a couple of entangled frigate birds. Overall, the birds needed little help from us. It is absolutely amazing how creatures could survive such violent conditions, but they did. A large part of the vegetation on Bush Key, however, did not.

The weather station on Iowa Rock disappeared, leaving three bare stumps. Navigational aids throughout the park were damaged. Many turtle

nests, it is feared, were also destroyed.

Loggerhead Key survived quite well. Exposed on the outer edge of the reef, the island seemed like an easy target. It was not until Saturday morning that a boat could be made ready for the trip to the island. At first glance, things did not look good. The dock (as one would expect) was heavily damaged. On thorough inspection, though, the systems and structures on the island were in remarkably good condition. Some trees were lost, a pillar supporting the porch of the small house was damaged, and other minor damage was sustained. Overall, though, Loggerhead was fortunately spared.

Clean up is well underway. Thanks to the help of volunteers and employees detailed from Everglades National Park, things are slowly returning to normal. The park is closed for now. There is much to do before visitors can safely return. The latest estimate is that the park should reopen within approximately two weeks.

Thank you for your thoughts and concerns. We are at full staff, and cannot take on new volunteers for the clean up. Most of our systems are running fine, and we have plenty of food and water. Nevertheless, "Friday the 13th" is a day that we will never forget.

Mike Ryan
Dry Tortugas National Park

Bonnie & Charley Spare Florida Lights - Mostly

Hurricanes Bonnie and Charley threatened Florida lighthouses the length of the Gulf coast. According to available news reports, from Cape St. George near Apalachicola along the Panhandle, to Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas, most suffered minor only minor damage.

Media stories about the lighthouses in the paths of Bonnie and Charley were all similar in tone. Damage appeared to be confined to broken windows, missing railings, lost shingles and downed trees. Much like the full report from Dry Tortugas National Park's Mike Ryan above.

To read some of the online media accounts about the storms and their effect on Florida lighthouses, try a search at www.google.com with these search terms:
'Hurricane Charley +lighthouse 2004 Florida Media'

Newsorthy Lighthouse Notes

JUPITER LIGHTHOUSE REPAIRS CALL FOR COMMUNITY HELP

For over 144 years the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, Palm Beach County's oldest structure, has projected its beacon to help those in need find their way home safely. Perhaps it is time now for the community to return the favor.

In recent months, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, stewards of this beloved historic treasure, has been made aware of problems with the paint covering the metal of the upper portion of the lighthouse - the catwalk, main balcony, railings and roof. Then in late July, another problem emerged -- part of the spiral staircase of 105 steps was found to have shifted slightly. Executive Director Jamie Stuve immediately shut down the lighthouse tours, while engineers and other experts pored over the lighthouse interior to determine what had happened and what will be needed to repair the staircase. "Each lighthouse is its own continuing mystery," said Stuve. "One never knows what surprises it holds in store for its keepers."

Currently, visitors to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse will be allowed to tour the lighthouse grounds, the Oil House exhibit, and walk into the lighthouse. No climbing will be permitted until the stairs are re-secured. Admission has been reduced from \$6.00 per person to \$3.00 with children under six years old admitted free. The lighthouse is open Saturday through Wednesday from 10am to 4 pm, with the last tour leaving at 3:15 pm. The lighthouse is closed Thursday and Friday.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, payment should be mailed to:

Loxahatchee River Historical Society
805 North US Highway One
Jupiter, FL 33477.

Cedar Keys – Steps Back In Time



On Saturday July 31, 2004 Joe and Stephanie Dingler, took a step back in time as they did volunteer work at Cedar Keys Lighthouse, Florida

Joe and Stephanie have been doing volunteer work as Tour Guides at this lighthouse for the last three years. They say that that they wouldn't miss it for the world. They have traveled hundreds of miles every July and Oct. just to do their weekend duty. So far in three years they have only miss one Open House. This however was a special weekend for them, and the reason for the Civil War attire. Joe in his Union Navy Uniform and Stephanie in an Annabellum Mourning Dress.

Joe is also known (on the island) as the Graveyard Historian, as he does the Graveyard Tours. He tells the visitors all that he knows about the people buried there. The first Lighthouse Keeper "William

Wilson d.1855", A keeper's wife "Catharine Hobday d.1879"(who was an assistant keeper herself), 3 Union Navy Soldiers and others. It is also know that there are several other graves with no headstone or information about who they are. Joe in his desire to learn more about the unmarked graves has done many hours of research through National Archives, Navel Archives, etc. And through his studies he learned the name of a forth Union Navy Soldier (Seaman John Bishop) that was documented as being killed in the area and buried on the island.

Therefore, this weekend was indeed a very special one, with lots of VIP's on the island, as it was: The 150th Anniversary of the Cedar Keys Light Station, first lit in 1854.

The 75th Anniversary of Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1929 by President Herbert Hoover.

And a Ceremony of: Dedication of Headstone Honoring Seaman John Bishop, Union Navy.

The Cedar Keys Lighthouse is located on Seahorse Key, FL. And can only be accessed by boat. The island is owned by the National Wildlife Service and leased to the University of Florida for use as a marine research lab. The students often use the Lighthouse itself as a dormitory, during their temporary stays on the island. The island is not open to the public, except one Sat. in July and the 3rd weekend of Oct. when the NWR holds an Open House.

CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE – George Diller

Restoration work has been completed on one of the original small buildings associated with the oldest historical landmark on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station -- the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. The oil house, built in 1894, is located adjacent to the present main entrance of the lighthouse and is the same year the lighthouse was reconstructed on its current site.

The original and now restored oil house is 16 feet in length, 12 feet in width and 18 feet in height. Within it on numerous shelves were the many containers of kerosene used to keep the flame of the lantern lit that burned within the center of the Fresnel lens. The fuel was carried in five gallon buckets by the lighthouse keeper up the 167 steps to the lantern room where it was used to keep the wick of the lamp burning. It was brought to Cape Canaveral by boat every six months and stored in the oil house.

Later, about 1930 upon electrification of the lighthouse, two large fuel tanks were placed in the oil house to power a pair of generators installed in the lighthouse basement. Also, possibly about this time, a single window was cut into the east wall of the oil house which had no windows at all when designed. The generators and the tanks were later removed when commercial power arrived at the lighthouse in the early 1950s. The roof blew completely off the oil house during a storm in the early 1970s after the oil house had been abandoned.

When the money was appropriated to restore the oil house, it was mandated that it be done as an authentic historical restoration, meaning that it would be restored to the specifications at the time it was built in 1894. When the Air Force took custody the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, the U.S. Coast Guard turned over copies of the original architectural plans. These included the lighthouse, the keeper's dwellings, and the oil house.

Using these blueprints to return the oil house to its original 1894 appearance, authentic antique bricks had to be found and were eventually located in Orlando. These were used to close the hole on the east wall where the window had been installed. A special lime-based mortar of the time was recreated and used for restoring the antique bricks into the window opening and also used for filling voids between the bricks where the original mortar had fallen out or become loose over the years. The exterior whitewash on the oil house, which was not one of the specifications in the original drawings, was carefully water-blasted away under low pressure revealing the original red brick surface.

Gables and rafters made of southern pine were erected, over which a metal alloy roof was placed. It is believed to be very similar to the original, though there is still some debate over whether the original roof was copper or the metal alloy and there

was no specification on the original architectural plans.

The roof was restored around two original ventilation ports located at the pinnacle of each gable. The original door to the oil house, long since removed was found, but its condition had deteriorated beyond possible restoration. An authentic replica of the door was created, again using southern pine, and overlaid with a metal sheeting similar to the original door. It was then attached to the oil house door frame with metal strap hinges, as was the original. Authentic replicas of the two oil tanks may also be recreated to closely simulate the interior environment of the oil house.

The oil house restoration was done by Nelco, a Tampa company, and took three months to complete.

It is hoped that sufficient money can soon be found to paint the lighthouse. However, a rust problem between the exterior cast iron metal plates and the interior brick needs to be addressed before painting can begin. Also, cast iron cornices that support the lower gallery, or catwalk, outside the lantern room, with associated cast iron deck and safety railings, needs some restoration work. Similar work needs to be done to the upper gallery that provided access for the lighthouse keeper to clean the windows. The original copper lighthouse dome, removed about ten years ago due to leaks may also eventually undergo a restoration and could eventually be reinstalled atop the lighthouse.

The long-term cost of the lighthouse restoration and buildings is being funded by the U.S. Air Force and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. It is ultimately planned to include an authentic reconstruction of the keeper's dwellings.

Originally run by the U.S. Lighthouse Service and then the U.S. Coast Guard, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse became property of the U.S. Air Force in December 2000. It is still a working aid to navigation. While the Air Force owns and maintains the lighthouse structure, the U.S. Coast Guard still maintains its modern first-order optic. The original historic first-order Fresnel lens was removed in 1994 to protect it from further vibration damage associated with launches from near-by Complex 36. This occurred over the years, eventually causing prisms in the lens to fall out. It has been restored and is on display at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse located approximately 35 miles north of Cape Canaveral.

The restored oil house and the original living quarters contained within the first three levels of the lighthouse are open to badged employees on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. More information about the lighthouse and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation may be found at:

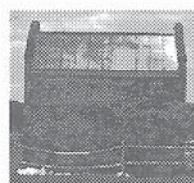
www.capecanaverallighthousefoundation.com



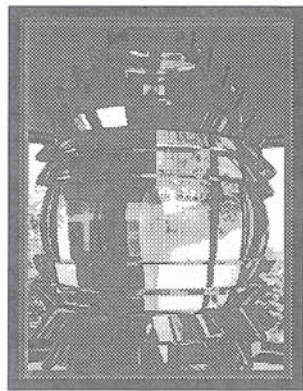
Beginning



In Progress



Finished Oil House



New Photo Contest

The F.L.A. is excited to learn that David Hanko is organizing and conducting another photo contest. Details will be announced in a future *FLA Flash*. However, to give you all time to take that winning photo, this announcement is being made. Everyone is encouraged to participate by submitting an 8 x 10 of their favorite lighthouse photo entry. A contestant will be able to submit up to 3 entries, so please get your cameras ready, take some lighthouse shots and stay posted for further updates as the contest progresses over the next several months.

Florida Lighthouse Association

81 Lighthouse Avenue

St. Augustine, FL 32080

Phone: (813) 968-5640 Option 3

Fax: (813) 960-2065

**www.floridalighthouses.
org**

Email: info@floridalighthouses.org

Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses

Welcome to our new members!

Jack Bennett, Judith G. Bowerman, Olin & Sandi Britt, Ed & Dorothy Butler, Terry Collins, Patricia Conner, Rose Crnkovich, Richard Desrochers, Cathy & Charles Gongloff, Katherine "Kay" Guimond, Thomas L. Harris, Bill Harrison, Bill Hartman, Marilyn & Bob Horton, Elizabeth Hunter, Capts. Robert & Mary Ann Johnston, Deborah Kent, Alfred & Millicent Kreuzscher, Lower Suwannee Wildlife Excursions, Mayport Lighthouse Assoc Inc., Donna McCraw, Dawn Morrow, Roger & Carolyn Napier, Sandra & Raymond Preiter, Rosalie Wolf & Thomas Quinn, Pam Ross, David & Linda Sam, Bill Schneider, Marilyn & Gene Simpson, Jim & Barbara Smith, Diana Stone, B. L. & Ellen Walls, Leslie White, William Wilkins

NOTICE!

**Membership renewals and dues are due in
September. See the details on Page 1.**

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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 that promotes the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the history and significance of those lighthouses and of Florida's unique maritime heritage. For information, contact:

Florida Lighthouse Association,
81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32080

Phone: (813) 968-5640 Option 3

Fax: (813) 960-2065

WebSite:www.floridalighthouses.org

E-mail:info@floridalighthouses.org

Wayne Hawes, President

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Ponce Inlet Lighthouse
EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: October 2, 2004

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CHOICE OF LUNCH ENTRÉE:

(Includes fries, pickle spear, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and gratuity)

- 1) **Monterey Fried Chicken Wrap** - herb tortilla wrapped around lettuce, tomato, cheddar cheese, onion and stuffed with fried chicken and Monterey Jack Cheese and ranch dressing.
- 2) **Florida Fresh Catch of the Day** - fish sandwich, blackened, or fried. Served on a toasted Kaiser.
- 3) **Prime Rib Sandwich** - stacked high with Burgundy mushroom sauce and Swiss Cheese.

YOU WILL BE MAKING YOUR MENU SELECTION AT THE RESTAURANT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Total number of persons _____ X \$25.pp = _____

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION. Mail this form and your payment to:

Dennis and Gayle Stemas
10847 Duck Hook Ct.
San Antonio, FLORIDA 33576

- We do have a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.
- All reservations received after the deadline will be returned.
- For written confirmation of reservation, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.