



# the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

[www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org)

## Tenth Anniversary Meeting Honors Founders

The *Florida Lighthouse Association* celebrates 10 years as a statewide organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and protecting Florida's remaining 30 lighthouses at the annual meeting October 21, 2006. The meeting, which features a tour of the Sanibel Lighthouse, will honor the organization's founders.

Twenty-six founders attended the first organizational meeting in Key Biscayne, Florida in July 1996. The first annual meeting of the new non-profit corporation followed in October 1996. Tom Taylor, the organizer and driving force, and president of the organization in 1997-2002, said at the time the objective of the new association was to "disseminate information and to help in the preservation of the lighthouses in the state of Florida, the United States and the world and to stimulate interest in lighthouses in general." Ann Caneer of Ponce Inlet Lighthouse served as first president and will be honored at the meeting. Tom Taylor died in 2004.

Stan Farnham, the current president, said the *Florida Lighthouse Association* has made "great strides in a decade of shedding the light of history on lighthouse preservation with an all-volunteer organization with no salaries or travel reimbursement for officers and board members. Membership has grown to nearly 1,000."

Farnham said: "Let's not forget where we came from and use those memories, the strategic plan goals and this meeting to launch a new decade of progress in the mission."

Although noted for being a paradise for seashell collectors, for sandy white beaches and for bird watching, the most photographed structure on Sanibel Island is the lighthouse. The Sanibel Lighthouse is a carbon copy of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, where the organization held its third quarter meeting July 15, 2006. The City of Sanibel manages the tower, built in 1884, but the Coast Guard has jurisdiction over the light. City employees currently live in the keeper's dwellings. Neither the lighthouse nor the keeper's quarters are open to the public, but will be open for the *Florida Lighthouse Association* members thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard and the employee-resident of the keeper's house.

Only six of the 30 Florida lighthouses are open to the public. One benefit of being a *Florida Lighthouse Association* member: quarterly meetings alternate among the lighthouses and most of the lighthouses not open to the public are open to members for the meetings. *See more details on this meeting and reservation form inside.*

### - Notes -

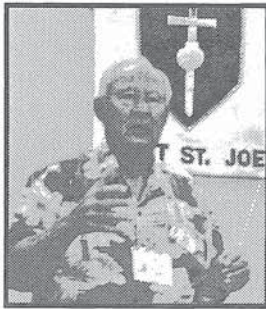
Please remember to renew your FLA membership! See page 3 for details.

September 16<sup>th</sup> is  
Florida Lighthouse Day

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## Stan's Beacon...Comments from the President



Do you know what the number one problem is for most non-profit volunteer organizations? *Apathy*. Whether the organization is the biggest national lighthouse association or one of the smallest local ones, the major concern is apathy with a lack of volunteers and a lack of funding. Tim Harrison, president of the American Lighthouse Foundation, a 5,000-member organization, said he was dismayed at the lack of corporate support.

Conventional methods yield conventional results, which equals mediocrity. We need to answer their unspoken question, "what's in it for me?" We need an edgier approach to get through all the "noise" of so many appeals. We need some creative approaches, such as applying for state and federal brownfield money because of pollution at sites (lead paint). We need to talk of benefits to potential supporters.

But we first must have a *clear direction* for FLA that members can use for a sharp focus for their efforts and to gain internal fulfillment from helping achieve the goals. Sometimes people don't know what to do or what is important to do. A strategic plan with clear goals answers those questions. June 17 twenty-seven key members met and hammered out in a day-long interactive session a Strategic Plan to provide a clear direction for FLA in preserving, protecting and promoting Florida's lighthouses and rich maritime history.

I'm proud of the dedicated efforts of our bright and talented volunteer team. They'll tell you that motivation is when your dreams put on work clothes. Being a part of something important provides a sense of self worth...and our meetings are fun getaways. By being a member and involved you can also share in the successes. Recent ones include: FLA's new 100+-page Web site; grants at Cape San Blas, Cape St. George and others with strong local progress at several lighthouses; Bylaws modernized June 17, 2006 for a more streamlined organization; progress on forging alliances and building a network of partners for a stronger influence (such as *Florida Trust* and *Visit Florida*); two new brochures; and a new separate account for Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate fund...and a \$6,000 increase in funds in the last quarter to more than \$20,000. The Florida Lighthouse Day proclamation for September 16, 2006 was signed by Governor Bush and issued.

Take a look at our top goals.

### FLA Strategic Goals

1. **Develop Strategic Plan** to provide clear direction for the association. Issue to all members, media and strategic partners. Include in web site.
2. **Achieve specialty lighthouse license plate** for sustained funding (gift that keeps on giving) for FLA mission to support all 30 lighthouses.
3. **Forge strategic alliances and partnerships** to develop a combined powerhouse of **advocacy**, lobbying, networking and understanding of the government bureaucracy to stop teardown, fall down; and gain funding and grants.
4. **Develop a comprehensive and effective funding**, in addition to the license plate, including corporate sponsorship program; wooing donors, endowments, wills and estate planning, trusts, insurance policy designation.
5. **Increase and broaden membership**: Build a better sense of membership (by more volunteerism, boosting communications, and other actions).
6. **Support Local Lighthouse organizations**: "We exist to help all the Florida lighthouses." Information sharing (best practices). Product sales win/wins.
7. **Hire an Executive Director** (office, phone, and other pre-actions).
8. **Develop strong public and children education** programs and speakers.
9. **Promote Lighthouses-Tourism**, cross promos, speakers, and building buzz for our mission and the role of Florida lighthouses in our maritime history. Visit Florida, Florida Lighthouse Day (September 16)
10. **Have Fun!**

### It is FLA membership renewal time!

Membership Fee, tax deductible, is due September 30.

Please mail your check to: Diana "Dede" Smith  
VP-Membership  
P.O. Box 149963  
Orlando, Florida 32814-9963.

Please consider doubling your membership amount with a tax-deductible *gift membership* for a friend!

## Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

### Member Meeting Minutes

#### Cape San Blas - July 15, 2006

**Call to order:** President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Invocation:** Ken Smith gave the invocation.

**Welcome:** Stan welcomed all members and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Recognize:** Stan recognized new members and those members attending their first FLA meeting, Arlene Dehler, Ray Lopez, Leslie Long, Elaine Sessions, Steve Miller and Bob and Sandra Shanklin.

**Announcements.** Stan explained the handout on the President's Report and the Strategic Plan Goals. He mentioned that volunteers are needed for the positions of District 2 Commissioner, Chair of the Education Committee and for the FLA FLASH. He announced that August 7, 2006 is National Lighthouse Day, which was originally signed in to law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Stan presented the proclamation signed by Governor Jeb Bush, which designated September 16, 2006 as Florida Lighthouse Day. The certificate will be on display at Boca Grande Lighthouse for the events planned to celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day. Stan announced the Thomas H. Taylor President's Award (and certificate) were awarded to Hib Casselberry, at the meeting June 17<sup>th</sup> at Ponce de Leon Lighthouse, for 10 years of dedicated service to the FLA.

**Prizes:** Stan presented the Stewarts with a prize for the members who traveled the longest distance to attend. He awarded Albert King a prize for being the first member to register for the meeting.

**Charlotte Pierce** with the St. Joe Historical Society welcomed the members of FLA and gave a brief history of the city and the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.

**Strategic Plan Session:** Stan announced the follow up session for Action Items on the Strategic Plan will be held August 26<sup>th</sup> in Maitland, FL for the Strategic Planning team of 27 members.

**Visit Florida:** Stan and Mary Farnham will be attending a *Visit Florida* event September 6-8 in St. Petersburg, which is important because of FLA recently partnering with *Visit Florida* to increase tourism promotion of lighthouses.

**Guest Speakers:** Stan introduced guest speakers Bob and Sandra Shanklin, who shared wonderful stories of their adventures and the obstacles they overcame to photograph every lighthouse in the United States (670).

**Certificates of Appreciation:** Presented to Bob and Sandra Shanklin for speaking to the members, to Charlotte Pierce for hosting the FLA event at Cape San Blas and to Danny Raffield for hosting raffle winners visit to his lighthouse residence.

#### Officers Reports:

**Secretary:** The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to the members in writing, available in the FLA FLASH and on-line. No additions or corrections were noted and the minutes were accepted as written.

**Treasurer:** The License plate fund is currently \$21,048.60 in which \$6,306.97 was raised within the last quarter. A separate account is being set up for the funds to be separate from the general funds of the FLA. We have donated \$2,500.00 to the Coast Guard Relief from Hurricane Katrina. George Diller read one of several letters the Coast Guard Foundation has sent expressing their appreciation for the donation. Current operating balance: \$55,938.80

**VP of Membership:** Dede thanked Norm Collins for his generous donation of a computer to FLA. He is currently working on establishing a database for FLA memberships. Dede noted that we have a record of at 877 memberships and added 10 new members in the last quarter.

**VP of Fundraising:** Charley Knox displayed a beautiful print of the St. Augustine Lighthouse, which has been donated by artist Bill Trotter. Raffle tickets are available for \$5. (See website for details.) The winner will be drawn at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting and Bill Trotter will be present to select the winner. The second ornament, Pensacola Lighthouse, is now available for sale. Brochures are now in I-75 and I-95 visitor's centers. These should be available in I-10 and Tallahassee soon. We will offer a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt for sale in Sanibel.

**VP of Meetings:** Gayle Stamac reported that \$270 was raised for the License Plate Fund from members making donations on the registration forms for the Cape San Blas Meeting. The request for donations will appear on future registration forms. Funds collected will be a tax-deductible donation and will be included on your statement at the years end. Future meetings include: Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Sanibel; Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> St. Augustine; April 21<sup>st</sup> Amelia Island; July 21<sup>st</sup> Hillsboro; Oct., 2007 Jupiter; and Jan. 2008 Cape

Florida.

**VP of IT, Webmaster:** Stan Beckstrom explained what type of information can be found on the web site including notices posted and links to site relating to lighthouse news. The website has a lot of new and useful content; go to the web to check out what's new!

**Break:** Members took a 20-minute break.

**Committee Reports:**

**License Plate Fund:** Beverly Oakes addressed the members of the need for volunteers to assist in raising funds for this project. You may email her with suggestions or questions on ways to increase the funds. The major focus is now on companies, business and organizations that would have an interest, such as: they use "lighthouse" in the name or a lighthouse as their logo.

**Education:** Hib Casselberry will be resigning as chair of the Education Committee. If you have an interest in this please let Stan Farnham know.

**Newsletter:** Rick Mau will be resigning from the FLA FLASH. If you are interested in this position please let Stan Farnham know.

**Archive:** Gordon Levi reported that the archives will consist of information specifically pertaining to the Florida Lighthouse Association, and not general information on Florida Lighthouses.

**Publicity:** Ken Smith is looking for volunteers interested in or that have a back ground in Publicity and Public Affairs.

**Presidents Report:** Stan provided the members with a written President's Report to save meeting time. He discussed the Strategic Plan Session in June at Ponce de Leon Lighthouse and the importance of developing a clear strategic direction; the Revised By-laws that were approved at the same meeting and are available on the website and a

report for the Florida Trust Meeting, which is available via email.

**Level A Lighthouse Reports:** See Lighthouse Reports section for those submitted in writing and handed out.

**Ranger Andy Edel** of St. Marks reported that a finding of lead paint contamination has stalled the turnover of St. Marks Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that had been approved July 11 in the 2006 Coast Guard budget. George Diller noted that the same problem had halted work on Cape Canaveral renovation. Charlotte Pierce said lead paint had been found also at the base of Cape San Blas.

**Charlotte Pierce** recognized Michael Applegate and Maria Rodriguez for their support on restoration projects. They spoke briefly and later opened the lighthouse for our tour. The St. Joe Historical Society received one of seven *Outstanding Awards* from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for restoration of Sleeping Beauty. Bill Roberts, the grandson of a former keeper at Cape San Blas, also joined us.

**Terry Collins** reported the Rotary Club in Panama City is engineering a lighthouse planned for St. Andrews and said the Coast Guard confirmed they will supply a light. Several lighthouse projects similar to this are in planning stages around the state, including a new lighthouse in Pensacola, and a Smokestack considered for conversion near Flagler Beach.

**Adjournment:** President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting so members would have an opportunity to speak to Bob and Sandra Shanklin, buy merchandise and have it signed. The meeting adjourned at 11:40

Christi Sessions, Secretary

Prize winners:

Ray and Anne Stewart and Alfred King.



Stan Farnham and Charlotte Pierce  
With St. Joe Historical Society certificate.

## Bob and Sandra Shanklin Shine Light on Adventures

Bob and Sandra Shanklin delighted a sell-out crowd of Florida Lighthouse members July 15 at the quarterly meeting at the fellowship hall of the St. James Episcopal Church at Port St. Joe.

"We are known as the Lighthouse People," Sandra said. "We didn't come up with the term. One of the magazine article writers referred to us this way and the name stuck as we visited lighthouses.

Bob said they have gone out on the water in sport boats, crabber's boats, lobsterman's boats, and rowboats. "We can't count how many ferries we have taken," he said. "We've flown in twin-engine planes, single engine planes, seaplanes and helicopters. We have climbed over boulders, hung from tree branches over a cliff and rolled in a mud puddle to get under a fence."

The talented storytellers mixed in humor as they shared a dozen of their adventures in photographing lighthouses, often finishing each other's sentences. Appreciative *FLA'ers* applauded frequently. How did they start? Sandra said: "On our wedding trip to New England in 1987 we photographed our first lighthouses together, with the Portland Head Light the first one. The lighthouse bug bit us."

Since then, they have traveled all over the United States in search of lighthouses. They have counted about 670 lights they said and have photographed every standing lighthouse including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Bob concluded the presentation with an emotionally moving ghost story that had the audience grabbing their chair seats. They have published many books which can be purchased on their website at [www.thelighthousepeople.com](http://www.thelighthousepeople.com). Many in the audience bought autographed books at the break and before lunch.

For some *FLA'ers*, what's for dinner is almost as big a draw as visiting the lighthouse. Well, not quite, but twenty-two of us celebrated Bob Shanklin's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday at Sunset Coastal Grill on St. Joe Bay, just before the board meeting Friday evening. Sometimes you just go out to eat, but other times



you go out and have a dining experience. This was one of those!

Charlotte Pierce said it's one of the best dining spots anywhere along the Forgotten Coast. This casual restaurant served up gourmand seafood at down to earth prices and offered a relaxing atmosphere that was a dining delight. The seafood platter, called "A little of this and a little of that" looked tempting, but we settled for Mahi Mahi cooked to perfection. Others ordered different dishes but all diners seemed pleased. Charlotte brought along a special cake prepared by local Rhonda Tull.

What the celebrants might have lacked in singing ability they made up in enthusiasm as everyone joined in singing a *happy birthday*; including others at the restaurant and the wait staff.

Why you might ask are we covering old news of what happened in July? Here's the skinny on that. We had members say that it's a shame that those who aren't at this meeting won't know just what a fun and feel good time we had. If everyone knew then we would have to rent another hall. "Let's not keep this a secret," one said. Now you know. One *FLA'er* said: "This was a feel good time."

This highly successful meeting had the Shanklin's talk, crisp reports by the officers, a welcome break at the mid point, a mouth-watering lunch of peel 'n' eat shrimp, a tour of the restored keeper's cottages and photographing and climbing a lighthouse not open to the public. Add to that a visit either traveling to, or going from, the meeting to the Crooked River Lighthouse, the remains of Cape St. George and for the raffle winners a visit to Port Point Lighthouse (Raffield residence). Some stopped

to see St. Marks Lighthouse. Many of us stayed at the quaint 20-room Port Inn, originally built in 1910 and rebuilt in 1947.

An FLA meeting has serious business but the getaway weekend for FLA members can be fun, a

pleasant social contact with folks of similar interests and support for all 30 lighthouses because the meeting fee (partly tax deductible) goes to the lighthouses, including a stipend to the host lighthouse.



Jeb Bush  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

### Florida Lighthouse Day

WHEREAS, lighthouses have played a significant economic and historical role in the settlement and development of Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 1824, lighthouses have protected coastal shipping and guided mariners into Florida's rivers and ports; and

WHEREAS, thirty of the fifty-nine lighthouses constructed in the state of Florida are still standing on the land and in the waters of the Sunshine State; and

WHEREAS, lighthouses are tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, Florida's lighthouses represent the romantic spirit and sense of adventure of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, it is in Florida's best interest to preserve, protect and promote these treasures of our seashore;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the state of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 18, 2006 as Florida Lighthouse Day.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto set my hand  
and caused the Great Seal of  
the state of Florida to be  
affixed at Tallahassee, the  
Capital, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June  
in the year two thousand six.

*Jeb Bush*  
GOVERNOR

## Mystery Lock Almost Spoils Cape San Blas Visit!

By Dennis and Gayle Stemas



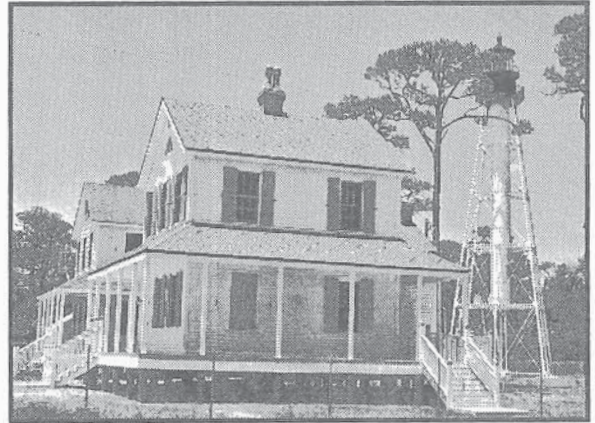
The room still buzzed with the sounds of talking and laughter after a fun meeting packed with information and presentations. After a culinary delightful lunch, and everyone feeling good, people jumped in their cars for the short, but picturesque drive to the Cape San Blas lighthouse. On the way some caught a glimpse of Danny Raffield's lighthouse, which a lucky six raffle winners visited later.

Arrival at the lighthouse revealed the awesome tower with both the keeper's quarters in a row, but the lighthouse compound sits behind a locked chain link fence. Everyone quickly gathered around the gate waiting to get inside. Whoa! Not so fast. Someone had added a third lock on the gate that no one knew about nor could open! Word spread through the crowd about the problem getting inside. Although some *FLA'ers* were taking photos, most were waiting for a better shot *inside* the fence. This was July in Florida and it was hot – so hot!!! Thankfully a local bank had supplied bottles of cold water, but some folks were melting in the heat and decided to leave.

Charlotte Pierce, our host from the St. Joseph Historical Society made some calls and soon a burly security guard arrived with the largest bolt cutters most of us had ever seen. As he whipped the bolt cutters into action, the chain fell to the ground and the crowd cheered and rapidly entered the

compound. Cameras flashed and everyone scattered in different directions.

Many headed straight to the lighthouse expecting to gain access. The door opened but nobody climbed the stairs. Wasps!!! This lighthouse is rarely climbed, so the Eglin Air Force Base people came prepared, however, with wasp spray cans and zapped the enemy. Luckily we waited in the shade. A Gulf breeze made the wait tolerable. Finally the moment came, the wasps were gone and a climb to the top was amply rewarded. They permitted entry to the lantern room so everyone got up close and personal with the rare clamshell lens. While some climbed, others toured "Sleeping Beauty." The climbers toured it next. She was unrecognizable from our last visit as she is now truly grand after having been stabilized and restored to its original grandeur. She has most of her original bead board wainscoting, ceiling, and floors. This was a Saturday afternoon that will be long remembered by everyone, as it may never be replicated again!!!



### The WOW! Factor

Comments from the Cape San Blas Meeting

"Thank you for the great meeting in Port St. Joe." - Pat Varner

"We're thrilled to be a part of such a great organization. Keep the flame!" - Corinne & Dean Oleson

"Thanks so much for a wonderful meeting." - Dorothy Butler

"I had a great time!" - Andy Edel

Come join us at Sanibel, and experience a meeting of your FLA first hand.

## FLA Anniversary Celebration

### TWIN SISTERS

Sanibel Island Lighthouse  
Florida Lighthouse Association  
**October 21, 2006**

*This will be a very special meeting of the FLA as this is our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We will be honoring our group's "founding fathers" as well as having surprises, gifts, and recognitions throughout the meeting.*

The first settlement was established on Sanibel Island in 1833, but it wasn't until 1963 when the causeway linking the island to the mainland was constructed that the influx of traffic and tourists became commonplace additions to the island. Due to its east-west direction, it is a "shellers" paradise as well as a prime viewing spot for birds during the fall migration. The beaches are very lovely with white sand, sea grapes, and sea oats.

Unknown to most, the Sanibel Lighthouse is a carbon copy of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse in the Panhandle. Both consist of four iron legs arranged in a pyramidal design around a cylindrical central column. Just like its twin, the central column at Sanibel stops about 10-feet from the ground and the lighthouse must be accessed by an external staircase.

The Sanibel Light was completed in 1884 to meet the need for a navigational beacon for booming port traffic from Punta Rassa located on the mainland as well as from Tampa to the North. Two square keeper's dwellings with hipped roofs and supported by iron pilings were also built at the station. In 1923, the dwellings were modernized and received indoor plumbing and bathrooms. A third-order Fresnel lens graced the tower at a height of about 98 feet. The lens was automated in 1949 and electrified in 1962. Today the tower houses a 300mm optic. The City of Sanibel manages the tower and city employees currently live in the keeper's dwellings, maintaining and supervising the

property. The Coast Guard has jurisdiction over the light and Chief Christopher Brown, Commanding Officer of the Aids to Navigation Team in St. Petersburg will attend our meeting.

No trip to Sanibel Island would be complete for a lighthouse lover without a climb to the top of the lighthouse as well as an inspection of the keeper's house. *You can walk near them on the beach, look at them, and photograph them, but to climb the light or see the keeper's house you need to be a part of this event.* Unfortunately, the Sanibel Historical Village & Museum will be closed the entire month of October as they will be decorating for the holidays, but they will allow us to visit and view the third order lens. We will also have some of their lighthouse displays available at the meeting. Our meeting and luncheon will be at the Holiday Inn Select Bell Tower in Ft. Myers. The luncheon will be a buffet that hopefully will satisfy everyone's dietary needs. Unfortunately, there is nothing inexpensive in the Ft. Myers / Sanibel area so the cost for this meeting, luncheon, and donation is \$45. After the meeting, we will drive our private vehicles over the Causeway to Sanibel to visit the lighthouse. The current toll is \$6.00 per vehicle. As there is a major construction project in progress on the causeway as well as limited parking on the island, car pooling for this portion of the meeting is highly encouraged.

We are also very fortunate to have Mr. Charles LeBuff accept our invitation to be our guest speaker for this meeting. Mr. LeBuff is a noted author and lived in one of the keeper's dwellings from 1958 thru 1979. He also assisted the Coast Guard with the disassembly of the original third order lens. Mr. Sam Bailey from the Sanibel Historical Society will also honor us with a short presentation.



## FLA Anniversary Celebration

### TWIN SISTERS

Sanibel Island Lighthouse  
Florida Lighthouse Association  
October 21, 2006

#### MEETING AGENDA

- 8:30 am Registration at the Holiday Inn Select  
Ft. Myers, FL
- 9:00 am Third Quarterly meeting of the FLA begins
- 12:00pm Luncheon
- 1:00pm Depart hotel via private vehicles  
for Sanibel Island
- 2:00 thru 4:00 Alternating groups will climb lighthouse  
and visit keeper's quarters as well as visit  
Historical Village and Museum

#### PREFERRED HOTEL

Holiday Inn Select  
13051 Bell Tower Dr.  
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33907  
Phone: 239-482-2900  
Discounted Standard room rate is \$119. per  
night. Reservations must be received by  
9/20/2006 to guarantee space and this rate.  
Please mention the FLA when making your  
reservation.

### **Eight for Eight**

The following have attended the last eight meetings: Stan & Dottie Beckstrom, Charley and Lottie Knox, Gordon & Dianne Levi, Harry & Jean Pettit, Ken & Diana "Dede" Smith, Dennis & Gayle Stemac and John & Judi VanKoolbergen. Attending seven of eight: Joseph Bennett, Stan & Mary Farnham, Ray & Barbara Hamel, Beverly Oakes, Mary Johnson-Rodgers, Eric & Susan Martin and Dean & Corinne Oleson.

### FLA Website assists an out of state lighthouse enthusiast!

I sent you an email several months ago asking about visiting Florida lighthouses and appreciated the reply.

I wanted you to know that my trip to Florida went really well. We saw 7 lighthouses in all (St. Augustine on the way down, Hillsboro Inlet and Cape Florida while in Pompano Beach, Jupiter, Ponce, Amelia and St. John's River on the way home.) My children and I climbed St. Augustine, Cape Florida and Jupiter. We missed climbing Ponce (again) because of a thunderstorm. Somewhere along the way I picked up Roger Bansemer's book of Florida Lighthouses, and it is truly wonderful!

Thanks for all your help and information in preparing before we went!

Sincerely,  
Pamela Pierce-Sims

## The Florida Lighthouse Reports

**St. Johns River Lighthouse (1859)** - Charley Knox said their small lighthouse group was still waiting on Mayport village to come out with a plan that works for all the players. As soon as that happens, the impact study and cost assessment can be done to prepare the lighthouse for a new location. Charley honored member and painter Bill Trotter; a founding father of the FLA who we hope will come for our 10th anniversary meeting. The University of West Florida is doing the study on the new lighthouse but we have no report from them.

**St. Augustine Lighthouse** - St. Augustine Lighthouse is partnering with Joe Cocking and Nick Johnston (who care for all our lens projects) to save two historic lenses from Biloxi Mississippi and from the USCG station in New Orleans crushed during Hurricane Katrina. Work on this restoration project begins in St. Augustine in October. Kathy Fleming noted she is working with the Cape San Blas Lighthouse to help set up their museum shop. The St. Augustine Lighthouse store is one of the most profitable museum stores in the nation. *"Helping create sustainable revenue sources at lighthouses is one way to guarantee continued preservation of these maritime jewels."* Paul Wenglowky leads a multi-age summer camp program at the lighthouse, which serves hundreds of children including 10 local scholarship winners. Using the City of St. Augustine community center next door allowed us to have our first ever *differently-abled* kids (who may use crutches or wheelchairs to get around) at camp. Kids come to camp to study marine habitats, real pirates and buccaneers, fossils and archaeology. They are learning and having lots of fun and learning also *about the needs of Florida's lighthouses*. Paul's programs are growing every year and changing the lives of young people in dramatic and positive ways, a educational program model for all lighthouses.

**Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse** - Numerous museum exhibits have been added or updated. Several new exhibits under construction and planning include "World War II at the Lighthouse" and the "Lighthouses of the World Interactive Kiosk." Curatorial staff recently completed restoring a 300 mm FAA Beacon, which is now housed in the historic oil storage building. Maintenance staff completed the drainage, inspection, and cleaning of

all of the original water cisterns below the Principal Keeper's Dwelling and behind the First and Second Assistant Keeper's dwellings. The Ponce people learned in April how to properly repair existing damage to the mortar and brickwork of historic buildings from Chuck Spitznagel of Cathedral Stone Inc., one of the leading national masonry preservation companies. This will help us repair responsibly and correctly damages. Ponce acquired three important lighthouse artifacts that help maintain a beacon's timing; a very rare Light House Establishment Banjo Clock No. 5, an E. Howard & Company, Boston Regulator Clock No. 70, and a Galt Bros. Company of Washington D.C. Lighthouse Inspector's Timing Watch (one of only 25 made for the District Inspectors of the LHE); all to be exhibited later. Ponce has officially begun selling memorial bricks for the new memorial walkway to raise funds for future preservation, conservation and educational efforts at the light station.

**Cape Canaveral Lighthouse** - The repainting and restoration work on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has stopped, George Diller said. Because the amount of lead paint to be removed is more than anticipated, the contract must be modified to specify how the paint will be removed to meet necessary environmental and personnel safety requirements.

**Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse** - Jamie Stuve wrote that Jupiter has been offering Sunset Tours every Wednesday night throughout the summer, normally once a month; and getting lots of positive feedback about the continuously expanding website: [www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org). They are working on plans to move the museum and society offices into the restored WWII building, which should be open by November! The goal is to consolidate operations at the lighthouse site. Jamie said: "We would like to see a lighthouse challenge weekend going."

**Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse** - Hillsboro plans special activities on *Florida Lighthouse Day*, September 16, 2006 at Inlet Park overlooking the lighthouse. On November 10, 2006 there will be a Lighthouse Keepers Reunion, followed on November 11 by tours available at the lighthouse from 9 am to 3 pm. The Hillsboro open lighthouse days for tours in 2007 will be Feb 24, July 21 and Nov 17. July 21,

2007 would also be the *FLA* quarterly meeting.

**Cape Florida Lighthouse** - The structure of the Cape Florida Lighthouse is still in excellent condition, Art Levy wrote, although "we are beginning to notice the paint flaking off the southwestern flank of the building" from two hurricanes. The lighthouse was painted last during the summer of 2003 with a white lime based paint that allows the bricks to breathe, expelling the moisture they collect during storms. The paint lasted seven years from the restoration of 1996 thru 2003. "It is with great sadness in our hearts that we inform you of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Park Ranger Edwin De Jesus on October 1, 2005 after a long battle with cancer." DJ, as all knew him, maintained the Cape Florida Lighthouse and grounds. He worked in the park for 12 years. His keen interest in history and archaeology drew him to the historic lighthouse, where he led tens of thousands of visitors and enthusiasts through and could often be seen working inside the compound even on his days off. A photo of "DJ" leading a small tour to the lighthouse under the Malay Coco Palms appeared on the cover of the Florida Park Service Guide and in several other FPS publications. Anyone who knew him will remember his hard work and subtle humor and deep appreciation for history.

**Key West Lighthouse** - The top goals at Key West, according to Norm Aberle, relate to "redoing and reinterpreting the story of the Key West Light Station to give greater depth to our visitor's experience."

**Sanibel Lighthouse** - The U.S. Coast Guard will *open the tower of the lighthouse*, which is not opened to the public, for *FLA* members at the *FLA* 10th Anniversary Meeting in October. The historical society plans to have a lighthouse passport stamp available for the October meeting.

**Boca Grande Lighthouse** - September 3rd, Sand Castle Contest; 16th- *Florida Lighthouse Day* Activities. A top goal is refurbishing the museum interior and remodeling the gift shop. The Rear Range Light (Gasparilla) has not been transferred yet but we are preparing for the transition. Sharon McKenzie began as Executive Director at the start of 2006. Boca Grande had nearly 24,000 visitors.

**Anclote Key Lighthouse** - Resident Ranger Connie Wiesehan retired. Her replacement is Ranger Chris

Berner. As an Eagle Scout project, Anthony Patton is coordinating an area for memorial bricks, which includes the newly installed flagpole. The first flag raising was held at our last workday, June 17th. We still need support in purchasing memorial bricks. Any help is appreciated. The Anclote relighting ceremony took place on Sept. 13, 2003. Gov. Bush proclaimed this day *Florida Lighthouse Day*. In commemoration of this, we will host Open House at Anclote Key on Sept. 16th, this year's *Florida Lighthouse Day*.

**Cedar Key Lighthouse** - Cedar Key Open House is during the Seafood Festival, weekend of Oct. 21st. Boat trips to and from the island cost around \$15.

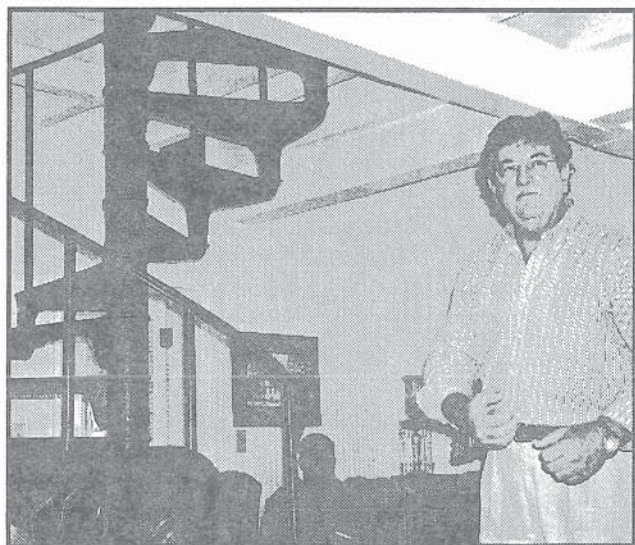
**St. Marks Lighthouse** - An environmental report about lead contamination prevented the transfer of the Lighthouse. This will have to be addressed before the transfer can move forward. The lead contamination in some places around the tower is 18 inches deep. To remove the contaminated soil, the bureau of archaeology must first study. Limited tours of the lighthouse have begun for the first time in five years. On *Florida Lighthouse Day*, Ranger Andy Edel will give tours of the lighthouse dressed in a reproduction uniform of the Lighthouse Service.

**Crooked River Lighthouse**- The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association happily announced the City of Carrabelle did get the official approval letter for the Historic Preservation Grant-in-Aid. The group is doing the project management plan needed for the Florida Communities Trust final approval, for the land acquisition for the two acres surrounding the lighthouse to be used for the park. We will have plenty to celebrate at the October 14, Extreme-Makeover-Crooked River Lighthouse Edition. Our biggest fundraiser that day will be our raffle for a Bahamas Cruise for Two and our "Coastal Treasures" Theme Party. For tickets, see Web site.

**Cape St. George Lighthouse** - The recovery of the pieces of the fallen Cape St. George Light was completed in May. The salvaged brick, granite, and soapstone pieces, and iron from the lantern room were removed from the lighthouse site on Little St. George Island and are stored on the mainland in Eastpoint, Florida. The association has received copies of the original lighthouse plans from the National Archives and is studying the early drawings of the structure to determine how the pieces fit together and what's missing. President Dennis Barnell estimates that only half of the metal work

from the lantern room was recovered; most pieces are severely damaged. The most important finds were the pedestal that supported the lens, and the metal label identifying the manufacturer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> order Fresnel lens as "L. Sautter & Cie., Constructeurs, A Paris." Close-up photographs of the lantern room, particularly of the interior, are needed. If any FLA members have lantern room photographs, please contact Dennis at 850-927-2000 or dbarnell@gtcom.net. See recovery photographs at [www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org).

**St. Joseph Point Lighthouse** – Danny Raffield, (below, owner) graciously led a tour of his lovingly restored lighthouse residence for six lucky raffle winners July 15. The lighthouse is not open to the



public. Danny plans to install a lantern room. The owners recently completed remodeling of the kitchen and continue to work on the residence.

**Cape San Blas Lighthouse** - The Florida Legislature appropriated \$350,000 in Historic Preservation grant-in-aid funds to assist the Cape San Blas organization with the lighthouse, Phase II Project. This will enable work to begin restoring the lighthouse tower. The St. Joseph Historical Society hosted the FLA visit July 15th. For those who saw Sleeping Beauty on the earlier FLA visit you will be in awe of the transformation a kiss from her prince made. See article!

**Pensacola Lighthouse** - June 25<sup>th</sup> Neil Hurley, FLA Historian, and three members of a film crew for PBS arrived for a long day of filming in the area and at the Pensacola Lighthouse. The documentary, based on Neil's book "Florida's Lighthouses in the Civil War", should be ready for showing in a few months. Neil will keep us all posted on both on his book and the showing of the documentary on PBS. The Pensacola Lighthouse Association has made considerable progress since its formation in January 2006. The PLA is ready now to start accepting membership dues. The Pensacola Lighthouse and Keepers' Quarters (Command Display Center) are open to the public May through October on Sundays, 12 Noon to 3:30 p.m. Attendance this year appears to be at a record breaking pace. On Sunday on July 4th weekend, the 559 visitors set a one-day record.

### *Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses*

#### *Welcome to our new members!*

Robert Belber, Edmund Wittke, Cynthia Sullivan, Mary Lou Rodgers, LaHoma Cloeren, Jo Dew, Lynn & Dwight Stoffell, David & Leslie Long, Steve Miller and Karen McMichael

Membership year is October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Membership Levels and Dues are:

Circle of Light \$1,000 – Watch Room \$250 –

Commissioner \$100 – Inspector \$50

Keeper (Family) \$35 – Assistant Keeper \$25.00

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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:

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Dennis & Gayle Stamac, V-P Events  
Charlie & Lottie Knox, V-P Fund Raising  
Neil E. Hurley, Historian

# SANIBEL ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

October 21, 2006

## EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: October 7, 2006

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

### LUNCHEON

Luncheon buffet will feature baked seasonal catch with lemon beurre blanc sauce or roasted beef as jus. There will be a garden salad, marinated mushrooms, rice pilaf, roasted rosemary potatoes, and green beans almandine. Beverages and dessert are included.

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

Tax Deductible Donation to Gene Oakes Memorial Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make separate checks payable to the FLA)

Please make your check payable to the Florida Lighthouse Association. Mail with payment to:

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

- The FLA has a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.
- All reservations received **after** the deadline **will be returned**.
- For reservation confirmation, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.