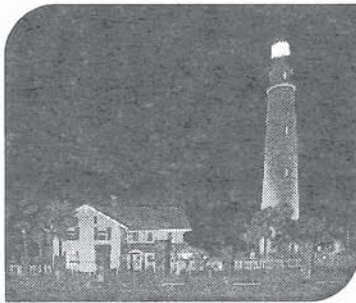




# the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.  
[www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org)

Special  
Offers  
Pg. 9



## PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE

January 17, 2009

When Walter Marino jumped into the rapidly flowing current of Ponce Inlet to try and save his 12-year old son, Chris, who was being swept out to sea on September 7, 2008, he didn't know that a very old structure built in 1887 would ultimately save him and his son. The pair drifted in the waters all night keeping sight of the flashing Ponce Inlet Lighthouse to hold their position. In the morning, the U.S. Coast Guard spotted them floating 8 miles off the inlet and was able to rescue them. Certainly most people agree that many lives were saved in days of old due to our flashing beacons, but this a modern day story of heroism and survival thanks to the Coast Guard, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, and a father who was determined to save himself and his son.

Is it coincidence or is it a stroke of destiny that our next meeting will be at this Lighthouse? And, is it coincidence or is it a stroke of destiny that this meeting will feature a night time climb of the lighthouse to bear witness to its flashing beacon?

The Ponce Inlet lighthouse was designed by the noted engineer and writer F. Hopkinson Smith. The name was changed to Ponce Inlet from Mosquito Inlet in 1927. It 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 lightstation recently acquired a Chance Brothers fixed third order middle Fresnel Lens which may date from as early as 1850. It is complete with incandescent oil vapor lamp and tanks for kerosene and compressed air. Restoration work has been underway since early this year and is scheduled for completion in December 2008. The lens will go on display in the Lens Exhibit Building when complete.

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. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association was founded in 1972 to preserve the lighthouse and encourage the Town of Ponce Inlet to seek the deed to 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 was returned to active service in the tower in 2004. The station is a private aid to navigation and a National Historic Landmark.

(Continued on page 4)

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## Stan's Beacon: Memorable Meeting

"It was a great meeting!"

George Evans said it. Alfred King III said it. Frank and Gayle Johnson, who were attending their first FLA meeting, said it. Tom Spade, of the Villages Lighthouse Group, said it. Elaine Sessions said it. Pat Conner, Ruth Cadow, and Lisa Anne Conner said it. Janica Johnson said it. And many other members!

Gail Nash said, "This was by far the BEST meeting ever. It was interesting, the speakers were wonderful (it was obvious that they take pride in their lighthouses....lots of love), kept everyone's attention and the food was the best."

In two excellent presentations, Dennis Barnell told the story of the rebuilding of St. George Lighthouse with slides showing the construction; Arlene Oehler, current President of Carrabelle Lighthouse Association led off about Crooked River with comments also by founding President Barbara Revell, former President Mary Katzer and historian John Canetta.

Elaine Sessions spoke for many when she said: "I'm most impressed with the organizations ability to work together and get the lighthouse erected in such a short time. It speaks volumes to the dedication of the people and leaders of the community. "

Let's not leave out Cape San Blas. Although not a part of the program many FLA'ers drove to Cape San Blas. This boosted the attendance for the day to the highest single day attendance since the lighthouse was opened.

Frank Johnson went with his wife Gayle to all three lighthouses, where they "met a lot of new friends, and had a wonderful day." He wrote: "My legs were sore for three days, but it was worth it."



Dennis Barnell became the fourth recipient of the prestigious Thomas W. Taylor award for "outstanding service on behalf of lighthouse preservation." Previous winners were Gene Oakes (2005), Hib Casselberry (2006) and Paul Bradley, Jr.(2007).

The sample video shown for the idea of a professionally-done video (George Steitz of Impact Television Productions) of all the historic 30 lighthouses for future showing on PBS and Discovery and with DVDs for sale by the lighthouses, drew loud approving applause. John Canetta said: "The sample video is a great way to interpret our lighthouse heritage and the new license plate

display will no doubt generate interest and sales." Pat Conner saw it as "a useful promotional tool and a great idea."

Holding up the new lighthouse license plate prompted loud applause.



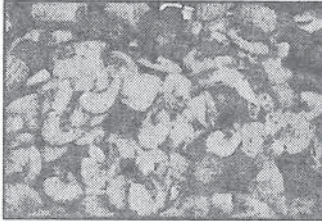
At the mid-morning break, the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation (FKRLF) members posed for a photo (right). The society has a new spark with the energetic work of new President Eric Martin.



Barbara Revell donated a painting of Crooked River Lighthouse to the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association who in turn donated it to FLA. The auction, with auctioneer extraordinaire Rip Puls stepping in, garnered a bid of \$150. Barbara Revell(L) with winning bidder Doris Underwood (R).

For Janica Johnson, the presentation of the Egmont Key Lighthouse passport to Sandie Mallett (right) was a highlight.

After the meeting, members enjoyed a catered delicious "low country boil" which topped off the memorable meeting with an outstanding lunch. "We had huge raves about the wonderful lunch," Gayle Stemac exclaimed. Roy and all the servers were friendly and helpful.



Many members joined me in thanks and appreciation to Dennis and Gayle Stemac, Vice Presidents for Meetings, for putting together another fun, enjoyable and well-organized meeting in a unique location. They credited the local groups.

"This was one of our best meetings, because of the helpfulness and support from the local groups. It seemed when someone heard help was needed, they appeared ready to work. I just can't say enough good things about the Associations at Crooked River and St. George. In a few years, when both groups get their keepers' houses built and museums in place, we need to do this again," Gayle Stemac.



Mary Katzer, Arlene Oehler & Barbara Revell

Recognizing the local leaders for their passion, persistence and achievement was a highlight for me. Recognizing people for their accomplishments ranks as one of the most fun things I do. I'm passionate about my beliefs and admire others with passion and drive. I can't imagine life without integrity and passion. Happiness is not the absence of problems, but the ability to cope with them. Without passion, organizations fail.

The strength of FLA resides in the passion and effort of the dedicated volunteers who work very hard to make FLA a success. Mary and I awarded paintings we bought in Maine to four officers who have gone above and beyond in helping us: Gayle and Dennis Stemac, Christi Sessions, John Kennedy and Stan and Dottie Beckstrom. All the officers and volunteers are winners, but these folks put in a lot of extra time and gained results. We also awarded a certificate to Skip and Terry Kemp for their invaluable help as hosts at Eastpoint.

Looking back at the accomplishments over the past 12 months, we have much to be proud of; not only achieving the top goal of the lighthouse license plate, but the support for the local lighthouse organizations. I've been very impressed with them; isn't it amazing there are so many deeds we can't list them all here!! See Lighthouse Reports for some details. Exciting things continue to happen in FLA. We look forward to more in 2009 for FLA! The key at every level will be strong, prudent and courageous leadership.



Skip & Terry Kemp

My heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation goes to Stan Farnham and all the officers and members of the Florida Lighthouse Association who selected me to be the recipient of the 2008 Tom Taylor Award.

As those of you in attendance at the October meeting may have observed, this very special recognition came as a big surprise and caught me completely off guard.

I am proud yet humbled to join the ranks of the great Lighthouse Preservationists who have received this award before me, and to be recognized in the name of Mr. Taylor, who set the example that we all strive to follow.

I am honored to share this award with all the members of the St. George Lighthouse Association, for without them, our success would not have been possible.

Thanks to all of you,  
Dennis Barnell

(Meeting information continued from page 1)

A night climb is unusual for the FLA as it has been done only once before. This event has all the makings to be as memorable as the last one. We will have our meeting beginning at 2pm with supper following at 5pm at the historic Palmetto Women's Club located at 1000 South Beach St. in Daytona Beach. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Ellen Henry, the curator of the museum. We anticipate arriving at the lightstation no later than 7pm for a tour of the museum facilities, the lens exhibit building, and the lighthouse itself. The gift shop will be open. Ed Gunn, Executive Director, has invited all meeting participants to a dessert reception in the second floor meeting room at the lighthouse. In the event of a cold January evening, there will be seating available to relax and warm-up from the cold. The cost for this meeting, all associated fees, as well as a donation to the lighthouse is \$45.

Meeting Agenda

1:30pm Meeting Registration  
2pm First Quarter 2009 meeting  
of the FLA begins  
5pm Dinner is served  
7pm Explore the entire lightstation  
and climb the lighthouse

Preferred Hotel

HAMPTON INN DAYTONA SPEEDWAY /  
AIRPORT  
1715 West International Speedway Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, Fl. 32114  
Phone: 386-257-4030  
Rooms will be available for both Friday and  
Saturday evening for a discounted rate of \$109.  
These rates will be available until **January 2,  
2009**. A deluxe breakfast is included in the price.

Biography – Ellen Henry

Ellen received her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Florida and an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from Old Dominion University in Virginia. She became an Associate Professor at Old Dominion and held that position for 5 years. She became interested in museums and has been involved as an artist and an educator for nearly 30 years. Ellen joined the staff at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lightstation in 2002 to begin an education program. Eighteen months later she became the museum's curator.

***Income tax statement – the follow-up***

*In the last issue of FLASH, we requested your input as to the value of your receiving a statement from us identifying the FLA tax deductible amount you are able to claim on your income tax. We indicated that a non-response would be considered a negative response.*

*We have had multiple members indicate that this statement has been helpful and they would like us to continue providing that information. For those members, we will continue to do so.*

*Every other member will NO LONGER receive this information. It is extremely time consuming to isolate these amounts and very costly for the FLA to produce and mail this information. However, should you decide that this amount would be beneficial to you on your 2008 income tax statement, please advise us via our email address at [lightedbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:lightedbeacon@gmail.com). We will be very happy to send you this information during the month of January, 2009. But please request this information prior to December 31, 2008. Regrettably, we will not be able to honor any requests received after that date. So, please do not email us requesting a written copy of your tax deductible amount when you are completing your income tax form. Please be considerate of our schedule as we are preparing our forms as well as preparing for the April FLA meeting and we will be UNABLE to provide information at that time.*

# Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

Member Meeting Minutes • Fire Station Eastpoint Florida • October 18, 2008

**Call to order:** President Stan Farnham, dressed in his lighthouse keeper's uniform, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Stan acknowledged the large attendance for the FLA Board meeting the previous night and the "sell-out" crowd at the FLA Members meeting.

**Invocation:** Hib Casselberry led the group in prayer.

**Recognition:** Stan noted the newest member of the FLA 365 Club was Ponce Inlet Lighthouse/Ed Gunn. He also stated that since the specialty license plate had been awarded to the FLA there is no longer a need for the License Plate committee. All donations to the FLA 365 Club will go into the general fund.

**New Members:** Stan welcomed and introduced new members: Terry and Denise Martin, Charlie and Barbara Bennett, Frank and Gayle Johnson, Judy Mieding and Tom Dunaway. Also recognized in attendance was Bill Roberts, a lighthouse keeper's son.

**Appreciation:** Stan acknowledged all the hard work and dedication to the organization of Gayle and Dennis Stemas, Christi Session, Stan and Dottie Beckstrom and John Kennedy with a framed picture of West Quoddy Lighthouse in Maine.

Sandy Mallett was given the lighthouse stamp for Egmont Key from the US Lighthouse Society.

A short video by George Steitz was shown to the membership as an example of what a video could look like for the FLA. George Evans presented the idea to Stan and the board has voted to further investigate. Stan brought attention to the FLA Announcements printed on the back of the meeting agenda and highlighted some of the items of interest...the meeting with Governor Crist and his cabinet for the specialty license plate and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Egmont Key.

**Host:** Stan introduced Dennis Barnell, President of St. George Lighthouse as our first guest speaker. Dennis commented on a slide presentation of the salvaging and rebuilding of the St. George

Lighthouse after it fell into the Gulf of Mexico on October 21, 2005.

A certificate and gift was presented to Terry and Skip Kemp for their dedication to the St. George Lighthouse through all the stages of restoration.

**Presentation of the Tom Taylor**

**Award:** Stan proudly presented this year's Tom Taylor award to Dennis Barnell for all his hard work and dedication to the rebuilding of the St. George Lighthouse.

**Host:** Stan introduced Arlene Oehler, President of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association as our second guest speaker. Three presidents, present and past, were given the opportunity to tell their story during their time in office as president. Barbara Revell was the first to speak and talked about how she was encouraged by Tom Taylor to represent the Crooked River Lighthouse in preserving and restoring the lighthouse. Next Mary Katzer shared how her love of lighthouses had actually started in Wisconsin. Mary told us about her accomplishments as president and the challenges she faced with acquiring the grants for the restoration. Arlene spoke next and continued the restoration story with the playing of her favorite song "I Saw the Light". She talked about their future plans for a museum not far from the base of the Crooked River Lighthouse. John Canetta, a longstanding supporter of the lighthouse, asked how many were in attendance that first meeting in Carrabelle, January 20, 2001, when Tom Taylor and the FLA membership were present.

A certificate and gift was presented to Arlene Oehler.

**New Officers Election Report:** Rip Puls, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the new slate of officers for 2009 confirmed at the board meeting the previous night.

President - Stan Farnham  
Executive VP - Eric Martin  
Secretary - Beverly Oakes  
Asst. Sec. - Sharon Puls  
Treasurer - John Kennedy  
VP Events - Gayle & Dennis Stemas

VP Fundraising - Charley and Lottie Knox

VP Membership - Christi Sessions  
VP IT and Webmaster - Stan Beckstrom

District 1 Commissioner - Hib Casselberry

District 2 Commissioner - Ray Stewart

District 3 Commissioner - Rip Puls

District 4 Commissioner - Terry Kemp

Historian - Neil Hurley

VP Grants - Al King

**Auction:** A beautiful painting of the Crooked River Lighthouse, hand painted by Barbara Revell, was donated to raise funds for the FLA. The painting was acquired by a fortunate member for \$150.

Break: The members took a 15 minute break.

**FLA Membership Trivia:** Dennis and Gayle Stemas went through the FLA membership names and discovered an interesting fact. In the FLA the most common last name is Johnson, with 5 of those, 4 Bennetts, 4 Smiths but only 1 Jones. We have 3 Millers, 3 Roberts, 2 Stewarts and 2 Longs. At any one meeting, we have only had the maximum is two unrelated people with the same last name at a meeting. We had two Smiths a couple of times but never 3 of any last name where the people weren't related. Today we have 3 with the same last name of Martin and they were presented a small gift.

**Officers Reports:**

**Secretary:** Beverly Oakes stated the previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. Corrections were identified at the meeting, so the minutes were accepted pending the corrections being made to the meeting minutes.

**Treasurer:** John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses. He reported that the savings account used for the specialty license plate fund was no longer needed. The savings account will now be the checking used strictly for receiving the income from the license plate sales.

Key figures reported thru September 30, 2008: Total CH/SV/CD: \$64,143.88, Total Assets (including inventory): \$77,040.90

**Executive VP:** Eric Martin encouraged those present to think about volunteering for a position with the FLA. He mentioned the editor of the newsletter, FLASH. Also Gayle and Dennis Stemas will be serving only one more year as VP Events. They would love to be able to work with someone during their last year as a transition period. Please consider volunteering!!

**VP of Membership:** Christi Sessions reiterated what Eric Martin expressed in his report. When she first joined FLA, she only wanted to climb some lighthouses. Then Stan Farnham asked her to volunteer and since that time she has held several positions in the organization. At the last meeting, we did an early renewal drive and 36 people renewed. We have 173 paid memberships and 12 lighthouse associations that have submitted their dues for the delegate positions. She is hoping to put some coupons in FLASH for special offers from the lighthouses around the state. It will be a "Members Only" coupon. St Augustine, Jupiter and Ponce Inlet all agreed to offer all FLA members FREE admission to their lighthouses. Crooked River lighthouse also mentioned that they too offer FREE admission for FLA members. In September, 129 emails were sent out to those that have not renewed. This will be followed up and will possibly go back to 2007 members that haven't renewed. A new email account has been set up for membership: [flamembership@gmail.com](mailto:flamembership@gmail.com). A New Members brochure is available for the lighthouse gift shops. Contact Christi for the brochures. Each member present was encouraged to take a new member brochure and sign up at least one new member!!

**VP of Fundraising:** Charley Knox announced that the next lighthouse ornament will be Boca Grande. It should be available at the January 2009 meeting. He is also planning to make a new tee-shirt with the 30-lighthouse design on the back and

FLA on the front. He reported that Lottie is doing a lot better after a little setback.

**VP of Meetings:** Gayle Stemas gave instructions for the rest of the afternoon after the buffet. Dennis Barnell gave instructions for the visit to St. George lighthouse. He also encouraged everyone to purchase a souvenir brick left over from the lighthouse restoration. Arlene Oehler gave further instructions for climbing Crooked River lighthouse and available merchandise.

Gayle announced for January 2009 we will have an afternoon meeting and climb Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at night. The April 2009 meeting will be in Pensacola. Gordon Levi has agreed to be our military sponsor and the meeting will be held at the Naval Aviation Museum. In October 2009, our first "out-of-state" meeting is being planned for St. Simons Island lighthouse in Georgia. Then in 2010, our new schedule will change to meetings in February, June and October. The February 2010 meeting will be held in Boca Grande.

**VP of IT, Webmaster:** Stan Beckstrom mentioned he has been working on a PayPal account for the website. The online store is currently being worked to use the PayPal feature. Membership and meeting payments will be the next items set up under PayPal.

Stan had the little business cards available that he had made to inform people of the "Visit Our Lights" license plate available in early 2009. He ordered 5000 cards to be used by the members for distribution and to place in the various lighthouse gift stores. He also made each lighthouse a display station for the cards.

**Uniform of the Day:** Stan Farnham got interested in the lighthouse uniform and said he had seen it on numerous people at different lighthouse places. George Putnam was the first commissioner of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and served for 25 years starting in 1910. The Coast Guard thought so much of him that they named their top Civilian Coast Guard award, the George Rockwell Putnam award.

### Committee Reports:

**Education:** Anne Stewart reported that in addition to the certificates that were given for the winners of the Florida Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Award, they were given a copy of the Florida Lighthouse Trails book. One copy was given to each of the student winners and the other copy to their school.

**Newsletter:** We are looking for a volunteer that would like to work with publishing the newsletter after each meeting. Christi Sessions will continue until a volunteer steps forward. She would be glad to help someone get started if they'd just volunteer. We also discussed putting FLASH newsletter on-line, sending some members a copy if they can't access the newsletter on-line and saving money spent on postage. Further discussion on the topic will be put on the agenda for January 2009.

**PR Committee:** Ken Smith reported that they are trying to track the newspaper articles on the various lighthouses. 1) He shared an article that appeared in a West Palm Beach newspaper that stated how ridiculous it would be to spend money on a new lighthouse in St Lucie County. 2) There seems to be a fascination with the haunting of the Pensacola lighthouse. There are several newspaper articles and a Fox News story done about the fact that it is a haunted lighthouse. 3) The Sarasota Herald picked up a news article on Jupiter lighthouse and the fact that somebody keeps stealing the "Posted Keep Out" signs. 4) But without a doubt, the winner of the big news story is St. George lighthouse and the rebuilding of the lighthouse. The two groups that picked up the story were the Detroit Free Press and USA Today.

**Lighthouse Reports:** See the "Lighthouse Reports" section for those that submitted information. Copies of the reports were distributed on the tables at the meeting.

**Adjournment:** President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Beverly Oakes, Secretary

## FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS OCTOBER 2008

### St. Augustine:

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum stayed open during the 120-day major metal restoration work on the lantern room. Worth Contracting Inc. has been repairing rust blooms, removing, fabricating and replacing a few deck plates for the upper gallery, and repairing cracks to preserve the lantern. Chris Castle, from Chicago, Illinois, has joined as the Director of Education. He has experience as a successful grant writer, is a published historian, and specializes in integrating educational standards into programs while retaining cultural context. For more see [www.staugustinelighthouse.com](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.com)

### Ponce Inlet:

The November 4, 2008 election brought good news as three new council members, who support Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association were elected and the amendment which prohibits buildings more than 5,000 square feet in the waterfront district passed. Old-time lighthouse keepers will talk about the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, and demonstrate their maintenance duties on the 1<sup>st</sup> Order Fresnel Lens, Friday, April 3, 1-2 pm. The program is Included with regular admission of \$5 for adults (12 years and older), and \$1.50 for children. Girl Scout Day is Saturday, April 25, 10 am to 2 pm. Girl Scouts: Enjoy the lighthouse and museum while working on requirements for the Lighthouse Brownie Try-It, the Junior Lighthouse Badge, or the Lighthouse Interest Project. Special admission rates; reservations required. Tickets available March 3 at [www.poncelighthousestore.org](http://www.poncelighthousestore.org)

### Cape Canaveral:

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation worked with the Air Force to establish a specially constructed walkway from the main road across lighthouse grounds to the lighthouse (interim measure to reach the structure until the lead identified in the soil around the lighthouse can be removed). The dedication of the State of Florida historical marker October 23 included Brigadier General Susan Helms, 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander, responsible for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base. The event, hosted by the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, was attended by county commissioner and city mayors, local historical leaders, Canaveral Port Authority members, and other U.S. Air Force officials. The state historical marker was procured and donated by the Brevard County Historical Commission. Following the marker dedication, attendees walked the new walkway to the lighthouse.

### Jupiter Inlet

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse celebrated Outstanding Natural Area Dedication December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. JILM signed an agreement with CBS affiliate WPEC TV12 to install a Live Weatherbug Camera at the lighthouse top for WPEC broadcasts, internet access and as a live feed to the museum. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide the

beautiful view from the top to museum visitors who are not able to make the climb. JILM launched a new children's program called *Lighthouse Kids Explorers Club* in November. The eco-history program introduces children to map making, orienteering, Lighthouse area flora & fauna, marine ecology, maritime/pirate/ancient tribal life, archaeology and lighthouse weather station history. Station J Café, a World War II-themed snack shop, opened November 5<sup>th</sup>. It serves hot and cold drinks and treats to lighthouse visitors.

### Hillsboro:

In 2005 Hurricane Wilma and subsequent storms destroyed the USCG boat dock at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. It was finally replaced August 2008 with a new and wider boat dock with the help of the Hillsboro Inlet District commissioners. The Preservation Society once again was able to conduct Lighthouse Tours there again. The U.S. Coast Guard said HLPS may have six tours in 2009; with official approval for the following tentative dates: Jan, 24- Mar, 21- May, 23- Jul, 25- Sept, 26- and Nov, 28. Check HLPS' Website [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org) HLPS members planned to be in annual boat parades in December and one or more land parades in the Pompano Beach area.

### Cape Florida:

Whitewashing the interior and exterior of the Lighthouse for the first time since 2003 is planned. A special whitewash allows the bricks to breathe. During the course of researching the 1800's coating we discovered the following website that provides in depth information on historical lighthouse preservation. It will be extremely interesting to anyone maintaining or restoring a historic lighthouse. [www.nps.gov/history/maritime/hdbktoc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/maritime/hdbktoc.htm)

### Reef Lights:

The FKRLF had a successful membership meeting on Lighthouse Day including a boat trip out to Sombrero Key Lighthouse. A board meeting followed. We enjoyed the Sombrero Key Lighthouse birthday cake (happy 150 years old). A museum committee has been formed with members; Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Susan Taylor and Eric S. Martin. Work continues on getting approval for two signs for Sombrero Key Lighthouse.

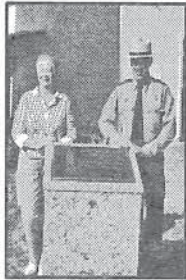
### Anclote Key Lighthouse

The grounds will now be open to the public when the resident ranger is present. Two new benches and a swing have been installed at the lighthouse area for visitors use. Various interesting items such as original plans of the lighthouse keeper's homes have been framed and will be on display in the restored oil house. The open house on September 13, 2008 was well attended and enjoyed by all. Cake and punch were served to visitors to celebrate Anclote's fifth year anniversary of the relighting. Sunline

Cruises (727-944-4468) continues to offer 'Anclote Key Lighthouse and Island Tours'.

#### Egmont Key:

The Egmont Key Alliance celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary November 8 with 300 attending on a gorgeous day, after ferry boat ride on calm seas. Stan Farnham served as Master of Ceremony for the 45-minute celebration. Speakers included former Congressman Sam Gibbons, who spearheaded the massive rehabilitation effort in 1988; Congresswoman Kathy Castor; Chief Robert Wooten, USCG; and Rodney Kite-Powell of Tampa Bay History Museum. Jim Spangler (pic: right), EKA President presented the Hero of Egmont medal to Congressman Sam Gibbons. Pete Krudler (pic: below R), State Park Manager, and Susan Kessel (pic: below L), first president of EKA, unveiled the plaque mounted on a large granite block.



Spangler recognized Susan Kessel, Sandie Mallett past president and Richard Johnson, president of EKA 10 years; plus Barbara Schmidt, who chaired the party planning. FLA officers Gayle and Dennis Stamac and Al King attended. Al helped out at the museum. The Park service, in their plan to reduce costs, plans to withdraw the State from the co-

operative agreement with the US fish and wildlife service to manage Egmont Key effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. This would be a shame after the massive effort in 1988, the State Park designation in 1989, all the maintenance and volunteer effort since and economic impact on the area of this attraction. See [www.egmontkey.org](http://www.egmontkey.org).

#### Cedar Key:

Cedar Key is usually open only one time during the year; the third weekend in October. David & Alice D'Amicol were at the lighthouse on Seahorse Key for the entire weekend giving tours and information about the FLA; along with 2 non-member helpers: Nancy & Bill Neel. He is former Navy and they both have a lot of sailing experience so they know how important the lighthouses are to boaters. They are a most welcome addition to the work force. Giving the cemetery tours and keeping track of how many visitors are climbing at one time keep 2 people hopping. It will be so nice to have some extra hands aboard! We will also be selling some items including the well received photos hoping to earn enough to make another donation to the lighthouse. Note from Pam Darty, Ranger: "We wish more members of the FLA could attend!"

#### St. Marks:

The St Marks Third Annual Lighthouse day was a tremendous success with over 300 visitors enjoying

lighthouse tours, tram tours, historical exhibits, and children's activities. We had two special lighthouse guests; Bill Roberts author of *Lighthouses and Living Along the Florida Gulf Coast* talked about his book; and a surprise guest 96 year old Avery Adams, who had worked at the lighthouse in the 1960s, and as former commander of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary was instrumental in getting funds to keep up the St. Marks lighthouse. He regaled guests with stories of his visitors to the lighthouse starting as a young boy in 1924.

We had many exhibitors including Florida State Parks representing nearby San Marcos De Apalachee Historical Site; the Florida Bureau of Archeology displaying the original United States Lighthouse Establishment Marker found on our site; and the Big Bend Maritime Center presenting their plans for a local Maritime Heritage museum.

There were reenactors dressed as Civil War sailor and two mid-1800s children living at the lighthouse. Ken and Connie Klineman operated the tram rides and gave visitors a very professional and highly entertaining ride to the lighthouse. We must thank Tom Darraugh, president The St. Marks Photo Club. They are huge supporter of the lighthouse and provided many volunteers donating many hours to make the Open House a success.

Overall it was the best weather we've ever had, best traffic control we've ever had, best and most timely tower tours, first ever tram rides to the lighthouse, and worst love bug infestation ever!

#### Crooked River:

The Carrabelle City Commission has approved rules for climbing the Crooked River Lighthouse. Construction has started on the replica of the Keeper's House Museum. Carrabelle Lighthouse Association members greeted visitors attending the October 18, 2008, FLA Quarterly Meeting.

#### Cape St. George:

The Cape St. George Light opened for FLA tour at the October 18 meeting and public climbing December 1. Landscaping in St. George Lighthouse Park, funded by a DEP grant, began in October with the installation of sod and brick paver pathways. The St. George Lighthouse Association kicked off the "Pathways to the Light" fundraising campaign to sell brick pavers (\$50) for the pathways in the park. Inquire with Secretary Terry Kemp at [fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net](mailto:fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net). Open hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sunday



from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$5 (under 16 \$3); FLA members free. A part-time "lighthouse keeper" Ms Stanley Colvin (pic: left), was hired to work on lighthouse history presentations, arrange publicity and line up groups interested in climbing the lighthouse. A grant from the



Franklin County Tourist Development Council funds the position. In three short years after the collapse of the Cape St. George Light in October of 2005, Cape St. George proudly joins the ranks of Florida lighthouses "restored and open!" In November the lighthouse hosted a Celebration of Life for a generous supporter of the lighthouse, Harold Byrd (April 2, 1926-October 30, 2008).

#### Cape San Blas:

120 guests climbed the Cape San Blas Lighthouse on September 20, 2008 to celebrate the re-opening of the tower. Several men who served in the Coast Guard at Cape San Blas during the 1950s, and the son of a former assistant chief, visited the lighthouse for the celebration and shared their memories with those present. Re-opening of the facility has been a multi-year project of the St. Joseph Historical Society, Inc. Although the project continues, it is very rewarding to see that our efforts are beginning to come to fruition. Cape San Blas set a record for attendance October 18 during the FLA meeting. The gift shop is open Wednesday – Friday from 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M ET and Saturday from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. The

tower is open for climbing on Saturday. Group tours or special request to climb the tower can be made by appointment, by calling, 850-229-1151, or email – [capesanblaslighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:capesanblaslighthouse@gmail.com) or visit website, [www.capesanblaslighthouse.com](http://www.capesanblaslighthouse.com)

#### Pensacola:

The Pensacola Lighthouse had a successful season under the new license agreement with the Coast Guard. Public tours ended Saturday, October 25th but private group tours may be arranged through Wanda Mayo, (850-712-1037). Thirty-three travel agents from Spain and two translators visited the Lighthouse October 7 in preparation for the 450th anniversary of Pensacola in 2009. Ghost Seekers of Texas conducted paranormal tours, October 16-18. Haunted lighthouse tours were Oct 24, 25 and 30, 31. Special tours to view the Blue Angels Practice from the top of the lighthouse were Oct 22, 29 and Nov 4, 12. *January 1, 2009* will be the 150th anniversary of the lighting of the Pensacola Lighthouse. Celebration activities were planned for Saturday, January 3, 2009.

## Cape St. George Light Paver Campaign

The St. George Lighthouse Association announces its "Pathways to the Light" fundraising campaign to sell sponsorships of brick pavers for the pathways in St. George Lighthouse Park. Funds raised will be used for the construction of the Keeper's House adjoining the lighthouse in the park.

Pavers are 8" X 4" and can be inscribed with up to 3 lines of text, with a maximum of 18 characters per line. Spaces between words count as characters, but punctuation marks (commas, periods, etc.) do not.

Pavers are available for a limited time price of \$50.00 per paver. The brick pavers are a great way to honor your family, friends, or pets, and make great gifts. Support the Cape St. George Light and engrave your name in history!

To order a brick paver, contact SGLA Secretary Terry Kemp at [fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net](mailto:fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net) or 850-927-2000.

# Special Offers from Florida Lighthouses:

Receive 10% off your total purchase at the

**Boca Grande Lighthouse**

**Gift Shop**



\*Offer valid for members of the Florida Lighthouse Assoc.

\*Present coupon at checkout.

\*Offer valid thru 3/31/09

**Boca Grande Lighthouse  
Barrier Island Parks Society, Inc.  
PH: 941.964.0060**



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THANK YOU Boca Grande and Jupiter Inlet for these specials!



Sam Gibbons & Stan Farnham  
Photo by: Leigh Clifton

## Hero of Egmont

By Stan Farnham, Veterans Day, November 11, 2008

As a paratroop officer during the Korean War, the paratroopers of WWII provided a powerful inspiration for me, especially those who parachuted in on D-Day June 6, 1944. Among them was a hero of the greatest generation, then a 24-year old Captain in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Sam Gibbons.

On November 8, I knew nothing of his experience. I found myself chatting with an 88 year old standing in the shade as we waited on the ferry that would take us to Egmont Key. I was to be Master of Ceremonies for the 150<sup>th</sup> Egmont Key Lighthouse Anniversary ceremony and he was to be honored. On the boat ride to the event we chatted and found we had both been paratroop officers. He jumped with the same parachute I learned to jump (T-7) and from the same kind of planes, C-47s. Perhaps I can empathize with his service better than most as a result of common experiences. He was in the 501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. I served eight years later in the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. He entered the Army in 1941. I joined in 1951. In both cases we were not yet 21 years old.

Gibbons was one of 12,000 paratroopers who dropped into Normandy in the early morning before the landing on the beaches. They jumped from nearly 1,000 C-47s with 18 or so in a plane. In all, 100,000 men came into France that day and 10,000 died. Many books and many movies focus on the heroic feats. He landed seven miles away from where he should be among Germans at 1:30 am. Paratroopers scattered all over the country side, used children's toy crickets to re-unite in the dark. Soon Captain Gibbons had 25, then 35 and then 50 men together, from various units. He went on to lead them to achieve their mission, which was to take bridges and open the way for the main forces to advance on to Carentan, France.

One of my favorite historians, Stephen Ambrose, mentions Captain Sam Gibbons in two of his books. In *The Victors-Eisenhower and his Boys: The Men of World War II*, Ambrose notes Gibbons stuck two cans of Schlitz beer in his gas mask before the parachute drop (page 75). In Ambrose's great book, *D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*, some of Gibbon's exploits appear on pages 191, 205, 235-36, and 304-5. He won the Bronze Star and the French Medal of Valor.

His accomplishments after the war proved to be heroic, too. Who could know in 1944 that the tough paratrooper would become a long-time Congressman after gaining his law degree in 1947? He served 43 years in the State Legislature and Congress. He chaired the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. He created University of South Florida and earned the sobriquet Father of USF. He established the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Courthouse is named for him. He fought to eliminate wasteful and deficit government spending. He won the 1981 Silver Medallion Humanitarian Award. He was the first President of the UF Foundation.

For lighthouse lovers, he spearheaded an "invasion" in 1988 that did not involve guns, but did turn out to be one of the largest joint military and civilian projects undertaken in Florida. The three-day event joined 31 agencies, local governments and community organizations, eight military units and more than 500 volunteers. The goal: clean up and preserve Egmont Key. U.S. Congressman Sam Gibbons brought all these organizations together and encouraged public stewardship. He appointed Susan Kessel as co-chair of a steering committee. Egmont Key, from these efforts, became a State Park in 1989. Susan Kessel became the first President of the Egmont Key Alliance. Later she traveled to the White House for a ceremony to receive, on behalf of the group, the *National Take Pride in America* award for the project.

Jim Spangler, the current President of Egmont Key Alliance, said at the November 8, 2008 ceremony, had it not been for this project and "Congressman Sam Gibbons' leadership then, we would not be here today."

Now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in their budget cuts, proposes to withdraw from Egmont Key as a State Park. With all the heroic efforts of the past 20 years, such a move would be a tragedy, even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife owns the island and has a presence there.

The newly painted lighthouse, which has been a topless lady since the lantern room was removed, needs a new lantern room. FLA supports the local organization, Egmont Key Alliance, in that goal.

The proposed cuts still have to be approved by the governor and the Legislature (during the 2009 session, which starts in March). State parks are tourist attractions, especially for families looking for vacation spots closer to home to save gas. They should close parks only as a last resort. Perhaps imposing a park entrance fee to offset costs might be one alternative. In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed closing 48 state parks, but later removed the closings from the budget after public outrage.



Pictured left to right: Former Congressman Sam Gibbons, Jan Platt, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, EKA Pres Jim Spangler, First EKA Pres Susan Kessel, Ranger Pete Krulder, Former EKA Pres Richard Johnson, FLA Pres Stan Farnham, and Chief Robert Wooten USCG  
Photo by: Leigh Clifton

# Florida Specialty License Plates



By Stan Farnham November 15, 2008

By buying a *Visit Our Lights* plate, you show your love for lighthouses and feel good doing it knowing you are giving back to your community. Here are answers to 10 questions asked by *Florida Lighthouse Association* Members.

1. *When is the best time to obtain my lighthouse Visit Our Lights license plate?* The most economical time is at the five-year cycle of replacing the metal plates at your renewal. But you can buy it at any time with a \$10 fee in addition to other charges. The following website has information on specialty tags: [www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/slp.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/slp.html).
2. *When will the lighthouse plate be available?* According to HSMV, the plate should be shipped to the 67 county main tax collector offices to be available after the first week December 2008. There are more than 300 offices so if your local office does not have one, check with your main tax collector office. Larger counties will be getting typically 200, smaller ones 20 or fewer. To buy simply go to your tax collector's office and tell them you want to replace your current plate with *Visit Our Lights* plate.
3. *How much is the fee for the specialty plate?* \$27 in addition to normal fees; Of this \$2 goes to the state, \$25 to FLA and is tax deductible. You have the registration option for two years.
4. *I want to buy a personalized (vanity) plate. What is involved?* Fill out the application form, fee of \$12 per year, takes about 45 days to receive it. See: [www.flhsmv.gov/forms/vanity.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/forms/vanity.html).
5. *I would like to buy a gift certificate for a Visit Our Lights plate. Can I do this?* Yes, see web site for the details: [www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/slpgift.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/slpgift.html).
6. *Can I buy a sample plate?* Yes, these are available for \$10.
7. *How many specialty plates does Florida have?* 109 as of 2007 plus the four new ones, or 113.
8. *What are the most popular?* Hopefully, our lighthouse plate will become one of the most popular but based on 2007 rankings, University of Florida led the way with 105,361 and \$2.7 million; followed by Protect the Panther (82,349), Protect the Dolphins (82,212), Helping Sea Turtles (78,075), Florida State (74,760), Save the Manatee (63,832). Nineteen plates sold fewer than 1,000. Of the total, 36 of the plates are for colleges.
9. *What was involved in getting this plate?* A massive effort, and long arduous process, by FLA members. October 2007 we applied by submitting a survey (cost \$14,000), a \$60,000 fee, raised during the preceding two years, a marketing plan followed by obtaining sponsors in the House and Senate, hearings, many letters and emails, with legislation passed and the Governor signing.
10. *Address for my tax collector?* See [www.flhsmv.gov/offices/](http://www.flhsmv.gov/offices/). Also see Florida Tax Collectors Association website [www.floridatxcollectors.com](http://www.floridatxcollectors.com). They have an annual meeting in October; a "Spring" meeting in May or June. We need our plate prominently displayed.



Attorney General McCollum, Gov. Crist, Chief Financial Officer Sink, Stan Farnham & Exec. Dir. Florida DHSMV Theodorides-Bustle  
Photo by State Photographer.

# Give the gift Of Membership!

**Support the FLA by sponsoring a friend, family, neighbor or co-worker!  
Give a gift that keeps on giving.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to sponsor:

For an Individual (\$25) or Family (\$35) membership with the Florida Lighthouse Association.  
Please mail the membership information to: \_\_\_\_\_ (Membership Card as well as the FLA FLASH Newsletters)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership benefits include:**

- ☛ Tax deductible membership dues
- ☛ Attend fun member meetings (fees and registration required)
- ☛ Voting privileges at member meetings
- ☛ FREE ADMISSION to St. Augustine, Ponce, Jupiter, Crooked River and Cape St. George Lighthouses (show your membership card)
- ☛ Receive FLASH, the FLA newsletter
- ☛ Special offers from local lighthouses, printed in FLASH
- ☛ Frequent eNews updates via email.
- ☛ Opportunity to visit and climb lighthouse not open for public tours



## Welcome to our new members!

Lanashier Hutchins, Michael & Kim Greenfest, Carolyn & Lyle Storlie, Steve Spencer, Kathie Hallett, Wendy Anastasiou, Ann Yon, Richard Ade, Jeff & Brenda Hacking, Gary & Norma Carroll, Marylou Klein, Jeffery & Carolyn Gunn

Membership year is  
October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Membership Levels and Dues are:

Individual \$25 – Family \$35 - Corporate \$100

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## The Mission of The Florida Lighthouse Association

The Florida Lighthouse Association is a nonprofit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state's 1200 mile coastline. Once central to the economic growth and settlement of our nation, many of Florida's lighthouses face uncertain futures.

Our mission is to preserve, restore, protect and defend Florida's lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

For information, contact:

**Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.**

15275 Collier Blvd. #201, PMB179 Naples, Florida 34119

WebSite: [www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org)

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