



the FLA FLASH

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

THE FLORIDA
AQUARIUM

July 26, 2008

July meetings can be brutal!! Remember the meeting at Cape San Blas when we all stood in the unrelenting sun as a security person cut the lock on the lighthouse compound? Or, last July when the only relief from the sun was sitting under the branches of a Florida shade tree, a large

palm. So, we are trying something different this July. Let's beat the heat and enjoy the day in air conditioning.

Our meeting will be held in the Taylor Great Room at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. The price of the meeting includes admission to the Aquarium. You will have the entire afternoon to explore all the galleries and to enjoy the animal feeding demonstrations, animal shows, and dive presentations. A program schedule for the shows and feeding times will be provided. For those wishing to have a most unique day, a Behind the Scenes tour showing where and how animals' food is prepared, how the Aquarium gets natural sea water from the gulf and more is available. There is also a Behind the Scenes walk with a biologist as they feed the sharks. A



90-minute Wild Dolphin Ecotour is another option aboard the Aquarium's vessel "Bay Spirit", to experience the awesome animals that thrive in Tampa Bay. These optional experiences are available thru GUEST SERVICES in the lower lobby and are not included in the admission.

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Stan's Beacon: Comments from the President

Dear Fellow Lighthouse Enthusiasts,

Our story began in 1996. That's when a lighthouse historian, Tom Taylor, organized the association based on the belief there must be a better way to help preserve and restore Florida's historic lighthouses.

Through it all our story remains the same. We focus sharply on saving Florida's historic lighthouses, which has created strong results. The strategy put into place in mid-2006 positioned us well for the future. *Today we are living in what may well be FLAs most exciting era ever!* Many great things have happened. It will snowball from here. In just the past few years, we've seen restorations completed at Amelia Lighthouse, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, and Anclote Key Lighthouse; and this year we'll have Cape San Blas, Cape St. George and Crooked River. We salute the local organizations on their achievements. At previously restored lighthouses, expensive preservation maintenance continues; such as at St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter, Cape Florida, Key West and Boca Grande.

Tom Taylor might not have imagined how far his vision has taken us, but we are confident he'd be pleased at how FLA has carried his legacy forward, as would our first President Ann Caneer. Wayne Hawes served following Tom Taylor. We're confident Gene Oakes, president 2004-2005, who believed a specialty lighthouse license plate could be achieved when others thought not, is smiling approvingly at the effort.

We asked members at the Tallahassee meeting their opinion about the goals. The top five goals received support for continuing as the top goals; license plate, state budget initiative annually, forge strategic partnerships and alliances, develop comprehensive funding and increase membership.

We have some outstanding dedicated volunteers who work hard; success comes from their selfless contribution. I'm lucky to be president with so many good people. Smile and let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Please look forward to our next adventure; Meetings are fun-filled days. Thank you for your continued support, comments, suggestions and ideas. They help strengthen FLA, so please jot me a note at FLApresident@gmail.com.

Stan Farnham

WOW FACTOR...

MEMBERS COMMENTS FROM THE ST. MARKS MEETING APRIL 12, 2008

TERRY KEMP: "I THOUGHT THE MEETING WAS EXCELLENT. MATT HUDSON WAS ARTICULATE AND SUPPORTIVE, AND COULD HAVE A GOOD CAREER IN POLITICS IF SO INCLINED."

JOYCE WEBBER: "I ENJOYED THE MEETING VERY MUCH....OUTSTANDING JOB."

JEAN MARANI: "THIS WAS MY FIRST MEETING BUT I WAS SO IMPRESSED, IT WON'T BE MY LAST. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE AND GETTING MORE INVOLVED."

BARBARA REVELL: "I THOUGHT THE MEETING WAS EXCELLENT! FLA HAS COME SUCH A LONG WAY SINCE 1999 WHEN I FIRST BECAME A MEMBER!"

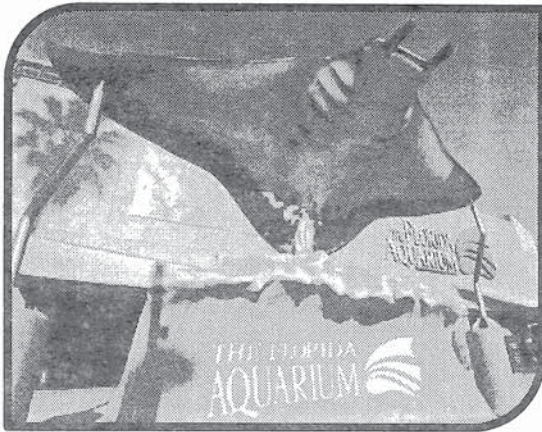
ARLENE OEHLER: "THOSE CERTAINLY WERE FINE SPEAKERS AT THE MEETING."

HARRY PETTIT: "GREAT MEETING."

BRUCE STIRLING: "THE MEETING WAS EXCELLENT, ONE OF THE MORE USEFUL VOLUNTEER MEETINGS I HAVE BEEN TO OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS."

AL KING: "GAYLE & DENNIS STEMAC ALSO DID A GREAT JOB PLANNING THE EVENT FROM THE GUESTS, TO THE EVENTS AND THE FOOD. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THEM AS FLA MEMBERS."

JOHN KENNEDY: "WE HAD A GOOD TIME AT THE MEETING AND ENJOYED HEARING REP. HUDSON AND THE OTHER SPEAKERS."



Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Mr. Tom Wagner, the Provider Relations Manager for the Aquarium. He is a wealth of information about the facility and will give us an insight for the afternoon as well as answer any questions.

Currently, we are working with the Egmont Key Alliance in an attempt to open the lighthouse on Egmont Key on Sunday morning. As the information becomes available, it will be posted on

the homepage of our webpage. Our preferred hotel is located in the Westshore area of Tampa with extremely easy access to Pinellas County and the lighthouse. The island is accessible via a daily shuttle that departs from the ferry terminal in Ft. DeSoto County Park at 10am and 11am daily. The shuttle returns at 2pm and 3pm. For anyone never having visited Egmont Key, it is a walk back in time. In addition to the historic lighthouse, there are historic sites and trails. You are able to walk the brick paths that remain from the days when Ft. Dade was active. The ruins from the fort remain today. The island is also a National Wildlife Refuge. Gopher tortoise, many species of seabirds, and many other animals can be seen on the island. The price of the shuttle is \$15. but there is no admission charge to visit Egmont Key. For additional information about the shuttle, please call Hubbards Marina at 727-867-6569. Of course, on your way to Ft. DeSoto, you can stop by and photograph the faux lighthouse on Tierra Verde which is home to Tampa Bay Watch.

The cost of this meeting including the luncheon, facility rental, and access to the Aquarium is \$40.

Meeting Agenda

Hotel

8:30	Meeting Registration	SpringHill Suites by Marriott
9:00	Third Quarter meeting of the FLA begins	4835 West Cypress St. Tampa, Fl. 33607
12:00	Lunch is served	Phone: 813-639-9600
1:00-5:00	Visit and enjoy the Florida Aquarium	This is an all-suite facility featuring in-room refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker. A complimentary breakfast buffet

featuring fruit, cereals, Belgian waffles, eggs, sausage and more is also included. The hotel is located in the Westshore area with proximity to many restaurants, Westshore Mall and Tampa's renowned International Plaza. We have secured a discounted rate of \$109. for a king or double room. The rooms will be released on July 11, 2008 and rate and availability cannot be guaranteed after that time.

Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

Member Meeting Minutes • St. Marks Lighthouse • April 12, 2008

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Stan called attention to the slideshow he created, which had been playing on the screen. The slideshow showed the rebuilding process of the Cape St. George Lighthouse. (Photos: before the collapse, during recovery and rebuilding.)

Invocation: Hib Casselberry led the group in prayer.

New Members: Stan welcomed and introduced new member: Michael Koontz, and members attending their first meeting: Michael Osterloh and Jean Marani.



First to Register: Gayle Stemas awarded prizes to the members who were first to register: Beverly Oakes and Jerry & Pat Biggs. (Pictured left)

Recognition: Stan recognized Representative and Senators who were unable to attend: Senator Fasano, sponsor of SB734; Representative Proctor, sponsor of HB371; Co-Sponsors: Representatives Kendrick, Hukill, Aubuchon, Bogdanoff, Heller, Roberson, Seiler, Snyder and Domino. Stan also thanked the aides to the Senators and Representatives, who have played a significant role in the process.

Stan recognized Bill Roberts, author and former resident at the Cape St. George Lighthouse. He then recognized George Evans with a gift for his tireless efforts in support of the FLA. Most recently, writing numerous letters to Senators and Representatives in order to achieve approval on the lighthouse specialty license plate.



FLA 365 Club: Stan awarded Al King (Pictured left) a certificate and gift for his donation, which made him the newest member of the FLA 365 CLUB.

Stan briefed the members on the steps that have been completed to achieve approval on our lighthouse specialty license plate. He also explained the next steps in the process and told members how to get updates on the bill by going to www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Host: Stan recognized James Burnett, Director of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, who was not present. He then introduced and awarded a certificate to Ranger Andy Edel, host of the St. Marks Lighthouse meeting. Ranger Edel spoke to the members about work to the refuge and lighthouse after a previous hurricane. Andy gave an overview of the refuge and the wildlife that live on

the refuge. He stated the refuge has been named one of the Top 50 Bird Watching Sites in the world.

He also talked about transfer issues concerning the lighthouse. Last fall the Coast Guard obtained the funds to have the lead removed from the grounds around the tower. They are hoping to transfer the lighthouse from the Coast Guard to the Fish & Wildlife Refuge, possibly around Florida Lighthouse Day, in Sept.

Andy thanked the St. Marks Photo Club for their volunteer work on special events and today's tour of the lighthouse. He explained to members what they will experience on their visit to the lighthouse and cottage and gave directions to the refuge.

Stan welcomed Rick Cain, from the St. Augustine Lighthouse.



Rep. Matt Hudson & James Mullen

Special Guests: Stan introduced Rep. Matt Hudson, co-sponsor of HB371, and awarded him a certificate for his support. Rep. Hudson introduced his aide, James Mullen.

Matt delivered a powerful and encouraging speech to the members.

Next Stan introduced Malinda Horton, Ex. Director of the Florida Association of Museums. Malinda explained to the members how the budget affects everyone. She spoke about the economic impact of the state supporting historic preservation and the arts, and the return on tourist dollars spent; which has been reported as a \$10 return on every dollar spent on Historic Preservation and an \$8 return on funds invested in arts.

Stan briefly talked to members about how to Raise Your Gaze. He used projects at Cape St. George and Crooked River as an example.



Ranger Andy Edel, Malinda Horton & Fred Gaske

Then Stan introduced Fred Gaske, Director of the Division of Historic Resources and the SHPO – State Historic Preservation Officer. Fred spoke to members about the Division of

Historic Resources. He explained the National Register and reported that 17 FL lighthouses are on the register, which he exclaimed is quite impressive. He spoke about the Historic Preservation Grants Program and announced that since 1983, 47 Historic Grants have been awarded to Florida lighthouses. These grants were for

things from brochures to restoration and rehabilitation of lighthouses.

He also talked about the economic impact of historic preservation and told members they can download the study from www.flheritage.com or request a hard copy for his office.

Break: The members took a 15 minute break.

Stan announced that Dennis Barnell has offered to supply his phone number to anyone interested in visiting the site of the Cape St. George lighthouse. Stan provided directions for members to stop by Crooked River and Cape St. George.

Stan introduced Ranger Pam Darty, from Cedar Key. Pam invited all members to the island the 3rd weekend in October for the open house.

Officers Reports:

Secretary: Christi Sessions stated the previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No corrections or questions, so the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer: John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses.

Key figures reported thru Mar. 31, 2008: Total CH/SV/CD: \$61,789.45, Total Assets (including inventory): \$76,135.12

Ex. VP: Eric Martin announced he is now the president of the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation. Eric also sent letters to anyone who did not renew their membership with FLA for 2008.

Stan informed the members that the board had voted and approved to simplify general membership dues. Everyone will join at (a) Individual \$25 or (b) Family \$35. Stan explained that membership dues, merchandise and meeting revenue is used for FLA operating expenses. Any additional donation, which may qualify for one of the clubs (i.e.: FLA 365 Club) will be designated for lighthouse preservation projects. Stan stated, "This ensures the money is going for its intended purpose."

VP of Membership: Ken Smith reported, on behalf of Dede Smith, we currently have 315 paid membership and 71 complimentary memberships. We had 6 new members in the last quarter.

VP of Fundraising: Charley & Lottie Knox were not present.

VP of Meetings: Gayle Stenac gave instructions for climbing the lighthouse at St. Marks.

She announced the July 26th meeting, due to the extreme heat, will be inside at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. Our October 18th meeting, we will climb both Cape St. George and Crooked River, and the meeting will be at the East Point Firehouse. In 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. She is currently making plans for the remainder of 2009.

VP of IT, Webmaster: Stan Beckstrom gave an update on Jupiter being designated an Outstanding Natural Area. He reported he had turned over the Reef Lights webpage to Eric Martin. Stan stated that several of the Accuweather stations had been shut down so he moved several lighthouse weather reports to the nearest operating station.

Stan Farnham acknowledged Gladys Llanes, who is an assistant to US Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart.

Committee Reports:

Education: Anne Stewart stated, it was suggested that the FLA slightly change the name of our award for the Florida History Fair. It will be called the Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Award, and we looking forward to having a recipient this year.

Photography: Stan Farnham announced that we are currently seeking a chair and volunteers for the photo committee. Several members have expressed an interest in another photo contest and we will need volunteers to manage the project. A notice will be posted in FLASH.

PR Committee: Ken Smith discussed paranormal investigation of lighthouses and media coverage.

Lighthouse Reports: See the "Lighthouse Reports" section for those that submitted information.

Cedar Key- David & Alice D'Amicol (Pictured below on left & right) presented Ranger Pam Darty (center) with a tent and banner for her to use on the island during open houses. Alice explained that they raised the funds to purchase the items at the Cedar Key Open House last October. Alice took and sold photos of visitors at the top of the lighthouse and placed them in specially designed Cedar Key Lighthouse Covers.



Pensacola- Dianne Levi gave a brief history on the closing of the Pensacola Lighthouse. The Pensacola Lighthouse Association has worked since that time on reopening the tower for tours. They recently received a 20 year lease on conducting tours and are now working on acquiring insurance so the tours can begin. To start, they will offer tours on Saturdays from 12-4 and eventually add more days and hours.

Adjournment: President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m. and Rip Puls began the auction, which raised \$662.00.

Christi Sessions, Secretary

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS APRIL 2008

St. Augustine

SAL&M, working with Ken Smith Architects, plans to complete major metal restoration work in the Fall of 2008. Portions of the widow's walk outside the lens room will be removed, new pieces cast and replaced where the pressure from interior, galvanic corrosion is causing buckling. Depending on funding, the glass in the lantern room, deemed too heavy for the structure, will be replaced. *During the work the tower will be closed to the public.* A report by a structural engineer working with Smith, said the motion between the normal brick tower swaying and the stationary metal lantern as well as public foot traffic causes small stress fractures beneath the gallery deck. The tower remains safe to climb and this condition is a normal, chronic condition for historic lighthouses. *This can cost millions of dollars over the life of a lighthouse.* Lighthouse Staff, with the help of Q-Media, are working on an audio tour of our lighthouse history, operations, keeper's lives, shrimping and fishing, the beautiful maritime hammock that surrounds the lighthouse, and the many ships wrecked off our coast. A major exhibit about St. Augustine's shrimping history is expected to open in 2010.

Ponce Inlet

Restoration of the Second Assistant Keeper's kitchen and living room, which included removing old wood paneling installed in the 1970s, repairs to the brick work of both fireplaces, and the restoring plasterwork on the walls and ceilings, was completed in March. New and updated exhibits were installed. The structure's small bedroom, when restored, will house the Association's extensive collection of Lighthouse Establishment timepieces, period clothing, and other lighthouse artifacts. Ponce acquired a brass clockwork mechanism originally used to rotate beacons before electricity. It will be displayed in the Lens Exhibit building after cleaning by Curator Ellen Henry. The Association recently opened a new exhibit in the Keeper's Dwelling where visitors can interact with the Lens Restoration Team as they work on the Chance Brothers third middle Fresnel lens acquired in December 2007. The exhibit provides guests with a unique opportunity to learn about the fascinating history of these magnificent lenses and the many steps that go into their restoration and maintenance. *The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse applauds the Florida Lighthouse Association's continuing efforts to educate the public and our elected officials on the importance of preserving Florida lighthouses. Your dedication is appreciated by all. Save our Lights!*

Cape Canaveral

A new board of directors for the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation was seated at the January, 2008 meeting, with officers elected the next month. The Board includes two new members retired from the U.S. Coast Guard, a descendant of one of the lighthouse keepers who lived on the grounds as a child, and the mayor of the City of Cape Canaveral. The new president is retired Rear Admiral Robert Merrilees. Dr. Al Koller, retired from NASA, currently teaching aerospace courses at Brevard Community College is vice president. Dr. David Paterno, the immediate past president, remains on the board while also serving as chairman of the Brevard County Historical Commission. The Air Force will determine the best possible solution to either remediate the soil or pursue other alternatives after lead test borings and soil samples

are fully assessed. Hopefully, a membership event can be held at the lighthouse this summer once the grounds can be reopened. The U.S. Coast Guard invited the foundation board to hold its May directors meeting aboard one of the three cutters stationed at Port Canaveral.

Jupiter Inlet

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area federal legislation protecting the lighthouse and surrounding 126 acres within the national monument system was in process in the legislature. Development of the Tindall Pioneer Homestead Exhibit is underway thanks to a \$50,000 donation from the Loxahatchee Guild and grants from Palm Beach County and the Bureau of Land Management. The restored 1892 Tindall House will soon have a replica kitchen, breezeway and front porch, as well as a citrus grove, pineapple patch and fernery donated by the Jupiter-Tequesta Travelers Palm Garden Club. A new brick pathway has already been installed. Native plants and trees will create a natural Florida frontier setting for this special outdoor exhibit. Children will discover the best camp experience ever offered by the LRHS this summer with opportunities to learn from professionals in history, archaeology, biology, marine science.

See www.jupiterlighthouse.org for details and applications.
 Week 1- June 23-27 CASEEKEYS (NATIVE AMERICANS);
 Week 2- July 7-11 CONQUISTADORES AND PIRATES;
 Week 3- July 14-18 CAPTAINS OF THE COAST;
 Week 4 - July 21-25 HISTORY SHAPED BY NATURE

Hillsboro

Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Society members had a busy February getting out a newsletter and the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner. HLPS installed new officers, approved bylaw revisions, and capped it off with an art show and auction. The March Lighthouse tour was canceled because access to the lighthouse was restricted by the Hillsboro Club's "high season" and because the USCG dock was being readied for replacement. Although drawings and building permit applications were submitted in January, all six agencies have not yet approved. With the construction crew ready, hopefully the dock will be ready by mid-July. HLPS has a new mailing address and Zip code: P.O. Box 610326, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326. Our website remains the same. www.HillsboroLighthouse.org

Cape Florida

This spring, second phase lighthouse entrance improvements were completed. Powerful floodlights were installed around the base of the lighthouse with small spot lighting along entire the walkway from the parking lots down through the avenue of coconut palms. These lights illuminate the trees and provide an extra margin of safety without overwhelming visitors' night vision. The 1960s drum-style Fresnel lens, mounted in the same vintage lens room, now shines at night. Ten benches, funded by the Friends of Cape Florida and the Key Biscayne Community Foundation, are now in place with decorative brick bases. A new sidewalk was poured allowing visitors easy access while walking from the western side of the park. A woodworking artist from Lake Placid designed, built and donated a decorative cedar wooden bench with a raised relief of swallow-tailed kites and a lighthouse.

The bench now adorns the juncture of the parking lot and the Lighthouse Trail.

The next phase of the project involves pouring a new channel for the latest commemorative bricks featuring a different style than the originals.

Reef Lights

FKRLF has a new website www.reeflights.org/ The board approved use of PayPay, so now members and interested parties can donate, pay dues or meetings online. They do **NOT** have to have a PayPal account just a major credit card and of course those who prefer can still mail a check.

Sanibel

A part-time resident of Sanibel, Owen VanBrocklin, is constructing a 1/10 scale model of the Sanibel Light that he plans to donate to the Sanibel Historic Village. Owen is a semi-retired machinist from Ohio and from his description the replica will be very detailed including a Harbor Lights lens in the lantern room. He hopes to have a Plexiglas box made to cover it so it can be displayed outside at the museum.

Boca Grande

Boca Grande had a Members Luau at Cayo Costa State Park with 90 people in attendance. Everyone had a wonderful time. Open hours change June 1st during the low season: Wednesday – Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12noon-4pm---closed Mondays, Tuesdays, the entire month of August and all major holidays. Walter Southworth (pictured right) donated B&W photos from 1938. He visited Boca Grande when he was 14 and these photos contain memories of his visit then.



Egmont Key

The Egmont Key Light Tower is 150 years old this year and the Egmont Key Alliance is planning a celebration! The date and details have not been confirmed to date.

Cedar Key

Work continues on the upkeep of the docks and viewing stand and hopefully will be complete by the next open house. We are working on getting the lighthouse open for Florida Lighthouse Day but have advised that the 3rd weekend in September is National Beach Cleanup Day at all of the beaches which are on reserves. This would include Cedar Key. Cedar Key will be open July 5th but no tours of the lighthouse or cemetery. The lighthouse will be open the 3rd weekend in October. Sunday is the less crowded day that weekend for visiting.

Crooked River

Extending water and sewer lines to the Lighthouse has been approved. The archeological cultural survey required before construction could start on the replica of the keeper's house museum has been completed. Museum construction has a completion date planned for fall in time for the FLA 2008 October

Quarterly Meeting. Because the museum interior will be the same layout as the original keeper's house, preliminary planning for historical displays has started. Additional top quality equipment has been installed in the Lighthouse Park pirate ship playground area. CLA members are meeting to write the protocols for climbing the lighthouse and the City of Carrabelle management staff will be suggesting proper security measures for the Crooked River Lighthouse and Park. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association is meeting with the Cape St. George Association to submit a Visit Florida Grant to promote a self guided driving tour brochure of the Panhandle lighthouses.

Cape San Blas

The Sleeping Beauty Gift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10-2 (or 4 if busy) and doing well. We have been receiving donations of furniture for the museum on the second floor and have a very nice telephone display we have been loaned. Bids for completion of the lighthouse have been advertised. Due to structural issues there has been a delay in the opening of the tower for tours. September is the anticipated time for completion of the work.

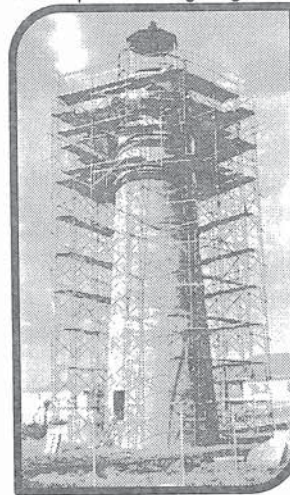
Cape St. George

The Cape St. George Light was topped out on April 2, 2008! The construction of the 65-foot masonry tower was completed in late March, pieces of the soapstone deck were then installed at the top of the tower, and on April 1 the lantern room was raised by a crane to the lighthouse top so the openings for the lantern room legs could be marked. The lantern room was then lowered to the ground, and a coring crew cut the holes for the legs, completing the job the morning of April 2. At about noon, the lantern room was raised again, this time to be permanently seated in its final position.

Cheers from the crew who successfully performed the delicate operation of positioning the lantern room's legs into the openings were echoed with cheers from the crowd gathered below. Stucco work began to be followed by painting of the tower. Then interior work and finishing touches are all that remains to complete the reconstruction of the Cape St. George Light. But she already looks like her old self, and seems to be happy with all the attention she is getting in her new location! *The St. George Lighthouse Association thanks the Florida Lighthouse Association and members who have helped to make this dream a reality!*

Pensacola

After months of struggle with permits, insurance and negotiating Pensacola announced a re-opening to visitors on Saturdays, Noon to 4 pm through October. It has been closed to visitors since May 2007. Once again visitors to the Pensacola lighthouse at Pensacola Naval Air Station will be able to climb the 177 stairs for view of the Pensacola Bay Area. The 150th anniversary is in January.



VOLUNTEER

Be a part of your passion!

The FLA is currently seeking volunteers for officer, committee chair and committee member positions. Current open positions include:
Membership, Secretary, Photography, Publicity-"Writing Team", Newsletter

If you are interested in being a part of the FLA Officer & Committee team,
Please email your information and position of interest, to:
FLApresident@gmail.com

Job Description-FLA Volunteer. Wanted. A caring level-headed person who is willing to work long hours at no pay and who will then be subjected to criticism and complaints ... for the great job you will be doing.

We are kidding a bit, but the positions can be demanding. We have devoted this page to our most important people; our volunteers.

At a Florida Association of Museums workshop, executive director Malinda Horton told attendees 90 percent of FLA license funds, unlike most license plates, would go to the mission, because "they (FLA) are all volunteers, no salaries, and no reimbursement of personal expenses." This followed some comments from non-profit executives at the meeting who had said the percentage of money going to their mission was 60 or 65 %. One said, what does FLA run on? FLA runs on the passion and enthusiasm of dedicated volunteers.

Why volunteer? Research shows that regular volunteering prolongs life expectancy and improves a person's mental and physical well-being. Serving can be a way to improve your social life, or put to use your special expertise. Every job helps us make a trek up a mountain, but that climb is what makes the view from the top so exhilarating. You work with clear goals and a well-defined mission at FLA. You gain recognition and have fun.

A can-do spirit is what made America great with people working together for a common good and a cause greater than self. If you are not involved, please sign up today!

Thank you to members who donate their time and expertise to make FLA run. I have been honored to serve with such a group; and treasure their support not only for their efforts, but as nice people. Remember that elections come up at our annual meeting in October, and we are looking forward to having you as part of our team.

Stan Farnham - President

***"Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless."***

FLA Membership: Simplified

Your Board of Directors simplified "Regular" membership at the Board meeting April 11, 2008. This action did not affect the other two classes of membership, "Delegate Membership" and "Corporate Sponsor," nor the Bylaws.

The Board eliminated various levels of regular membership to have basically one membership at \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family (yourself, spouse and children under age 18 in your home). Simple is better. All members are members....without class level distinction.

This action also separates direct donations to insure that 100% of your direct donation will go to assist preserving, protecting and restoring lighthouses. Direct donations, separate from membership, can be any amount or by joining the *FLA 365 Club* or *\$1,000 Challenge Club*. Donors are recognized publicly and receive certificates. And as noted, there's a separate accounting.

FLA is perhaps the most altruistic of organizations. Unlike most other non-profit organizations, FLA has no paid staff and no reimbursement of officer's personal expenses. FLA operates frugally with operational expenses coming from membership fees, meeting fees, merchandise sales and auctions; not from donations.

Having one membership level simplifies communications, the data base, and renewal; and provides a good "benefits" list for members with no "class" distinctions. Membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. All memberships are renewable before September 30 each year. Members for their tax deductible membership receive the quarterly newsletter FLASH, frequent eNews updates, opportunity to visit and climb lighthouses not open for public tours, attend quarterly fun meetings, support the goals and be a part of something greater than yourself in saving lighthouses for future generations. *People give time, energy and money to FLA because the benefits exceed the cost. Perhaps the biggest benefit is the reward of being a part of the atmosphere of giving money to qualified lighthouses.*

In summary, FLA is in a unique position to say: *On direct donations to FLA, you the donor can be assured 100 percent of the funds go for the purpose intended.*

In the other two membership classes:

- ✧ *Florida Lighthouse "Delegate Membership, entitles the member lighthouse organization to three memberships for the \$50 fee and one vote on the Board of Directors, either the top officer or one of the alternates listed.*
- ✧ *Corporate Sponsor Membership entitles a Corporation, for \$100, to membership as a corporate sponsor with two individual memberships; so if the primary designated representative is not able to attend, the other may vote in membership meetings. The Corporate Sponsor, in addition to all member benefits, is also entitled to an advertisement on the Florida Lighthouse Association web site and a link to their web site.*

Rep. Hudson's View from the Top

When Representative Matt Hudson spoke at the quarterly meeting, Saturday, April 12, he said he expected the lighthouse license plate bills to reach the House and Senate floors for a vote soon; and that he expected our lighthouse license plate to pass. On April 29, just 17 days later, his forecast proved right as the House passed the Senate bill, after Senate approval April 28. The bill goes to the Governor for signature.

Hudson co-sponsored the original House bill, HB 371. In his speech, Hudson urged FLA members to talk to their representatives

about programs they rely on and are important to them. "You can't represent unless you listen to the people," he said.

Later Hudson, joined the FLA members to climb the 85 steps of the St. Marks Lighthouse for a grand view. Only five could climb the narrow stairs at a time. Hudson joined a group that included 84-year old Hib Casselberry, one of the 26 founders of FLA in July 1996. Hudson said: "The view was great and I must say Hib Casselberry put us all to shame by out climbing the whole group."

A special Thanks to Gordon Levi for supplying these photos.



FLA Members climb with Rep. Hudson



FLA Member Hib Casselberry, Rep. Hudson & Ranger Andy Edel inside the lantern room.

FLA Florida Lighthouse Specialty License Update Apr 08

By Stan Farnham

As we go to press, the legislature approved a bill that goes to Governor Crist for signature, after a lengthy process. The act creates Florida Tennis, In God We Trust and Horse Country license plates in addition to the *Florida Lighthouse License Plate*.

Senate Bill 734 lists 28 events, including a dozen amendments, some of which failed, and two committee reviews and votes, "engrossed" twice, and finally "enrolled" from the time it was filed by Senator Fasano December 10, 2007 until its passage April 28, 2008.

House Bill 371, filed by Representative Proctor December 11, 2007, had 25 events, and many amendments with a number failing as other plates were tagged onto our bill (with the last version having six license plates); and two committee votes. Ten Representatives co-sponsored our bill: Aubuchon, Bogdanoff, Domino, Heller, Hudson, Hukill, Kendrick, Roberson, Seiler, and Snyder.

We send our profound thanks to the sponsors and co-sponsors of our bills. Thank you also to all our Florida legislators who supported us. We appreciate their efforts on FLA's behalf. Thank you to legislative aides who kept us informed, especially Greg Giordano and Alison Johnson.

Thank you to you members who attended committee meetings, lined up sponsors and co-sponsors, wrote letters, talked with your representatives, sent emails and "talked it up" about our No. 1 Goal. You deserve the credit and this shows what can be done by mobilizing passionate people who care.

The House, after 9 pm on April 29, voted 118-1 for the Senate bill, which had been substituted for the House bill. It was "enrolled" at 10:51 pm April 29, which means it passed both houses in identical form and "has been converted into an act for presentation" to the Governor.

The effective date is October 1, 2008. Once it's signed, dies will be made and plates produced for sale, probably after the first of the year.

For details go to: www.myfloridahouse.gov or www.flsenate.gov

If you need addresses to send thank you notes to legislators, please let us know at FLApresident@gmail.com. If this hasn't reached the Governor's desk when you read this, consider sending him a letter or email of support!

PASSPORTS FOR THE FUTURE

By: Dennis & Gayle Stemas

Coordinating meetings and events for the FLA requires lots of organization and planning. We are generally signing contracts at least 1 year in advance.

With that thought in mind, we are very pleased to announce that Jeff Gales, Executive Director of the US Lighthouse Society, will be attending our meeting in **Pensacola in April, 2009**. The FLA has been actively involved with Jeff and his group in organizing their tour for the spring of 2009. We have successfully coordinated the timing of that tour of the Gulf Coast Lighthouses circling through Mobile, Alabama with our meeting in Pensacola. This scheduling will allow Jeff to attend the meeting.

As many of you are already involved in the USLHS's Passport Awards program, the news of Jeff's participation in our meeting comes with excitement and anticipation as the Passport program has been recently expanded. The original program awarded a patch when a passport book containing stamps obtained when visiting participating lighthouses was completed and submitted to the Society. The expanded Passport Awards now earns a "Silver Star Level"

patch when the 2nd passport book is completed (120 lighthouses visited), the "Gold Star Level" patch when the 3rd book validating 180 visited lighthouses is completed, and the "Platinum Circle" patch for the 4th book and 240 lighthouse stamps.

The tentative date for this meeting is Saturday, April 18, 2009. Jeff will be attending and will be bringing patches for all 4 award levels. So, plan your summer vacation to visit as many lighthouses as possible and don't forget to get a stamp in your passport book when you visit. Bring the books with you to the Pensacola meeting and you will return home with award patches for your visits.

The Pensacola meeting date will be published when it is available. Also, the FLA has provided stamps to the Cape St. George Lighthouse, the Crooked River Lighthouse, and the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. So, don't forget your passport books in October, 2008 when we meet in the panhandle region. If you have not yet purchased your passport book, they can be obtained from the FLA at our meetings or on our website or from the USLHS.

U. S. Lighthouse Society Raises Their Gaze.

Founded in 1984 with 15 members, in San Francisco, USLHS now has 12,000 members and, in an audacious move, now headquarter in the keeper's quarters of Point No Point Lighthouse in Hansville, Washington. As Jeff Gales, Executive Director, said this brings the Society into "an actual light station in the beautiful Puget Sound area." This provides more space, the rent goes to preserving the lighthouse and "this gives headquarters people first-hand experience as keepers." Their new address is: USLHS, 9005 Point No Point Rd, NE, Hansville, WA 98340.

Lighthouse License Plate Q & A, Comments



Q. "I can't wait, when can I buy my Florida Lighthouse license plate?"

A If everything goes right, with no glitches, the earliest tags would be available in December, but February 2009 is more likely.*

Q "Why will it take so long?"

"Can't wait for the new tags!" Ellen Halberstadt
 "You made my day! I'm smiling and hope to get 2 for our cars." George Evans
 "We will have one in the future." Hattie Douglas
 "I plan to buy one," Fred Gaske, Director, Florida Historical Resources
 "Hooray!" Betty Phelps, Nina & Joe Steg, Nick Baldwin and others
 "Wow!" Sondra Greer
 "Fantastic news!" Dianne Levi, Diana Smith
 "Wonderful." Elaine Gridley
 "I have already started spreading the word." Dennis W. Hollingsworth, St. Johns County Tax Collector
 "I'll be first in line to purchase one." John Canetta
 "I can't wait to get my new tag," Malinda Horton, Executive Director, Florida Association of Museums
 "Congratulations!" Sharon McKenzie, Sandie Mallett, Mike Colby, Gladys Llanes, Barbara Schmidt and others.
 "This is great news." Ray & Barbara Hamel, Ed Gunn
 "Whoopee!" Mary Dorsey
 "I look forward to purchasing a license plate." Joan Hudiburg
 "Our dream has finally become a reality." Corrine Oleson
 "My tag is due in January so maybe I can be one of the first to get the new tag." Craig Kittendorf

1. As of this issue, the Governor had yet to sign the bill. He has 15 days once the bill is presented, not from the date of passage, April 29, 2008. He can choose when to accept "presentation."

2. Once the Governor signs, the Highway Safety and Motor vehicle can start working but the effective date of the legislation is October 1, so that's the official start date.

3. HSMV sends the artwork to 3M. 3M does plates for most states so this could take some time. 3M has up to 45 days.

4. HSMV provides the prototype to Florida Highway Patrol, which can comment about changes or approve as is. In either case, HSMV will send us a letter. At that point if we have any changes, now is the time! We need to reply to the letter at this point for a go ahead, so there are some letters back and forth.

5. HSMV sends order to the Tax Collectors. HSMV places sheeting order from a company in Texas. A roll produces 1800 plates. The company has up to 45 days.

6. The next step is for the prisoners at Florida State Prison (Raiford) to make the tags. Hooray! Now we get plates.

**Trees Are Cool, Support Our Troops and Corrections Foundations*, all approved October 1, 2007 were first available in February 2008. The year before, plates approved in 2006 like *A State of Vision, Agriculture Education, and Home Ownership for All*, had sales in 2007 when available of 1218, 734 and 1821 respectively. For information on each of the Florida Plates as to when approved, when first available, sales by year and color photo, see OrlandoSentinel.com and go to (search) Florida Specialty License plate.

Welcome to our new members!

Tom & Rita Witcraft, Ellen Halberstadt,
 Craig & Gayla Kittendorf, Lynda Bordelon, Wendy Brewer,
 Allen Kivitt and Jackson & Edwina Mangus

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

Family \$35 – Individual \$25.00

Photo Credits: Florida Aquarium, Stan Farnham, Christi Sessions, Gordon Levi, Terry Kemp, Sharon McKenzie and Gayle & Dennis Stemas.
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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.
 81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32080
 WebSite: www.floridalighthouses.org
 E-mail: flapresident@gmail.com

Stan Farnham, <i>President</i>	Eric S. Martin, <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Christi Sessions, <i>Secretary</i>	Sharon Puls, <i>Assistant Secretary</i>
John Kennedy, <i>Treasurer</i>	Dennis & Gayle Stemas, <i>V-P Events</i>
, <i>V-P Membership</i>	Charley & Lottie Knox, <i>V-P Fund Raising</i>
Neil E. Hurley, <i>Historian</i>	Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls & Dianne Levi, <i>District Commissioners</i>

St. Marks Lighthouse
April 12, 2008
EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: March 29, 2008

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Cell _____ Home _____

LUNCHEON

Luncheon buffet will be served with warm dinner rolls and butter, and coffee or iced tea. It will feature a tossed salad with assorted dressings, a fresh fruit salad, smothered chicken breast with mushrooms, sliced London broil with burgundy sauce, wild rice blend, egg noodles, and green beans almandine. Dessert will be your choice of chocolate mousse or homemade key lime pie.

Total number of persons _____ X \$40. 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 Stemac
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.