



# The FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC

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

December 2009

## CEDAR KEYS LIGHTHOUSE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY 20, 2010

So FLAers, do you think you want to do something new and exciting – something you’ve probably not been able to do before? The location of our next meeting provides that unique opportunity. We will be visiting the Cedar Key Lighthouse located on Seahorse Key roughly 4 miles offshore across the harbor from the village of Cedar Key. It is the oldest standing lighthouse on Florida’s west coast. The lighthouse station is usually closed to the general public except for 2 weekends each year. However, with special permission from the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, we will be permitted to enter the lighthouse, climb the tower, and tour the island during our meeting event.

Seahorse Key is a mile long and no more than a mile wide at its widest point. A steep path leads up to the lighthouse which is built on a 52 ft Pleistocene dune. The island is a bird sanctuary and rookery and brown pelicans use the area around the lighthouse as a major nesting area, building their nests ten to twenty feet above the ground.

Cedar Key became an important port during the 1840s, and in 1850 Congress appropriated funds for a lighthouse on Seahorse Key. Lieutenant George Gordon Meade helped in its design. The foundation of the lighthouse is granite pilings with a platform. Construction material is brick and the tower with a height of 28 ft is hexagonal shaped. The lighthouse was completed and its fourth-order Fresnel lens was lit for the first time on August 1, 1854 by William Wilson, its first keeper. The lighthouse was extinguished at the onset of the Civil War. Federal troops used the island as a prison for the duration of the war. In 1862, Union forces destroyed all structures of military value at Seahorse Key. After the War, the lighthouse was overhauled, repaired, and returned to service in 1866. Keeper Wilson was buried on the island just one year later. The area prospered until the early 1900’s. Fewer and fewer vessels called at Cedar Keys due the collapse of local industries. The last keeper, Charles Gardner, extinguished the light for the final time in 1915.

Since 1951, the lighthouse has been leased to the University of Florida for use as part of its Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory. The lighthouse itself serves as a 6-bedroom dormitory. The oil house remains standing. The old cemetery can also be visited while on the island.

Today, Cedar Key is a picturesque community and remains one of Florida’s hidden treasures with its old Florida charm. The village is a haven for artists and writers who find the unspoiled environment inspirational to their work. The area now seems to be frozen in time as it is void of WalMart, convenience stores or fast-food restaurants. Instead, you will find a waterfront area that is host to a variety of locally owned seafood restaurants, quaint shops that provide a unique shopping experience, and a pier.

Our meeting will be held in the Island Inn Restaurant at Cedar Cove, truly an elegant setting on the Gulf of Mexico. It is located immediately adjacent to the Cedar Cove Beach & Yacht Club. The address is 192 E. Second St. in Cedar Key. The facility is owned and operated by renowned Chef Peter Stefani and was recently awarded *Florida Trend Magazine*’s “Top 250 Award” for the seventh consecutive year. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Levy County Historian, Ms. Toni C. Collins. She became interested in the history of Levy County while serving as a Deputy Clerk in the Levy County Clerk’s Office. In 2001, she established the Archives & History Center in Bronson, Fl and currently serves as the Historic Records Coordinator. Ms. Collins is an expert of the history of the Cedar Key Lighthouse and her presentation will offer a very “surprising and entertaining take” on its lighthouse keepers that is not to be missed. After the meeting and lunch, we will hop aboard the *Island Hopper* and motor out the short distance to Seahorse Key for an afternoon of visiting the lighthouse and exploring the island. The all inclusive cost for this meeting including our boat trip out to Seahorse Key will be \$45.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to Alice and Dave D’Amicol and Kay Taylor for organizing and coordinating this meeting in its entirety. The FLA would not be having an event at Cedar Key without their efforts.

### MEETING AGENDA

- 8:30AM Meeting Registration
- 9:00AM FLA Meeting begins
- 12:00PM Luncheon buffet is served
- 1-5:00PM Board the *Island Hopper* and visit Seahorse Key and the lighthouse

cont on page 3)



## Stan's Beacon



Thank you for the many emails you send me. *We welcome your comments.* Some email writers, however (usually non members), show a lack of understanding about FLA; they suggest we do things we don't do; and sell all sorts of services; subscribe to services; buy software; ask for help selling this or that much of which is competitive to our own merchandise; including many from non members. We do what we can to assist, especially for members. Here's a brief review about *unique FLA.*

Among the 17,000 non profits in Florida, FLA *is unique*, because we have no paid staff, no reimbursement of officer's personal expenses, no grant funds, no state or federal funding and no stimulus package. FLA has worked hard, however, to help get state grants and funding for local organization with some outstanding successes. Unlike other lighthouse organizations, we do not own, operate or restore lighthouses, but FLA *supports local Florida organizations that do.* We do not run tours, but have helped others, such as USLHS on theirs. We have helped local organizations go from six full-time

publicly open lighthouses to nine. *Imagine if all were restored and open.*

Our mission clearly states "*dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses.*" Thus, we don't get involved financially with new ones, or faux ones, or those long gone (not one of the remaining 30). The work of those of you have participated in the bottom-up interactive strategic plan sessions, has resulted in a sharp focus so we aren't off on tangents from the core mission and diluting effort. Results count! The laser-like focus helped us achieve the top goals, one of which was getting *Visit Our Lights* license plate, something many said could not be done. Funds from license plate sales flow into a *separate account* so grants must meet the policy criteria.

FLA still provides donations from the *general account* with Board approval, as has been done over the years. Dedicated local volunteers rebuilt Cape St. George, which collapsed in 2005. FLA contributed \$15,000 to the recovery and then \$5,000 toward restoring the lantern room. FLA gave \$12,500 each to Crooked River and St. Marks in the past. FLA helped promote more than \$1 million of state grants for Cape St. George, Crooked River, Anclote Key and Amelia. FLA also contributes to lighthouses for hosting quarterly meetings. FLA educates the public in the history, purpose and operation of Florida's lighthouses.

You are a member of a *unique* non-profit organization with its major strength truly *you*, the members and volunteers who share their time and talent. You can be justifiably proud of the *transparency, accountability and honest governance* of FLA at a time when these are sadly missing in some organizations.

### FLA Board Meeting

Your FLA Board of Directors met Friday evening, October 16, 2009 at the historic restored U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse, behind what is now the Maritime Museum at St. Simons Island, Georgia. More than two dozen FLA'ers attended. The Board voted to donate from general funds \$500 each to Cape St. George, Crooked River (Carrabelle Lighthouse Association), Cape San Blas (St. Joseph Historical Society) and St. Marks lighthouses for support of the Forgotten Coast Challenge during Florida Lighthouse Day, April 24, 2010.



The Board encouraged lighthouse organizations to apply for grant money, especially grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 for restoration projects, from the *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate fund, which totals approximately \$35,000.

The Board approved producing and selling a new ornament (reef lights) after a discussion about sale of existing inventory of previous ornaments. The Board approved a donation to the Amelia Lighthouse Association in honor of Jay Sintes, who passed away in October. Following the Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously via email to provide \$500 sponsorship for the *Florida Trust for Historic Preservation* 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting at Sanibel Harbour Resort. The Sanibel Lighthouse is high on the list for attendees to see.

### HIB CASSELBERRY HONORED

Hib Casselberry, an FLA founder and long-time District Commissioner, received the honor of District Commissioner Emeritus at the dedication of the new sign at Sombrero Key Lighthouse October 4, 2009. He was later honored with a slide presentation at the FLA Annual Meeting, October 17, 2009 at St. Simons Island.





## PREFERRED HOTELS

We have rooms reserved in these locations, under the Florida Lighthouse Association:

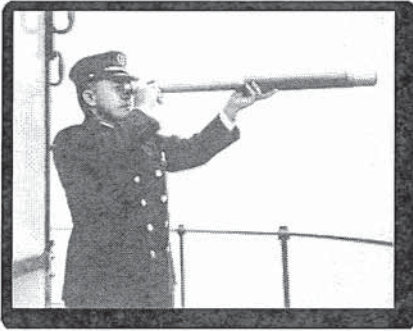
- (1) Cedar Cove Beach & Yacht Club .....\$100/night FLA discount  
192<sup>nd</sup> Street (Reserve by mid-December)  
800-366-5312 or 352-543-5332  
[www.cedarcove-florida.com](http://www.cedarcove-florida.com)
- (2) Park Place.....\$94.50-\$103.50/night FLA discount; 2-night minimum  
2<sup>nd</sup> Street at City Park (Reserve by December 1<sup>st</sup>)  
800-868-7963 or 352-543-5737  
[www.parkplaceincedarkey.com](http://www.parkplaceincedarkey.com)
- (3) Harbour Master Suites.....\$109.00-\$158.00/night FLA discount  
390 Dock Street (Reserve ASAP, in October or November)  
800-559-6327 or 352-543-9320  
[www.cedarkeyharbourmaster.com](http://www.cedarkeyharbourmaster.com)
- (4) Nature's Landing.....\$120.00-\$170.00/night; 2-night minimum  
7050 C Street (Reserve by December 1<sup>st</sup>)  
877-832-9161, 352-949-0148 or 352-949-2997  
[www.natureslandingcondominiums.com](http://www.natureslandingcondominiums.com)

Other accommodations not reserved for FLA:

- (5) Old Fenimore Mill.....\$135.00-\$160.00/night, 1-2 Bedroom condos  
11 Old Mill Drive, east end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
800-767-8354 or 352-543-9803  
[www.fenimoremill.com](http://www.fenimoremill.com)
- (6) Faraway Inn.....\$75-\$160/night, rooms, efficiencies, cottages  
3<sup>rd</sup> and G Streets  
888-543-5330 or 352-543-5330  
[www.farawayinn.com](http://www.farawayinn.com)
- (7) Cedar Key Bed & Breakfast.....\$100-\$190+/night, breakfast included  
810 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (3<sup>rd</sup> and F Streets)  
800-453-5051 or 352-543-9000  
[www.cedarkeybandb.com](http://www.cedarkeybandb.com)
- (8) Island Hotel Bed & Breakfast.....\$90-\$125/night, breakfast and ghosts  
373 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (2<sup>nd</sup> and B Street)  
800-432-4640 or 352-543-5111  
[www.islandhotel-cedarkey.com](http://www.islandhotel-cedarkey.com)
- (9) Mermaid's Landing.....\$60-\$110/night, cottages  
12685 State Road 24, Cedar Key, FL  
877-543-5949 or 352-543-5949  
[www.mermaidslanding.com](http://www.mermaidslanding.com)
- (10) Pirate's Cove.....\$70-\$100/night, cottages  
12633 State Road 24  
877-543-5141 or 352-543-5141  
[www.piratescovecottages.com](http://www.piratescovecottages.com)
- (11) Rainbow Country Campground.....\$21-\$25/night RV; \$19-\$21/night tent  
11951 SW Shiloh Road  
352-543-6268  
[Natalie@rainbowcampground.com](mailto:Natalie@rainbowcampground.com)
- (12) Sunset Isle RV Park and Motel.....\$28-\$39/night RV/tent; room rate?  
850 State Road 24 in historic Cedar Key  
800-810-1103 or 352-543-5375  
[www.cedarkeyrv.com](http://www.cedarkeyrv.com)
- (13) Sunset Point Motel & RV Park.....\$69-\$79/night (may go up in 2010)  
12050 State Road 24 (owned by young family, very clean)  
352-543-0700 or 352-284-6122  
[www.sunsetpointmotelandrv.com](http://www.sunsetpointmotelandrv.com)



## U.S. Lighthouse Service Keeper's Uniforms



Starting with FLA founder and early president (1998-2001) Tom Taylor, several *FLA'ers* have sported Lighthouse Keeper's uniforms. The replica uniforms of nearly 100 years ago lend an authentic touch to putting people in the mood for lighthouse tours and at meetings. The first lighthouse uniforms were in 1884, but detailed regulations were issued after the U.S. Lighthouse Service replaced the Lighthouse Board in 1910 and George R. Putnam became commissioner. Next year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USLHS. Richard Johnson at Egmont Key wears one. So does Gordon Levi at Pensacola. At St. Marks, Andy Edel dons a dress white uniform and Gordon Perkins sports a traditional blue uniform. At Ponce, several volunteers including Allen Bestwick, John Mann and Art Hahn wear their uniforms for tours.



Tom Taylor, Founder and President 1998-2001; Stan Farnham, President 2006- ; Allen Bestwick, John Mann and Art Hahn of Ponce; Art Hahn



Gordon Perkins, St. Marks; Richard Johnson, Egmont; Andy Edel, St. Marks; Gordon Levi, Pensacola

### *Did You Know?*

To keep costs low in printing the newsletter, we print it with all black ink, but the issues are available in full color via email and on the number-one ranked website, [www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org). Your comments about this issue are welcomed.

**Cedar Key Lighthouse**  
February 20, 2010  
**EVENT RESERVATION**  
Reservation Deadline: **February 3, 2010**

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Telephone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

LUNCHEON BUFFET

Luncheon will start with Crab Bisque with fresh baked rolls and butter. The buffet will include house garden salad, shrimp scampi over shells, roast pork loin, baked mahi-mahi, roasted new potatoes, and steamed vegetables. Dessert will be New Orleans bread pudding with warm bourbon sauce. Ice tea and water will be served.

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

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

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

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



## Visit Our Lights Specialty License Plate Update

The *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate went on sale December 8, 2008. In the first month, the tax collectors in 36 counties sold 214 tags! Since then sales have been: January 162, February 106, March 146, April 131, May 144, June 181, July 182, August 276, September 81, and October 85. Sales have occurred in 47 of Florida's 67 counties. Total 2009 sales through October 1,499. 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.

Below, left to right: Chris and Sharon Belcher, Tim and Lynda VeArd and Gail Nash.



Below: Karen and Bob Gieser, Glady Llanes, Jean Marani, Rosalie Hull

The next row Arlene Oehler, Kathy and John Kennedy and Jerry and Lynn Strickland



**Don't forget to renew with a beautiful *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate!!** The *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate funds build on FLA's lighthouse preservation success so Florida historic lighthouses can shine a shimmering light on the rich cultural heritage for the enjoyment and education of future generations. FLA has no paid staff. Officers are not reimbursed for their personal expenses. Thus FLA can apply maximum dollars to the mission. **All the funds, other than license promotion (max of 10%) will go to local lighthouse organizations for preservation efforts.** You are a member of a *unique* non-profit organization with its major strength truly **you** who share your time and talent in an organization of *transparency, accountability* and *honest governance!*



## Anatomy of a Meeting.....We *Listened!*

By Stan Farnham

You'll see positive comments on our meeting at St. Simons below. A smoothly run meeting is not by accident. You deserve credit and have helped us fine-tune the meetings. We asked you and *listened* to what you said.

Some of you said lighthouse reports tended to be too long. So we asked all the lighthouse organizations to submit the reports in advance. We put these together, printed copies and then provided to you to read. The only oral reports in the meeting are urgent news or of widespread interest. Officers keep their reports short. Some of you said we should not have an auction every meeting and auctions should be shorter when we did have them. For the St. Simons meeting, we auctioned one item and in five minutes auctioneer extraordinaire Rip Puls yielded \$85 for an exquisite Paul Bradley Jr pen and ink of St. Simons Lighthouse. We substituted a raffle for other items, which was a huge success with Judy Azbell-Van Koolbergen selling tickets with \$450 raised. So in total we raised \$535 for the *donated* items.

Some of you noted meetings were becoming a bladder test. Short breaks were not adequate. So we schedule a major 15-20 minute break at the mid-point of a meeting.

Of course we have a detailed agenda with times listed provided to you at the meeting, and do our best to keep it on time. We structure it so it has a flow of mostly short items and keep it moving. We inserted some fun items into the agenda, including games early on, for example, to see which table will eat lunch first.

We try to have one main speaker who has something pertinent to say in 30 minutes or so.

There you have the key elements of the three-hour general membership meeting, which I've now chaired for four years. For the full meeting, venue, other activities and arrangements, Gayle and Dennis Stemas have done an outstanding job, meeting after meeting for six years. Few people perhaps realize the amount of work and detailed follow-up this takes, so next time you see them give them a high-five.

### *Wow Factor....*

*Member's comments from the St. Simons Island Meeting October 17, 2009*

"I had a wonderful time at my first FLA meeting. I was very moved by the video and the dedication of the membership to the preservation of our lighthouses. I will enjoy attending more meetings in years to come." *Marylou Klein*

"The St. Simon's weekend was terrific. The ghost walk, however, was freezing cold but still enjoyable." *Gail Nash*

"The meeting was just great. Mike and I thoroughly enjoyed it," *Joyce Hager.*

*Lanashier Huchins* wrote: "St. Simons was my first FLA meeting. I have not been "into" lighthouses before but after the weekend with so many great people who taught me so much I understand the allure of lighthouses. So much history! Now I am so excited to learn more I already booked Cedar Key. The meeting was excellent. The tours of museum and lighthouse were interesting. The ghost tour was well done as well as the trolley tour. Every event was so smooth and FUN. The hard work of all involved is greatly appreciated. Now I am off to the library to get some books on lighthouses!"

The meeting was great!" *Lee Capitano.* "The meeting was an event to remember." *Arlene Oehler.*

*Janica Johnson:* "What a GREAT WEEKEND. Everything went without a hitch and on time. The meetings were very informative. We enjoyed climbing the lighthouse, visiting the museum, and the old Coast Guard station (Maritime Museum); and the ghost tour and the trolley ride (great planning on Dennis and Gayle Stemas's part). We went to several different restaurants; we all enjoyed the food, especially eating all the fresh seafood. Thanks again, to all that planned and pulled off this most successful weekend."

"Kudos on a well-planned and orchestrated meeting; the whole weekend was quite a success. The weather cooperated real well also. Thanks again for all your hard work for the FLA." *Betty Hunter*

"I really enjoyed all the activities; it was a very good meeting and the venue was super!" *Beverly Oakes.*

"Excellent meeting; it was a great experience." *Jon Hill.*

"Gill & I enjoyed our meeting! Gayle & Dennis gave us a lot of options for extra activities which were nice. The folks there were so nice and hospitable as well." *Tracey Waddell.*

"Tim and I enjoyed our FLA meeting in St. Simons Island very much. We had not been members for a few years and it was nice to be back with those who love lighthouses as much as we do. The whole weekend was great. I very much like the idea of setting up other things to do while visiting an area." *Lynda VeArd.*

"The St. Simon's meeting was wonderful! Even though we were on GA soil, it was a terrific venue to hold an FLA meeting, and it was nice to show support to a fellow historical association. Their presentation was informative and interesting." *Sara Hansen*

"I had a great time at St. Simon's and looking forward to our next meeting. I'm always amazed by how hard working our officers work. I know that I appreciate your and their efforts." *Ray Lopez*



## Lighthouse stamps

### Thank you to all who donated stamps:

George Evans	100
Steve and Kathy Miller	100
Stan & Dottie Beckstrom	100
Charlotte Pierce	80
Betty Phelps	60
Chris & Ron Ecker	60
Doris Underwood	60
Harry & Jean Pettit	40 + 20
Alice & David D'Amicol	60
Stan & Mary Farnham	50
Jean Marani	50
Pat & Jerry Biggs	40
Arlene Oehler	40
John Canetta	40
John & Kathy Kennedy	40
Alfred King III	40
Elaine & Charles Gridley	40
Charles & Jean LeBuff	20
Linda Peck	20
Michael Koontz	20
Barbara & Ray Hamel	20
Jack Mangus	20
Steve & Marlene Bysted	20
Judy Bowerman	20
Susanna Taranto	20
Frank Johnson	20
Gail Nash	20
Rosalie Hull	20
Craig & Gayla Kittendorf	20
Nina & Joseph Steg	20
Ellen Halberstadt	20
Wanda Mayo	20
Denise Ten Eyck	20
Total	1,360 = \$600



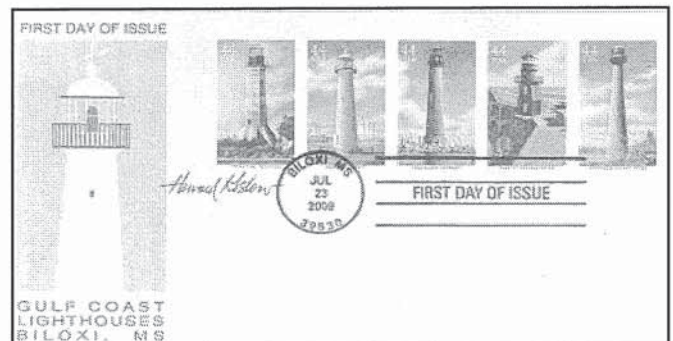
The U.S. Lighthouse Society held a fundraiser October 3, 2009 on Sanibel Island at the *Jacaranda Restaurant* followed by a visit to *Sanibel Lighthouse*. About 40 attended the event, including 15 FLA'ers. Hosts were Wayne Wheeler, President and founder of USLHS and his wife Sally; and Bill Merlin (USLHS Treasurer and retired Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard) and his wife Alice. In the photo, at back left Bill Merlin, Alice Merlin, Wayne Wheeler and Sally Wheeler; At front, left to right, Dennis Stemas, Gayle Stemas, Mary Farnham and Stan Farnham.



Wayne Wheeler presented Stan Farnham a check for a donation from USLHS to FLA. Another check was donated to FLA for the volunteer work by Gayle and Dennis Stemas during the USLHS Florida tour.

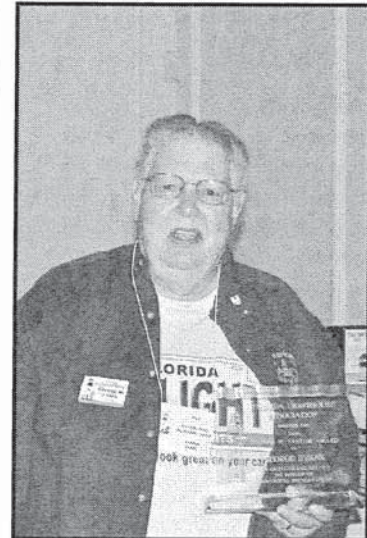
## Stamp of Approval

Lighthouse stamp illustrator Howard Koslow presented this signed cache to Jerry Biggs. The two became acquainted during The Great Lakes Lighthouse stamps debut. The distinguished illustrator has rendered all artwork for the U.S. Postal Service lighthouse series as well as numerous illustrations for the National Park Service. The 1848 cast-iron Biloxi beacon sits in the middle of Highway 90 and is undergoing hurricane damage restoration. A new visitor center in the style of a keeper's residence is planned. Koslow was pleased to learn of the FLA members donating sheets of lighthouse stamps. The stamps assure first-class delivery of FLA FLASH, while also promoting Gulf Coast Lighthouses. Thank you members!





## St. Simons Meeting Photographs and Highlights Photos by Dede Smith



Officers elected at the annual meeting, from left at back: Rip Puls, District 3 Commissioner; Eric Martin, Executive VP; Gayle Stemac, VP-Meetings; John Kennedy, Treasurer; Terry Kemp, District 4 Commissioner; Stan Beckstrom, VP-IT, Webmaster; Sharon Puls, Assistant Secretary. From left front row: Ray Stewart, District 2 Commissioner; Dennis Stemac, Assistant Treasurer; Beverly Oakes, Secretary; Stan Farnham, President; Joyce Hager, District 1 Commissioner; Not pictured Alfred King, III, VP-Grants and Christi Sessions, VP-Membership. Photo at right: George Evans, Thomas Taylor 2009 Award winner.



Stan Farnham presents Arlene Oehler, Carrabelle Lighthouse Association and Terry Kemp, Cape St. George Lighthouse Association checks for \$500 each for four lighthouses participating in *Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge* on Florida Lighthouse Day, April 24, 2010; Stan Presents Charley Knox, FLA Hero award. Photo at right, Steve Miller, FLA Hero award.



Pat Morris, Executive Director of Coastal Georgia Historical Society receives award as FLA Speaker. At right, George Evans receives Thomas Taylor Award in an emotional presentation at the St. Simons Island Lighthouse meeting, October 2009.



**Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.**  
**Member Meeting Minutes • Heritage Center**  
**St Simons, Georgia • October 17, 2009**

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

**Invocation:** George Evans led the group in prayer.

**Welcome:** Curt Smith, Event Coordinator at the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, expressed his sincere appreciation to the FLA members for their understanding and interest in the historical lighthouse and the renovated Coast Guard station turned Maritime Museum.

Gayle entertained us with a unique game of "hot potato" with a golf ball. Odd numbered went to the museum first and the even numbered went to the St Simons lighthouse first.

**President's Comments:** Stan described each of the items that had been donated for the raffle. Tickets were sold prior to the meeting for the raffle. Some of the unique items were Florida Lighthouse Day proclamation, ceremony program, envelopes, postcard, and a wooden oar with a lighthouse on it.

Stan honored Steve Miller and Charley Knox each as a FLA Hero with a certificate and a copy of Stan's book for their participation in FL Lighthouse Day activities.

Stan revealed our first ever Annual Report. One colored copy and several black and white were available on each table at the meeting. Stan showed a few pictures of Hib Casselberry from over the years and his dedication to the FLA organizations and the Florida lighthouses. He was awarded a certificate and was bestowed the title of Commissioner Emeritus.

"Seed money" in the amount of \$2000, \$500 for each lighthouse in Franklin County, was presented to Terry Kemp for Cape St George and Arlene Oehler for Crooked River. The others to receive the \$500 are St Marks lighthouse and Cape San Blas lighthouse. The money will help with the "Forgotten Coast Challenge" planned for Florida Lighthouse Day in April 2010.

The **Tom Taylor** award, previously known as the President's Award, for 2009 recognized George Evans for his outstanding and selfless contributions to the Florida Lighthouse Association and its goals. He received a standing ovation from all those present.

Rip Puls presented the slate of officers for 2010 previously elected by the Board and now presented to the members for confirmation. The only changes were Hib Casselberry will be replaced by Joyce Hagar and a new position of Assistant Secretary will be Dennis Stemac. The new officers gathered in front of the membership for a picture of the 2010 FLA officers.

**New Members:** Stan began the recognition of new members by asking how many were from "out of state"? And of course the majority at the meeting laughed and was asked to stand up because most everyone was from Florida! The "first-time" attendees were Deana and Craig Morgan, Lee Capitano, Sara Hansen, Ms. Stanley Colvin, Jon Hill, Betty Hunter, Lasashier Hutchins, Marylou Klein, Elizabeth Hale and Elaine Rosenthal.

**Officers Reports:**

**Secretary:** Beverly Oakes stated that copies of the Lighthouse Reports were available on each of the tables. The previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No corrections or questions, so the minutes were accepted as written. [flasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:flasecretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses. Key figures reported thru September 30, 2009: Total Cash/License Plate/CD: \$94,673.84, Total Assets (including inventory): \$116,694.72.

**Executive VP:** Eric Martin reported on the Florida Tax Collector meeting that he, Ken Smith and Ray Hamel attended to represent the FLA. As president of the FKLHF, Eric reported on the Sombrero Key sign dedication and the receipt of several lighthouse stamps for the passport books.

Break: The members took a 15 minute break.

Stan showed to the membership the Florida Lighthouse DVD trailer that has been created by George Steitz. It was well received by all that viewed it.

**VP of Meetings:** Gayle Stemac gave instructions for the rest of the afternoon and for visiting St. Simons Lighthouse and Museum. She also mentioned the Ghost Tour that would be the evening event.

Gayle announced the next general meetings will be at Cedar Key on February 20, 2010, Boca Grande on June 5, 2010 and the October 2010 has yet to be finalized. She suggested that members make their reservations now for the Cedar Key meeting as accommodations are limited in the area.

**Host:** Stan introduced our guest speaker, Pat Morris, Director of the St. Simons Lighthouse and Heritage Center. Pat has been a member of the Historical Society for 18 years. She first came as curator and was later hired as the Director in 2000.



Since 2000, they have built the Heritage Center building, opened the Maritime Center and they are now doing a total restoration of the St. Simons Lighthouse. Pat presented a photographic history of St. Simons Island and highlights of the island over the years.

**VP of Membership:** Christi Sessions was not able to attend the meeting. Beverly Oakes was available at the meeting to receive any new memberships or renewals. Christi can be reached at [flamembership@gmail.com](mailto:flamembership@gmail.com). Stan encouraged all the lighthouses organizations to become members of the FLA so they can benefit from having a vote at Board meetings and eligibility of license plate fund grants.

**VP of Fundraising:** Charley Knox announced the new ornament for St. Augustine was available. You can send your name, address and payment and he will mail them to you. The next ornament will be for American Shoals lighthouse which is celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday. When you visit the FLA website, please visit the store as new items are always being added.

**VP of IT, Webmaster:** Stan Beckstrom announced that you can now join FLA or renew your membership right online by using PayPal on the website. He reviewed the website navigation for the membership area. He's hoping to announce 100,000 visitors by the next meeting.

**Raffle:** Rip Puls did a fine job in helping Stan with a very successful raffle. All items were donated for the raffle. We'd also like to thank Judy Azbell for handling the raffle ticket sales. The raffle raised \$450.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education:** No report.

**Newsletter:** Pat Biggs is our new FLASH editor. Thanks, Pat, for volunteering!!

**PR Committee:** No report.

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

Stan's last announcement for the day was the Florida Lighthouse Association's paver brick unveiling in the courtyard by the lighthouse at 1:30 pm. See ya at the Ghost Tour tonight!

**Adjournment:** President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

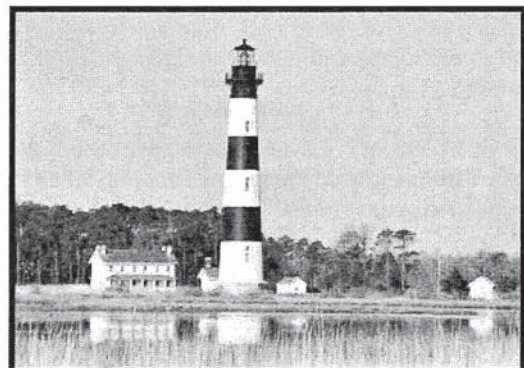
Beverly Oakes, FLA Secretary



**KNIGHTS IN RODANTHE**

By Jerry Biggs

"Storm Warriors" and "Knights of the Waves" are but two monikers given Surfmen of the U.S. Life-Saving Service (now the U.S. Coast Guard). If you saw the movie "Nights in Rodanthe," starring Diane Lane and Richard Gere, you would have seen a glimpse of a lighthouse. Rodanthe is a village on the North Carolina Outer Banks, where there is no lighthouse but the famed Chicamacomico USLSS Station Museum. The lighthouse in the movie isn't in North Carolina! It is Point Cabrillo in northern California. *Hooray for Hollywood!* Outer Banks Cape Lookout Lighthouse celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The National Park Service granted funding for restoration there that will allow visitors to climb the tower. Diamonds are forever and Cape Lookout is the jewel among the Outer Banks gems. Bodie Island is under restoration. Point Cabrillo, left and Bodie Island Lighthouses, right





## Florida Lighthouse Reports

Note: For space reasons reports have been shortened; see full reports at the February meeting

### Anclote Key:

Visit [www.ancloteco.com](http://www.ancloteco.com) for more information and schedule of activities.

### Cape Canaveral:

The CCLF had their annual Lobster Fest November 7, 2009 with 415 attending this event to sign up new members. Membership doubled and they cleared \$5,000. They are also working with the Air Force doing monthly tours the second Wednesday of each month. The tours visit the lighthouse, various points of interest, and the Air Force museum. Visit the website for more details on both these items. [WWW.CanaveralLight.org](http://WWW.CanaveralLight.org) "The Coast Guard has approached the Air Force about making Cape Canaveral a private aid to navigation. The Air Force has asked the Foundation if we'd be interested in principal to take custody of the optic. The board voted yes, and the Air Force has so advised the Coast Guard. "

### Cape San Blas:

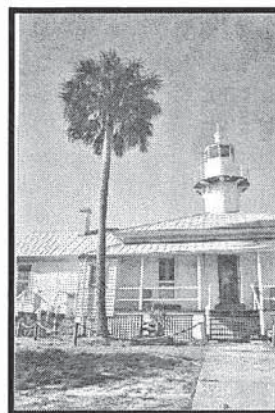
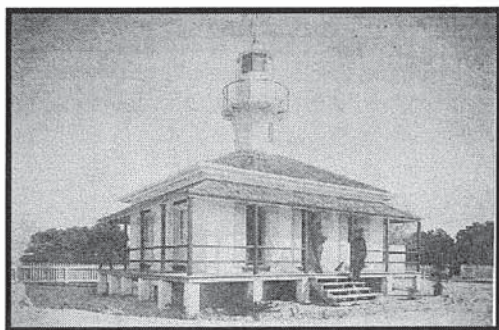
Since opening in 2008, more than 8,500 visitors have enjoyed the sights and history of Cape San Blas. Donations continue to be received for the museum to share the history of lighthouse keepers and their families.

### Cape St. George Light:

The St. George Lighthouse Association has been awarded a \$2,000 Event Grant by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council to help sponsor a Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Mini-Challenge on the weekend of Florida Lighthouse Day, April 23 and 24, 2010. The Cape St. George Light, Crooked River Lighthouse, St. Marks Lighthouse, and Cape San Blas Lighthouse will participate. Special mementoes will be awarded to guests who visit each lighthouse, with an additional "prize" for anyone who visits all four lighthouses. Each lighthouse will offer their own activities. The event will help raise awareness and appreciation for the lighthouses of the Forgotten Coast. SGLA was also the recipient of a \$20,000 TDC Sustaining Grant to help fund operation of the Cape St. George Light. This grant helps keep the lighthouse open to the public 40 hours per week. More than 17,000 people have climbed the lighthouse from its opening in December of 2008 through November 2009. Construction of a replica Lighthouse Keepers Cottage is planned.

### Cedar Key:

Cedar Key was open October 17th and 18th during the Seafood Festival. David D'Amicol was in his uniform and gave the tours of the cemeteries. See the information on the February meeting. See the photos from Jerry Biggs of Cedar Key in 1910, when it was bare of trees and used as a day mark, and a photo taken on July 4, 2009.



### Crooked River:

Arlene Oehler said the successful first *LanternFest* at Crooked River October 31 was an "enchanted evening" celebrating the 114<sup>th</sup> lighthouse birthday. The event included a banjo player, Andy Edel (from St. Marks) as lighthouse keeper, a play and demonstrations in the Museum. Live presentations were on the deck of the large wooden pirate ship featuring: *Historic Hurricanes* and the authentic tale of The Dog Island Disaster of 1767: the Wreck of "LeTigre." This was the first time to climb the lighthouse at night. The Keeper's House Museum and Gift Shop were open. This event was financed through a Franklin County Tourist Development off-Season Special Event Grant that can become an annual event. A donor brick paver program is



available. Individual bricks can be ordered for \$40.00. A lighthouse is a community attraction, however, the performance was so well received there is a movement to revive a community theater group in Carrabelle!!!

### **Egmont Key:**

Egmont Key Alliance hosted the annual open house on Egmont Key, *Discover the Island* on November 14 and 15, 2009. Shuttle boats ferried visitors from Fort DeSoto Park. Souvenirs, Tee-shirts, hot-dogs, and water were for sale on the island. Richard Johnson, EKA President, in Lighthouse Keeper's uniform, and Alfred King III, FLA VP-Grants, answered questions from the 1,000 visitors, a record turnout. See web site [www.egmontkey.info](http://www.egmontkey.info) for details of future events.

### **Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation**



Sombrero Key Lighthouse Sign Dedication was held October 4, 2009. FKLRF and FLA members attended with perhaps half the people from Marathon, including the Mayor of Marathon, the Vice-Mayor of Marathon and the Mayor of Monroe County as well as several City Commissioners of Marathon and candidates. Bettye Chaplin introduced the local leaders and President Eric S. Martin introduced the FKRLF board, thanked all who helped by name and then gave a brief history of the reef lights and Sombrero Key Lighthouse. He also told the audience of the factors going into the sign design and that the part of the sign for the memorial to the fallen keepers was the idea of Tom Taylor. Three of the eight founders of FKRLF were there.

### **Hillsboro Light Station:**

The last 2009 tour was Nov. 21 with the boat leaving every 50 minutes from Sands Harbor Hotel, Pompano Beach. The Amateur Radio Association. broadcast world-wide from lighthouse 9 am to 4 pm. Tentative dates for 2010 (subject to USCG approval) Lighthouse Tours all Saturdays: Jan. 16, Mar.20, May 22, June 26, Aug. 7 & Nov.6, verify with our Website. Commemorative BRICKS for Centennial Patio are available; see our Website, [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org) for details. FLA Charter member, Hib Casselberry, retired from District 1 FLA Commissioner, but remains active in other ways.

### **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum:**

The lighthouse hill side stabilization project phase one has been completed. Lighthouse staff worked with contractors to replenish the soil, adding native shrubs and over 8000 plugs of native grass for soil retention. The project will move forward with additional funding through 2010 with native plant restoration throughout the site. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is being celebrated by special events in 2009-2010. All events and current programs are on the new website at [www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org). New exhibits abound at the Jupiter Light. The museum's permanent history exhibit *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee* opened in July, featuring Early Native American, Seminole, Pioneer, Lighthouse and World War II history. Also featured are the Carlin Collection (Pioneer artifacts & photos) and the John Durham Collection (Early Native American trade beads from the Spanish contact period.) The Tindall Pioneer Homestead exhibit sponsored by the Loxahatchee Guild, fundraising arm of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society opened October 25th. The homestead exhibit features early pioneer life along the Loxahatchee and Jupiter Inlet.

To mark their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Jupiter Lighthouse plans a large heritage plaque on a five by seven foot monument to be dedicated July 10, 2010. The plaque will have up to 300 markers for sponsors at \$300 each. To obtain a form, call Board Chairman James Snyder, at 561-575-3350.

### **Mayport:**

The village of Mayport has submitted the package to the National Park Service to have the village designated as a "Preserve America Community." If this package is accepted, it will open the door to grant money which in turn could help our efforts to have the Saint John Lighthouse moved off the Naval Station and into the village.

### **Pensacola:**

The annual evening Haunted Lighthouse Tours were in October, conducted jointly with the lighthouse association and Coast Guard flight training students. The last public daytime tour was a Halloween tour. The lighthouse and keepers' quarters were decorated for Halloween with volunteers in costume. The railings for two of the display rooms in the keeper's house are completed. Dick Callaway and his brother-in-law did a beautiful job constructing the railings. The two downstairs rooms (kitchen & living room) were open and we received many favorable comments. Still much more work to be done on the room creations. The TAPS Ghost Hunters were at the lighthouse in September filming for several evenings. Their results were shown on the SciFi TV channel, November 18<sup>th</sup>.



### **Ponce Inlet:**

The Principal Keeper's kitchen restoration nears completion. Begun in the summer of 2009, work to the historic room included repairs to the deteriorated fireplace, wood floors, wainscoting, baseboards, and plaster walls and ceilings. Completed by the Association's trained restoration team, the newly restored space will soon be home to the museum's new Lighthouse Airways Division exhibit. Developed by Curator Ellen Henry, this exciting addition will address the U.S. Lighthouse Service's role in early aviation. The new exhibit will feature text panels addressing early 20<sup>th</sup> century aerial navigation and airfield lighting technology as well as numerous artifacts related to that exciting period in American history. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association planned November 27 for their annual Thanksgiving Day at the Lighthouse event.

### **St Augustine:**

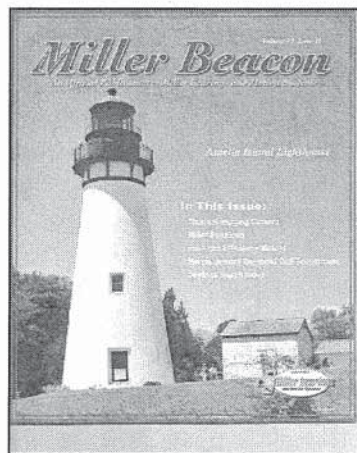
The **Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference** is Thursday May 13 - Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The conference this year is in Lee County. A session includes the Sanibel Lighthouse. Kathy Fleming, Executive Director of SALM is a Florida Trust director. SALMs working on an exhibition about local shrimping families and the industry born in Fernandina Beach, but grew in St. Augustine to change the food ways of our nation. *"Saint Augustine boasts the oldest fisheries in the United States, if not on the western Continent, for the colonists who came over in 1565 must have drawn largely on the water for their food, and it is not improbable that the introduction of the Spanish cast-net, which is still in use in the locality, could be traced to this colony."* George Brown Goode, 1887, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian. A full season of dive work off shore has ended, with a very successful field school for university students. The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program has focused on *"The Search for the Jefferson Davis"* a Confederate Privateer and former slave ship. Adults from a Sea Grant Maritime Camp toured and helped LAMP archaeologists check for artifacts in sand and shell taken from the site in October. The work is methodical, as many historic objects are tiny and yet hold great information.

St Augustine completed a \$300,000 restoration of the lantern room.

### **St Marks:**

St Marks Lighthouse had a very successful sunset tour on September 5, 2009, with 60 people attending and 40 climbing the tower. Photographs and documents from descendants of St Marks Lighthouse keepers relating to the history of the lighthouse have been received. No word yet on the transfer of the lighthouse from the Coast Guard. The whooping cranes left the north to come to St. Marks in November.

**Miller Bearings and Motion Systems**, used a photo of Amelia Lighthouse we sent them for the cover of their magazine, *Miller Beacon*. Ray Brocato, VP of Operations, and FLA member, also included a 1/3-page story on the lighthouse in this 32-page, full-color slick-paper magazine.



### **Membership Renewal**

You are a part of a top-notch outfit, made that way by: you volunteer members: a strong integrity of **accountability**, **transparency** and **honest governance**; and a nearly unique structure of no paid staff, no reimbursement of officer's personal expenses, no state or federal government support. **FLA** does need your continuing support by renewing your tax-deductible membership, which was due September 30, 2009. PayPal works. Check with Christi at [FLAMembership@gmail.com](mailto:FLAMembership@gmail.com). Thank you!!





**The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc**  
 15275 Collier Boulevard #210, PMB 179  
 Naples, Florida 34119

PENSACOLA FL 325

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

Stanley Colvin-Jean Morris-Miller Bearing & Motion Systems: Raymond Brocato- Dana Dougherty-Jon Hill-Sara Hansen-Patricia Sweetman-Lanora & Larry Sylvester-Mary Anders-Joyce & Andrew Cooper-Elizabeth, Walter & Caleb Durham-Gayle Kersey-Joan, Wendell & Kristi Phelps-Ron Henley-Marilyn & Don Franks-William & Alice Merlin-Diane & Doug Randolph-Capt. Gene Davis-VISIT FLORIDA: Tiffany McCaskill-Elizabeth **Hale**-Nanci Newton-Trevor McCarthy-Wayne & Marian Kirklin-Rich Buckner-Carol Zepp-Judy Brown-Mary Rose Hays-Harriet Abo & Larry Davis-Debbie Lynn, Nicholas, Madisson Orlando & Oliver Rivera-Margie Prieto-Cynthia Stewart

#### **Membership Year**

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

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

Photo Credits: Dede Smith, Jerry Biggs, and Stan Farnham and others. Thank you!

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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 Boulevard.#201, PMB179 Naples, Florida 34119

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

**Email:** [flapresident@gmail.com](mailto:flapresident@gmail.com)

Stan Farnham, *President*

**Beverly Oakes**, *Secretary*

John Kennedy, *Treasurer*

Christi Sessions, *VP Membership*

Stan Beckstrom, *VP Web*

Al King, *VP Grants*

Neil E. Hurley, *Historian*

Eric S. Martin, *Executive VP*

**Sharon Puls**, *Assistant Secretary*

Dennis & Gayle Stemac, *VP Events*

Charley Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Joyce Hagar, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls

& Tary Kemp, *District Commissioners*

Hib Casselberry, *District*

*Commissioner Emeritus*