



FLASH

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Legislature in Session

President Ken Smith discusses the importance of knowing our local legislators

Page 2

FLA's May Meeting

We will have the rare opportunity to visit Anclote Key (only accessible by boat) and to climb the historic lighthouse

Pages 1, 4 & 5

Lighthouse Reports

Read about all that is going on among Florida's 30 remaining historic lighthouses.

Page 8

MAY 21, 2011 WINTER MEETING

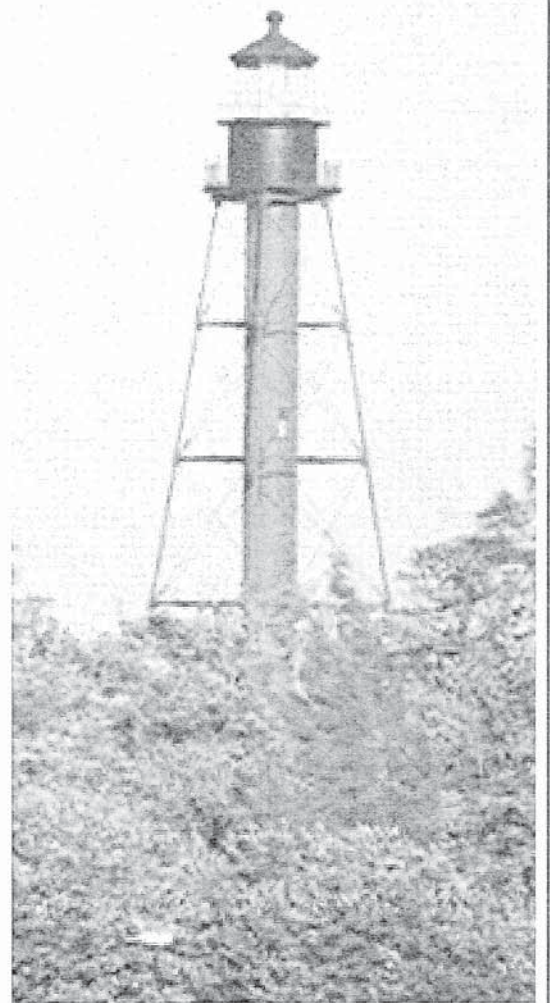
Anclote Key Lighthouse

Ron Ecker, Vice President Meetings/Events is pleased to announce the location for the FLA Spring meeting. This event will be hosted by the Friends of Anclote Key State Park & Lighthouse.

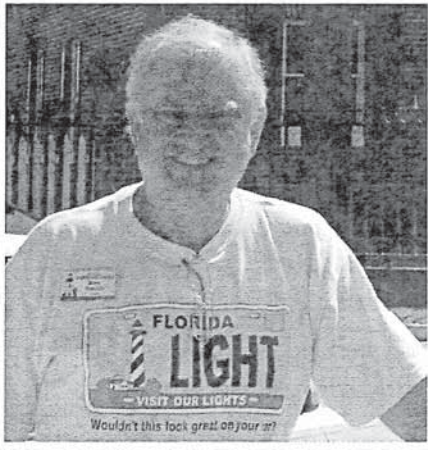
The Anclote Key Lighthouse was fully funded by Congress in 1887 with construction of the cast-iron structure beginning in June when the prefabricated tower arrived from the North. The light was lit for the first time on September 15, 1887, by keeper James Gardner. The lighthouse was automated by the Coast Guard in 1952, and since it was no longer manned vandals did extensive damage; by 1984 the lighthouse was inoperative and discontinued by the Coast Guard. In January 2003 a massive \$1.5 million restoration project began, culminating in a relighting ceremony on September 13, 2003.

Since the original 3rd order Fresnel lens was nowhere to be found, a modern rotating optic was placed in the lantern room; however, the rotating optic wasn't bright enough nor good enough. So, the restoration project took another step forward and commissioned Enberg Mold and Tools in Jacksonville to make a replica acrylic lens. They met the challenge and in November 2004, a replica 4th order lens was installed in the tower. In addition, a permanent residence has been completed for the park ranger, who now resides on the island. Anclote Key is truly a "shining example" of lighthouse restoration at its finest.

See pages 4 and 5 for all details and page 11 for registration form.



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Thank you to all who helped make the Cape Canaveral meeting the largest, most eventful meeting ever. The e-mails and cards have been totally positive -- not a single negative comment. Our next event, the May Anclote Key meeting, will be totally different. The

logistics of getting that many people to Anclote Key is daunting. We have to charter special boats. Plus, the island has very limited facilities and no water, so we have to bring it with us, along with mosquito repellent. But it will be worth it as the doors will be open just for us so we can climb!

The Florida legislature is in full swing. We are watching carefully for anything that might affect our lighthouses. If you do not already know your representative and senator you need to introduce yourself and let them know you are interested in the preservation of Florida's historic lighthouses. Let them know how much you appreciate the legislature giving us the right to have the Visit Our Lights Specialty License Plate program and that over 90% of the funds raised go directly to historic preservation and restoration efforts.

Watch eNews for any late breaking events that we need to be aware of. If you aren't getting eNews please let me know so you can get on that list.

April 16th is Florida Lighthouse Day. Many of our member lighthouses will have special events that weekend. Each of us needs to go and support a lighthouse that weekend. Bring a friend!

**Keep the light shining,
Ken Smith, President FLA**

Anclote Key Lighthouse and Keeper's Houses Historic Photo

From the Archives of the Florida Lighthouse Association



In 1852 William Lowe piloted his schooner Chestnut to Anclote River and in several days secured a cargo of sponges. They brought such a profit that other men embarked in the business. This is the birth of the sponge business in Florida.

The industry exploded in 1905 when John Cocoris introduced the technique of sponge diving and recruited divers from the Dodecanese Islands of Greece. By the 1930s Tarpon Springs was in full swing and the Greek culture that is celebrated here is known world-wide.

A red tide in 1947 wiped out the sponge fields and many of the boats and divers switched to commercial fishing and shrimping for livelihood. In the late 1980s the sponge industry revived and in 2007 a record was made for the largest harvest by a single boat.

Washington Lightkeepers Association Disbands

March 8, 2011

Today, Elinor DeWire, outgoing president of the Washington Lightkeepers Association, announced that the board has decided to dissolve the non-profit. According to their announcement the situation of the Association has become grave. Our good friend, Elinor, wrote, "Unfortunately, our executive board term limits are up. Three of our five board members have resigned, due to family and job needs and one members relocation to the East Coast. . . . no one has stepped forward to volunteer for board positions. We are down to two board members as I write this. It is impossible for two people to run WLA." The Florida Lighthouse Association has been a supporting member of WLA since it was founded.

The signature jewel of WLA, the annual "Run for the Light" held in August, will be continued by the Westport Maritime Museum in partnership with the Westport Chamber of Commerce. The scenic race passes sea and sand dunes and Washington State's tallest lighthouse at Grays Harbor. Proceeds from the event have funded numerous nonprofit groups and that will continue.

We are saddened by this development. It is our hope and mission to further the preservation of historic lighthouses not only in Florida but throughout the nation. We hope someone will soon restart the important work of WLA.

Anclote Key Lighthouse

From the Historical Archives of Florida Lighthouse Association



© LML 2006



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**A Rare Opportunity to Visit and Climb Anclote Key Lighthouse
May 21, 2011**

HOTEL



Quality Inn & Suites

HWY 19 North,
New Port Richey, FL. 34652
866 539-0036 or 727-847-9005

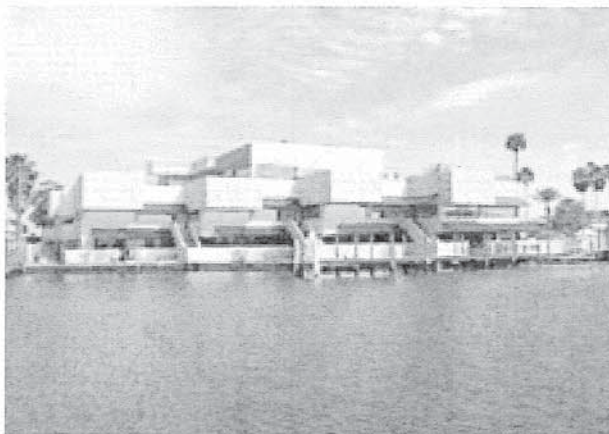


Discounted rate of \$49. per night plus tax. Please mention FLA when registering to secure discounted rate. There is a restaurant in the hotel.

Because you asked:

Pre-registration for the meeting will be open on Friday evening at the hotel.

Also, the FLA store will be open on Friday evening. The FLA store now accepts Visa and MasterCard.



The Riverside

- Our meeting and luncheon will be at the Riverside Grille House Veranda which is located at the head of the sponge docks. Parking will be across the street, and will be free for the meeting and our trip out to the lighthouse. After lunch we will split into three groups for the boat ride to Anclote Key to climb the lighthouse. The first boat of 55 will leave at 1:30, the second boat at 2:15 and the last boat of 55 will leave at 3:00. We are working on activities while you are waiting for the boats. Anclote Key has very limited restroom facilities, NO water and LOTS of MOSQUITOES, so come prepared.

- The cost for this one day meeting including boat transportation to and from Anclote Key, luncheon, parking and donation to the Anclote Lighthouse is \$50 per person for members and \$65 for non-members.

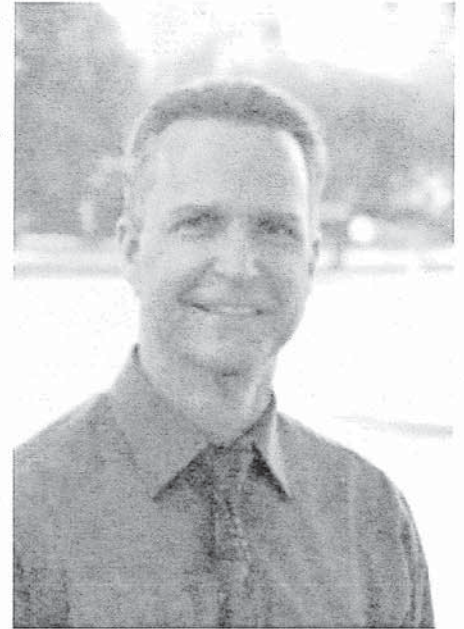
MEETING AGENDA

- 8:30 Meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association.
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 First boat departs for Anclote Key
- 2:15 Second boat departs for Anclote
- 3:00 Third and final boat departs for Anclote Key.

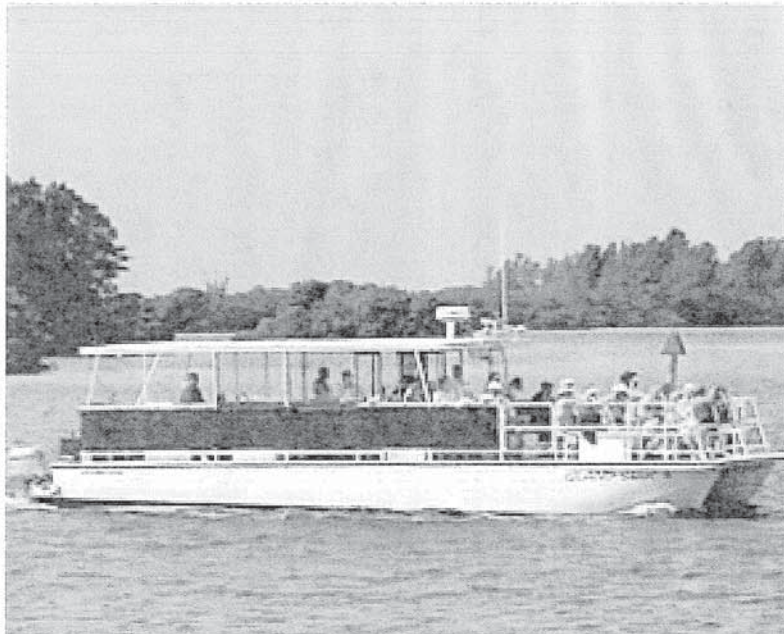
Dan Spinella to be Keynote Speaker

Dan Spinella leads two lives -- by day, he is a Staff Designer at Walt Disney World -- but his passion is Fresnel lenses. More specifically, he measures antique lenses, calculates the science and replicates them for Artworks-Florida in Celebration. One of his first projects was replicating the bulls eye at St. Augustine that was shot out by a hunter. He then built the Fourth Order Fresnel lens at Anclote Key. Since then he has researched and replicated many lenses including the 3rd order lens at South Manitou Lighthouse, Michigan, the 4th order lens at Port Washington Lighthouse, Wisconsin and the 3rd order lens for the water tower turned lighthouse at Kenah, Texas.

Dan will bring us up to date on his most recent projects and promised to bring some recently made lens parts and lots of pictures. For many of you it may be "Old Home Week" because Dan and his group have worked on many of the lenses in Florida lighthouses.



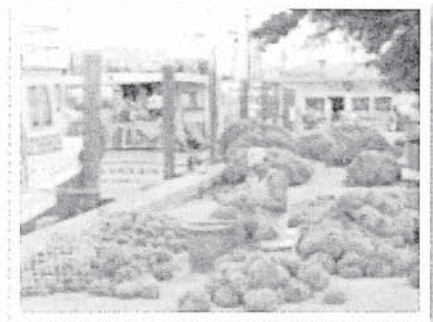
Sun Line Cruises to Be Our Transportation



We will sail on the modern boats of Sun Line Cruises to Anclote Key, the northern most barrier island along the Gulf Coast. Anclote Key first appeared on charts in 1715 and was the home to the pirate, Louis Aury, who is said to have buried treasure on the Key and nearby Honeymoon Island.

More Program Than Ever Before

You asked for more "program" in our programs and at Anclote Key that is exactly what Ron Ecker, VP for Events, and Ken Smith, FLA President, have planned. Helping with the task is local Tarpon Springs expert, naturalist and historian Michael John. Michael is a local native



and principal of Native Tours of Tarpon and is working on the meeting program as well as breakout sessions for our afternoon lighthouse trip. You will enjoy Michael's story-telling style as he shares the history and Greek culture of American's natural sponge capital, Tarpon Springs.

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FLA's LARGEST MEETING

January 29 & 30, 2011 -- Cape Canaveral/Ponce Inlet



Opening the general meeting: Ginnette Ward sang our National Anthem, Peggy Arme, meeting coordinator, Dr. David Paterno, VP Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, Ken Smith, FLA president, Gordon Levi, Lighthouse Keeper, and four Boy Scouts from Troup 241, Benjamin Bear, Life Scout, Stephan Lee, Life Scout, Steven Chimely, Life Scout, and Andres Bohuszewicz, First Class Scout, presented the Colors, lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and pronounced our invocation..



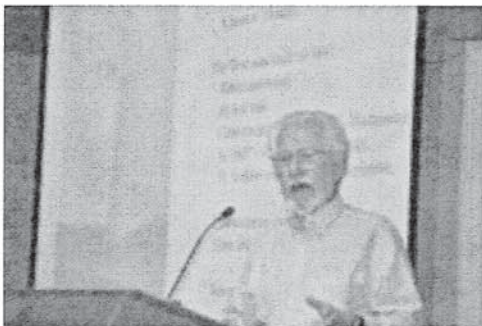
Peggy Arme received the official Cape Canaveral passport stamp from FLA treasurer, John Kennedy then charged him a dollar to stamp his passport



Gordon Levi was our official "Keeper" and manned "Flash," the FLA official lens, for the day



Our first speaker of the day was Col. James P. Ross, Vice Commander, 45th Space Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, who spoke about the lighthouse, his time at the Cape and the bright future of the space program at Cape Canaveral. On behalf of Brig. Gen. Ed Wilson he presented to Ken and the Association an American flag that had flown over Cape Canaveral on the day of the historic Falcon 9 rocket launch into space. This flag, along with a replica of a Lighthouse Service banner given to FLA by St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, will become FLA's official Colors for future meetings.

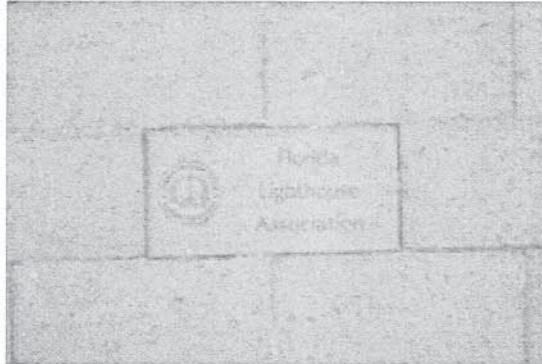


Keynote speaker, Sonny Witt, in the unique way only Sonny can do, told of the history of Cape Canaveral and shared stories from his book, "Drawn to the Light"

FLA Annual Meeting At Pensacola Lighthouse -- October 2, 2010



Tours of the Ponce lantern room were given by Allen Bestwick and Don Garrett. Here, FLA secretary, Beverly Oakes, is given an up close and personal look at the lens.



FLA exists to support local lighthouse preservation organizations. One of the ways we do this is by purchasing bricks for memorial walkways. Here is the brick FLA purchased in support of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association.



Keepers Art Haun and John Mann gave lens care demonstrations on the Cape Canaveral First Order Fresnel Lens located in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building.



Our day at Cape Canaveral included trips to the Lighthouse where we were allowed to climb to the fifth level, a tour of one of the historic cemeteries and a trip to the original 1868 lighthouse site. Here is one of our members taking a close-up picture of one of the original bolts still anchored in the historic foundation.

Ellen Henry, Curator for Ponce Inlet, gave us a tour of the preservation efforts now underway in one of their historic keeper's houses.



All of our speakers and presenters were given a plaque thanking them for their participation. The plaques include a print of the pen and ink drawing of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse by Paul Bradley. Here, Ken presents one to education specialist Bob Callister. Bob gave a demonstration of several of the school presentations, including their latest targeted to middle school students called "Science of Light." Many of our lighthouse organization members spent time with Bob to learn about the in-school efforts the Ponce volunteers perform.

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Winter 2011 Lighthouse Reports

Amelia Island:

A cedar tree was replanted in honor of Helen O'Hagan Sintes. Helen's father, Keeper Thomas John O'Hagan, would "top" the original cedar every year to prevent it from growing too tall and blocking the light.



The City of Fernandina Beach offers tours every first and third Wednesday at 10am. Reservations may be made by calling (904) 277-1954

The Coast Guard is still seeking bids for needed maintenance on the optics; realign the lamp, replace the bearings, true up the light to the motor shaft, correct the prism chalking and repair door hinges on the lens.

Anclote Key:

The Friends of Anclote are gearing up for the visit from the FLA in May. We had a successful Christmas Cruise (our second annual) and will combine

the fund from that with last year's to get some interpretive displays installed.



Cape Canaveral:

We are looking forward to many exciting things in our future. Three tours a week will soon be a reality. The bus is ready and volunteers are training. We are also ready to kick off a fund raising effort, starting with a brick walk memorial program. The Lobster Fest on February 12th attracted nearly 900 visitors and was a huge success.



Cape San Blas:

Full Moon climbs have resumed and are being enjoyed by guests from throughout the US and Canada. Cape San Blas was listed on the Peninsular Tour of Homes in February. The museum is progressing and we are in hopes of having it completed before the Summer season.



Cape St. George Light:

We started Sunset / Full Moon Climbs in November and, so far, they have

been very successful. Construction of the Lighthouse Keeper's House is basically complete. We hope to have the first floor museum open by Spring. Former FLA president Stan Farnham donated his Keeper's uniform and it will be on display as part of an exhibit on the United States Lighthouse Service. Thank you Stan for this special gift.

Cedar Key:

An updated engineering inspection has been performed. We look forward to applying for FLA grant money to do



much needed maintenance. The Cedar Key Seafood Festival and Light Stations Open House will be October 22nd and 23rd this year. We are hoping to attract some FLA volunteers to help in this great experience. Thank you FLA for all your support.

Crooked River:

We have acquired permission to return one of the original out buildings to the light stations grounds. The "Wash House" was sold by the Coast Guard in

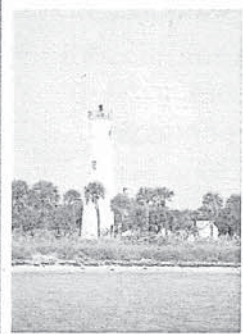


the 1970s. It is made of cedar planks and is in very good condition.

We have submitted a complete facilities report to the commander of the USCG 8th district in hopes they will consider loaning us the original Fresnel lens. We have developed a relationship with professional lampist, Joe Cocking and USCG archivist Arlyn Daniels in hopes of being able to house this important part of our history.

Visit our website,

www.crookedriverlighthouse.org or call (850) 697-2732 for information.



Egmont Key:

The Egmont Key Alliance will host its annual event, "Discover the Island," on November 12-13, 2011. We will have some additions to our events and exhibitors this year. The environmental organization, Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful, will participate. We are an "Adopt a Short" partner with them. Also, the local civic organization, The Rough Riders, will participate. We will have Civil War re-enactors, a lighthouse keeper and possibly Seminole Indian re-enactors that will share their culture.

The Coast Guard will participate with the USS Vise.

Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation:

The December boat trip went well. Pencil in December 2, 3, 4, 2011 if interested in going.



This year FKRLF turns 10. Please e-mail any special memories or copies of pictures (especially of Tom Taylor) to Eric to be included in our history.

We need a volunteer to take over the book donation to libraries. You can do this from home. We also need event planning help. E-mail Eric if you are interested at ericlighthouse@yahoo.com or call (407) 341-7374.



Hillsboro Light Station:

See the H L P S website,

www.HillsboroLighthouse.org for details of upcoming events.

Pensacola:

We are now proud to be open seven days per week from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. A special highlight this year at the Pensacola Naval Air Station is the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. Celebration activities are planned throughout the year with a focus the week of May 2-6 which will include the commissioning of the National Flight Academy.



Thanks to the generosity of an FLA grant of \$15,000 the Keepers' Quarters porch restoration project will begin shortly. Home Depot has also agreed to donate materials and the contractor is ready to go.

We will celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day and weekend with living history exhibits (such as Civil War re-enactors), live music, historic games and crafts, food and fun.

Check our web site for special events such as Light of the Moon, Blue Angels and our now famous ghost hunt tours www.pensacolalighthouse.org.

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St Augustine:

Dr. Sharon Shaffer, Executive Director for the Smithsonian Early Enrichment



Center spent three great days at the lighthouse and museum conducting a Teaching with Objects seminar to the lighthouse education staff, educators from Duval and St. Johns county schools as well as museum educators. This seminar engaged participants in educational techniques that reflected museum-based approach to teaching and learning with a concentration on STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

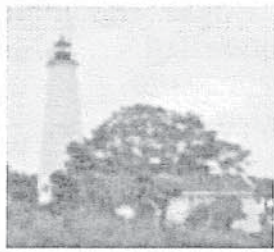
The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) has been ecstatic with the additional finds from the recently discovered shipwreck off the coast of St. Augustine called 'Storm Wreck'. This past January LAMP started restoration on a ship's bell in hopes of discovering the wreck's official name. To follow our archeologist as more items are raised and restored check out our blog at www.staugustinelighthouse.org.

LAMP Boatworks is the traditional wooden boatbuilding program overseen by LAMP and carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers. Currently the

boat builders are building a 1760s pattern ship's yawl similar to the Lynx's Stern Boat, which is visiting our program for maintenance and repair.

The Lighthouse Guild has two great events planned. First, on March 24th it's the third Scenic Boat Cruise so come, relax and enjoy a unique view of historical landmarks including the Lighthouse from the deck of the Victory III. Second, a 3 day/2 nights Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Tour will visit 4 lighthouses, Pensacola, Cape St. George, Crooked River and St. Marks.

For more information about daily and ongoing events come visit us at www.staugustinelighthouse.org



St Marks:

St. Marks Lighthouse will undergo another

round of lead abatement in February 2011 and March 2011 by USGS contractor, Aerostar. Hopefully, all lead will be cleaned up and all parties will sign off on the cleanup completion. Then, we hope to complete the transfer to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service!

We will be busy in April with the Twilight Lantern tour for Wild About Wakulla on April 6, the St. Augustine Lighthouse Guild tour on April 7, the U.S.

Lighthouse Society tour on April 10 and the Florida Lighthouse Event on Sat. April 23!

FLASH COPY REQUEST

I have several extra copies of Flash printed each issue for the "new members" that sign up. However, I had just found out that one member had a blank page in his copy last issue. If any member has a blank page or a page that is unreadable just email me for another copy. Let me know what the problem is and your address. I want to keep track and let the printer know if there is a great number of bad copies. If I have an extra one at the time you email me, i would be happy to resend you another. Be sure to type in Flash in the subject line so i dont ignore or delete you as spam. Pat Biggs pbandbiggs@yahoo.com

Florida Lighthouse Association is a non-profit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state's 1200 mile coast line.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible.



ANCLOTE KEY LIGHTHOUSE

May 21, 2011

EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: May 6, 2011

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print):

1) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Affiliated with what Lighthouse Organization _____

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print):

2) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Affiliated with what Lighthouse Organization _____

LUNCHEON

Luncheon buffet will include Hand tossed Caesar Salad, Chicken Bruschetta, Mahi-Mahi in Lemon Garlic Butter Sauce, Rice Pilaf, Chef's choice of Vegetable Medley, Assorted Rolls, Coffee, Iced tea, and water.

I want to join the Florida Lighthouse Association (check one)

Single Membership \$25 _____

Family Membership \$35 _____

Corporate Membership \$100 _____

Meeting, Lunch and transportation to/from Anclote Key

Total number of persons _____ X \$50 pp = _____

Non- members _____ X \$65 pp = _____

TOTAL = _____

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION. Mail this form and your payment to: Ron Ecker, PO Box 372153, Satellite Beach, FL. 32937

- The FLA has a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.
- An e-mail will be sent for reservation confirmation, if you do not have an e-mail I will mail you a confirmation.
- All reservations received **after** the deadline **will be returned**.

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1676

St. Petersburg, FL 33731

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It is a great gift and you will be helping to preserve Florida lighthouses.

Florida Lighthouse Association Membership

1. Fill out form
2. Make check to Florida Lighthouse Association
3. Mail to: FLA Membership Linda Peck
2081 NE 27th Street
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

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

For more information or to give a membership on line:
www.FloridaLighthouses.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____