



# FLASH

## FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

### A Message from the President

*President Ken Smith brings a challenge as we look toward the needs of our lighthouse preservation efforts for 2014-15*

**Pages 2**

### FLA's Cedar Keys

#### Lighthouse Meeting

*Details of our most special meeting  
February 13 & 14*

**Page 1 & 4**

### Report of the 2013-14 Grants

*Records set by FLA*

*Plus pictures and details of the Cape San Blas rescue and move and the St. Marks lens removal and details of the preservation effort*

**Pages 5 & 6**

## Cedar Keys Lighthouse Meeting

**February 13 & 14, 2015 - Visit Seahorse Key and Lighthouse Tours**

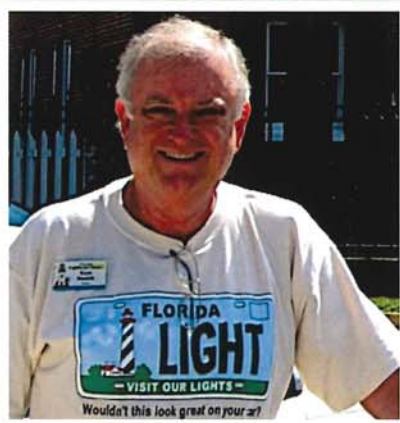


This will be our first meeting at Cedar Keys since we collaborated with the University of Florida on a restoration and painting project. The work included restoring the exterior wood, complete repair and restoration of the cistern and repainting of the exterior. The program for the meeting will include reports from several local lighthouse preservation groups that have received both Gene Oakes Lighthouse Grants and Tom Taylor Keepers Grants.

### FLA's Capital Campaign In Final Weeks

The important work of the Florida Lighthouse Association can only happen with the help and support of our members and donors. This year we have been able to give over \$100,000 in grants to local lighthouse preservation groups to aid in their unexpected emergency repairs and educational efforts. Our grants process is design to be easy for our Lighthouse members to apply so the funds can be put to use to further the FLA mission in the Preservation, Protection and Restoration of Florida's 30 Historic Lighthouses. We can only do this because of our members. Please consider being part of our efforts by pledging to give to the Capital Campaign today.

FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community-based restoration, preservation and education efforts.



I am so proud. I am proud of FLA. I am proud of each of you who gave money, time and energy to help us achieve another record-breaking year. We raised more money and gave more in grants than last year, again setting records. We set a new precedent by partnering with the US Park Service and the

Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation to begin important maintenance work on Fowey Rocks. We partnered with the Florida State Park system and the Friends of Anclote Key to repair the dock at Anclote Key. We were able to provide funding for emergency stabilization and protection and condition assessment at St. Marks, this time partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We stepped outside the box a bit by partnering with the City of Marathon and the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation to build a replica of Sombrero Key Lighthouse in a city park, an education opportunity too good to pass up. We gave to the monumental task of rescuing and moving Cape San Blas, an effort supported by the City of Port St. Joe, two State of Florida Historic Preservation Grants and much local support. We gave a grant to Pensacola which they are using to match other funds, effectively multiplying our grant by as much as 20 times. Also at Pensacola, we provided funds for an Interactive Fresnel Lens Exhibit in their museum, an important education project. You should be proud of these accomplishments, too.

Each year at this time we come to you, our members, and ask you to help in our work. We know that a few people will give large gifts, and that is important. We also know that many will give a little, and that is equally as important. Our desire is that everyone does something.

Would you consider being part of our amazing movement? We challenge each of you to give to our effort. We ask that some of you give one-time gifts. We also ask that you give monthly. A gift of \$25 or \$100 per month will make a difference as we continue our job of helping preserve, protect and restore Florida's 30 remaining historic lighthouses.

Thanks for helping to keep the lights shining,  
Ken

## MY FIRST TRIP TO CEDAR KEYS LIGHTHOUSE

Ken Smith

I stood on the widow maker's walk on the old lighthouse on Seahorse Key and looked South. I could see the smoke stacks at the Crystal River power plant about 30 miles down the coast. That is when it hit me. My grandfather, a commercial fisherman who spend all of his life in the Crystal River/Homosassa Springs area would have passed this lighthouse every time he went out or came back to port. This was HIS lighthouse. Oh, his travel as a fisherman would have taken him all along the coast from New Orleans to Key West and maybe beyond. He would have known the lights at Pensacola, Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, Crooked River, St. Marks, Anclote Key, Egmont Key, Boca Grande, Sanibel, Key West, Loggerhead Key and the Reef Lights. But when he came home this is the light that guided him in. During the day the building on the hill would have been seen for miles. At night, the light from that fixed forth order lens that flashed bright every minute must have felt safe to the teenager who 100 years ago passed this way. On a clear night the flash must have owned the star-filled night. On a stormy night it showed the way to safe harbor. I adored my grandfather. He was a man's man with a wonderful sense of humor. But he died when I was a young and I miss him. For a moment while standing there looking at the calm Gulf waters I felt close to him for the first time in a long time. This moment belong to the two of us.



SEA-HORSE KEY.

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

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# LIGHTHOUSE BOOK REVIEW

By Eric Martin

President - Florida Keys Reef Lights Association

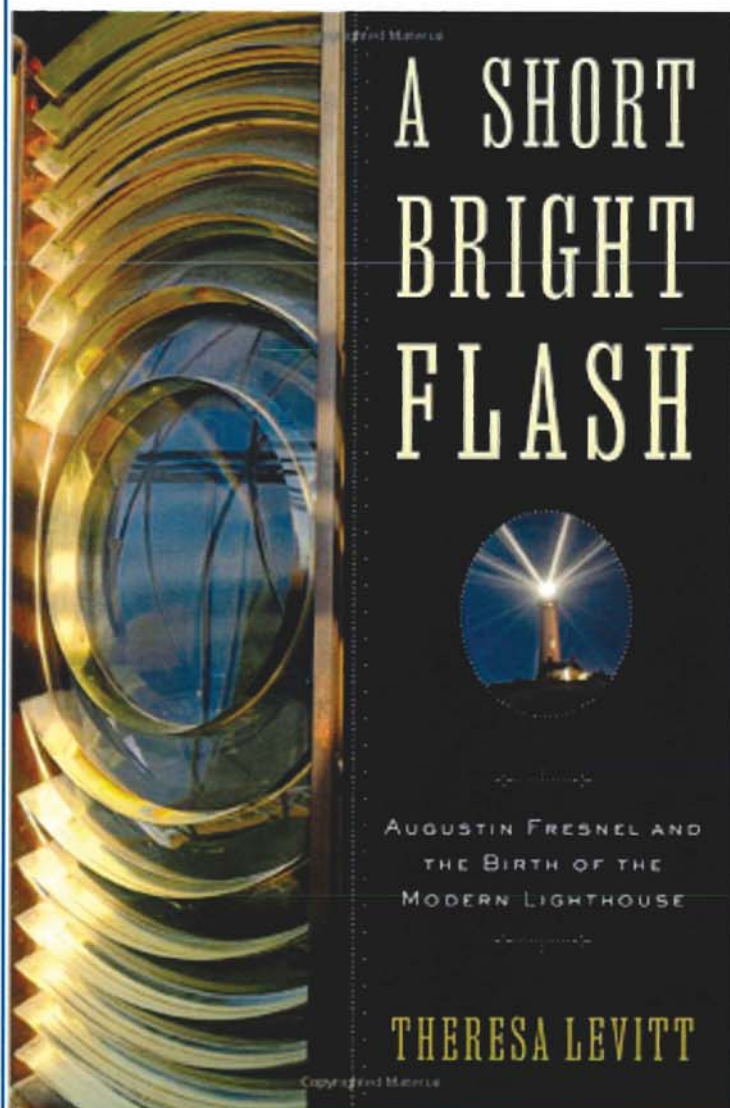


## A SHORT BRIGHT FLASH

THERESA LEVITT

*Augustine Fresnel and the Birth of the Modern Lighthouse*

The book starts with a reminder of how few lighthouses were in operation in the early 1800's and how dim their lights were. As you read you will learn the science of light. For example a metal reflector absorbs  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the light. That the vast improvement of the lens was not all that made the new lights so bright. There was improvement of the light source too.



Francios Arago was working on the light source and Augustin Fresnel worked with him. One of the improvements was the wick itself. The result of this work with the light source made the light 20 times brighter. The fact the light source was better, make it possible to have only one source of light instead of a dozen or more, therefore, saving large quantities of fuel.

Another issue was the glass. It could not be too thick or it would be too heavy. Also the quality of glass was not good from most manufacturers. There had to be improvement and it would not be easy, but to be done.

Fresnel had to use much of his money to get the first model lens built. But, by April 13, 1821 his lens would be tested against another and his was the clear winner.

Fresnel would die young and his brother Lenore would continue the work of improving the Fresnel Lens. Meanwhile the United States would be one of the last countries to adopt the lens.

Like some other books, I wish they had used larger pages as some of the pictures and illustrations are hard to see. Speaking of illustrations the author had the help of our friend Thomas Tag. The book is interested and well written. You will be brighter for reading it.

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[www.FloridaLighthouses.org](http://www.FloridaLighthouses.org)HOTELS**Beach Front Motel**

873 1st Street  
 Cedar Key, FL 32625  
 (352) 543-9960  
 Rate: \$100 all rooms, no extra charge for additional people  
 Cut-off date January 2, 2015

**Cedar Cove**

192 2nd Street  
 Cedar Key, FL 32625  
 (352) 543-5332  
 Rate: Studio - \$119, Loft - \$129  
 Cut-off date January 2, 2015

There are other motels in Cedar Key but most only have a limited number of rooms available.

## Cedar Keys Lighthouse Meeting February 13 & 14, 2015

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

Cedar Key RV Resort  
 11980 SW Shiloh Rd, Cedar Key, FL

Cost is \$65 for Florida Lighthouse Association members  
 \$90 each for non-members (family) or \$80 non-member (individual), includes one-year membership\*  
 Deadline for registrations is January 31st. If by mail must be received before the 31st!

**Friday, February 13, 2015**

5:00 - 6:30 PM FLA Board Meeting  
 6:30 - 9:30 PM Dinner and FLA Membership Meeting

**Saturday, February 14, 2015**

8:00 - 11:00 AM Coffee, Doughnuts and Pastries  
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Boats to the Lighthouse

\*Due to insurance requirements everyone must be a member of FLA to climb the lighthouse. The non-member price includes a 1-year membership to FLA.

## Cape San Blas Lighthouse Moved July 15, 2014

Over a year of planning, the rescue and move of this important part of Florida maritime history finally happened on a hot sunny day while hundreds watched. FLA played an important part with three different grants, including one for engineer's drawings and one that helped secure matching funds from a local family. All was made possible by the generous donations of our members. Next year there will be more challenges as we work to preserve and protect Florida's 30 historic lighthouses. At this time our members have pledged over \$35,000 to our efforts. Our goal is \$55,000. We need your help. Please join us by making a one-time gift or commit to monthly gifts.



Photos of the historic move of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, two keepers' houses and oil house by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger, Dede Smith and Debbie Branch.

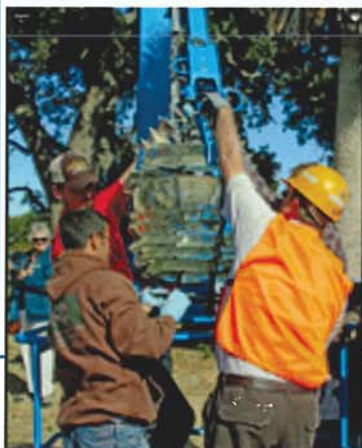
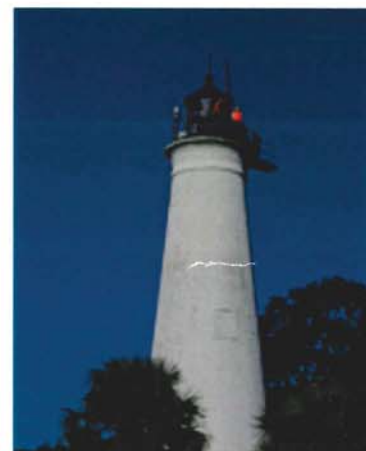


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## St. Marks Lighthouse Lens Removal November 20, 2014

Pictured here are the team of trained lens experts from the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum safely removing the historic fourth-order Fresnel lens from the St. Marks Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is part of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The lens was transported to Ponce Inlet where it will be restored. The professionals and volunteers at Ponce Inlet have cared for and restored lenses from around the world including the two first-order lenses in their care, the original Ponce Inlet lens and the historic Cape Canaveral Lighthouse lens. It is estimated it will take 5,000 man-hours to complete the restoration. The lens will then be returned to St. Marks where it will be placed on display. This is an important collaborative effort of the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum who are donating their expertise and the Florida Lighthouse Association who gave a grant to St. Marks for emergency repairs, including any cost that might arise from the lens restoration work.



## Christmas Gift Idea

Here is an idea for a Christmas Gift. Consider giving a gift membership to the Florida Lighthouse Association to a family member or friend. You will be sharing your passion for the preservation, protection and restoration of Florida lighthouses plus helping our Association grow.

Go to [www.FloridaLighthouses.org](http://www.FloridaLighthouses.org) and click on the "JOIN TODAY!/Gift Membership button.

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

FLASH

### HELP SAVE OUR LIGHTHOUSES CAMPAIGN

**PLEASE PRINT AND MAIL THIS FORM TO FLA OR EMAIL IT TO [INFO@FLORIDLIGHTHOUSES.ORG](mailto:INFO@FLORIDLIGHTHOUSES.ORG)**

FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts. Only 30 lighthouses remain today. **The most recent State of Florida study estimates that it will take almost \$20 million dollars to preserve these towers.**

FLA members and donors made it possible for FLA to give over \$100,000 in grants to local lighthouse preservation groups during the last fiscal year! ***This year requests for grants exceed the funds available!***

*Please make any changes/corrections to your address on the reverse (address) side of this page.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List my/our name on FLA's donor recognition list as:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

*This is important - FLA uses email for e newsletters, meeting information, membership confirmations and gift receipts.*

**Preferred Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I/We want to make a philanthropic gift to help save our lighthouses for future generations.**

**Enclosed** is my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Checks should be made payable to FLA*

I/we **pledge** at total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◇ I/we will **mail** gifts to fulfill our pledge to FLA:

Before Dec 30, 2014

Monthly

Quarterly (Dec, March, June, Sept)

◇ I/we will make **credit card payments** to fulfill our pledge as follows:

Before Dec 30, 2014

Quarterly (Dec, March, June, Sept)

Monthly ~ We will go to FLA's website to set up our monthly credit card payments

**Please also provide me/us with information on:**

Wills, trust and estate gift arrangements

Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds,

Savings Bonds

Paid-up Life Insurance

IRA distributions

FLA is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, funded by philanthropic gifts and memberships from individuals. FLA does not receive government funding! Florida's "Visit Our Lights" license plate sales provide additional funding for preservation and restoration grants to local lighthouses.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (CH8757) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES ON THEIR WEBSITE AT <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx> OR BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community-based restoration, preservation and education efforts.



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE  
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1676  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

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US POSTAGE  
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ST PETERSBURG FL  
PERMIT NO 698

*Lighthouses played a critical role in Florida's history; making it possible to explore, settle and develop Florida by using its 1350 miles of coastline (second only to Alaska in states with longest coastline). Only 30 lighthouses remain today. A 2002 study done by the State of Florida estimates that it will take almost \$20 million dollars to preserve these towers.*

The Florida Lighthouse Association's (FLA) mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts.

FLA is a nonprofit organization. Financial support comes from charitable gifts, membership dues, and Florida State specialty license plate sales. FLA does not receive any government funding!

**Here is how YOU can help preserve and protect Florida's lighthouses!**

**Your gift saves Florida Lighthouses!**

The Florida Lighthouse Association's (FLA) mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations. A 2002 study done by the State of Florida estimates that it will take almost \$20 million dollars to preserve these towers. **Gifts from individuals play a critical role in protecting, preserving & restoring Florida's lighthouses!**



## Help Save Our Lighthouses Campaign

Please print and mail this form to FLA or email it to [Info@FloridaLighthouses.org](mailto:Info@FloridaLighthouses.org)

FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts. Only 30 lighthouses remain today. **The most recent State of Florida study estimates that it will take almost \$20 million dollars to preserve these towers.** FLA members and donors made it possible for FLA to give over \$100,000 in grants to local lighthouse preservation groups during the last fiscal year! *This year requests for grants exceed the funds available!*

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Yes, I/We want to make a **philanthropic gift** to help save our lighthouses for future generations.

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# FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION (FLA)

PO Box 1676, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33731  
(727) 677-7775      www.FloridaLighthouses.org

*Preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's lighthouses!*

## Board of Directors

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Ken Smith

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Ron Ecker

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*Grants Chair*  
Ginny Davis

*Immediate Past President*  
Stan Farnham

Dear Tommy,

*Thank YOU for your commitment to saving Florida's Historic Lighthouses!*

**Only 30 lighthouses remain today.** Florida's maritime heritage is central to understanding Florida's culture and way of life. Lighthouses played a critical role in Florida's history; making it possible to explore, settle and develop Florida by using its 1350 miles of coastline. Florida's Lighthouses are too important to be destroyed by neglect. **FLA's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts.**

**FLA donors and members made it possible for FLA to give local lighthouse groups more than \$100,000 this year!** These funds do double duty ~ they fund restoration efforts AND help lighthouses get additional funds from other sources. **This year the request for grant funds from local lighthouses exceeded FLA's funding resources!**

FLA does not receive any government funding; charitable gifts from individuals like us play a significant role in funding local preservation and restoration efforts. **This fall, FLA kicked off its annual "Save Our Lighthouses Campaign" with a goal of raising \$55,000. One hundred percent of the Board has now given; their gifts combined with leadership gifts from donors total \$35,000!!! Please join us this holiday season and consider making your gift to help safeguard Florida's Lighthouses today!**

**Gifts for \$50 or more include a family membership in FLA (effective for 1 year from the date of your gift).** There are many benefits to membership and your membership helps fund educational programs and meetings on lighthouses. **FLA memberships also make wonderful holiday gifts!**

Thank you again for your generous support of Florida's historic lighthouses!

Ken Smith  
President - Florida Lighthouse Association

*Please join me & consider making your gift to help "Save Our Lighthouses" today! You may use the response form on the back of this letter - or go to the website & make a gift by credit card. Every gift helps protect, preserve & restore Florida's historic lighthouses. Thank you.*

**The Florida Lighthouse Association's mission is to safeguard Florida's remaining lighthouses for future generations by supporting community based restoration, preservation and education efforts.**

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