



# The FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC

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

August 2009

## ***St. Simons Island Lighthouse*** ***October 17, 2009*** ***Florida Lighthouse Association***

Traditionally, the October meeting is our anniversary celebration and promises to be a special event. This year, we will celebrate our 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having our *first* "out of state" meeting. And, it will be more than a meeting: it will be an entire weekend. St. Simons Island, GA was chosen not only for its easy proximity and access for our members, but also for the grandeur of the light station. For those unfamiliar with its location, St. Simons Island is only 1-hr North of Jacksonville via I-95. For many of our members, this will be easier and shorter traveling than visiting one of our state's lighthouses.

The first lighthouse on St. Simons Island was at the south end of the island and completed in 1810. During the Civil War, the blockade of Federal ships and the subsequent invasion of Georgia by Federal troops forced the Confederates to evacuate St. Simons Island. Before leaving in 1862, the Confederates destroyed the lighthouse so the Federal forces could not use it as a navigational aid. The second and current lighthouse was built just west of the original tower and completed in 1872. The 104-foot tower, which has a 129-step cast iron spiral staircase and an adjacent keeper's house, were designed by one of Georgia's most noted architects. The lighthouse keeper's house served as a home for the keepers from 1872 until 1950 when, following the complete automation of the lighthouse in 1953, the last lighthouse keeper retired. In 2004, the lighthouse was deeded to the Coastal Georgia Historical Society under the Lighthouse Preservation Act after a long a successful lease arrangement with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Society. Today, with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the light continues as an Aid to Navigation, shining seaward every night and during inclement weather. The FLA thanks Patricia Morris, Executive Director, and the Coastal Georgia Historical Society for their gracious hospitality in hosting us for this unprecedented event.

We are planning some very special happenings during this meeting with optional events for the entire weekend for those who would truly like to experience St. Simons Island. Our meeting will be at THE A.W. JONES HERITAGE CENTER. The state-of-the-art facility, constructed and operated by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, is at 620 Beachview Drive directly adjacent to the lighthouse. The facility opened in April, 2008 and (for those familiar with the island) replaces the old Post Office building and the Casino which formerly occupied this space. We are privileged to have Patricia Morris as our speaker for this meeting. In 2000, she was named Executive Director of the Society and Museum after spending 11 years as the Curator of Collections. Ms. Morris has also authored books about the island and Georgia's lighthouses.

After the morning meeting, put on your best shoes as our group will be divided. Each group will spend time touring the lighthouse and museum as well as visiting the Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station. The Station features seven galleries with hands-on exhibits of the coast's nature and a travel back in time to the 1940's and the life of a Coast Guardsman. It is on East Beach and is a

short drive from the lighthouse. The lighthouse probably will be under restoration at the time of our meeting. This is indeed a rare opportunity for each of us to see and understand a lighthouse restoration first-hand. To enhance this experience, we have been promised a “behind the scenes” tour with an explanation about the work in progress. The cost of the meeting, luncheon, donations, and purchase of a paver brick which will be installed in the courtyard between the Heritage Center and the lighthouse after our meeting is \$45 per person.

We are planning an optional event on Saturday evening after the meeting, but this is NOT for the “faint of heart”. We have contracted with *History, Mystery & More, Inc.* for a private GHOST WALK for our members. We will walk the grounds of the lighthouse and enter the keeper’s house to see for ourselves if St. Simons is truly the third most haunted lighthouse in the nation. You may indeed see or feel the presence of Frederick Osborne, the lighthouse keeper killed on the grounds of the lighthouse, smell his pipe, or even hear his footsteps. You would not be the first!! Please bring your flashlights, cameras, insect spray, and comfortable shoes. The tour will meet at 8PM at the entrance to the pier in the St. Simons Village and will last approximately 1 ½ hrs. The additional cost for this adventure customized for the FLA is \$15 per person. Preregistration on the Registration Form and prepayment for the tour is required.

For those hoping to experience the history of St. Simons Island, please plan to spend the night and join us on Sunday morning for a historic tour aboard the *St. Simons Trolley*. Riding along in a beautiful, antique trolley from the 1930’s, we will visit the lighthouse, Bloody Marsh, Fort Frederica, Retreat Plantation, and Christ Church. This tour includes stories of over 400 years of history and folklore told with humor and historical accuracy. This is a private tour for our members only. It will depart at 9AM on Sunday morning from 530 Beachview Drive between the lighthouse and the Visitors Center and will last about 90 minutes. The additional cost for this customized tour is \$22 per person. Preregistration on the Registration Form and prepayment for this tour is required.

### MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, October 17

8:30 am Meeting Registration  
9:00 am FLA meeting begins  
12:00pm Luncheon buffet is served  
1:30 pm FLA Paver Brick is installed in the courtyard by the lighthouse  
1:30 – 5pm Visit the lighthouse and museum and the Historic Coast Guard Station  
8:00 pm GHOST WALK (optional w/additional charge)

Sunday, Oct 18

9am St. Simons Trolley Tour (optional w/additional charge)

### PREFERRED HOTEL

#### **Best Western Island Inn**

301 Main St. (Plantation Village)

St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Phone: 912-638-7805

Rooms will be available both Friday and Saturday evenings at a discounted rate of **\$79**. The cut off date to guarantee availability and price is **September 16, 2009**. An expanded deluxe continental breakfast is included in this rate. Each room offers free high speed internet, a coffee maker, and a hair dryer. A virtual tour of this facility is available on the Best Western website at [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com).



## Stan's Beacon

At our annual meeting in October we will enter a new chapter in the **FLA's** 13 year history with an updated [Strategic Plan](#), which will guide our efforts over the next year with a number one goal of boosting *Visit Our Lights* sales.

Three dozen FLA'ers met at Florida Southern College July 18. We awarded certificates (and an autographed book) to *FLA'ers* cited as *FLA Heroes* for effort on *Florida Lighthouse Day*. Most winners were present: Stan and Dottie Beckstrom, Alice and David D'Amicol, George Evans, Skip and Terry Kemp, Eric Martin, Harry Pettit, Ken and Dede Smith, Gayle and Dennis Stemac and Bill and Jackie Wilkins. Not present Al King III,

Charley Knox and Steve Miller.

Following a review of the strategic planning goals, with boosting *Visit Our Lights* sales as number one, we showed a power point on a FLA Headquarters/Museum/Archives idea. In the Board meeting we voted, among other things, to continue with partner *Visit Florida*, buy a power point projector and laptops; donate memorial bricks to meeting host lighthouses; donate \$500 for Pensacola Lighthouse; voted to pay registration fee for Tax Collector's Annual Meeting; encouraged lighthouse organizations to apply for grants from license plate funds.

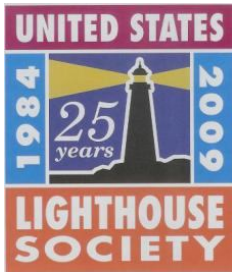
With 12 Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, largest size site in the world, and on National Register of Historic Places, FSC provides a central location and could be ideal for FLA HQ location.



Our group posed before the restored Frank Lloyd Wright Water Dome for a group picture. See below. Our lighthouses are irreplaceable and tell the story of our maritime history and people. Let us be measured by results. Results count. Benjamin Franklin said: "*Well done is better than well said.*"



*FLA'ers at Florida Southern College Water Dome, photo taken by Dede Smith.*



## USLHS Fundraiser at Sanibel Island Lighthouse.

The United States Lighthouse Society (USLHS) planned six fund raising banquets in 2009 around the nation. As FLASH went to press, some have already been held but the Florida one is at Sanibel, Saturday 4:30 pm, October 3. The others: Yorktown (June 6), San Francisco (June 27), St. Joseph, MI (August 23) and Los Angeles (September 19), "Although Sanibel is best known for its fabulous shelling beaches, the Society will be homing in on the Sanibel Island Lighthouse." The event includes a gourmet dinner at Jacaranda restaurant. The cost is \$150 for one person, \$250 for two. See [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org) for details.

### Comments from Members

"FLA is unique and its policies are one of the reasons I support it. I also belong to another unique organization - Conchologists of America (shell collectors) and we have no paid employees - all of us donate our time, services and quite often some of our expenses. I have been an officer in various positions and a board member for twenty years. Our country is blessed with organizations such as ours and may it ever be so." **Doris Underwood**

"Thanks for the details about our wonderful group." **Jean Marani**

"I read FLA FLASH, last night. It was so interesting & fun to read about what so many people did, on FL Lighthouse day. Amazing, how many miles some of them drove!! I just looked at the photos, in color! What a difference! Even the turtle, looked better in color! That pelican, with the lighthouses on its wings, was very nice." **Elaine Gridley**

"Excellent re-focusing message; Well said, as always!" **Terry Kemp**

"I thoroughly enjoyed reading the FLASH as I ate my dinner tonight. You also did a good job telling those people the things your organization doesn't do. You did it tastefully and to the point. Kudos to you." **Sondra Greer.**

"Well said Stan. Thanks for being there." **Lorraine Masencup**

"FLA is a wonderful organization." **Pat Varner**

"I enjoy receiving your updates about the progress the Association is making." **Charles LeBuff.**



### New FLASH Volunteer!

"With this issue FLA has a new volunteer for the production/graphics/layout position for FLASH. We greatly appreciate the years of service of *Christi Sessions*, who served admirably not only in doing FLASH, but as Secretary and later, and currently, as Vice President-Membership. Doing FLASH is not an easy job, but members can help by getting information to us in a timely manner, especially Lighthouse Reports. Thank you. And thank you to **Pat Biggs** (in photo) for taking on this important communications position."

*Stan Farnham*

### You Asked For It!

*Christi Sessions*, Vice President-Membership, is following up on requests from *FLA'ers* to use credit cards to pay for membership dues and donations. When the new system is in place, we'll notify you. Terry Collins had suggested using PayPal. "He was a big help," Christi said. John Kennedy is setting up an account at press time.

### Lighthouse stamps

Thank you to all who donated

Lighthouse stamps:

George Evans (100), Betty Phelps (60) Cape San Blas (Charlotte Pierce) (60), Doris Underwood (30), Chris & Ron Ecker (30), Harry & Jean Pettit (40), Stan & Mary Farnham (40), Pat & Jerry Biggs, Barbara & Ray Hamel, Charles & Jean LeBuff, Elaine & Charles Gridley, Michael Koontz, Jack Mangus, Steve & Marlene Bysted, Jean Marani, David & Alice D'Amicol.

### THE KEY OF INDEPENDENCE

Everybody was happy as a clam July 4<sup>th</sup> at Seahorse Key Lighthouse, Cedar Keys NWR. Cedar City celebrated Independence Day with a parade and "Clamerica". Cedar Keys is Florida's major supplier of clams. But the Nature Coast was also nautical on the 4<sup>th</sup> with a rare open house at Seahorse Key Lighthouse. The island is for the birds, a water bird rookery, and the keeper's quarters serve as a maritime lab for U of F students. Captain Doug's boat brought Lighthouse visitors to the historic isle and a short trek up an incline to the light. It sits atop a 45-foot mound and guided mariners to the Suwanee River. The area was a major timber supplier as well as clams. Cedar trees later provided wood for manufacture of pencils. In the Civil War it was trapped in the Northern Blockade but Florida troops defeated Union forces trying to invade Tallahassee. FLA's February 2010 meeting includes a visit to Seahorse Key, Cedar Key, NWR. A Flash volunteer celebrated her birthday with America's birthday but claimed up when asked her age.

*Jerry Biggs*



## 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, and July 182. Sales have occurred in 48 of Florida's 67 counties. Total 2009 sales through July: 1,057. 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: Jack Mangus, Vicki Sweet and Mary D. Engle's tags.



Here are some more licenses, below, left to right: Peggy Armeiy, Doris Underwood, Carol Murkett



Here are some more licenses, below, left to right Bill Roberts, Bill Wilkins, Ray and Barbara Hamel and bottom left Pat and Jerry Biggs.



**Don't forget to renew with a beautiful *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate!!** The *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate funds will 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*.

## FLA'ers Abroad

The Florida Lighthouse Association sharply focuses its mission on the remaining 30 historical Florida lighthouses, but that does not mean lighthouse lover members can't enjoy the wide variety of shapes and sizes of lighthouses around the world. This section highlights photos from recent trips of our members from Greece, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Gibraltar and Uruguay.

FLA'er *Gail Nash* had a "glorious" three-week cruise trip to Italy, Greece and Turkey. She snapped a photo of the lighthouse in Rhodes, Greece, Mandraki Harbor from her cruise ship. Photo at the right is the one she took of the lighthouse in Naples, Italy. See all these photos in color on our website.



FLA'er *Gladys Llanes* vacationed in Buenos Aires, Argentina in June. A cousin arranged the trip, which included a day trip to Colonia, Uruguay, which is just an hour ferry boat ride across the River Plate or *Rio de la Plata*. She said: "Wow, was I pleasantly surprised when I learned there was a lighthouse there! Needless to say, I climbed it and got my cousins and the rest of the gang to climb it with me!" The lighthouse is the Colonia del Sacramento, built in 1857.





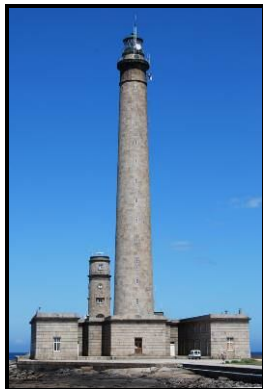
*FLA*'ers *John and Karen Tamlin* vacationed in Europe and saw and photographed the northernmost lighthouse in Africa, Cape Spartel in Tangier, Morocco and the southernmost lighthouse in Europe, Tarifa Light in Tarifa, Spain.



The Tamlins also photographed the Europa Point Lighthouse in Gibraltar (below left) and La Farola Lighthouse in Malaga, Spain. It is one of the oldest lighthouses in Spain built in 1817 to replace one built in 1724.



Lighthouses of France from *Dede Smith's* Summer Vacation



Gatteville



La Hague



St. Vaast

## FLA Heroes on Florida Lighthouse Day



David and Alice  
D'Amicol



Dottie & Stan  
Beckstrom



Dede & Ken  
Smith



Eric Martin



Gayle & Dennis  
Stemac



Left to right: Harry Pettit, Jackie and Bill Wilkins, Skip and Terry Kemp and George Evans. Not show Steve Miller, Al King III, Susan Martin, Jean Pettit and Charley Knox.

## Florida Lighthouse Reports

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

### Amelia:

Restoration work on the 1820 Amelia Island Lighthouse has earned Kenneth Smith Architects Inc. an award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. The firm received an Outstanding Achievement Award May 15 at the Florida Trust conference. Amelia, the oldest documented structure in Fernandina Beach, also is the oldest lighthouse in Florida. Restoration was done in two phases, the first completed by Worth Contracting Inc. in 2004 for \$297,000; the second by Durable Restoration Co. in 2008 for \$90,000.

### Mayport:

The Mayport Waterfront Project Committee has been working on having the village designated as a "Preserve America" community, which would allow the village to apply for "Preserve America" grants. We hope to make the August 31, 2009 submission deadline to the "Office of Historic Preservation" in Washington, DC. If we do not, we will have to wait until the next submission date of December 31, 2009. One goal is to move the 1859 St Johns Lighthouse to the village, to fulfill our dream of the lighthouse raised out of the mud and again standing at her full height. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has been working with the Coast Guard and the Navy on taking ownership of the 1954 Mayport Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is all that remains of the lighthouse station. All the other buildings have been destroyed. The lighthouse has several leaks in the tower and in the connected wings.

### St. Augustine:

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum had many special days with the Sea, Shore, Shrimp & Slime summer camp started June 15 and ended July 31. The museum encourages parents, teachers, social workers, and civil service organizations to nominate one or more children for consideration. "It's important that we reach out to others, help build self esteem and offer new opportunities. We have a unique maritime history and we can use it to really serve our community," said Kathy Fleming, Executive Director of the museum. For more information on educational programs, events, or membership at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum visit [www.staugustinelighthouse.com](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.com) or call (904) 829-0745.



**Ponce Inlet:** The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association opened a new permanent exhibition in the Lens Exhibit Building. *Minor Lights* features 29 small lanterns and lenses, including post and ship lanterns, buoy and river lights, which date from the mid-1800s to modern times and show how Fresnel lens technology was adapted to many different navigational aids. The exhibit includes numerous pieces from the museum's extensive collection of historic and modern navigational aids. Items on display include post lanterns, ship lanterns, and hand lanterns, a wide assortment of river and buoy lights, and several examples of modern-day



beacons currently used in lighthouses and buoys today. The Preservation Association has continued its ongoing restoring of the historic keepers' dwellings. Suffering from significant mortar deterioration, the east wall of the First Assistant Keeper's was fully restored in June. Old crumbling mortar was removed, fractured bricks were replaced or refaced, and new mortar installed. Completed in record time, the restored east wall is but one part of the Association's overall restoration plan for the historic structure. Future work to this historic structure will include re-pointing the dwelling's south wall, restoration of interior plaster work, and repairs to the dwelling's damaged fireplaces. See [www.ponceinlet.org](http://www.ponceinlet.org)

#### **Cape Canaveral:**

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) plans a Lobster Fest November 7, 2009. The Fest will be an opportunity for the general public, as well as members, to go to the lighthouse and see the maintenance and restoration work done and exhibits. For non-members, the admission price (\$39 non-members, \$15 members) includes a partial year membership in the CCLF. See the CCLF website for further information, [www.CanaveralLight.org](http://www.CanaveralLight.org).

#### **Jupiter:**

The Jupiter Inlet National Historic Lighthouse and the Outstanding Natural Area (includes 126 acres) received \$1 million funding from the Federal Stimulus. "Not only will we be able to create jobs, but we will preserve this important historical area for future generations," said Jamie Stuve, president and Chief Executive Officer of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, which oversees the lighthouse. Repairs and restorations will start after the plan is approved. Of the funding \$557,000 is for maintenance for the Jupiter Inlet National Historic Lighthouse and \$500,000 will be for habitat restoration for the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. Half of the maintenance dollars will be spent on interior painting and other lighthouse improvements. The remainder will be used for a complete restoration of a small building next to the lighthouse, used by head lighthouse keeper Charles Seabrook from 1919-1947 as workshop. The building later housed the USCG persons during World War II. The habitat restoration will be for walking trails, installing information signs and constructing wooden overlooks to provide better public access. A top priority is repairing the erosion that is taking place just east of the lighthouse.

#### **Hillsboro Light Station:**

Visit Saturdays September 26 and November 21 to see all the improvements done in 2009, including barn restored to 1906 vintage, public restrooms handicapped accessible, approval to install the Centennial Brick Patio & drinking fountain after 7 years of negotiations and, Wilma-damaged West Gazebo removed for new one. HLPS recently received a five-year license renewal from the U.S. Coast Guard to have Lighthouse Tours at this Station with more tours each year. *Buy Commemorative Brick for our Centennial Patio.* See website, [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org) Feasibility study for a Camcorder on top of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse tower overlooking the Inlet is now underway.

#### **Cape Florida:**

The Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park announced May 13 increased public access to the park's historic Cape Florida Lighthouse. Visitors can now enjoy at no charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday, and free guided tours of the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's cottage are offered daily Thursday through Monday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. "The expansion of the Cape Florida Lighthouse hours is a wonderful addition to the activities offered at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park," said Park Manager Robert Yero. "Climbing 109 steps brings visitors to the lighthouse summit where they can enjoy spectacular views of Biscayne Bay in dozens of tints of beautiful turquoise." The lighthouse is *the oldest standing structure in South Florida*. Visitors can discover more details about the history of the lighthouse by watching an informative video in the recreated cook house building behind the lighthouse keeper's cottage.

#### **Reef Lights:**

A sign in Sombrero Beach Park in Marathon now provides information on Sombrero Key Lighthouse and is a memorial to the four keepers who died in service there. Reef Lights has a new postcard with all six lighthouses (drawings by Paul Bradley) on them. New members or volunteers, please email [ericlighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:ericlighthouse@yahoo.com), or call 407-658-0046.

#### **Dry Tortugas:**

Dry Tortugas National Parks Service joined FLA. Welcome delegate Kelly Clark and alternates Melissa Memory and Nancy Russell.

#### **Sanibel:**

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village has closed for the summer but will reopen November 4, 2009.

#### **Egmont Key:**

The *Discover the Island* committee this summer has been preparing for the annual fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15. FLA members interested in attending can get additional information of the Alliance's website: [egmontkey.info](http://egmontkey.info) The Egmont Key Alliance volunteers have been busy on the island monitoring the sea turtle nests and continue to protect the bird nesting sites.

#### **Anclote Key:**

Anclote will be open for climbs on Lighthouse Day Saturday, September 12, 2009. The Citizen Support Organization (CSO) is installing a white picket fence in the compound. Once completed, the area will be open for visitors when the ranger is on duty. Solar panels have been installed to take the place of generators for power, and have already reduced the cost of fuel considerably. Several work days have consisted of cleaning debris from storms and installing memorial bricks in the lighthouse compound along

with picking up trash on the island. The CSO purchased a davit for the resident ranger's dock and a console cover for his boat. See [www.anclootecso.com](http://www.anclootecso.com).

### **Cedar Key:**

Cedar Key will be open October 17 & 18, 2009. Volunteers are needed to help at the open house! Please call or email ASAP. We know this is the same weekend as the October FLA meeting but, if you are unable to go there and wish to help us out, it would be appreciated. We are hosting the February 20, 2010 meeting in Cedar Key! We are so excited to be able to host the meeting. This is only the 2nd meeting there in more than 10 years! We are hoping for a great turnout and look forward to you coming to the event. We have a lot of surprises in store to make this a memorable meeting! Please put it on your calendar for February!

### **St. Marks:**

Currently the St Marks Lighthouse belongs to the U. S. Coast Guard. The transfer to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife has been delayed again. The delays have all been centered on environmental concerns. After the initial site clean-up and post-assessment, followed by a second clean-up and post-assessment, the latest report now recommends *another* clean-up and post-assessment. The date for this latest clean-up could take another year. A Sunset Lighthouse tour led by Ranger/ lighthouse historian Andy Edel will be September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. For more information or to sign up please call St. Marks NWR at 850-925-6121.

### **Crooked River:**



On Saturday, July 4, 2009, the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with visitors climbing the Lighthouse at no charge. Association founders Barbara Revell and Maryann Shields (see photo) greeted a steady stream of Lighthouse enthusiasts.

*The climbing started at noon and continued nonstop until 5:00 p.m.*

The celebration included a low country boil with 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake for dessert, the opportunity to examine exhibits and purchase souvenirs in the Keeper's House Museum/Gift Shop and time to enjoy the Pirate Ship playground.

### **Cape St. George Light:**

Now open to the public 40 hours a week, the Lighthouse has exceeded our wildest expectations. It hosted more than 3,000 climbers a month in June and July; almost 14,000 people have climbed the lighthouse since it opened in December 2008. In June alone, we had visitors from 24 states and three foreign countries. We have been approved by the U.S. Coast Guard as a private aid to navigation, and a VLB-44 optic has been purchased from Vega Industries Limited in New Zealand with plans to light it November 1. Plans to start construction on a replica of our original Lighthouse Keeper's House are progressing with ground breaking in October. The original Keeper's House at Cape St. George, which over time became the Assistant Keeper's House, was almost identical to the house at Cape Florida. Our heartfelt thanks go to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park for making a copy of their plans available to us. The new hours at the Cape St. George Light are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. We are closed on Thursday. FLA members can climb the lighthouse as no charge, so come visit us on St. George Island!

The original plan to light the Light this summer was delayed by an objection filed with USCG by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contending that the light from the lighthouse would have a harmful effect on nesting and hatchling sea turtles. We thank the many members of FLA who responded to our request for information about the experience with sea turtles at your respective lighthouses. The evidence that you provided showed that neither nesting female turtles nor their hatchlings are affected by a light that shines miles out to sea. We compiled this information and submitted it to USFWS. The agency chose not to withdraw or modify their objection.

### **Pensacola:**



Pensacola has had a busy summer with tours, including the very popular Full Moon tours. This summer Mike and Susy Roman visited the lighthouse. Mike is a Wounded Warrior missing his right leg at the hip. He had already completed a race earlier in the day when he hopped on one leg 177 steps to the top and back down. Mike was a superb inspiration to many visitors that day. *See photo at left.*

The last Blue Angel practice viewing from the lighthouse top for the season will be Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. PLA hired an operational manager, Jon Hill for 30 hours a week to coordinate the gift shop and other daily activities. Thanks to Bill Trushel for his work since January 2006 as Secretary/Treasurer and Bylaws author. (Bill had to give up the position because of his increased workload as an Escambia County Sheriff.) Susan Maloney will be Secretary/Treasurer. We received antique furniture from the state's Historic Pensacola Village and are setting up an 1880's Keeper's house. We received also an antique table and four chairs for the keeper's kitchen from the Hatten family used by former Keeper James Hatten and his wife.

# FLA Membership Renewal Form



**It's time to renew your FLA Membership: Dues Due by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Mail your check or money order to the address provided below or **TRY PAYPAL!**  
Email me your complete information, as requested below, and I will send you a PayPal invoice.  
Send email to: [flamembership@gmail.com](mailto:flamembership@gmail.com)

1. Fill out appropriate form. (General or Corporate or Delegate)
2. Make check or money order payable to: (or email me for a PayPal invoice: [flamembership@gmail.com](mailto:flamembership@gmail.com))

3. Mail check to:

**The FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION**  
**FLA Membership – Christi Sessions**  
5066 SW Ichetucknee Avenue  
Fort White, FL 32038

**~PLEASE PRINT~**

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**General Membership: Individual \$25**(single) or **Family \$35**(self, spouse & children under 18)

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

*Please list additional family member's names:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Add. Cont: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Corporate Membership: \$100** (Includes 2 Individual Members, Ad on our website & Link to your website)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Names (2): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(The FLA Webmaster will contact you to obtain the advertisement and link to your website.)

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**Delegate Membership: \$50** (Includes 3 Individual Members & Vote on Board of Directors)

Lighthouse Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



## Welcome to our new members!

Robert, Alison & Gabriella Simon; Gary & Linda Keene; Curtiss Lasserre; Lucille Campbell; Mark Fielding; Craig, Deana, Cameron & Dillon Morgan; Scott & Dawn White; Josephine Singletary; Bob & Meg Carey, Melissa Memory, Kelly Clark, Nancy Russell, Tim & Lynda VeArd, Jean A. Morris, Stanley Colvin

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### Membership Year

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

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

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Photo Credits Dede Smith, Gail Nash, Gladys Llanes, John and Karen Tamlin, Gordon Levi, 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 Stemas, *VP Events*

Charley Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Hib Casselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls

& Terry Kemp, *District Commissioners*



**The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc**

15275 Collier Boulevard #210, PMB 179

Naples, Florida 34119

# St. Simons Island Lighthouse

October 17, 2009

## EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: **October 1, 2009**

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

### LUNCHEON BUFFET

Luncheon buffet will include your choice of Seasonal green Salad with Ranch or Vinaigrette Dsg, Chicken & Rice Casserole, Beef Stroganoff and Egg Noodles, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter, and Sweet Tea, Coffee, and Water. Dessert is Chocolate Cake.

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

**Number of persons attending Ghost Walk** \_\_\_\_ **X \$15.pp =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of persons on Trolley Tour** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$22.pp =** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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