President’s Message - Keep Our Lights Bright!

Spring time is upon us and our St. George Island meeting is shaping up to be one of our best. We have a friend nearby who can use our help on Sunday after our meeting. Cape San Blas Lighthouse sustained damage from hurricane Michael. They need their gift shop floor painted and a Lighthouse Keepers Dwelling cleaned (it hasn’t been touched since the hurricane.) Yes, I know it is Mother's Day but what a great way to support a friend in need! Please consider staying over an additional day and helping. Lunch will be provided. We will have more details at our member meeting on Saturday.

Our license plate has met all State approvals, and five physical copies have just been printed and shipped to our St. Petersburg office for our approval. In the meantime, our FLA Board of Directors voted to suspend approval in anticipation of this year's legislative session. The hopes are our new "tag-line" of "SaveOurLighthouses.org" will be approved this time and it can be added quickly to our approved tag. For the past few years we have asked the legislature to change the tag-line from "Visit Our Lights" to a more meaningful "SaveOurLighthouses.org" You might remember we received State approval to modify "Visit Our Lights" to "VisitOurLights.org" and proceeded with the approval process. Representatives J. Grant, Jackie Toledo, C. Clemons and Ralph Massullo are sponsoring HB 505 and Senator Aaron Bean is sponsoring SB 1104. Both bills are working through their respective committees. Please contact your local State Representative and Senator and/or the sponsors of these bills and help FLA make our case for changing the tag line on our license plate. The 2019 legislative session is scheduled to end by May 3rd.

Speaking of Save Our Lighthouses, four of our five reef lighthouses are now surplus and listed as available to public and non-profit entities by the General Services Administration (GSA). If an entity submits a letter of interest and is selected by National Park Services the light is conveyed at no cost to the eligible entity. If no entity is qualified for this no-cost conveyance, then the lights are sold via online auction. Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation (FKRLF), a long-time FLA lighthouse member, has submitted their letters of interest for all four of these lights and is looking for "strong partners." FKRLF tried unsuccessfully to obtain Sand Key light during the "available" period and it will be "re-marketed for sale very soon" by the GSA. FKRLF is preparing to bid on Sand Key so please consider contributing to their efforts in securing all five lighthouses. Their website is http://www.floridakeysreeflightsfoundation.wildapricot.org/

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THANK YOU! YOUR support makes it possible to preserve and restore Florida's lighthouses!

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.

FLA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, funded by philanthropic gifts and memberships from individuals. 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.
CONTINUED PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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FLA’s hopes are that whoever gains ownership of these five reef-lights that they have the light’s best interests at heart and will preserve their history and restore, protect and defend them. All of course while opening these jewels to the public rather than falling into private hands.

Are you looking for a great lighthouse book for a child or grandchild? "Hello Lighthouse" by Sophie Blackall recently won a Caldecott award. I read my children "In the Night Kitchen" and "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak - also Caldecott award winners. All three of these books have amazing graphics and suspenseful stories that capture children's imaginations.

I hope to see all of you at St George Island and some of you on Mother's Day at Cape San Blas.

Keep our lights BRIGHT!

Chris Belcher
Florida Lighthouse Association President

Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse History Book Published

Ralph Krugler, Historian for the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, announces the publication of his new book all about one of Florida’s lighthouses. The (Almost) Complete History of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse is just that: the most comprehensive book on one lighthouse out today. It is over 600 pages with many stories and pictures never shared before. The book’s four sections cover the lighthouse from its origins, construction, operation, and restoration up through present day and also touch on other related aspects of South Florida history. Sources include National Archives correspondence, keeper’s logs, select personnel files, and interviews. The first edition consist of only 100 signed and numbered copies.

More details at www.ralphkrugler.com. Email the author at hlpssubmissions@gmail.com to order a copy.
SPRING Meeting - St. George Island Lighthouse - May 10 & 11, 2019

First built in 1833 and rebuilt in 1848 and 1852 on what is now Little St. George Island, the St. George Island Light in October 2005 finally succumbed to beach erosion and pounding waves and collapsed into the Gulf of Mexico. Working with state and federal government support, the St. George Lighthouse Association spearheaded the effort to salvage the pieces of the Light. Volunteers cleaned the mortar off thousands of the old bricks. The original plans were obtained from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the lighthouse was reconstructed on St. George Island, using as much of the original materials as possible. In December 1, 2008, the reconstructed lighthouse was opened to the public.

In the fall of 2009, construction of a replica of the original keeper’s house next to the lighthouse began. In the summer of 2011, the two-story brick building opened. It houses a museum that tells the story of the lighthouse, and its keepers and a gift shop that offers visitors the opportunity to take home a memento of their visit to the historic lighthouse.

The events begin on Friday May 10, 2019, with committee meetings, the Board meeting, and a social hour at the St. George Plantation Clubhouse on St. George Island (1712 Magnolia Road, St. George Island, FL) St. George Plantation Map. The committee meetings will commence at 4 PM, followed by the Board meeting at 5:30 PM, and the social hour at about 6:30 PM (hors d’oeuvres, wine and soda will be provided).

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, the membership meeting will be at the St George Plantation Clubhouse at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. After lunch, we will drive to the lighthouse Cape St George Lighthouse, where we can climb the 92 steps to the top Map. Parking is available in lots at either side of the park. Upon completion of the lighthouse visit, all are encouraged to explore the replica keeper’s quarters, which houses a Museum and Gift Shop (Don’t miss the newest display, the Fresnel Lens Exhibit).

On Sunday for those who wish to volunteer, FLA will have a work day at Cape San Blas in Port St. Joe Cape San Blas Lighthouse Map. There is a need for painters, carpenters and landscapers. Volunteers should bring their own tools is possible. Food and drinks will be provided. Also, for those who are volunteering, the lighthouse will be open for climbing. Please indicate on registration form if you plan to volunteer, and your skill.

The cost for this event is $65 per member and $95 for non-members, which includes a 1-year membership in FLA. The price includes the Friday night social, Saturday membership meeting, lunch, climbing the lighthouse, and a donation to the Cape St. George Lighthouse.

Buffet lunch will include spring greens and heirloom tomato salad, chicken penne pasta, sauté chicken, Italian sausage, caramelized onions, tomatoes and roasted red peppers tossed in a pesto, white wine sauce, smokey shrimp and grits, and chocolate bread pudding with fresh amaretto whipped cream. Beverages include sweet tea and water.

Registration and payment must be received by April 30, 2019. Please specify any dietary restrictions when you register.

Ron Ecker, FLA Meeting Planning Chair & District 1 Commissioner

Visit our website for more information— www.floridalighthouses.org
**AMELIA ISLAND ~** We have had an assessment of the lighthouse moisture issues and determined we need to repair our vent-ball to prevent rain from entering and install a roof liner to contain condensation. We also need to perform rust remediation and paint the exterior. The interior tower moisture is still a concern and more efforts will be made to determine the cause and correct. Once corrected we may need to treat the interior brickwork.

Our twice monthly tours (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) continue to sell out with 35 people attending. The lighthouse grounds are open each Saturday between 11 and 2.

**CAPE CANAVERAL ~** We've stayed busy with the Keepers Cottage Museum construction project and an exclusive evening fundraising event at the lighthouse, plus added tours for Port of Call vessel passengers by Sunward Tours; and weekly tours in small groups, larger groups available by request through Canaveral Tours. We are in the process of obtaining consultation services for the development of the museum layout, display content and design, etc. Excitement is high as we are finally beginning to realize the dream of "What once was, will be again."

**PONCE INLET ~** The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce that the BB&T 4th order bi-valve Fresnel lens currently on display in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit is now mounted on a rotational mechanism that more accurately replicates its original characteristic. Inspired by what is believed to be the lens’s original base, this modern addition to the historic lighthouse optic was designed and manufactured by Dan Spinella of Artworks Florida. Based in Central Florida, Dan has worked with the Association on numerous occasions on a variety of lens projects and is one of the nation’s leading experts on Fresnel lenses and lens replication. I invite you all to visit the museum in the near future to see this wonderful lighthouse optic in action.

The spring and early summer seasons are always active at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse on as travelers flock to the Daytona Beach area from far and wide in search of sunshine and sparkling beaches. In addition to its regular daily offerings, the Preservation Association hosts numerous events throughout this time of year. We celebrated Florida Lighthouse Day on Saturday, April 6th. Held annually, this important event celebrates Florida’s rich maritime and lighthouse history. Onsite activities included guided tours of the light station and numerous family-oriented workshops. Learn more about this and other upcoming events online at [www.ponceinlet.org](http://www.ponceinlet.org). We hope to see you soon.
SAINT JOSEPH POINT ~ The Saint Joseph Point Lighthouse suffered bottom floor damage, but the structure was not damaged. The doors, windows and kitchen were totally washed away leaving the walls and floors. The inside wood walls, ceilings and all floors are in need of desalting, priming and painting. Working daily to restore. ~ Danny Raffield

JUPITER INLET ~ In lieu of our usual SeaFest For Kids, Jupiter held a series of Family Adventure Days - fun and educational events along the waterfront. Each had a different theme: Fishing & Sea Life, Keepers & Lifesavers, and Seminoles. We are especially grateful for John & Jackie Mann from Ponce Inlet Lighthouse for their wonderful lighthouse keeper living history presentation.

Upcoming events include our 5th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on April 12 & 13, our inaugural Lighthouse Luminary Luncheon fundraiser on April 16, and Autism Night At The Light on April 24.

We are working to raise funds to repaint the complete lighthouse tower interior and exterior this fall. Due to the climate and large number of visitors the interior is usually repainted annually, but this work has been postponed in recent years because of the roof restoration project in 2017 and impacts from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. The tower exterior bricks were last painted in 2010.

ANCLOTE KEY ~ Friends of Anclote is having a 2nd Open House Climb the Lighthouse this year on April 20th. Our last one on Feb 9th had an excellent turn out. Hoping for same in April.
FLA held their January 2019 meeting at Cape Canaveral Lighthouse with chilly and often windy weather, but fortunately rain-free. Friday and Saturday events were at the Merritt Island Moose Lodge. There were 130 attendees, including over 20 new members.

Friday started with a small grants training session led by Jon Hill, who shared his grants experiences at Pensacola Lighthouse. Josh Liller also addressed questions about FLA Grants.

The evening Board Meeting approved a $24,975 Gene Oakes License Plate Fund grant to Pensacola Lighthouse & Museum for urgent HVAC replacement in their historic keepers’ dwelling. The building’s old AC had become a clear electrical fire risk, in addition to other problems.

Betty Phelps announced the Membership Committee will be sending out a mailing to lapsed members to encourage them to rejoin FLA.

Treasurer Barbara Bennett gave the year-end Financial Report.

Chris Belcher updated the status of the FLA license plate redesign. We are currently on step 5 of 7. Sample plates are on their way from the state to FLA for final approval. Once approved, the state will give FLA a bill for the buyback of the unused old plates. Due to the new calendar year, far fewer funds will be available from the license plate fund itself. The remainder of the buyback will be covered by donations from some of the lighthouse organizations, FLA members, and the FLA General Fund. Once that is paid, production of the new plates will begin. Chris’ estimate is that the new plates will be available statewide in June. (See Chris’ President’s Message in this issue for an update on the license plates)

Occasional excited shouts from the bingo game in the adjacent room provided a little extra amusement during the evening meeting.

At the main Saturday meeting, Rear Admiral Jim Underwood (USCG-ret) welcomed us to Cape Canaveral. He recapped some of the process of restoring access to the lighthouse and their increased educational outreach in recent years. The construction of the replica head keeper’s dwelling is going along well with a ribbon cutting expected in the spring. Jim is the new president of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF), succeeding Rocky Johnson. Sonny Witt, CCLF Historian and USAF liaison, presented a brief history of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Of particular note: the USAF acquired ownership of the lighthouse in 2000 and CCLF formed in 2002.

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MEETING RECAP CONTINUED

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Jon Hill gave a short presentation about some of the recent restoration work at Pensacola Lighthouse. FLA presented him with check for the grant approved at the Board Meeting.

Rocky Johnson was announced as new Vice Chair of the FLA Grants Committee. FLA Governance Chair remains vacant.

Beverly Oakes gave a photo presentation of the week spent by her, DeeDee Smith, and Wanda Mayo (plus five other non-FLA ladies) at New Dungeness Lighthouse in November 2018. The lighthouse is located on a five mile long spit of land in Washington state.

Among the items auctioned off was a climb for four to the top of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. It sold for $250. Other auction items included Harbour Lights and lighthouse books.

After a BBQ lunch attendees made their way over to the parking lot for Sands Space History Center. Since the lighthouse is located in the middle of Cape Canaveral AFB, everyone boarded tour buses for the trip to the lighthouse. There were unfortunately some delays with 2 of the 3 tour buses, but everyone eventually got out to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. We got a tour of the lower portion of the lighthouse and were able to see the progress on the replica keeper dwelling. After being returned to the parking area, many attendees visited the Sands Center to learn more about the many past rocket and missile tests at Cape Canaveral.

Much thanks to everyone at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and Moose Lodge for hosting the meeting. We look forward to the continued progress and, hopefully at some future meeting, improvements will allow everyone to go to the top.

Submitted by Josh Liller

2019 DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 10 & 11: Spring Meeting at St. George Island Lighthouse (Florida Panhandle)
August 2 - 4: Board Retreat in Orlando
October 25 & 26: Fall Meeting at Amelia Island Lighthouse (Fernandina Beach)