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This Edition of Lighthouses to Climb:
Crooked River Lighthouse
Location: Carrabelle, FL
Hours to Climb: Wed-Fri, 11am-4pm
Sat, 9am-4pm
Sun, 1pm-4pm
Admission is $5

This lighthouse is a “must see” along Florida’s forgotten coast! At a height of 100’, the views from the top are a must! They also have many programs & events throughout the year. Check out their website for complete details!

Website: https://www.crookedriverlighthouse.com

“In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must also be present”
- Francis Bacon

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.


WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
Message From Our President:

Dear friends,

I hope this edition of FLASH finds you well and safe at home enjoying this unique opportunity to spend time with family and friends. 2020 will be remembered as a tumultuous year filled with fear and uncertainty. For Floridians this is no different than what we have lived through all or most of our lives during hurricane season. However, unlike hurricanes many of us fall into an at-risk group and must take extra precautions and steps to ensure ours and our loved one’s health and safety. It is during time like these that the best in us emerges, and we unite around a common cause for our greater good.

With the majority of people working from home and tethered to computers, Lighthouses have a captured audience with which to build interest and create new Lighthouse lovers. This unprecedented stay at home event, or disruption, allows us time and opportunity to rethink how we do things. Lighthouses across the state are utilizing easily accessible social media technology to create more interesting programs to engage new audiences. This new programming has allowed quality learning opportunities, and behind the scenes access to our Lights. The power of this new programming was never more apparent than FLA’s Maritime Madness tournament on Facebook. Kudo’s to Barb Holland’s idea and work to make this event possible and a huge success!

With this time, we should be looking at our sites, and improving them where we can. How can we deliver a better experience to our visitors? How can we as volunteers refine and build a stronger FLA capable of selling thousands of tags and increasing our membership among the new online Lighthouse fans?

Florida’s historic Lighthouses, though mostly shuttered and inaccessible due to quarantine, still shine brightly. Now more than ever they will need FLA. The loss of income at our sites, like neglect, is a great threat to the restorations, maintenance and long-term sustainability of our Lighthouses. As we have in the past, FLA will be here to support our Lights and safeguard them for future generations.

Remember, “There are times when the ocean is not the ocean—not blue, not even water, but some violent explosion of energy and danger: ferocity on a scale only gods can summon. It hurls itself at the island, sending spray right over the top of the lighthouse, biting pieces off the cliff. And the sound is a roaring of a beast whose anger knows no limits. Those are the nights the light is needed most.” — M. L. Stedman

Wishing you good health,

Jon Hill
Message From Out-Going President:

Thanks to the hard work of Gene Oakes, Stan Beckstrom, Stan Farnham, Harry Pettit and many, many others, our first license plate was approved in 2008. On 10/15/2008, the state deposited $25 into our license plate account and it grew to $2,075 by the end of the year with a total of 215 plates purchased. FLA was able to award $12,425 in grants, funded by license plates, in 2009.

Fast forward eleven years and our redesigned license plate is approved and becomes available during August of 2019. Thanks to the hard work of Sharon McKenzie, the license plate committee, Jamie Stuve, Kathy Fleming, Ed Gunn and Jon Hill we were able to get our new plate approved and into production. Heartfelt appreciation to the artist, Lise Yust (who passed away on 2/28/2018) and Dan Spinella for providing the graphics art for our wonderful plate.

We also received critical financial support from Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, St Augustine Lighthouse, Florida Reef Lights Foundation, and individual support from Eric and Susan Martin, John and Kathleen Kennedy, and Robert Berry.

We've grown from that initial $25 deposit in 2008 to receiving our millionth dollar on 12/18/2019! We now have 6,318 plates on Florida cars, and as an organization, awarded $725,186 in license plate grants (known as Gene Oakes grants).

As evidence of our new plate's popularity, 974 plates have been sold since its release last August!

I am, and we all should be, proud of our accomplishments of preserving, restoring, protecting & defending Florida's lighthouses!

Chris Belcher

MARCH 2020 Tag Update:

- We had an increase of 68.
- Palm Beach had the biggest increase at 18 and is 2nd in total number.
- St. Johns is still number one.
Fall 2019 Meeting Wrap-Up:

FLA Meeting Recap: Amelia Island, Oct 25-26, 2019

The FLA Fall meeting was held in Fernandina Beach, hosted by Amelia Island Lighthouse.

Seven first-time members attended the meeting. Notable attendees included FLA’s youngest member, Bryce, and special guest Helen O’Hagan of the family of lighthouse keepers.

FLA awarded the remainder of the 2019 Gene Oakes License Plate Fund budget ($48,025) to Barrier Island Parks Society toward a project to restore the historic assistant keeper’s dwelling at Port Boca Grande Light Station.

The 2019 President’s Award was given to Ron and Chris Ecker. The couple have given many years of service to the FLA Board as Meetings Chair and Membership Chair, respectively. Both are active with the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and Ron continues to serve as FLA’s District 1 Commissioner.

Chris Belcher, as Amelia Island Lighthouse representative, gave an excellent presentation about the history of lighthouses and range lights on Amelia Island. As outgoing FLA President, Chris also gave his final president’s report, concluding with a farewell address to the membership. He has done an admirable job in his two terms and will continue to serve as Amelia Island’s representative. Jon Hill succeeds him as FLA President.

Dr. Laura K. Hamilton, from the University of South Florida, talked about her work 3D scanning Egmont Key, both the lighthouse and the historic gun batteries there. The island has shrunk by half in 150 years! Sharon McKenzie, Executive Director of the Barrier Island Parks Society (BIPS), spoke about restoration and repair work on the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse, funded in part by two FLA grants. She also discussed Hurricane Irma’s impact on Gasparilla Island and the two lighthouses BIPS operates (and the four state parks they help with).

While all three of these speakers were good, this meeting will go down as one of the most memorable in the history of FLA thanks to another speaker: Joseph Smith. Smith gave a stunning one-man living history performance about the life of Augustin Fresnel. He earned a thunderous standing ovation that no one who witnessed will soon forget. If you missed it be sure to keep an eye out for any future opportunities to see him perform, as Fresnel or any of his other historical characters. Smith is based out of New York City. You can follow him on social media and learn more about him at www.raisinghistory.com

Events on both Friday and Saturday were held at the Fernandina Beach Recreation Center. After Saturday’s lunch, attendees took a short shuttle bus trip to the Amelia Island Lighthouse for a rare chance to climb to the top. As the lighthouse sits on the island’s highest natural point, it provides an excellent view.

On Saturday night, FLA’s big donors were given an even rarer opportunity for a night climb of Amelia Island Lighthouse. Atmospheric conditions and other factors, combined with the many bullseye panels of the lighthouse’s Fresnel lens, made for a unique light show.
Winter 2020 Meeting Wrap-Up:

FLA Meeting Recap: St. Augustine, February 7-8, 2020

The FLA winter meeting was held in St. Augustine, hosted by St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. The Friday meetings took place in the lighthouse’s Maritime Center and Saturday at the Holiday Inn in historic St. Augustine. The timing was right for Friday’s attendees to catch the sunset from the lighthouse before it closed and the meeting started.

New board members were introduced: Jon Hill, President; Beverly Oakes, Vice President; Sharon Belcher, Secretary; Dora Lee & Alan Rosendorf, Meetings Co-Chairs.

Chris Belcher announced that on December 18th FLA received its one millionth dollar from ‘Visit Our Lights’ license plate sales. As of the end of 2019, there were 5,831 active ‘Visit Our Lights’ plates (old or new), making it the 67th most popular. The redesign last year has proved wildly successful in terms of new plate sales. We also learned that Chris Belcher and Jon Hill had successfully gotten the Florida legislature to kill a “zombie bill” that left over from past legislative sessions. The bill was leftover from FLA’s unsuccessful efforts during several previous years to change the license plate tag line from “Visit Our Lights” to “Save Our Lighthouses”. The tag line change had been abandoned so the new plate could be introduced, but the bill had lived on.

The Marketing Committee announced FLA would be working on a rebranding in 2020, including a new logo and revamped website.

Florida Lighthouse Day this year was announced as Saturday April 18, 2020.

Beverly Oakes unveiled a queen quilt with Paul Bradley’s illustrations of Florida lighthouses. This is a special fundraiser for FLA. Auction tickets are 1 for $20 or 3 for $50. The drawing is planned for the October meeting at Pensacola, assuming enough tickets are sold.

Ken Smith, historic architect, gave a presentation on past work he has been involved in at St. Augustine Lighthouse, particularly the first major restoration of the lighthouse and oil house between 1989 and 1994.

Allyson Ropp of St. Augustine’s Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) gave a presentation about local shipwrecks. These included the British sloop *Industry* (sunk 1764, found 1995); the “Storm wreck” discovered in 2009 (British, probably 1782); and the “Anniversary wreck” discovered in 2015 (late 1700s merchant vessel, probably British). The last of these is still undergoing study.

The meeting’s auction included a Roger Emmons lighthouse model. It also saw one of the most heated bidding wars yet, this time over a group of items related to the St. Augustine Lighthouse.
Winter 2020 Meeting Wrap-Up:

FLA Meeting Recap: St. Augustine, February 7-8, 2020

Most attendees visited the St. Augustine Lighthouse after Saturday’s meeting wrapped. One of the newest attractions at the lighthouse is the restored Coast Guard Patrol Barracks from World War II - probably the only such surviving structure in Florida and probably one of the few left in the entire country. Meanwhile, lighthouse delegates got the opportunity to see the lighthouse’s very professional collections storage.

FLA’s big donors got a very special Sunday morning treat: a sunrise climb of St. Augustine Lighthouse. This included an up-close look at the lighthouse’s active first-order lens, 1 of only 13 remaining in the entire country. The lens is unusual in that the central panels rotate but the upper and lower panels do not. For most revolving lenses, all the panels rotate together.
Spring Meeting Save-the-Date:

Save-The-Date
Florida Lighthouse Association
Spring Meeting
June 12-13, 2020
Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

*Please note, as of the publishing of this newsletter, the meeting is still planned to go. The Board will make a decision with how to proceed no later than May 5, 2020. Please stay-tuned!
FL Lighthouses Amid COVID-19

The need to preserve, protect and restore Florida’s 30 remaining historic lighthouses won’t take time off during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. We may all be safely hunkered down at home, but the lighthouses still need care. They are all closed to the public, but preservation activity has still been going on. According to Jon Hill, Director of the Pensacola Lighthouse and Maritime Museum, “We have not laid a person off, just shifted their duties. We are painting and getting ready for the time we can open.” Organizations like this have to be prepared for the unexpected, Jon continues, “We have treated this like a hurricane event. Our staff is prepared.” Ed Gunn, Director of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, added, “It is amazing how much restoration work you can get done when there aren’t visitors here.”

But what about the staff? How are they dealing with social distancing? Jon Hill responded, “We are currently working a staggered shift.” Ed Gunn added, “Professional staff has been teleworking. Others are getting a paid vacation.”

Barbara Holland, Collections Manager for St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum, said, “We have started posting lectures and other educational content on-line to give people something to do and keep ourselves relevant.” She continued, “We are used to doing stuff live and we find that recording ourselves we tend to mess up a lot. There is a blooper reel going around.” They have done some live events as well. “We have done Q&A and people are loving the live videos like sunrises and sunsets from the top of the lighthouse.” Follow these by checking the schedule on the St. Augustine Lighthouse website and their Facebook and Instagram pages.
FL Lighthouses Amid COVID-19

We would be naïve to not acknowledge there is a financial challenge. These not for profit museums depend on donations to fund operations, programs and restoration. Operating funds also come from admission charges and gift store sales, and there is no income from either during this crisis. Ed Gunn commented, “The revenue loss is huge.”

The good news is, many of our organizations plan for issues like this, expecting natural disasters like hurricanes. Ed Gunn indicated, “We have an operating reserve policy. If this continues through the Summer, we may have to tap that reserve.” Pensacola also has a reserve and a little savings, as Jon Hill added, “We planned for that worst-case scenario.” In addition, Ed Gunn said they have applied for Federal assistance through the Small Business loan program. But these are a short-term stop gap, designed for immediate needs.

The needs of our local lighthouse preservation groups and for the Florida Lighthouse Association continue. Expenses continue. Staff needs to be paid. Utilities. Routine upkeep. If you have pledged financial gifts, please remember to continue those. If you do not give regularly to local lighthouse preservation organizations and the Florida Lighthouse Association, this is the time to begin giving. There are no small gifts. Every dollar given matters. Continue to support the local preservation organizations and the Florida Lighthouse Association during these times.

Continue to help keep the lights shining!

Ken Smith
Past President and Chair of Development Committee, Florida Lighthouse Association
Board Member, US Lighthouse Society

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Grants Committee Report

Ample funds are available for lighthouse preservation through the Gene Oakes License Plate grants program! Lighthouses are encouraged to apply. The April 1 deadline for grants to be awarded at the June meeting has passed. The next official deadline is September 1 for grants to be awarded at the October meeting (Pensacola). However, under the present circumstances, grant applications received by July 1 will be considered for the August meeting.

Active Grants
Cape Canaveral: Exhibit for the replica keeper’s dwelling complete. Presentation at the next FLA meeting.

Cape San Blas: Repairs to the keeper dwellings complete. Presentation planned for the FLA fall meeting in Pensacola.

Jupiter: Lighthouse repainting completed. Presentation at the next FLA meeting.

Port Boca Grande: Project to repair the assistant keeper’s dwelling is ongoing. Work is expected to be completed before hurricane season starts.

Sand Key: The auction for this lighthouse is still ongoing.

St. Marks: Th exhibit project is still ongoing due to changes in the interpretive plan. The grant was given an extension last year. The Grants Committee will review the situation again after the pandemic subsides.
Grants Committee Report

**New Requests**

Crooked River: Grant requests received for lighthouse repairs and to create an exhibit for their historic Fresnel lens. Under review, with formal action at the June meeting.

Elbow Reef Lighthouse: FLA has also received a special request from the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society in the Bahamas. This is the lighthouse famous for being the last in the world to be kerosene-burning and hand-wound. The light station was severely impacted last fall by Hurricane Dorian (over a half million dollars in damage). This would have to come from general funds as the license plate funds are restricted by legislation to Florida lighthouses, either as a donation or special grant. Under review, with formal action at the June meeting.
Illness At The Lighthouse
Prepared By: Ralph Krugler

The current virus that has basically shut down the planet has most of us sitting at home, feeling fine, but with nothing to do. However, what if you weren’t feeling fine and yet still had a very important job that had to be done?

This was the case for many lighthouse keepers during their careers.

Before he came to the Hillsboro Inlet lighthouse (because it wasn’t even a thing yet), Alfred Berghell was the Head Keeper at American Shoal, an off-shore light in the Florida Keys. His wife Mary was living in their Key West home when Alfred was bitten by a mosquito carrying Dengue fever.

The year was 1905 and he was working in the isolated tower. Becoming feverish, Alfred couldn’t help but vomit all day from the illness. This carried on the following two days then began feeling better; however, he couldn’t keep food down. Unable to stop vomiting, he would lose strength and dehydration became a serious concern. The illness would persist, and the relief from symptoms proved temporary, but the work still had to be done. Good thing he wasn’t alone as assistants would take up slack, yet that didn’t leave him completely free from responsibilities.

Dengue fever typically gives the patient a fever and has symptoms like: muscle & joint pains, headaches, delirium, and a rash that mimics measles.

Now with this in mind, let’s pause for a moment. Try placing yourself in his shoes and honestly think if you’d continue to work, or just give up.

Now that you have your answer, let’s push the envelope and see if that changes your answer.

The thing I failed to mention was the date. The symptoms began on August 6. Let’s stop for a second and repeat that, August 6. If that didn’t hit you like a soaking wet blanket, you haven’t spent an August in Florida. Now add the fact that American Shoal is an iron tower, with no air conditioning, and your clothing is heavy turn-of-the-century attire, not modern, thin, dry fit and skimpy in comparison. Your only hope was that a breeze was blowing across the ocean, and that your window was facing the right way.

So why didn’t Alfred just head for home? “August 9: Would send off to Key West for man, but have no dingy. Schooners will not stop...” The keepers and ship captains had mutual respect and typically wouldn’t hesitate to help each other. It was in their collective best interest to maintain that relationship, so it’s baffling that still on “August 20: Had flag out all day to put keeper off, but no vessel came near the light.”

It wasn’t until the 21st that Berghell finally got off the lighthouse. Does that sound like a fun way to spend 15 days at work?

Next up we come to Berghell’s successor at Hillsboro, Thomas and Fanny Knight. The Hillsboro reservation is only a 3-acre peninsula with the inlet to the west, and the Atlantic to the east. Originally, there were 2 acres land, 1-acre marsh. That marshland along the inlet wouldn’t get filled in with sand and rock until the 1940’s. Until that time, this area could run the gamut of being dry all the way to being a soupy, sticky wetland muck. In other words, the perfect petri dish for mosquitos to breed and party.

Several Keepers and their wives would fall ill to the insects over the years, but the Knights seemingly had it the worst. Personally, I believe that the root of their health woes lay in the fact that everything from the tower (which was painted yearly), the cottages (scrapped/burnt/painted frequently), to all their possessions that had paint were based in lead. Even the cisterns had a lead paint base on their interior. Granted, everyone had lead paint in their lives then, however, with this much contact to new paint every year the odds are very high it had a negative effect on their health.

Fannie was especially susceptible to illness during her life at the station. While they weren’t off-shore, physicians weren’t plentiful in the area when they first moved down from Cape Canaveral. The Log mentions how Thomas would have to fetch a doctor to get her medical attention. Several times Thomas would have to get the doctor on successive, or nearly successive days for a week or more at a time. This would involve getting in the station boat and motoring to Pompano, Deerfield, Lauderdale, or even Palm Beach to find a doctor to bring back.

You may be thinking that while it’s unfortunate for a keeper’s wife to be ill, what does that matter to the functioning of a lighthouse; besides the obvious concern from her husband?

These were the early days of the lighthouse and the area had 4 communities near to it. Fort Lauderdale was the largest, and furthest away. Pompano was just to its southwest, Deerfield to the north and Boca Ratone was just past that. (Side note -Pompano and Deerfield wouldn’t add Beach to their name till much later and Ratone would drop the “e”, but I digress, sorry).
These villages were small in population and didn’t have much for the people to do during their off days. The tallest structure in the area, who lit up their nights, was more than a curiosity. It was a destination, and they did come. The population was growing, and every year the visitor count would rise.

When the public came during day light hours, the Keepers, their wives and even kids had to be ready to help entertain their uninvited guests. That wasn’t station rule; that was a USLHS requirement.

When you add being a cordial and accommodating host to the myriad of requirements, an illness in the family took on even more strain/concern/worry. Imagine 60-120 guests roaming around your property and having a fun day out, while you’re so sick you just want to stay in bed. This was part of a lighthouse keeping family’s life, so they just went on.

Sadly, Fannie would pass away at only 55.

Thomas had an incredible career. At Hillsboro he had numerous commendations from having rescued not only pleasure-seeking boaters, but professional seamen and numerous aviators. After WWI, the amount of people who took to the skies (often with little training) in small single to 3 seat planes was amazing.

Even more amazing, was the amount of those early fliers who found themselves in the water or on the beach in the area around the lighthouse. There were periods when they couldn’t stop falling out of the sky. Knight helped them all.

Thomas also had earned more Efficiency Stars than anyone in the District from running a clean and efficient station. That took attention and hard work from everyone.

Therefore, it’s mind-boggling that by his retirement in 1936 Thomas could “barely read...Red Green blind... All teeth extracted. Tonsils out, Chronic pharyngitis... arthritis... slight sclerosis... right facial droop... slight A-P sway... very sluggish patellar reflexes... slight coarse tremor... rt drags slightly with gait” and had “slight rt sided paresis.”

Like his beloved wife, Thomas too spent many nights in bed with undisclosed illnesses, yet did the job that lighthouse keepers did, and with out complaint.

(Sources - Keepers Logs from the National Archives and Thomas Knight’s Personnel File).
Florida Lighthouse Trail, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition

NOW AVAILABLE!

The Florida Lighthouse Association was barely five years old when the first edition of The Florida Lighthouse was published in 2001. Tom Taylor led a group of contributors from across the state to produce a guide to Florida’s historic lighthouse sites, past and present. 19 years later, Tom and many of the contributors to that first edition have passed away or are otherwise no longer active with FLA. During that time many lighthouses have been restored, relighted, and opened to the public. One lighthouse has been moved and another collapsed, only to be rebuilt stronger than ever. Not only have present conditions changed in the last two decades, but a great deal of new resources are available to lighthouse historians and much new research has been done.

The general layout of the new edition remains the same as the old, with 45 individual chapters taking the readers from Amelia Island to the Dry Tortugas to Pensacola. Paul Bradley’s beloved artwork once again illustrates each of the 45 light stations, past and present.

But don’t let the framework fool you. The new edition of The Florida Lighthouse Trail represents a substantial update in content from its predecessor, with the writing and editing performed by FLA Historian Josh Liller. Every single chapter has been updated and every lighthouse’s Site Info has also been expanded. Several chapters saw extensive changes and a few were completely rewritten. Updates came from the staff at individual lighthouses and FLA Historian Neil Hurley, but a great deal also came from research into newspaper and National Archives records sources now available online, especially thanks to the US Lighthouse Society.

In addition to the lighthouse chapters, the book features a new introduction giving an overview of Florida’s lighthouse history and extensive appendices. These include a Glossary, information on the Life Saving Service in Florida, an extensive listing of every Fresnel lens known to have been used or exhibited in Florida, and Harry Pettit’s history of FLA.

If you can, please support your local lighthouse by purchasing the book through their gift shop. Alternatively, you can purchase the book through Amazon: https://smile.amazon.com/Florida-Lighthouse-Trail-Josh-Liller/dp/1561647101/

Be sure to select the new edition, use Amazon Smile as another way to support FLA, and be sure to leave a review on Amazon. Sales of the Florida Lighthouse Trail benefit FLA.
**FLA March Madness!**

The world has put sports on hold due to the global pandemic, Covid-19, the Florida Lighthouse Association to stepped in to save the day. Borrowing from the NBA’s tournament style we introduced the world to Maritime Madness to see which Florida lighthouse shines the brightest!

Breaking the 30 Florida lighthouses into four divisions: Southern, Reef, East, and West we put eight lighthouses, the exception being the East which had six, in each. The lighthouses went head to head fighting for votes on Facebook. These were hard fought battles with our followers saying, “I hate having to choose.” We had a lot of friendly competition between the brick lighthouses and the iron lighthouses. The “Almost” Complete History of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse teased, “Rigged! Demand a recount! 😊,” when Hillsboro didn’t advance to the Elite Eight. It’s all in good fun and we know the iron lights will be that much harder to beat next year.

When the voting got close people started swaying the votes by sharing fun/unique facts and memories about their favorite lighthouse. Barbi Eberle shared a story of her visit to Alligator Reef and how much fun it was to snorkel around the lighthouse. “This is getting harder and harder I love them all,” Wanda Mayo commented. What started as a funny “sports replacement” turned into a wonderful place to share stories of people’s love of lighthouses. Stories of beginning families with engagements to stories of overcoming fears and celebrating the fragility of life. Janica Johnson said, “...thankful to FLA for letting me have the opportunity to climb and visit these lighthouses.”

Ultimately it had to come down to the final two: Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum versus St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. This final battle took our voting to a whole new level. Some like Dede Smith had a hard time deciding who to vote for, “Oh, my. Can’t decide, love them both for different reasons I will have to ponder some more before casting my vote.” The vote started at 3pm on a Tuesday, by midnight St. Augustine had a solid lead. The next morning however the tide had turned in favor of Jupiter. In the eleventh-hour St. Augustine pulled off the win with a ten-vote lead! We appreciate all of you who participated in the First Annual Maritime Madness! During this event we gained 692 new followers and it gave us the opportunity to share our lighthouses’ stories with over 135,000 people. We cannot wait for next year’s event!
Around-The-State!

**FLA District 2 report for 2019**
The year started out with FOX TV wanting to interview me about the four reef lighthouses being released. The interview was at Cape Florida so I got to climb it and we saw Fowey Rocks from the balcony. Cape Florida looks good except the plastic windows in the lantern room. Not much light gets through. The park wants to replace them in the future.

Also went on the GSA drive by inspections of the four lights; Carysfort Reef, Sombrero Key, Alligator Reef and American Shoal. I provided information to the GSA on getting the charters and provided a few hints on how to make it work. Every year the reef lights look a little worse. Some of the paint on Alligator Reef came completely off in the last hurricane, just bare metal.

While in Key West for the GSA meeting viewed Sand Key from the top of Key West lighthouse. Key West had some work done on the lantern room in the last year, so it looks good.

So other than the Dry Tortugas lighthouses I saw them all. According to the NPS Garden Key is being restored, so that is good news. No news on Loggerhead (still belongs to GSA).

Eric S. Martin, District 2 Commissioner

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**Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.**
The lighthouse and museum remained closed to the public for COVID 19 precautions – no tours, no visitors, no gift shop sales, no special events – until further notice. Despite this impact on mission performance and budget, we are hard at work behind scenes, physically and virtually completing many projects. For example, every ten years, our lighthouse undergoes a preservation treatment of prepping, priming and painting the entire 151-ft tall, black & white banded exterior. This work began in early April and should be completed by mid-June. Also, we have identified and procured exterior lights for the Keeper’s Cottage Museum which had to be approved by the US Air Force Environment Division as environmentally safe (i.e., no impact on sea turtle nesting). Additionally, we are doing a complete makeover of our website, updating it with current interactive capabilities, public and member-only sections, virtual tours and on-line gift shop sales. Saving the best news for last - earlier this month, we received tentative approval from the US Coast Guard for the loan of a 4th Order Fresnel lens to be exhibited in our new museum. This is a long process, but we hope to have it on display by the end of the year! The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has witnessed much in its 152 years of service – always standing tall and remaining bright in the darkest of times. And, so it does today.

RADM James W. Underwood USCG (Ret.)
President, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation
www.canaverallight.org
Around-The-State!

**FLA District 4 report**
All the Panhandle Lights are closed until further notice as we all deal with this awful Coronavirus. All the lighthouses (except St. Joseph Bay) have been posting great photos and historic information on their Facebook pages so be sure to look and “Like” them!

**Pensacola:**
facebook.com/PensacolaLighthouse

**Cape San Blas:**
facebook.com/Cape-San-Blas-Lighthouse-116302328410959

**Cape St. George:**
facebook.com/St.GeorgelsIslandLighthouse

**Crooked River:**
facebook.com/CrookedRiverLighthouse

**St Marks:**
facebook.com/StMarksLighthouse

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**Pensacola Lighthouse & Maritime Museum:**
Pensacola has taken a double whammy hit. First came the shooting onboard the Naval Air Station in December, the day a major fundraiser was scheduled, and which closed the base to all civilian access. Now this virus disaster…. But Pensacola’s Facebook page is outstanding! Be sure to take-a-look! They’ve done a series of “Before and After” posts which are very informative and interesting.

**Cape San Blas Lighthouse:**
Hopefully sometime in the “relatively” near future, the magnificent clamshell lens of Cape San Blas will be displayed. It will be a welcome sight! They have had to deal with substantial hurricane damage.

**St George Island Lighthouse & Museum:**
Their Facebook page has been posting some great photos – both past and present. They have also done some live streams for sunsets and full moon rise. Take a look!

**Crooked River Lighthouse:**
Crooked River has the best-ever news! The Coast Guard FINALLY agreed to give back their original, and very unique, Fresnel lens!!! It will be on display soon so Stay Tuned! They are also posting some good safety tips with a nautical theme and some wonderful educational resources for children on their Facebook page. Take a look!

**St Marks Lighthouse:**
Outdoor sites remain open at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, but the visitor center and lighthouse are closed, and scheduled events have been canceled.
**Around-The-State!**

**Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse**

As you may know, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse is currently closed in compliance with the 30-day Safer at Home order issued by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Although this closure has significantly impacted the museum financially, the decision was made to keep all employees on the active payroll through April to retain trained, qualified staff and to protect them from financial hardship. The Association will strive to do so for as long as possible should the governor extend the duration of the Safer at Home order beyond May 2nd.

Management personnel and key maintenance staff have been given the option of working from home or coming to work based on their own personal needs. Those who have elected to come in are required to sequester themselves in their offices during the day or work alone to ensure strict COVID-19 safety measures are followed. Employees will be allowed to continue coming to work as long as it is safe to do so.

Current maintenance department activities include the restoration of the covered porches on all three keeper dwellings, repainting of the tower’s interior and exterior ironwork, refinishing of historic wood floors, grounds maintenance, and more. Administrative tasks have included the submission of the Association’s application to the place the recently acquired Pacetti Hotel on the National Register of Historic Places, the development of a distance learning component to its existing educational program offerings, and the creation of virtual tour of the light station. Administrative staff has also been researching alternative funding sources to help the museum weather the current financial hardships brought about by the COVID-19 shutdown.

We hope all of our Florida Lighthouse Association friends and fellow lighthouse preservation groups remain healthy and successfully cope with the COVID-19 crisis in a positive and productive manner.

**Jupiter Lighthouse**

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse has been closed to the public since March 16. The Outstanding Natural Area and Lighthouse Park are also currently closed as part of a countywide order closing parks and beaches.

Since we could not hold our annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival in person, we made arrangements to stream it online on demand from April 7 to April 11.

The lighthouse now has an online store: [https://jupiterlighthousestore.square.site/](https://jupiterlighthousestore.square.site/) Among the items available through the online store is the Revised Edition of *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee*, a pictorial history of the Jupiter area. The lighthouse is on the cover and of course part of the story covered in the book. The book was co-written by our Historian and published by our organization (Loxahatchee River Historical Society) so it’s not only great quarantine reading but a great way to support us.

We have new Virtual Education Programs, including our popular Lighthouse Storytime program: [https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/explore/programs/](https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/explore/programs/)

Follow us on Facebook for extra digital content during the closure - [https://www.facebook.com/jupiterinletlighthousemuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/jupiterinletlighthousemuseum/) - including a photo contest (deadline is 11:59 PM Sunday April 19).
Around-The-State!

**Amelia Island Lighthouse**
The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary recently held a retirement ceremony for Helen O'Hagan Sintes, one of the last surviving members of the "lighthouse families" of Amelia Island. Helen is also a longtime member of FLA and was our guest of honor at the October Amelia Island Membership Meeting.

Sintes' maternal great-great-great-grandfather was Amos Latham, a Revolutionary War soldier who became the lighthouse’s keeper while it still stood on Cumberland Island, where it was originally built in 1820. Latham moved with the lighthouse in 1838 when it was relocated to Amelia Island and became the first keeper when it was re-lit in the spring of 1839. George Latham, Amos's son, was keeper before the Civil War. Amos's daughter, Jane Maria, was assistant keeper between 1869 and 1871.

Sintes' fraternal grandfather, Thomas Patrick O'Hagan, was born in 1859 in Brooklyn, N.Y. At the age of 17 in 1876, O'Hagan was appointed temporary assistant keeper at Hunting Island, S.C.. Four years later, he became first assistant keeper at Fort Ripley Shoals, S.C. and later served at Sullivan's Island and Charleston. In 1886, O'Hagan married Julia Catharine Schuppe on Sullivan's Island and a year later was assigned as principal keeper at Georgetown Light. While stationed there, the couple had four children, including Sintes' father, Thomas John. In 1893, O'Hagan became principal keeper at Mosquito Inlet, now known as Ponce Inlet, where seven more of the couple's children were born.

Sintes tells the story of her grandfather hearing of a "good Catholic church and school" in Fernandina and requesting a transfer here. It was granted in 1905. When the O'Hagans left the Daytona area, the school there had to close since the majority of its pupils were Thomas and Julia's children, according to Sintes. The last of the couple's 12 children was born in 1906 on Amelia Island. Sintes' grandfather served as principal keeper until his retirement in 1925 and had won numerous awards over his career.

Sintes' father, Thomas John, became assistant keeper at the Amelia lighthouse in 1912 and succeeded his father as keeper in 1925. That same year, Thomas John O'Hagan married Mary Helen Morse, thus connecting the O'Hagan family to local harbor pilots and lighthouse keepers in the Morse and Latham families.

Helen O'Hagan lived at the lighthouse for 20 years before attending college in Louisiana, where she met Jay (Frank Joseph) Sintes on a blind date. They were married in 1955 and their reception was held at the now-gone Keystone Hotel on Centre Street. The couple stayed in Louisiana and had six children of their own before returning to Amelia Island in 1998, when they also joined the local Coast Guard Auxiliary.

After the city of Fernandina Beach took possession of the lighthouse in 2001, Helen and her husband, Jay, began organizing cleaning crews and conducting tours for the city.

**Amelia Island Lighthouse update:**
The City of Fernandina Beach has replaced failed retaining wall behind the garage. This wall is critical to support the highest point on the property and protect the heritage oak tree. The garage had stucco repairs in February.

Lighthouse repairs due to leaks and rust blooms are under investigation and being discussed with the city and vendors.
Calling Junior Lighthouse Explorers!
Have you visited the beautiful
St Augustine Lighthouse?

We filled in the stripes
but do you remember which parts are RED?
Decorate this picture the way you remember it!
# Florida Shore-Based Lighthouses

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**Spring 2020 Edition**

[Image of lighthouse view]

[Website link: www.floridalighthouses.org]