Can you believe it's been fifty years since we put two men on the moon? NASA was able to launch astronauts into space, navigate and land on the moon, and return safely. Yet, the computers at that time were many times simpler than the smartphone of today.

Advances in marine navigation include the sextant which was invented in 1757. Wireless telegraphs came in 1891. RADAR was deployed in 1937 and LORAN in 1942. Satellite navigation started in 1962 and GPS became available in 1985. These technological advances made us safer on the open seas but we tend to lose sight of all this history and how we got here! There is a YouTube video of teenagers trying to use a rotary dial telephone - it is hilarious!

As an example of becoming outdated through technology, the Amelia Island Lighthouse was the rear light of a range from 1860 to 1880. This range consisted of two structures (lighthouse and a front beacon) placed inline with the main ship channel. Pilots aligned their ship with the structures during the day, or lights at night, and knew they were safely in the channel.

Construction of jetties on the north end of Amelia began in 1880. The jetties border the sides of the entrance and extend over 2 miles out into the ocean. Through tidal action, the sand between the jetties is washed out to sea twice a day thus creating a deeper channel. A replacement range was needed to guide ships through this newly forming entrance. The front beacon at Amelia was moved up to the new range. At this point in time, the Amelia Island Lighthouse no longer served as a guiding light but became a "signpost." Amelia remains an Active Aid to Navigation and serves as a familiar landmark to mariners.

Technology has also "outdated" most of lighthouses' navigation functions. Lighthouses are being replaced with modern beacons on posts. The Coast Guard is actively surpassing their remaining lights. We are rapidly losing our lighthouse history to technology.

FLA does our best to document and publicize lighthouse history by holding membership meetings at the lighthouses. We invite local historians to speak and tell us their stories. We also have talks about lighthouse repairs needed or already accomplished. FLA is in the process of updating our Florida Lighthouse Trail and will release the 2nd edition soon. I am (Continued on page 2)

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 IMPLYENDORSEMENT,APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
CONTINUED PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Looking forward to our Winter meeting at Amelia Lighthouse and will talk more about her history.

Won't you help us to continue preserving lighthouse history by renewing your membership? Donate so we can fund lighthouse restoration and education projects through our grants programs. And last but not least, purchase our newly designed license plate set to be in the DMV offices this August!

As always, please help keep our lights BRIGHT!

Chris Belcher
Florida Lighthouse Association President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 25-26, 2019 ~ Amelia Island Lighthouse (Fernandina Beach)
February 8, 2020 ~ St. Augustine Lighthouse
June 2020 ~ Jupiter Lighthouse
October 2020 ~ Pensacola Lighthouse

Grants Committee Update

$63,025 remains in this year’s budget for Gene Oakes License Plate Fund Grants. $1,000 remains in the budget for Tom Taylor General Fund Grants. Grant applications for 2019 are due September 1st for potentially being awarded at the Fall Meeting.

Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation

FKRLF is creating an Advisory Committee. Prospective members should have experience with lighthouse restoration, marine construction, ironwork, or other maritime skills relevant for restoration of the Reef Lights. Contact Eric Martin - ericlighthouse@yahoo.com – if interested.

In Memory  Jeanne Taylor, mother of Tom Taylor passed away peacefully on July 11th.  FLA expresses their deepest condolences to the Taylor family and Lighthouse Community.
**JUPITER INLET** ~ Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum has raised $116,000 of their $150,000 goal for repainting the interior and exterior of the tower this fall. This includes a $24,000 FLA Grant from the Gene Oakes License Plate Fund. You can donate toward the project at [https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/join-give/donate/](https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/join-give/donate/).

**CEDAR KEY** ~ Cedar Key Lighthouse was relighted on July 5 with a new Artworks Florida replica Fresnel lens. The optic is a fourth-order fixed lens with two exterior rotating bullseye panels. This matches the lighthouse’s historic characteristic of a fixed light varied by flashes.

**PONCE INLET** ~ The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce that the museum’s most recent publication, *The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History* is now available for purchase. Although scheduled to hit the shelves in October, 2018, printing delays postponed the book’s release until April of this year. Written by museum curator Ellen Henry, this fully illustrated hardback volume is the culmination of more than 40 years of research by the Preservation Association and is the definitive history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station. Signed first edition copies of are available online at [www.lighthouselocker.org](http://www.lighthouselocker.org) and in the lighthouse gift shop.

Historic preservation is an ongoing endeavor at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. Ranging from major restoration projects to minor repairs, work on this important National Historic Landmark is never truly done.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station’s 1887 oil storage building is one of the largest of its kind ever constructed by the US Light House Establishment. Although originally designed to store 503 five-gallon cans of kerosene on wooden shelves, the oil storage building was renovated in 1925 to house two 500-gallon iron tanks that were installed two years later. These massive tanks have remained in place for more than 92 years; surviving both the ravages of Ponce Inlet’s harsh coastal environment and the burning of the oil storage building by vandals in 1970 (the building was restored by the Association in 1989). The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum’s maintenance department recently completed some much needed preservation work inside this historic structure. Completed tasks included: cleaning, treating, and recoating both oil storage tanks with Miomastic moisture-cured urethane paint; replacing the floor’s original cast iron drain with a historic replica; and conducting minor repairs to the building’s copper-clad timber roof system. We invite you to come see the restored interior of the oil storage building during your next visit to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.
ST. MARKS ~ Please join us October 31, 2019 as we "Relight the Light" in the historic St. Marks Lighthouse, and celebrate the eighty-eighth birthday of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. More details coming soon to Facebook and websites. We are also open the first consecutive Friday and Saturday of each month from 10 am to 4 pm, and Tuesdays, 11 am to 2 pm. $2/adult.

CROOKED RIVER ~ Changing Of the Guard ~ It is always hard to accept change, especially when a dear friend makes it. Here at the Crooked River Lighthouse, we have said goodbye to our dear Delores Hardin, who has finally retired and moved with her husband Vernon back to her native California, to live among family and old friends. Delores has been the very spine of our organization for ten years, serving as Treasurer, unofficial Secretary, and President, all the while managing and staffing the Gift Shop, as well as doing much of the purchasing, display and acquisition of many of the items on sale here. She is an artist, and held many well-attended and fondly remembered lantern-making classes, and many other activities and events too numerous to recall. In short, we will miss her a LOT.

Here is her goodbye from our Facebook page: “I have had an awful lot of fun over the past ten years working with the lighthouse folks, representing the group at FLA meetings and other events, making lots of lanterns and lighthouse models, meeting lots of visitors from all over the country and the world. I am really gonna miss you all. We should have our moving van loaded up and on the way out to Cali by June 10. Love and best wishes to all our Franklin County and Florida Lighthouse Association friends.”

Change also brings good news, as we have found someone to do much of the necessary work of accounting, billing, payroll, and all those other little details so important to keep us running smoothly. Her name is Nell McCall, and as soon as she has had a chance to bring her form of order into our system, she will introduce herself in the next submission to FLASH.

We are all excited as plans are underway for the Fourth Annual Crab Cake Cookoff to benefit the rebuilding of our Pirate Ship “Carrabellea.” The initial building phase has just begun, as guide posts have been placed and fill dirt is arriving daily to begin site preparation.

The Crab Cake Cookoff will be held, as before, at the Marina Grill on Marine Street in Carrabelle, with our entertainment this year provided by the Americana-styled vocals of the talented Cat Braaten. The best seafood cooks in the area will be competing for the coveted title!

Come join us if you can, but get your tickets early, they are going fast… Laurel Newman (Carrabelle Lighthouse Association)
Lighthouse News

PORT BOCA GRANDE ~ Port Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum has been inducted into the Hall of Fame by Trip Advisor for the second year in a row. It takes 5 years of consecutive excellence in order to be inducted into the Hall of Fame so we are very pleased with this significant achievement.

Our BIPS directors, along with the Boca Bay Homeowners Association, advocated to Lee County and the State DEP and were instrumental in the Gasparilla Island Beach Nourishment Project that ended on Friday, June 21. We are hoping this will shore-up the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse beach that has suffered severe beach erosion from the impacts of Hurricane Irma. We have had issues with flooding at our office in our historic Amory Memorial Chapel as well, and hope the added sand will also help keep this at bay by building up the dune system.

We are asking permission of the US Coast Guard to approve us to change out the existing lantern room light pedestal for the original historic pedestal that was found during the restoration 18 months ago. It will require Alex Klahm to create special brackets so the 5th Order Drum lens will be at the correct height. The original 3 ½ Order Clam Shell Fresnel was much larger than the current lens. We have also had issues with the historic door knobs and will be replacing some of them this summer along with refinishing the floors and touching up the exterior paint.

We hope to complete vital repairs to our three historic structures and their grounds during the summer into early fall. This is the time we normally do major maintenance.

We greatly appreciate FLA’s (Florida Lighthouse Association) support for this lighthouse. The metal structural repairs and painting that took place beneath the lighthouse 18 months ago are still looking great. If you have not seen them yet, stop by Wednesday – Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and on Sunday’s noon to 4 pm. We are closed major holidays, but worth the visit when we are open. And do not miss our great gift shop— all proceeds helps keep the museum open. We receive no financial support from the state or federal government.

CAPE SAN BLAS ~ The Cape San Blas Lighthouse has been blessed by a grant from FLA to make hurricane repairs to the facility. A large pane in the lighthouse has been replaced and we anticipate work will begin shortly on repairs to the structures. Thank you, FLA, for your generosity of a grant and willingness to help us restore and preserve our lighthouse facility!
CAPE CANAVERAL ~ If a picture is worth a thousand words—here’s 5000 as we near the completion of construction and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keeper’s Cottage Museum.

This cottage was built based on the original plans for the keeper’s cottages that existed at the lighthouse from 1848 – 1967. Work has begun to transform this Cottage into a museum, which will open later this year. In it will be displayed the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and various historic artifacts.

And please save the date – October 19, 2019. Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is hosting its annual fundraising event at the American Muscle Car Museum. https://www.americanmusclecarmuseum.com/

Details on tickets, sponsorships, and live auction items will soon be available on our website. http://canaverallight.org/
GASPARILLA ISLAND ~ The U.S. Coast Guard has formally designated the Gasparilla Island Lighthouse as a Private Aid To Navigation (PATON), after a lengthy approval process that took over one year and required the formal approval of six Federal and State government agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers. BIPS received the go ahead to return the lighthouse to active private aid status and it will appear on maritime charts as an official beacon to mariners! The lighthouse is open for climb tours October - July 1st and all proceeds support the continuing maintenance and preservation. RSVP at www.barrierisalndparkssociety.org

The new lens and light is installed, if you have not seen it, you should! In addition to having a replica of the original 4th Order Fresnel lens, the light includes a "turtle-friendly" Max Halo II LED amber bulb which provides a flashing light every six seconds as a night aid to navigation for local boaters and fishermen. The Fresnel lens, not included in the original fundraising campaign, has four panels, which weigh about 60 pounds each. There are 56 prisms in each panel. Each piece is individual and hand crafted by Lens Designer and Preservationist, Dan Spinella and is an exquisite $52,000 replica of the original 4th order Fresnel.

A butterfly garden was also added with the help of our local Boca Grande Planter’s Club and Boca Grande Garden Club. The Boca Grande Woman’s Club has also given money for a new bike rack that will be added to the lighthouse park this fall.

There has been an issue with a leak in the lantern room through the vent ball, but we are working with master metalsmith Alex Klahm to resolve the issue.

FLA’s support of this lighthouse’s restoration was so much appreciated. We received a Florida Trust award for outstanding achievement in restoration—all thanks to our outstanding restoration team (Anthony Houlis, Alex Klahm, Jude Kostage, and Ken Smith along with Dan Spinella). But no project can be complete without financial support and FLA certainly helped make it happen. If you are in the area, stop by the sight. There is a bronze memorializing everyone who contributed including Florida Lighthouse Association.

AMELIA ISLAND ~ Parks and Recreation included lighthouse repair items with their submittal to the City of Fernandina Beach’s budget. The overall budget will be on the October agenda and we will know how much money is approved for each of the repairs. Line items that were submitted include: storm pane replacement (cracked), moisture issues, vent-ball repairs, install a roof liner, rust remediation, and painting the exterior.

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 ST. GEORGE ~ Cape St. George Lighthouse Welcomed 200,000th Climber

The morning of Friday June 21, the Cape St. George Light welcomed its 200,000th individual to climb the historic lighthouse since its reconstruction.

Fiona Huffman from Birmingham, AL., was the history making climber. She was accompanied by her mother Stacy, older sister Sabrina and grandfather, Lem Stabler. Fiona was awarded a lifetime free climbing pass, a framed commemorative certificate, and a lighthouse replica.

Fiona, age 6, was first tall enough to climb the lighthouse in 2018 and had been looking forward to their annual vacation when she could again visit the lighthouse. The family visits St. George Island each year and Fiona is already looking forward to using her free climbing pass when they return in 2020.

The staff at the Lighthouse and Gift Shop have carefully tracked the number of climbers since the rebuilt lighthouse opened in 2008. On Friday, Lighthouse Keeper Tracy Evans, Gift Shop Manager Carol Talley and Executive Director Kate Aguiar were on hand to participate in the milestone and to make the presentation.

Prior to automation of the lighthouse in 1949, lighthouse keepers made thousands of climbs to the lantern room to light or extinguish the lamp and perform daily maintenance duties. After 1949, U.S. Coast Guardsmen made the occasional climb to change the batteries that operated the modern beacon.

When the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1994, only the rare curiosity seeker or lighthouse enthusiast attempted the increasingly treacherous climb.

After the lighthouse collapsed on Oct. 21, 2005, the St. George Lighthouse Association led the effort to reconstruct the lighthouse. Rebuilt at the center of St. George Island to protect it from continued erosion on Little St. George, the lighthouse opened to the public in Dec. 2008. In just ten and a half years, 200,000 individuals have replicated the climb up the 92 stairs and the eight-rung ladder to the top, just like the keepers of old.
Spring Meeting Recap - St. George Island - May 2019

Article by Josh Liller—Photos by Dede Smith

This year's summer meeting was held at St. George Island Plantation. Special thanks to Kate Aguiar, St. George Island Lighthouse Executive Director, for help arranging the meeting there. The island is home to the rebuilt Cape St. George Lighthouse rebuilt at a new location after being destroyed by erosion in 2005. Regardless of which route you took to the meeting you couldn't miss the damage remaining from Hurricane Michael last fall.

The meeting on Friday opened with a small training session led by Chris Belcher who discussed Fresnel lens preservation, particularly lessons learned the hard way at Amelia Island and other lighthouses.

The Board meeting approved three grants. $15,000 for Cape Canaveral to create a museum in their new replica keeper’s dwelling. $24,000 went to Jupiter for repainting the interior of their tower, part of a larger repainting project there. $38,000 went to Cape San Blas for a variety of hurricane-related repairs to their pair of historic keeper's dwellings. The Canaveral grant came from the Tom Taylor General Fund; the other two were from the Gene Oakes License Plate Fund.

FLA President Chris Belcher announced over 5,000 FLA plates have been issued as of the end of 2018.

The usual social followed the Board meeting.

Jim Kemp, Board President of the St. George Lighthouse Association, welcomed attendees to Saturday's main meeting. Eight first-time meeting attendees were recognized.

James Hargrove, a local author/historian, gave a presentation on the history of lighthouses on St. George Island.

Bwana Thapa, from the University of Florida, gave a presentation recapping last year's repainting at Cedar Key Lighthouse (funded in part by a FLA grant) and an overview of the Nature Coast Biological Station which uses the lighthouse today.

Jon Hill provided a brief recap of the HVAC replacement project at Pensacola which was funded by a FLA grant.

Chris Belcher and Josh Liller gave an update on the FLA license plate redesign and attendees got to see a sample plate in person. The tag line change again failed the state legislature so completing the process with the new artwork and a tagline of “VistOurLights.org” has resumed. The new plates will be available in August. Sharon Mackenzie, FLA Marketing Chair, is seeking volunteers to help marketing the plate to local DMVs (see a separate item in this issue for details).

(Continued on page 10)
Jack Burrie encouraged FLA members to be active with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

Linda Wood, Cape San Blas Lighthouse Operations Manager, gave a presentation on the impact of Hurricane Michael on the City of Port St. Joe and the light station. Needless to say, the damage to the area is severe and extensive cleanup and repairs lie ahead. The lighthouse itself weathered the storm pretty well and was decked out with lights during the holiday season as a kind of giant Christmas tree, serving as a beacon of hope for the community.

A delicious lunch was served followed by a visit to the lighthouse and museum. Many attendees took the opportunity to visit some of the other nearby historical sites like Carrabelle's Crooked River Lighthouse and the Orman House and Gorrie Museum in Apalachicola.
VisitOurLights.org Specialty License Plate

We want to give you the opportunity to display this beautiful art as your Florida license plate. While displaying your love of lighthouses, you will be helping generate funds to restore these state treasures.

The bill authorizing the "Visit Our Lights" tag was approved by the Florida Senate on April 28, 2008 by a vote of 35-4. On April 29, 2008 the House of Representatives gave it a 118-1 approval. The bill was forwarded to the governor's office, and Governor Crist signed it on May 28, 2008. Thank all of you for your support in bringing this about. The plate became available at the local tax collectors offices throughout Florida in mid December 2008. Now we can all give our full support by purchasing these tags and proudly displaying them on our cars. $25.00 from the sale of each tag will be used for the preservation and restoration of our 29 remaining historic lighthouses.

Our late president, Gene Oakes had set as his top priority the obtaining of a specialty license plate to raise funds for the preservation of Florida's historic lighthouses. Gene's untimely death came before he was able to obtain that goal. The Association was determined to accomplish what Gene had started and in 2005 established the Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund with Gene's widow, Beverly Oakes, as chairperson. Three years later that goal was accomplished.

Thank You to our DMV Taskforce Volunteers

Alachua ~ Steve Miller
Brevard ~ Ric & Nancy Garwood
Broward ~ Jack Burrie
Charlotte ~ Sharon McKenzie
Duval ~ Valerie Bennett
Escambia ~ Jess Morgan
Franklin ~ Kate Aguilar
Highlands ~ Patricia Johns
Hillsborough ~ Charles & Barbara Bennett
Indian River ~ Eric Martin
Lee ~ Sharon McKenzie
Martin ~ Jupiter Lighthouse
Monroe ~ Eric Martin

Nassau ~ Susan Kosciulek
Orange ~ Terri Long
Osceola ~ Alice D’Amiclo
Palm Beach ~ Jupiter Lighthouse
Pasco ~ Betty Phelps
Pinellas ~ Chandra Tracy & Lisa King
Polk ~ Eric Martin
St. Johns ~ Ray Hamel
St. Lucie ~ Missy Kent
Santa Rosa ~ Joyce Burk
Sarasota ~ Sharon McKenzie
Seminole ~ Terri Long
Volusia ~ Ponce Inlet Lighthouse
VisitOurLights.org Specialty License Plate

We especially need volunteers to visit the DMV offices in the following counties.

Please call 727-667-7775 or email admin@floridalighthouses.org if you can help!

Clay
Collier
Flagler
Gulf
Leon
Levy
Manatee
Marion
Miami-Dade
Sumter
Wakulla