Look for FLA on Facebook and Instagram! October 2019

President’s Message - Keep Our Lights Bright!

Sharon and recently I traveled to Poland for a two-week tour. During our stay in Gdańsk, we took the City tour and visited the shipyards out on the Baltic Sea. Located near one of the entrance jetties is the Nowy Port Lighthouse, lit in 1894. This beautiful lighthouse is reportedly patterned after the short-lived Cleveland Ohio lighthouse (1872-1894).

The lighthouse had an official time-ball at the top which operated until 1929. The time-ball fell each day and marked exactly 12 noon when it reached the bottom - much like the ball in Times Square marks our new year. Ship captains relied on the time-ball to calibrate their chronographs which were a critical tool in determining longitude during voyages. A reconstructed time-ball began operation in 2008 and marks the noon, two, four and six hours.

German soldiers commandeered the lighthouse in August of 1939. On September 1, under Hitler’s orders, they opened fire from a window in the lighthouse on Polish soldiers stationed across the channel. This action became the opening salvo of WWII which ultimately claimed 55 million lives.

Who could blame this country if it wanted to eliminate vestiges of its dark history? Poland finally broke with its communist past in 1989 and joined the European Union in 2004. Tourism has since flourished making it the 16th most visited country today. Many of their sites have been saved and now provide a valuable history lesson about the terrible, and the good, that has affected this country!

The Gdańsk Port Północny Lighthouse, built in 1984, is also at this port but is not open to the public. The port operations are run from the lighthouse and has tight security restrictions. We were able to view it from a distance and can now claim that of the sixteen Polish lighthouses, we have seen two.

Side note: if you go to Poland, you will find costs are about a quarter of what we are accustomed to here. We weren’t able to visit the lighthouse during the tour but later hired a taxi to take three of us out and back to our hotel. The 11 mile round trip cost 110 zloty or just under $30. Entrance fee was 10 Zloty or under $3.

(Continued on page 2)
CONTINUED PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Won't you help FLA continue preserving our own Florida lighthouse history by renewing your membership? Attend membership meetings and learn about our lighthouses and enjoy fellowship with like minded folks. 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 arriving now in DMV offices! Each year, the $25 annual fee comes to FLA and funds our brick & mortar restoration grants.

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

FLORIDA SPECIALTY PLATE REDESIGN ~ What an exciting time for Florida Lighthouse Association! If you have not heard, the new plate is here, and it is selling out quickly at several of the tax collector offices! We have received many compliments including from the Tax Collector offices. One Tax Collector employee said they liked it so much that they were going to buy one! However, we do still need help getting the rack cards out to all the Tax Collector offices. If you are willing to help, please contact Chandra Tracy at admin@floridalighthouses.org for supplies.

This project was a true example of how teamwork can really accomplish great things! I want to personally thank everyone who never gave up over the last two years and helped bring this project to fruition. You are all amazing people and help make Florida Lighthouse Association the special organization that it is. Great job, everyone!
Fall Meeting - Amelia Island Lighthouse - October 25 & 26, 2019

Amelia Island Lighthouse is the oldest existing lighthouse in Florida and the only one from the Territorial Period that has survived without major rebuilding. The Lighthouse was built in 1838 using materials from the former lighthouse on Cumberland Island in Georgia, just across the inlet. The brick tower was originally 50 feet tall and placed on a hill and. In 1881 a lantern was installed on the tower and increased the height to 64 feet with a focal plane of 107 feet. The light source for the original lighthouse was fourteen lamps, backed by reflectors, which revolved to produce a flashing characteristic. In 1902 a new third-order lens was installed and in 1917 a red sector was added to alert mariners of dangerous shoals south of the tower in Nassau Sound.

The City of Fernandina Beach received possession of the Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2001. The Coast Guard, with the help of local Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers, is responsible for the function of the beacon, and the City will preserve this monument, recognizing its importance as one of the island’s most visible and beloved historic sites.

Other facts about the Amelia Island Lighthouse: there are sixty-nine granite steps leading up to the light. It is one of only two remaining lighthouses in Florida designed by Winslow Lewis. It is the westernmost lighthouse on the East Coast of the United States. The beacon still guides seafarers into the channel toward the Fernandina Harbor.

Our meeting place for the weekend is the Atlantic Auditorium (Fernandina Beach Recreation Center), located at 2500 Atlantic Blvd. Fernandina Beach [Map].

The events will begin on Friday, October 25, 2019, with committee meetings at 4 PM, the Board meeting at 5:30 PM, and a social hour at about 6:30 PM at the Atlantic Auditorium. Hors d’oeuvres, soda, and iced tea will be provided, and we are working on having Beer & Wine.

On Saturday our membership meeting will start at 9:00 AM with lunch at about 12:00 PM. After lunch a bus will make round trips to and from the lighthouse so everyone can enjoy this rare opportunity to climb the lighthouse. SINCE FLA IS REQUIRED BY THE CITY TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE TO CLIMB THE LIGHTHOUSE, EVERYONE MUST BE A MEMBER OF FLA AND SIGN A WAIVER.

The quest speaker will be Joseph Smith, a Performing Artist of Living History whose mission is “to create excitement and curiosity about history by giving voice to stories that celebrate the human spirit.” His subject for our meeting will be Augustin Fresnel: Through a New Lens.

Lunch will be served by Cedar River Seafood and will consist of flounder, shrimp, grilled chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, hush puppies, cole slaw, chocolate cake, iced tea (sweet and un-sweet), lemonade, and water.

The cost for the event will be $75 for FLA members and $105 for non-members, which includes a 1-year membership in FLA. The price includes the Friday night social, Saturday membership meeting, lunch, bus transportation, climbing the lighthouse, and a donation to the Amelia Island Lighthouse. The cost for Saturday-only attendees will be $65 for FLA members and $95 for non-members, which includes a 1-year membership in FLA. The cost for children under 15 is $37.50.

Registration and payment must be received by October 15, 2019. Please specify any dietary restrictions when you register.
Lighthouse News

GASPARILLA ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE ~ Gasparilla Island Lighthouse had been having issues with rain coming in the vent ball and corroding the brass on the newly installed Fresnel Lens replica. Alex Klahm was hired to come up with a solution. He calls it, the Chinese hat. He created a metal piece with a slight conical shape to hang from the ceiling in lantern room under the vent ball without disturbing the original tin roof to help catch the rain. Ironically, the original 1881 neo-classical rivets in the lighthouse are also cone shaped.

Gasparilla Island Lighthouse will be reopening to climbs on Monday, October 14 at 9:00 am. The lighthouse was closed down due to the summer heat. But look for it to be open for regular climbs until June. Dates are on the BIPS website – www.barrierislandparkssociety.org

PORT BOCA GRANDE ~ Port Boca Grande Lighthouse had its floors refinished and touch up paint was done on both the interior and exterior of the house over the summer. The lantern room floor which has been deteriorating over the years is being replaced so that the lantern room can be open for weekly climbs. The original floor will be glued together and hung on display with interpretative signage inside the museum by next summer.

Port Boca Grande Lighthouse Museum & Gift Shop are currently open Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Sunday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. It will be open to the public 7 days a week beginning November 1. Weekly climbs to the top will be every Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We are hoping to start the climbs on Friday, November 1. Please check our website or call beforehand to ensure all is going as planned. (941) 964-0060; www.barrierislandparkssociety.org

PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE ~ The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce that it is currently under contract to purchase the historic Pacetti Hotel which is located directly across from the lighthouse on South Peninsula Drive. Commonly referred to as the Pacetti House, Pacetti Hotel, or Pacetti Boarding House; the history of this 135-year-old structure, the land it sits on, and the lives of those who built, lived in, and frequented it, is inexorably linked to that of the lighthouse, its keepers, and the families who once called the light station home.

The Preservation Association's Board of Trustees views the purchase of the Pacetti Hotel as a rare once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The acquisition of this cultural site will not only save one of Volusia County's most endangered historic places, but significantly enhance the museum's ability to interpret the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station in more meaningful detail. The closing date for this real estate transaction is October 7, 2019.

Those who are interested in helping the Association acquire, stabilize, and restore this important historic site either financially or with in-kind-services are encouraged to contact Executive Director Ed Gunn by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 15 or email at edgunn@ponceinlet.org for more information.
Lighthouse News

**FLORIDA KEYS REEF LIGHTS** ~ As far as the *Reef Lights* auction is still going on for *Sand Key* with no deadline as of today at 12:45 AM. We are still taking donations, we believe one bidder is as serious as we are. There are a total of 4 bidders.

Meanwhile we are working on the applications for *Carysfort Reef, Sombrero Key, Alligator Reef* and *American Shoal*. We also added a button on the donation page for those who want their donation to go to Alligator (instead of the general fund due to a request of a group of ladies who want to raise funds).

*Tennessee Reef* (not in our By Laws, but that may change) is schedule to be taken down in 2020. I have a contact to keep us up to date. Want to find a home for the tower in the KEYS if the government will let us have it.

Biscayne National Park is still cleaning up the park from the last hurricane so any work on *Fowey Rocks* would be next year at the earliest.

**JUPITER** ~ Jupiter was fortunate to suffer very minimal damage from Hurricane Dorian. As is standard procedure for major hurricane threats, the first-order Fresnel lens was temporarily darkened and secured against any storm damage (at the Coast Guard’s request) and all artifacts were removed from the museum.

Repainting of the lighthouse bricks, stairs, and railings, and other restoration/preservation work, will begin in mid-October and last about 3 weeks. During this time the lighthouse will be closed to visitors, but the museum, grounds, and other exhibits will remain open. With FLA’s grant support of $24,000 and contributions from the community, we need just $10,000 to meet the $150,000 goal for this important preservation project.

Our annual social fundraising event, Rendezvous at the Light, will be held on Saturday November 23. Tickets are on sale now at [www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org). In addition to great food, drinks, music, and a silent auction, this exciting event is also the book launch for a revised edition of the local pictorial history book, *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee*, co-authored by James D. Snyder and Josh Liller.

**ANCLOTE KEY** ~ The Friends of Anclote Key is sponsoring an Open House for climbing the Lighthouse at the Island on October 12th.

We pray for beautiful weather. We will also have table at Tarpon Springs Fall Festival on October 4th. This is to educate people about the Island and let them know of our Open House the following weekend.
Lighthouse News

CAPE CANAVERAL ~ The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate completion of the first of three replica keepers’ cottages and a restroom facility on 22 July, just 16 months after breaking ground for the project. A very special thank you to our benefactors, builders and believers! This was no “small step,” and the results are spectacular: What was once, is again!

The next step is the transformation of the Head Keepers’ Cottage into a museum, which has already begun. When the museum opens later this year, displays will include historic artifacts, along with interactive exhibits highlighting information about the lives of the isolated families who inhabited the Cape in the late 1880s and 1890s. CCLF plans to hold a Public Grand Opening once the interior of the museum is complete.

Save the date for these future events:

OCTOBER 19: LIGHTHOUSE FUNDRAISING EVENT AT THE AMERICAN MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM
A Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) fundraising event will be held at the American Muscle Car Museum (AMCM) in Melbourne, Fl. This is a must-see private collection of over 300 beautifully restored and operational classic muscle cars. Information is available on CCLF’s web-site at CapeCanveralLight.org for ticket purchases and event sponsorship.

NOVEMBER 10: 2ND ANNUAL CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE 1/2 MARATHON AND 10K RACE
Are you into running or walking? Do you like marathons? Join us on November 10, 2019 for the 2nd Annual Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Half Marathon and 10K Race, benefiting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. This one-of-a-kind course takes you through iconic rocket launch complexes and historic testing sites, ending at the 151-year-old lighthouse. Tour the lighthouse to the 5th floor, see our new museum, and visit the store while you’re here. For more information and to register for the race, visit RuntheCape.com.

AMELIA ISLAND ~ We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Annual Membership Meeting being held at Amelia Island at the end of October!

ST AUGUSTINE ~ St. Augustine Lighthouse will be celebrating 145 years on October 15th.

CAPE SAN BLAS ~ Repairs, with funds provided by a FLA Grant, for the porch area of Sleeping Beauty have been completed. Mold remediation is in progress at the Eglin Keepers’ Quarters.
Lighthouse News

**ST. MARKS LIGHTHOUSE** ~ Celebrate with the St. Marks Lighthouse as we Re-light the Light. Our Artworks Florida lens will be lit on Halloween night, Oct. 31, 2019. This corresponds to the St. Marks NWR's 88th anniversary. The event start at 5:30pm with presentation of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and USFWS Historic Presentation Awards. The lighting will be at sunset, 6:50 pm. The keeper's quarters will be open for tours (No climbing the tower at this time).

**ST JOSEPH LIGHTHOUSE** ~ Here at the lighthouse we have just passed the eleven month anniversary of Hurricane Michael a category five. This area suffered tremendous loss covering forty miles of our coast line and carrying hurricane force winds inland doing severe damage all the way to South Georgia.

The Forgotten Coast area is building back with a resolve, everyone here is committed to making this area better and stronger.

The Saint Joseph Point Lighthouse took a hard hit, with over 11 feet of water gutting the lower level of the lighthouse. The smaller keepers house was uplifted and destroyed by category five hurricane winds.

The “GOOD NEWS” is that the Saint Joseph Point Lighthouse survived the winds and flooding that followed the land fall of Hurricane Michael. We suffered no structural damage, the lighthouse is strong as ever! The damages were mostly confined to the interior of the ground floor, where windows, doors, kitchen and flooring are being replaced.. We hope to be back to normal early 2020.

**PENSACOLA** ~ The Pensacola Lighthouse has a new logo! AND a new Master Architectural Plan for an exciting future direction! Stay tuned! Early this year, the restoration of our magnificent first-order Fresnel lens completed the final phase of a multi-phase, multi-year, multi-million-dollar restoration project. FLA helped start this process in 2011 by awarding a grant to restore the Keepers’ Quarters’ porches. You can become a permanent part of the lighthouse legacy by sponsoring either a commemorative brick or one of the beautiful cast-iron filigreed stairs! Visit our website at pensacolalighthouse.org for more information.

Our Annual Christmas Gala is scheduled for the first Saturday in December – the 7th - from 3:00 to 7:00. Millions of Cookies and Millions of Lights! AND Santa will be a special guest arriving in a special one-of-a-kind Boat-Car! Come join the fun!
Lighthouse News

EGMONT KEY LIGHTHOUSE  ~  We have a new member and Board member, David Barker, and he brings some unique experiences to the Alliance. He is a former US Coast Guardsman and his first duty station was Egmont Key. His responsibilities included maintaining the lighthouse and the low frequency radio beacon and associated equipment. He has been working to restore the double beacon display near our flagpole, that was the working beacon when he was stationed there.

Our annual fundraiser, Discover the Island, is November 9-10, at Egmont Key State Park. We will have an outreach table from the FLA as well as the Anclote Key lighthouse group. The event webpage is www.egmontkey.info. Look for the “Discover the Island” link on the left side of the home page to see what will be happening and make plans to visit!

DISCOVER THE ISLAND ~ EGMONT KEY LIGHTHOUSE  ~  FLA needs two volunteers to work our outreach tent during the Discover the Island Event on Sunday, November 10th. The Eckers’ are manning the tent on Saturday, November 9th but need help for Sunday. It would be best if you could go out on Saturday afternoon to observe. Please contact Ron Ecker at usnmcport2@aol.com with any questions and to volunteer.

More Information:
Discover the Island at Egmont Key State Park - Tierra Verde, FL is on November 9th and 10th, 2019
This event is the best way to learn about the island and all it has to offer visitors! On this weekend the island will have experts on the islands rich history from the 1800's to the present time. If you are a lighthouse enthusiast we have one that was built in 1858 and will be open for visitors to view the spiral staircase and to ask questions of our Lighthouse Keeper re-enactor.
If nature is your interest, we will have experts on migratory and shorebirds, gopher tortoises and sea turtles. We will also have experts on the native plants found on Egmont Key.
We will have Civil War re-enactors, both Union and Confederate, with uniforms and equipment from that time. Also, there will be people knowledgeable on the part that the island played in the Spanish-American War in 1898.
Other activities include a Silent Auction, kids games, local artists, live music, souvenirs, self guided as well as guided walking tours and the best hotdogs on the island!
If you want to learn about Egmont Key and what it means to the history, nature and recreation in the Tampa Bay Area then mark November 9th and 10th on your calendar and make plans to spend the day with us!
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  
Lake ~ Alice D’Amico  
Lee ~ Sharon McKenzie  
Martin ~ Jupiter Lighthouse  
Monroe ~ Eric Martin  

Nassau ~ Susan Kosciulek  
Orange ~ Terri Long  
Osceola ~ Alice D’Amico  
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 shown with a BLUE Star!

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