President’s Message - Keep Our Lights Bright!

The FLA board held a working retreat in early August. Our purpose was to look at basic roles and responsibilities and determine if we are providing effective support to our lighthouses and membership. We decided that continuing our educational sessions before our three meeting weekends is critical especially for the smaller lighthouse groups. Other topics included reviewing all committee's responsibilities and determining if they are reasonable and effective. Challenges for each committee were presented and we discussed ways to overcome them by seeking additional volunteers.

Bylaw revision was also discussed and the board really appreciates the work Harry Pettit provided in the recent past. Interesting discussions centered on the current quorum needed to conduct business and how to treat delinquent lighthouse groups who want to re-join and seek grants. We are an association of lighthouse groups and "enthusiasts" who support lighthouse preservation. I am paraphrasing but this is the gist of our purpose. General consensus is we should do our best to support all Florida lighthouses and not penalize any lighthouse group. FLA needs to encourage them to re-join and stay current in our organization. Our membership fees, whether individual, family or lighthouse are very fair and affordable.

Overall, we reaffirmed we are an association supporting lighthouse groups and their efforts in preservation and restoration and FLA should encourage local and community support. We will be announcing a benefit we can offer to each lighthouse group which should encourage local membership growth along with an opportunity to join FLA at a reduced rate.

We have come across the premiere issue of the "FLA FLASH" Vol.1 No. 1 dated April, 1997. You can find it on our website under News >> FLA Flash Newsletter. Please take time to read them and see how FLA and our lighthouse groups have evolved over the last twenty plus years. We are in the process of borrowing, scanning, and posting the other missing issues.

I look forward to our seeing everyone at our Hillsboro meeting and hope that all have safe travels.

Keep our lights BRIGHT!

Chris Belcher
Florida Lighthouse Association President

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.
Fall Annual Meeting - Hillsboro Lighthouse - September 28 & 29, 2018

Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse was built on Hillsboro Beach, on the north side of Hillsboro Inlet, midway between Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton, Florida and marks the northern limit of the Florida Reef. Congress authorized the construction in 1901 with completion and first lighting on March 7, 1907, making it the second youngest lighthouse in Florida. This octagonal iron pyramidal tower with central cylinder is 142 feet high and has a second-order bivalve Fresnel lens which has a range of 28 nautical miles. The Fresnel lens rotated on a pool of about 400 pounds of mercury, in a cast-iron trough until the electric drive mechanism abruptly failed in 1992 and was finally replaced with a ball-bearing system and re-lit on August 18, 2000.

The events begin on Friday September 28, 2018 with committee meetings, the Board meeting, and a social hour at the John Knox Village (651 Southwest 6th Street) Centre Auditorium in Pompano Beach. 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, September 29, 2018, the membership meeting will be at the John Knox Village Centre Auditorium at 9 AM. Art Makenian will be one of our guest speakers and he will talk about recent projects at the Lighthouse. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. After lunch, we will drive to the marina and board the boat operated by South Florida Diving Headquarters (located just inside the Sands Harbor Hotel and Marina, 125 North Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach, FL) where a boat will take us to the lighthouse. (Public Parking is available at the Pompano Beach City owned lot across the street and nearby garage.) The boat will start running at 1 PM and will make the last trip from the Lighthouse at 4:30 PM. We will then tour at least one keeper’s cottage, visit the barefoot mailman, and climb the lighthouse. When you have completed your visit at the lighthouse, you are encouraged to visit the Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum and Visitor’s Center (Hillsboro Inlet Park: A1A at 2700 North Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach).

The cost for this event will be $65 per member and $95 for non-members, which includes a 1 year FLA membership. The price includes the Friday night social, Saturday membership meeting, lunch, boat transportation to the lighthouse, climbing the lighthouse, and a donation to the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Buffet lunch will include Caesar salad with homemade croutons and asiago cheese, chicken franaise, maple ginger glazed salmon, garden rice pilaf, green beans amandine, fresh baked artisan rolls and butter, chocolate decadence cake, chocolate mousse topped with chocolate ganache, and key lime pie. Beverages include iced tea, water, and coffee.

Registration and payment must be received by September 19, 2018. Please specify any dietary restrictions when you register.

Visit our website for more information—www.floridalighthouses.org
Membership News by Betty Phelps & Chris Ecker

Did you know about the Florida Lighthouse Association's Outreach Events? FLA has been setting up information tables under a canopy at events around the state for a couple of years. At each event we enjoy talking to people about our wonderful organization and bragging about how much money we have raised and given out to our historic lighthouses for restoration and other needs. We hand out our brochures and offer giveaways such as note pads, pens, and FLA bracelets. We also hold a drawing for a free 1-year membership in FLA.

The upcoming outreach events scheduled in 2018:

**Cedar Key Seafood Festival**, October 20 – 21 (lodging accommodations must be for 3 days)
Offered help: Ron & Chris Ecker, Robin Richards, Darrell Coons, Bob & Gail Johnson

**Egmont Key Discover the Island**, November 3 – 4
Offered help: Ron & Chris Ecker, Betty Phelps - Nov. 3; additional help is needed on Nov. 4
Note: Getting to Egmont Key involves paying a toll of $5 at the entrance of Fort De Soto Park then taking a 30 minute ferry boat ride to the island from the Ft. De Soto pier. The ferry fee will be waived for registered FLA volunteers.

**St. Augustine Luminary Night**, December 5
Offered help: Ron & Chris Ecker, Chris & Sharon Belcher, Sarah & Russ Morris

These are fun activities to participate in. Volunteers are welcome and very much appreciated even if they can give only a few hours of their time. **If you would like to help at one of these events, please contact Chris Ecker at cecker@aol.com.** She'll be happy to provide additional information.

FLA News

Upcoming Meetings
Sep 28-29, 2018: Fall Meeting - Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, Pompano Beach
Feb/Mar 2019: Winter Meeting - Cape Canaveral Lighthouse
May 10-11, 2019: Spring Meeting - St. George Island Lighthouse
Oct 2019: Fall Meeting - Amelia Island Lighthouse, Fernandina Beach

Florida Historic Trust Awards 2018
Hib Casselberry, Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse: special award as a founding member
Mike Bennett, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: education
Sharon McKenzie: Gasparilla Island Lighthouse - restoration
Jon Hill: Pensacola - restoration
June Meeting Recap ~ St. Marks by Josh Liller

The Florida Lighthouse Association held their 2018 Spring meeting on June 8-9, 2018 in Crawfordville near Tallahassee. The event provided FLA members with a sneak peak of the restored St. Marks Lighthouse and attached keeper’s dwelling, scheduled to reopen to the general public this fall. Ownership transferred from the Coast Guard to the US Fish & Wildlife Service in 2013. Since then the St. Marks NWR has overseen restoration of both structures, with funding primarily coming from the non-profit Friends of St. Marks. FLA also provided three grants, the latest being from the Tom Taylor General Fund towards creating exhibits in the keeper's dwelling. Visitors can also see the 4th order Fresnel lens used in St. Marks Lighthouse; it has been prominently displayed in the NWR Visitor Center since it was restored at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. While the historic lens will not return to the tower, a replica lens by Artworks Florida might take its place to allow relighting. Craig Kittendorf, a ranger at St. Marks NWR and the St. Marks Lighthouse representative, is a frequent FLA meeting attendee with his wife and adult daughter.

The meeting started Friday afternoon at Magnuson Hotel Wildwood Inn's conference room. Mike Bennett, Director of Operations at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, gave a lengthy and extensive presentation on developing educational programs. Mike is a former high school history teacher and administrator who has been putting that past experience to excellent use for many years with lighthouse education.

The most important issue at the Board Meeting was the status of the FLA license plate redesign. The artwork has been practically finalized, but state legislative approval is required to change the plate tag line from “Visit Our Lights” to “Save Our Lighthouses.org” Bills were introduced in both this year’s and last year’s legislative sessions, but failed to reach the voting stage. The License Plate Committee recommended and the Board approved abandoning the tagline change and going forward with just the new art. Sharon McKenzie, FLA Marketing Chair, also chairs the License Plate Committee and is spearheading the redesign project.

Cedar Keys Lighthouse received a Gene Oakes (License Plate) Grant for repainting the interior of the historic cottage-style lighthouse. Chandra Tracy announced the Florida Lighthouse Association website has been redesigned to update the look and make it mobile-friendly. Any problems with the site should be brought to her attention. Betty Phelps was announced as new co-Chair of the Membership Committee. The Governance Chair is once again vacant. The Friday meeting wrapped up with the usual social.

Saturday’s meeting was held at the Wakulla County Community Center. Terry Peacock, St. Marks NWR Superintendent, welcomed us and thanked FLA for its support. Tom Baird, Fundraising Chairman for Friends of St. Marks, talked about the restoration and noted a few things remain to be finished before the planned opening this fall. He also acknowledged FLA’s support, saying “We couldn't have done this without your help.” Mike Bennett of Ponce Inlet Lighthouse spoke about the restoration of the Fresnel lens from St. Marks Lighthouse in 2014.

Ken Smith gave a presentation on the restoration of St. Marks Lighthouse. The entire restoration of the lighthouse and attached dwelling cost a little over $800,000 – not including in-kind donations. Ken is an architect who has worked on most of Florida's lighthouses during the past three decades.

Craig Kittendorf informed attendees that, contrary to a widely-circulated story, St. Marks keeper Charles Fine was not eaten by an alligator.

Highlights of the auction and raffle were a six-foot tall lighthouse with working light make by Roger Emmons. There was also spirited auction bidding on a set of US Lighthouse Society dishes and on a pair of historic St. Marks Lighthouse items: a brick from the tower and a box made from beadboard removed from the lighthouse.

Continued Page 5
After a lunch of classic Southern food, members made their way to St. Marks NWR and the lighthouse. The small lantern room and lack of an accessible lantern gallery limited climbing to groups of 6 people at a time. Climbing went on from about 1:30 PM until after 5 PM. Attendees also got to see the keeper’s dwelling, including some of the preliminary exhibits. Hopefully everyone also stopped by the NWR visitor center, particularly to see the Fresnel lens. Anyone shopping in the NWR gift shop couldn’t help but notice that the lighthouse is prominently featured on most NWR merchandise. Despite the heat, attendees hopefully also took some time to enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the refuge.

### Remembering A Friend

**Candace Clifford**

The Lighthouse community lost a true friend on August 15th with the passing of US Lighthouse Society Historian Candace Clifford.

**Richard Sanchez** ~ I met Candace one time a few years ago when the FLA came to Egmont key for a conference. Prior to that, I had asked her to do some research at the National Archives to find Robert E. Lee’s report to the Board of Engineers about his trip surveying the coast of Florida. Inquiries to the Archives staff yielded nothing. I contacted Candace and she agreed to look for it. I thought that I wouldn’t hear from her for months and probably not have any success in finding the document. I was contacted by Candace in about a week with the complete document as well as at least a dozen other relevant documents that helped me to complete the story of that trip. She will be truly missed by me!

**Chris Belcher** ~ Several years ago, my father asked Candace Clifford to search the National Archives for materials related to Amelia Island Lighthouse. He received three full CDs of letters, annual reports, plans, pictures, and notices to mariners. Because of Candace’s work, we were able to accurately produce a timeline of events and answer several questions about the history and legends of Amelia. Candace was truly a lighthouse treasure and will be sorely missed by all.

**Josh Liller, Historian & Collections Manager, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum** ~ Candace Clifford provided research for James Snyder’s *A Light in the Wilderness*, the first book that provided in-depth history of our lighthouse’s construction and early days. During my time at Jupiter she has performed invaluable research about our lighthouse, Coast Guard activity, and other local history. Her research substantially informed our exhibit “Keeping The Light at Jupiter Inlet”, corrected numerous misconceptions about our lighthouse, and will be the backbone of exhibits, articles, and books for years to come. Her helpful attitude and patient guidance helped me understand the National Archives. It was at her encouragement I looked into keeper personnel files at National Archives St. Louis and that I wrote my first article for USLHS Keeper’s Log magazine. I have recognized her handiwork at lighthouses around the country and heard praise for her from so many that she helped.
Roger Emmons: FLA’s Lighthouse Engineer  by: Josh Liller

Roger grew up in Michigan and his family spent many summers on the lake shores. Seeing the Great Lakes lighthouses started a lifelong interest in lighthouses when he was in junior high school. Now residing in Lakeland, Roger is a longtime FLA supporter, having been a member since 2000.

He started designing and building miniature Fresnel lens replicas about 15 years ago. Roger also made Flash, the optic (light, lens, and reflectors) displayed front and center at every FLA meeting. He donated it to FLA during Tom Taylor’s presidency. At the time of this writing, Roger reports that he is working on a 8.5” diameter miniature replica lens.

Three years ago Roger started building entire model lighthouses, designing them to resist exposure to the elements. The models are made out of a variety of normal building materials: wood, fiberglass, aluminum, glass, and urethane, with brass and steel fasteners. Roger machines the aluminum and molds the glass himself. Several of these models have been donated to FLA and auctioned off, most recently a 5-foot tall striped tower with a rotating lens at the St. Marks meeting.
A Piece of FLA History from Jupiter Inlet
by: Josh Liller

I came across this notice from 1996 in my files. Our organization was called Florida History Center & Museum at the time. Although unsigned I assume it was from George Blanck, our Lighthouse Manager who was at the inaugural FLA meeting; otherwise, it’s from our Director at the time, Alicen McGowan. An example of how far things have come (only 5 lighthouses open; hope for more USCG leases where now many lighthouses have been transferred to new ownership).

TO: FLORIDA HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

**Lighthouse News**

**CROOKED RIVER ~** We are proud to report that our Third Annual Crab Cake Cookoff on Saturday, July 29, was another resounding success! Close to $1500 was raised for the Carrabella fund, to replace our playground pirate ship lost to arson in 2015. The concept plans for the new ship were presented during the evening's festivities, and were applauded by those attending. We hope to break ground before the end of this year!

Meanwhile, we are once again preparing for the annual Lantern Fest, to be held the third Saturday in October at the lighthouse park. Crooked River News prepared and sent by Laurel Newman; Delores is on a long-overdue and well-deserved vacation!

**DRY TORTUGAS ~** We have recently completed our final design documents for the stabilization of the Tortugas Harbor Light.

The next step in the process will be to prepare contract documents and put a solicitation out for bid for repairs to the structure.

The park anticipates a contract award no later than the spring of 2019 and disassembly of the lighthouse prior to the hurricane season of calendar year 2019. Components will be transported to an off-island conservation lab, repaired, replaced, or stabilized, and then the structure will be reassembly back on top of Fort Jefferson with new anchor bolts and a new high performance marine grade coating system.

**AMELIA ISLAND ~** A big "thank you" to the City of Fernandina Beach for purchasing new chairs for the lighthouse cottage. We now have comfortable seating for our tour guests during the tour talks. The City tours are at 10am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and can be reserved through the Recreation Department at 904 310-3350. The lighthouse grounds are open each Saturday between 11 and 2.

**ST. MARKS ~** St. Marks Lighthouse is in the progress of planning its next phase of preservation/renovation. In the meantime, we plan to have the keeper's dwelling open the first Friday and Saturday of each month beginning in October from 10 am to 4 pm. Tours will be offered each half hour and a two dollar fee will be charged in addition to the usual refuge entrance fee. No climbing of the tower is permitted at this time.

**JUPITER INLET ~** Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum have launched a new Lighthouse Luminaries program, in addition to our regular membership offerings. Luminaries are invited to special social events throughout the year and serve as lighthouse ambassadors to the community. More information is available on our website ([www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org))