



the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
www.floridalighthouses.org

Presidents Message

Dear Fellow Lighthouse Enthusiasts,

We had an exciting, fascinating and successful first several months on the job, thanks to some hard working dedicated people who deserve the credit for some major results. People willing to take an unpaid job, which sometimes gets recognized only through complaints and criticism; deserve your smiles and plaudits. We have some outstanding volunteers who work hard to make FLA go. I'm lucky to be president with so many good people. Smile and let them know you appreciate their efforts. Success comes from volunteer's selfless contribution.

Gayle and Dennis Stemas (VP-Meetings) put in countless hours to plan and pull off the meeting with needs to arrange for rental furniture, caterers and a brand new venue at Tierra Verde. Thanks to them for setting up our meetings and events.

Some things get taken for granted, like the sound system, which Ken Smith brings in, and sets up and takes down. To rent a system like that would be expensive. Diana "Dede" Smith (VP-Memberships) announced 17 new members in the quarter. The new brochure, which she and Ken worked on, will help boost membership more. Lighthouses are joining and renewing because they know they will benefit from FLA efforts.

Charley and Lottie Knox (VP-Fund Raising) store FLA inventory at home, load it in their car and bring it to meetings and set up. Sales in April boosted our assets. During the April Tierra Verde meeting Rip Puls did a great job of auctioning off donated items in a humorous but effective way as spirited bidders pushed up bids to raise nearly \$1,000 for the Coast Guard Relief fund, plus money for the Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund. Everyone had fun and the Coast Guard benefited, as did the license plate fund.

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Visit FLA on the web!

www.floridalighthouses.org
 and
www.saveourlights.com

Florida Lighthouse Day - September 16th

The Florida Department of State approved the application for Florida's Lighthouse Day, 2006

FLA-Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund

By Stan Farnham

In a survey form many members filled out, the topic garnering the most mentions in answering the question of "one thing you'd like to see FLA do" was "get the license plate!"

For good reason! First mentioned back during Tom Taylor's presidency, the license plate project has had more ups and downs than a Disney World ride.

When Gene Oakes served as president, he tried to kick-start the campaign again. He noted that the license plate fund would be the single annual appeal to focus attention on a gift that keeps on giving. A license plate provides a sustainable source of funds to help all Florida lighthouses, as an annual appeal was intended. He vigorously promoted the idea. The Tampa Bay Harbour Lights Collectors Club was first in with \$1,000 as Wayne Hawes offered a challenge on behalf of the club, followed by a number of individuals and associations: Lighthouse and Historic Building Society, Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, Mary Dorsey, Glenn Swigart, Stan and Mary Farnham, and Harry and Jean Pettit. Although a good start, Gene passed away January 20, 2006 before he could complete the license plate mission.

At the Board of Commissioners meeting April 21, we renamed the license plate fund the "Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund" and appointed Beverly Oakes chairperson of the committee. Appropriately, she would like to carry out Gene's dream of having a Florida specialty license plate. The license plate will generate many times its cost in restoration funds. Clearly the license plate also "advertises" *Save Our Lights*.



At the Board meeting, I pointed out we need to sharply focus on this with a relentless effort (until we reach the needed funds), announce a specific dollar goal and display a "thermometer chart" to show progress. An 18-page report by the Department of Motor Vehicles, RS-20, explains the procedure. The application fee is \$60,000. A survey is required, the license plate artwork of course, a marketing strategy and legislation. All this adds to the total cost. More than 14.9 million vehicles are registered in Florida. One index shows 83 specialty plates, but perhaps there are more now.

At the General Membership meeting at Tierra Verde the next day, April 22, we had a ceremony to explain the newly named fund and the new chairperson. I noted we were mailing certificates to Mary Dorsey and Glenn Swigart, each of whom gave \$1,000 last year but had not received their certificates.

Beverly Oakes said: "Gene told me that if he asked members to give \$1,000 then he should do so. He passed away before he could do this, so here's a \$1,000 check in his honor." Mary and I gave another \$1,000 after having donated \$1,000 last year. Gail Stemac presented a check for the fund for \$1988 from the proceeds of the Bahamas cruise, an idea Gene had. Add to that some additional money from the auction, funds donated in Gene's memory (\$650) and we boosted the fund more than \$4,800 to around \$20,000.

Ed Butler asked: "If we continue at the past rate, it will take a long while to get there. Can we get corporate funds?" "Yes, we do need to examine going after other benefactors, bequests, endowments, corporate sponsorships and possible ads in FLASH," I replied.

As I said at the meeting: "with your gift to the fund, or volunteering your time, you plant the seeds for future success of FLA in carrying out its mission." *Save Our Lights*.

Support the FLA effort to establish a Florida automobile license plate.

FLA Florida Specialty License Plate Fund. Visit www.saveourlights.com for details.

New Contributors

Stan and Mary Farnham \$1,000, Gene and Beverly Oakes \$1,000, Cruise proceeds \$1,988
Glenn Swigart \$1,000, Mary Dorsey \$1,000

Presidents Letter – continued

We recognized Stan Beckstrom at the April meeting for his strong efforts in rebuilding the website, cited Eric Martin and Judie Trotter for staffing the Central Florida Fair, and welcomed Paul Wenglowsky as the new Executive Vice President, Christi Sessions as the new Secretary and Sharon Puls as the new Assistant Secretary.

A number of volunteers head up committees: Rick Mau does FLASH; David Hanko, photography; Stan Beckstrom, webmaster; Eric Martin, Central Florida Fair; Beverly Oakes, Gene Oakes memorial license plate fund; Ken Smith, publicity and speaker's bureau; Paul Bradley, graphics; Rip Puls, auctions; Kathy Fleming, Florida Lighthouse Project (lighthouse transfers); Gordon Levi, archives. George Diller is treasurer. Wayne Hawes is a past president.

At the April meeting, several people stepped up to volunteer to help us achieve our goals. Norm Collins, hearing about the need for a computer and improving the database for membership, offered to donate a computer. Others who volunteered to help: Dorothy Butler (meetings), Alice D'Amicol (archives, data entry), John Kennedy (license plate), Val Petrunak (photo), Betty Lowe Phelps (license plate), Judie Trotter (speaker) and Ray Stewart (speaker).

Have you noticed that lighthouse nuts work with a special fervor and passion? We have the serious side of saving and protecting lighthouses through hard work, education and a constant fundraising, but meetings should be a fun-filled day. Volunteers help you feel good and enjoy your FLA experience. Please look forward to our next adventure. Thank you for your comments, suggestions and ideas. They help strengthen FLA. Jot me a note at FLApresident@gmail.com.
Stan Farnham

Cape St. George Recovery Efforts

The Cape St. George Lighthouse may have fallen into the Gulf of Mexico but it is not "down and out". Actually, just the opposite has happened. The St. George Lighthouse Association is determined to salvage the pieces of the Light, move them off Little St. George Island for safe storage, and eventually rebuild the Light on safer ground. More than 150 tons of bricks have been transported from Little St. George Island to a storage site in Eastpoint. The bricks are accumulating at the storage site and making a formidable pile.

For those planning on attending the July meeting at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, the St. George Lighthouse Association has extended an invitation to visit the site and see the salvage in progress. By the time of the meeting, the group hopes to have some type of billboard identifying the site and their work.

For those traveling West, upon entering Eastpoint on US98, the most notable street signs are the ones toward St. George Island and the State Park. Just one street West of SR300 on US98 is Begonia Street. Turn left onto Begonia, and the storage site is at the base of the Oyster Radio tower. Use the tower as a landmark as it can be seen for miles in most directions. The site has a chain link fence for security and adequate parking for anyone who wants to view the pieces.

Please check out the Association's website at www.stgeorgelight.org for current updates and photos.

**THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Member Meeting Minutes**

Tierra Verde Lighthouse - April 22, 2006

Call to order: President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Signal to start: Stan read a letter and presented a 25 watt stationary optic with a bulls-eye lens and mirrors for side lighting, which was made and donated by Roger Emmons of Lakeland in 2000. Stan announced that lighting the light signifies the meeting start, and turning off the light signifies adjournment.

Invocation: Ken Smith gave the invocation.

Recognize: Stan recognized 10 members attending their first FLA meeting, including Ed Gunn, the Operations Director from Ponce Inlet and Paul Wenglowsky from St. Augustine; the new FLA Executive Vice President. He recognized Suzanne Alston of Georgia as an out of state attendee; and who traveled the farthest.

10 Year Celebration: Stan recognized Richard Johnson of the Egmont Key Alliance as one of the original 26 members that convened at a church in Miami in 1996.

Website: Stan recognized Stan Beckstrom for his efforts in creating the new website for FLA, which went live on April 4, 2006. He also said he was sending a certificate to Tim and Lynda VeArd in appreciation for their past website service.

Stan

Heart felt gratitude from both Lynda and I for the certificate of appreciation. We were not only surprised, we're both genuinely grateful for the gesture. We both wish nothing but success for FLA's future under your guidance. As I expressed to your new webmaster, his and your enthusiasm is apparent. And, I feel your new website will be a testament to that and will serve FLA well.

Tim & Lynda VeArd

Volunteers: Stan recognized Eric Martin and Judie Trotter for their continuous volunteer efforts at the Central Florida Fair.

License Plate Fund: Beverly Oakes has agreed to Chair the "Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund." Donations were presented and include: Stan & Mary Farnham donated \$1000.00. Beverly Oakes presented a check for \$1000.00 in memory of Gene Oakes; Gayle Stemac presented a check for \$1988.60; proceeds from the donations on the January "Bahamas Cruise." Certificates are being mailed to earlier \$1,000 donors: Mary Dorsey and Glenn Swigart.

Survey Forms: Stan encouraged members to fill survey forms out: 47 were turned in.

Guest Speakers: Stan introduced the two guest speakers: Senior Chief Rod Storle and Captain Peter Clark, Executive Director of Tampa Bay Watch.

- **Senior Chief Rod Storle** recognized one of the USCG members that had recently achieved over 300 hours of volunteer service with the Florida Parks Service and the Anclote Key Lighthouse. Although he was not present, he was thanked with a warm round of applause by the members. Senior Chief Storle announced he would be relocating to the Chesapeake area.

- **Peter Clark**, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Watch, an environmental non profit organization started in 1993, presented an informative slide show and answered questions about the organization and the Tierra Verde Lighthouse.

Stan Farnham and Gayle Stemac presented appreciation certificates to the speakers following their excellent presentations; and a going away gift to Chief Storle.

Break: Members took a 15-minute break.

Officers Reports:

Secretary: Christi Sessions, with this being her first meeting as secretary, no report was given. Previous minutes are on the website and in FLASH.

Treasurer: George Diller was not present, but provided a written report. Key numbers: License

Plate Fund Balance: \$15,998.00. Total Assets: \$73,792.21

Ex. VP: Paul Wanglowsky reported that St. Augustine Lighthouse would no longer be able to hold the FLA Archives; a new location is needed by June.

VP-Membership: Dede Smith reported 17 new memberships since our last meeting and two new members joined the day of the meeting.

VP-Fund Raising: Charley Knox announced that the 2nd ornament in the lighthouse series would be Pensacola. It should be available at the next meeting. He is working on a screen-printed pocket T-shirt. The Board approved a brochure that will be featured in the Visitor Center on I-75 and I-95, and approved FLA paying the fees to become a member of VISIT FLORIDA. The brochure includes a story about how the FLA started, how to join the FLA and FLA merchandise for sale. Merchandise will soon be available on the web-site. Charley asked members to take some of the ornaments on consignment to sell to family and friends. Stan added that the funds approved at the board meeting to fund brochures and products are an investment in the future of FLA.

VP-Meeting and Events: Gayle Stemas reported that we would board the boats to Egmont Key starting at 3:00 p.m. Gayle reported that at the next meeting, July 15th, will be at Cape San Blas, and we would be able to climb the lighthouse. Danny Raffield agreed to host 4 members to tour his home, The St. Joseph Point Light. There will be a raffle at the meeting to choose the four members. The proceeds of the raffle will go to the Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund. Bob and Sandra Shanklin will be guest speakers at the meeting. Our 10th Anniversary meeting in October will be at Sanibel. The meeting in January will be an afternoon meeting and we will climb the St. Augustine Lighthouse that night. Future meetings are being planned for Hillsboro and Jupiter. On the registration form for meetings you can make a tax deductible donation to the Gene Oakes Memorial License Plate Fund. You will also receive a statement at the end of the year for any profits made on the meetings you attend during the year. This statement can be claimed as a charitable tax deduction on your income tax.

Committee Reports:

Website: Stan announced that reports including the status of the website are available via email and on

the website. And Stan Beckstrom would be available to answer any questions.

Education: Although Hib Casselberry, the Education Chairman, was not present, his report in writing was handed out and the information on the Florida History Fair is on the website.

Photography: David Hanko was not present; Stan reported that there had been a discussion on having a breakout group meeting for photography.

Newsletter: Rick Mau was not present; Stan reported that Rick did the February FLASH; and continues to serve.

Archive: Stan announced Gordon Levi as Archivist. Gordon reported that UWF may be willing to take on and one day have available on-line, the history of the FLA. General information on lighthouse will not be included but specifically the history and future of FLA. Gordon has also contacted the State of Florida as a depository for the FLA archives. They will store it and put out a catalog showing what material is available, but it would not be on-line.

Publicity: Ken Smith suggested members keep copies of the new FLA brochures in their car, so they will have them to hand out to people that are interested.

Presidents Report: President Stan Farnham briefly described the Strategic Plan Session at Ponce on June 17th for officers and board members. The session will include strengths, weakness, threats, opportunities, critical issues, goals and an action plan agenda with a sharply focused set of goals. Every member has an opportunity thru the Survey Form to contribute to the Strategic Plan.

Level A (Major) Lighthouse Reports:

Non-vital lighthouse and committee reports will be issued in writing and will not be read at the meetings. Only Level A (critically vital) reports will be given verbally at the meetings. All reports will be included in the in The Flash, and available on line. The reports are in "The Florida Lighthouse Reports" section of FLASH. Verbal reports included Jim Kemp, Cape St. George; Paul Wenglowsky, St. Augustine; Gordon Levi, Pensacola; John Kennedy, Sanibel; David D'Amicol, Cedar Key. Written reports were submitted by George Diller, Cape Canaveral; Hib Casselberry, Hillsboro; Charley Knox, Mayport.

Adjournment: President Stan Farnham turned the meeting over to Rip Puls to begin the auction at 11:10 a.m.

Christi Sessions, Secretary

FLA at the FAIR

Florida Lighthouse Association Booth at the Central Florida Fair, April 20-30, 2006

By Stan Farnham

Dedicated volunteers Eric Martin and Judie Trotter promoted the Florida Lighthouse Association and Florida lighthouses with initiative and flair after arranging and setting up a booth at the 94th Annual Central Florida Fair.

Martin wheedled the fair managers for an attractive glass case that fronted the booth and displayed his lighthouse replica collectibles.

A small replica Fresnel lens by Emmons, flashed and attracted visitors to the booth. "What is that?" One visitor asked. Martin explained the lighthouse lens.

A DVD on all Florida lighthouse cycled on a small television set. Judie Trotter had the DVD done by donating her own money (\$300) to produce it. She has used it in talks at schools and libraries. The DVD grabbed visitor's attention once they were at the booth. This can be used by the Florida Lighthouse speaker's bureau to augment presentations to groups and potential donors.



A large map of the thirty remaining Florida lighthouses caused visitors to ask about visiting the lighthouses.

One young couple asked: "We would like to visit all thirty lighthouses. How long would that take?" Martin suggested they do it in steps and read Tom Taylor's book first for detailed directions to each.



"Some are not accessible," Martin said. "Others are not open or are on military bases. A good reason to join the association is that you can visit lighthouses not open to the public because we hold quarterly meetings at them."

In just a short while on Sunday afternoon April 23, five couples stopped in to ask questions. To each Martin provided the information based on the experience of a person who has visited all thirty lighthouses and a veteran of previous fairs. He gave each one of the new pamphlets and urged them to join. Three of the couples said they definitely would do so. With eleven days and 93 hours of operations and hundreds of visitors to the booth, the large potential for new members and visitors to Florida lighthouses makes the effort worthwhile.

"The new pamphlet really helps. Last year all we had was a cheap looking Xerox copy of a membership form to hand people. Now we have a professional pamphlet that helps us look like the professional organization we are," Martin exclaimed.

By meeting the mandatory hours of staffing the booth, the fair managers will pay \$200 to the Florida Lighthouse Association. Martin also sold raffle tickets to a print of a lighthouse painting for further fund raising of \$214.37.

Martin's daughter, Brooke, helped him out on this weekend. Martin, a history major, graduated from University of Central Florida, 1981. He has a full-time job but still manages to put in long hours for FLA at the booth.



Judie Trotter also staffs the booth on several days as she has for several years. For the weekend of this story, she attended the FLA meeting in Tierra Verde. Other FLA members helped out along with Judie Trotter: Dave D'Amicol, Dorothy and Ed Butler and Bill Wilkins. Martin also drafted his family for booth service: Wife Susan and children Steven (21), Ian (14) and Brooke (10).

Martin talks about Florida lighthouses to "customers" and future FLA members: "I enjoy talking about lighthouses and it is only a chore when it is slow."

St. Augustine, Pensacola, Jupiter and Cape St. George Lighthouse Associations along with Judie Trotter donated prizes for the event.

"News From Fund Raising"

After a good record of sales on the first Florida Lighthouse Association Christmas Tree Ornament, we have made arrangements to make a second. The second ornament will be the first one for the "Panhandle Series." We chose to do the Pensacola Lighthouse to commemorate the birth of the "Pensacola Lighthouse Association." I am hoping that we can do even better with this one. Please consider taking some of them out on consignment to sell to your friends and families. We also still have some of the first ornament left over. All help in selling these ornaments would be greatly appreciated. Please know that once these ornaments are gone, there will be no more of them made. This makes them a "Limited Edition."

We plan to make another order of "polo shirts." This one will have a pocket!!!!. There will also be women size shirts available! I would like those of you who read this to please give me some feedback (as a prepaid order) of what you would like to have. All shirts will be priced at \$30.00. They are too expensive to make "shots in the dark!" Also, all proceeds from the sale of polo shirts go to the "Gene Oakes Memorial Fund" which was the "Save our Lights" License Plate Fund.

I want to remind everyone that we still have the "Bill Trotter" print of the "Saint Augustine Lighthouse" being raffled. The chances are five dollars a piece and we are shooting for a collection of \$1000 before we pick the winner. We are almost half way there! The print can be seen on the Web page. It is matted and framed and would be a wonderful addition to any home or office. You can obtain raffle tickets by sending a check to: Charley Knox, 561 SW Whitetail Circle, Lake City, FL 32024. All proceeds of the raffle go to the "Gene Oakes Memorial Fund!"

I have been working with our new web master to get all of our merchandize on the web page. I believe that he is working on that and we should have our "Gear Locker" ready for business soon. In conjunction with this, we are hoping to get credit card service available as soon as possible. That should make shopping easier for a lot of folks.

Lastly, I want to let you know that we have become a partner in "Visit Florida." This will put us in all the State of Florida tourist publications that people receive when they contact Florida for information. We also working on having brochures in the interstate visitors centers.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas that you may have in raising funds for our organization. You can reach me by email: charleyknox@bellsouth.net or by telephone: (386) 961-9031.

A Modern Day "Sleeping Beauty"

Florida Lighthouse Association
Cape San Blas Lighthouse
July 15, 2006

The current iron skeleton tower that stands on Cape San Blas in the Florida panhandle replaced 3 previous conical towers destroyed by storms, hurricanes, and eroding shoreline. This tower, built in 1885, was moved to its present location about a quarter of a mile from the shore in 1918. Unlike most iron towers, the central column, which houses the spiral staircase, does not extend from the lantern room to the ground. Instead, it stops twenty feet from the ground. An external metal stairway accesses the door to the tower. The tower stands 98 feet high and has 138 steps to the top. The uniqueness of this lighthouse however is its original third order bi-valve clamshell lens, which still remains in the tower. But – the big story at Cape San Blas these days is not the lighthouse, but rather the two keepers' quarters. The buildings were left neglected and unattended for many years and began to suffer massive deterioration. In 1996, the lighthouse was deactivated. Two years later, the keeper's house closest to the shore received considerable damage from Hurricane Earl. Finally, in 1999 both dwellings were moved from their position on the shore to a site next to the tower. The building in the best condition was restored with completion in 2002. Needless to say, the second dwelling continued to deteriorate and looked more like a candidate for a wrecking ball than a restoration. It was pitifully dilapidated and leaning badly to one side. In 2004, structural stabilization and extensive renovations began. By 2005, the job was completed and "Sleeping Beauty" emerged!

Eglin Air Force Base controls access to the lighthouse compound. Our request for permission to climb was referred to the Department of Environmental Management at Eglin. Initially our request was denied but upon further consideration, they have given us **permission to climb the tower**. We will also have full access to both keeper's quarters and the grounds around the tower, which will afford outstanding photo opportunities.

Our meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at St. James Episcopal Church, located at 800 22nd St. in Port St. Joe. (This is the corner of 22nd St. and

Garrison Ave.) The luncheon will also be held in the hall and will be catered by *Half Shells Restaurant* from Mexico Beach. They have received accolades by several national food publications for their peel-n-eat shrimp. *Of course, this will be our featured item on the menu.* We will also provide a pasta salad for those unable to eat shrimp.

We are most privileged to have as our speakers for this meeting Bob and Sandra Shanklin – otherwise known as "The Lighthouse People". On their wedding trip in 1987 they traveled to New England and began photographing lighthouses. Portland Head Light was their first and it was love at first site. Since then, they have traveled all over the US in search of lighthouses. They have counted about 670 lights – both major and minor – and have photographed every standing lighthouse including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. They have published multiple books which can be purchased on their website at www.thelighthousepeople.com. Their photographs are also available for purchase. Their presentation will include stories of their adventures and a question and answer session. They will also have merchandise available for purchase and will personally autograph the books.

Also located near the Cape San Blas Lighthouse is the St. Joseph Point Light. The present tower, built in 1902, is a square wooden tower on the roof of a one-story keeper's dwelling. Originally located at Beacon Hill, it was moved to St. Joseph Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. The light was discontinued in 1955, moved, and used as a barn for a time. Danny Raffield purchased the light in 1970 and moved it again to its present location at Simmons Bayou on the edge of St. Joseph's Bay. Danny and his wife have been living-in and restoring the keeper's quarters since that time. Danny plans to have a replica lantern room in place later this summer and is exploring options to find a 3rd order lens for the tower. For those wanting a lighthouse experience that few people have, Danny will take four of our meeting participants on a personally escorted tour of the house immediately following the visit to the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and keeper's Quarters. We will conduct a special raffle during our meeting

and draw the names of the lucky people who will tour the house. The proceeds of the raffle will go to the Gene Oakes Memorial Fund. (License plate project)

The Fellowship Hall has a limited capacity, so our meeting and events will be limited to 100

participants. The cost for this meeting, luncheon, and donation will be \$30. We have reserved the entire Port Inn in Port St. Joe for the night of July 14. However, there are only 20 rooms available, so reserve early if you plan to stay. The reservation deadline is June 5, 2006.

Meeting Agenda

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Third quarter 2006 Meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association
12 Noon	Luncheon – Catering courtesy of <i>Half Shells</i> in Mexico Beach
2:00 pm	Tour of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and restored Keeper's Quarters
4:00 pm	Raffle winners tour St. Joseph Point Light

Preferred Hotel

Port Inn – Port St. Joe, Fl.

501 Monument Ave.
(Highway signs show Clifford C. Sims Pky.)
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
Phone: 1-866-825-7175

The planned meeting schedule for 2006 is as follows:

July, 2006 – Cape San Blas
October, 2006 – Sanibel

Please plan to attend one or more and support your FLA!

Preferred rate is \$99. for a standard double, \$109. for a standard queen, \$119. deluxe units. There are also several multi-room suites available for \$139., \$149., and \$159. Since we are reserved the entire facility, reservation deadline is **June 5, 2006**. After that date, rooms will be released to general circulation. Please mention the FLA when reserving to obtain the discounted rate.

Bob & Sandra Shanklin

They've trudged down many a trail, high winds blowing, slogged through sand carrying camera bags in hundred degree temperatures with bugs biting, Nikons slung around their necks.

They've gone out on the water in sports boats, crabber's boats, lobsterman's boats, rowboats. They don't know how many ferries they've taken. They lost count long ago. They've flown in twin engine planes, single engine planes, seaplanes and helicopters. They've climbed over boulders, hung from tree branches over a cliff and rolled in a mud puddle to get under a fence.

WHY? To photograph a lighthouse.

In 1987 Bob & Sandra Shanklin embarked on a long journey to photograph every lighthouse in the U.S. On Feb. 3, 1999, on the north tip of the Big Island, Hawaii, they realized their dream. After a summer 1998 trip to Alaska and a winter trip to Hawaii in 1999 and a later trip to Puerto Rico, they had photographed every U.S. Lighthouse.

We met at art shows. Bob, a widower, was showing his photos. Sandra, divorced, was showing and selling paintings. We started taking photo trips and Sandra discovered that she loved photography as well as the man. It was on our wedding trip to New England in 1987, that we photographed our first lighthouses together. We were bitten by the lighthouse bug and the rest is history.

We have since gone totally digital, although I (Sandra) am unable to part with my last Nikon.

The Florida Lighthouse Reports

A. Amelia Island. – No new report.

B. Mayport - St. Johns. - Charley Knox reported that the activities of the Mayport Lighthouse Association have been in a holding pattern the past couple of months. This is because of the redevelopment of the Mayport Village River Front Project. A large development company is buying up parcels of land and we have to wait and see how all that goes before we can continue our efforts.

C. St. Augustine. – Paul Wanglowsky reported that two full time marine archeologists, Chuck Meide and Sam Turner, will assist in searching for a confederate vessel, The Jefferson Davis, which sunk in 1861. The St. Augustine Lighthouses will be purchasing a research vessel to assist in their search. An exhibit of Coast Guard artwork, which features 24 paintings from the Coast Guard Archives and the history of the Coast Guard, will be March 27th-May 7th.

D. Ponce Inlet. – No new report

E. Cape Canaveral. - Painting continues but has been slow because of removing old layers of lead paint. Restoration of the lantern room is going well. A relighting ceremony is planned aboard the Sterling Cruise Lines based at Port Canaveral, directly offshore about three miles from the lighthouse when it is relit after completion of the

restoration expected to be mid July.

F. Jupiter. - No new report.

G. Hillsboro Inlet. - Hib Casselberry reported March '06-'07 is the Lighthouse Stations Centennial Year. HLPS' next tour has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2006. The ferry will begin to run at 9:00 a.m. approximately every 45 minutes until 3:00 p.m. Annual HLPS membership is required. Visit the website for details: www.hillsborolighthouse.org.

H. Cape Florida. - No new report.

I. Reef Lights. - No new report.

Key West Light – No new report.

Loggerhead Key Light – No new report.

Tennessee Reef – No new report.

Molasses Reef Light "10" – No New Report.

Northwest Passage Lighthouse & Tortugas Harbor – No New Report.

Rebecca Shoals Lighthouse – No New Report.

Dry Tortugas Lighthouse – No New Report.

Dry Tortugas Anchorage Light and Fort Jefferson, Garden Key
No New Report.

J. Key West. No new report.

K. Sanibel Island. - John Kennedy reported that The City of Sanibel is going to rejoin the FLA. The Historical Society will open the Historical Museum, which has a nice display on the lighthouse in one of the buildings they have moved to the location.

L. Port Boca Grande. - No new report.

M. Boca Grande Rear Range Light. No new report.

N. Egmont Key. No new report.

O. Anclote Key. - No new report.

P. Cedar Keys. - David D'Amicol reported the lighthouse would no longer be open in July. It will only be open the 3rd weekend in October, both Saturday and Sunday, the same time as the Seafood Festival. You can take a boat from downtown to visit the light, the two cemeteries and the UF Marine Biology Department will has things for the kids to see.

Q. St. Marks. - Robin Will wrote that they (National Wildlife Refuge) hope to receive ownership in the near future. The transfer of the lighthouse to the Wildlife Refuge is being held up now because of soil

contamination around the lighthouse. Government officials in Washington are trying to decide who is responsible for the clean-up before the transfer can take place.

R. Crooked River. - As of May 2, the Legislative Budget Summary includes 49 projects for Special Category Grants. Crooked River Lighthouse's restoration grant was #42. It is pretty safe to say WE MADE IT. We'll wait for the letter of finalization. Franklin County Tourism Development Council has granted the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association \$15,000 to help with our biggest fund-

raiser event to date. October 14, 2006 will be a "Caribbean Treasures" day of fun, food, a dance, a parade, etc. to kick off Extreme-Makeover-Crooked River Lighthouse Edition. We hope to see you there!!!

S. Cape San Blas. - Site of the July 15, 2006 meeting.

T. Cape St. George. - See report on page 3.

U. Saint Joseph's Point. Repair, is the word here, with last years storms and a little water from DENNIS we have just about completed a much need rework of our kitchen, look

great and should be completed by mid May. Just replaced the rear stair way, looks good always fun dealing in construction to match the way it was done in 1900. Looking to replace the roof soon, did repair on observation room this past spring. Still working on the Lantern Gallery keeping my fingers crossed for completion this year. It is all worth the effort, we continue to enjoy our lighthouse and would not want to live anywhere else.

V. Pensacola. - See report in the box below.

Pensacola Lighthouse Report Gordon Levi

In January Dianne Levi, FLA District 4 Commissioner, notified the Pensacola area newspapers of the intent to establish a Pensacola Lighthouse group and invited interested persons to an information meeting January 17th. A group of twelve enthusiastic people attended this first meeting. Subsequent monthly meetings have resulted in naming the organization - Pensacola Lighthouse Association, Inc., approval of By-Laws, the election of officers, approval of the organization's Articles of Incorporation by the state, and application to the State of Florida for non-profit tax exemption status. The officers elected are: President - Richard Callaway, Vice President - Harry Grander; Secretary/Treasurer - Bill Trushel; Director of Membership - Pat Easterwood; Historian - Mary Lou Platt; Representative to FLA - Gordon Levi; Webmaster - Barbara Grander. The organization is developing a membership brochure with the fee structure. The PLA group also met for breakfast and social time at a restaurant in Navarre Saturday, April 29th.

The summer tour program at the Pensacola Lighthouse has commenced. The lighthouse and Command Display Center located in the Keepers' Quarters is open to the public every Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. until October 29th. Special group tours may be scheduled throughout the year.

April Meeting Shuttle to Egmont Key – Refund or Donation?

A perfect morning with sunshine, blue skies, and balmy breezes, heightened the anticipation of those attending the Tierra Verde meeting of boating out to Egmont Key to visit the historic lighthouse. Unfortunately, the afternoon brought a weather front with high winds and very rough seas, which caused the captain to cancel the boat trip and refund our money. As we all stood in Ft. De Soto Park and shared our disappointment, most participants said they did not want a cash refund, but to donate the refunded money to the Gene Oakes License Plate Memorial Fund. Many believe we need to make this project a reality soon. Not everyone agreed with donating. Further, some people had already left so had not shared their comments. We want to accommodate everyone's wishes as much as possible so if you do not wish to donate your part to the license plate fund, please let us know and we will return your money from the shuttle portion of the meeting agenda, which amounts to \$9.00 per person. Please email George Diller, our Treasurer, at DillerGeorgeH@msn.com. He will refund your portion. Please provide him with your mailing address.



Look closely, you may see this lens!

Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses

Welcome to our new members!

Michael Horner, Mary Sanor, Jean Bledsoe, Pat & Bill Costell, Virginia Gaylor, John & Barbara Schmidt, Sondra & Thomas Greer, Alfred King, III, Ron & Marie Beckstrom, Michael Bennett, Chuck Shapler, Bob Campbell & Tracey Willis, Peter & Marion Clark, Pensacola LH Assoc, Chester & Jack Kinnaman, Edwin Styron, III, Bob & Sandra Shanklin, Marilyn & Michael O'Brien

Membership year is October 1st through September 30th.

Membership Levels and Dues are:

Circle of Light \$1,000 – Watch Room \$250 –

Commissioner \$100 – Inspector \$50

Keeper (Family) \$35 – Assistant Keeper \$25.00

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