

PO Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322
850.967.2732
Summer 2012

Visit our Website: crookedriverlighthouse.org
Email: lighthouse2@fairpoint.net
Like Crooked River Lighthouse on facebook

Letter from the President:

The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association (CLA) was incorporated in 1999 to preserve the Crooked River Light Station for future public use. The mission of the CLA is to provide an organization to promote the Crooked River Lighthouse; to raise necessary funds to meet our objectives; to provide a Board of Directors to administer the overall operations of the lighthouse. The board manages the site to conserve, protect and enhance this natural and historical resource that provides a site for outdoor recreation. Now, 13 years later, it's amazing to look at the progress this organization has made at the park through the determination and hard work of its members and volunteers. We wholeheartedly thank our members for their continued contributions in support of the lighthouse which we can share with Franklin County residents and visitors. I personally thank our volunteers who have taken on the monumental task of managing an historical and cultural centerpiece in our community with such professionalism and enthusiasm.

Since October 2010 we have had 5,280 visitors sign our guest book. Many more people use the park facilities but choose not to sign in. Our signature events of Lantern Fest and the Coastal Blessing created by Joan Matey draw crowds we never thought possible. Our webpage and facebook presence connects to lighthouse enthusiasts across the globe. But all of this is not enough, we need you and anyone you can recruit to join us and help however you can. Please become a member of the CLA and, if you can spare a few hours a month, consider volunteering at the Crooked River Lighthouse Park. We need climbers to greet the public at the top of the tower or museum docents to help our gift-shop attendant extraordinaire, Laurel Newman.

With your help the Crooked River Lighthouse will continue to be a beacon in our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cox

Wash House Work Update

by Laurel Newman

Contractor Chester Reese is making good progress on the wash house renovation project. The initial removal of modern-era 'add-ons' is complete, as well as the tie-downs. "The straps are continuous from the rafters and joists down to the ground," Reese said. "It's tied down from the oink to the tail." Termite shields have been installed between all the pilings and the building bottom, as well.

This week, Reese put up mobile scaffolding which will enable him to reach the roof to accomplish the next step. The roof will be rinsed with phosphoric acid solution, removing the rust, then sealed with an elastomeric coating. The scaffolding will remain attached to the structure for the duration of the work, 'walking' around the building as needed for further work on the fascia and overhang portions of the roof.



Coastal Blessing



This year's Coastal Blessing included a brief ceremony to unveil a brick in honor of long-time lighthouse supporter, Ruth Varner. 95 year old Miss Ruth promptly climbed to the top of the lighthouse.

Ray Courage

The month of May began sadly for all of us in the CLA; we lost one of most beloved volunteers, Ray Courage, after a brief illness.

Ray will be remembered for his generosity, good humor and unflinching common sense. He left a legacy of lighthouse photography that his family has generously shared with us so that we may continue to bring that part of Ray's vision, which so exemplified his own love of the shore, in a series of photographs of the four "Panhandle" lighthouses. Thank you, Ray.

6th Graders Come to Learn, Play and Climb

by Laurel Newman

On Wednesday, May 9, the Franklin School's 6th Grade class visited the Crooked River Lighthouse and Museum during a day-long field day, about half of which was spent at the park.

Teachers Spencer Tolbert, Pam Marshall and Brenda Creamer separated their charges into four groups for easier management, and each group was tagged with curator Joan Matey's distinctive ID labels: "Coasties," with a US Coast Guard seal; "Cutter Captains," sported a US Revenue Cutter Service seal, "Life Savers" with the official insignia of the US Lifesaving Service, and "Keepers" wearing the proud emblem of the US Lighthouse Service.



Visit Florida

Sheila Hauser brought this group from Visit Florida as part of a whirlwind tour of Franklin County's best destinations for those looking for "real" Florida.



Each group of students began with a different phase of their "lighthouse day." One group climbed to the top where volunteer Lesley Cox awaited them to answer questions and point out landmarks from the high vantage point. Another group took seats in the History room section of the Museum, where curator Joan Matey engaged them with her lively presentation on the history of the light, and the lives of its keepers. Those students then moved into the Science room, where Tamara Allen explained the bulb-changing device, the oversize light bulbs, and the "first fire extinguisher."

Still another group occupied the conference room, where Jennifer Bowers presented "concepts of a light lens," with a film about lens production and a hands-on demonstration for the students.

The fourth group was let free to explore the pirate ship, swings and slides on the playground. The groups rotated through the grounds until all had completed each activity, then the final challenge of the day had to be completed; the scavenger hunt. Most of the students had been marking off their scavenger lists during the day, but there are always a couple who have missed some little thing. Once all were satisfied, the students returned to the bus and left, another year's 6th Grade Field Trip to the Lighthouse successfully completed.

Upon return to their classrooms, each student wrote a thank-you note to the Lighthouse association and its members and volunteers who made the trip possible. Spence Tolbert delivered the book a week later, and it is a proud memento on display in the conference room.

Surprise Visit From Summer Campers

by Laurel Newman

On July 6, we were surprised by the arrival (by bus) of 36 Wakulla Christian Summer Camp students and their counselors, come for a day of fun and picnicking in the park.

Of course, we had a steady stream of children using the facilities, accompanied by the friendly young counselors. A couple of the counselors took brochures, and said they will be coming back with their families to climb! Delores made copies of the coloring and puzzle pages for the youngsters as souvenirs of their visit.



The children were polite and well-behaved, and made a point of thanking us for letting them use the facilities, and expressed a lot of appreciation for the pirate ship! We asked the counselors to call in advance on future field trips, so that we can be more prepared for a crowd, and they promised they would.

"We're definitely coming back here," one of the counselors said. "The kids love it, and so do we!"

Tropical Storm Debby Does Some Pruning

by Laurel Newman

When Tropical Storm Debby blew through Franklin County Sunday, June 24, she left behind a lot of water, some downed trees, and a big mess on the lighthouse property.

No serious damage was done, but the yard, walks and driveway were thickly littered with fallen branches, leaves, pine needles and cones.

The two flags at the entrance blew down, their support poles broken near the bases, and the banner tied to the trees by the road had one corner completely ripped out, and the banner itself badly battered. Other than that, no damage, just an unsightly mess. Lesley Cox came over early Thursday with her electric blower and cleared the debris from the Keeper's House deck and sidewalks "As far as my cord could reach!"

Delores Hardin and Laurel Newman started in on the yard cleanup with rakes, brooms and gloves, getting the front yard cleared of debris, and the driveway and parking areas raked clean.

Lesley hired Greg Newman to remove and shred two small trees that had fallen in the lot next to Cape Street, and by Friday, most of the branches and debris had been shredded in piles by the walking path to Cape Street.



A good-sized pine tree had fallen across the wash house roof, but it caused minimal damage, contractor Chest Reese reported Friday. The tree was removed by landscaper Norm the following Monday.

John Canetta finished up the sidewalk cleanup the following Sunday, bringing his gasoline blower to clean the rest of the sidewalks in the park and the pavilion pad.

There are still a few "leaners" needing cutting, but that will be a job for later in the season.

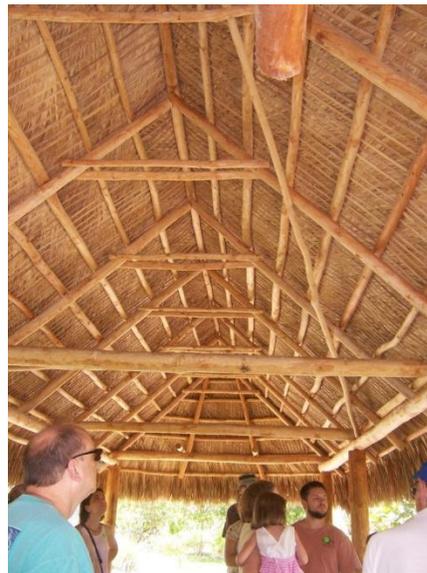
Delores reset the flags and poles, but the poles were too short, so new ones were ordered to replace them. All is back to normal!

Florida Lighthouse Association Meeting at Jupiter Inlet

Arlene Oehler and Delores Hardin represented CLA at the June meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association in Jupiter, FL. They attended the Friday and Saturday sessions and were proud to be able to vote for a grant to help move the Cape San Blas lighthouse and museum. On Saturday afternoon they toured the Jupiter Inlet lighthouse and park.



New friends from St Marks joined us for lunch on Saturday.



We loved the Seminole Chickee in the Jupiter Inlet Park and decided we want one for Crooked River Lighthouse Park.



Bike Florida visitors came by in March. Many of them even climbed the lighthouse and then got back on their bikes to complete the ride to Tallahassee.



Lighthouse Challenge Accepted!

This year's Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge on April 21 and 22nd brought out the lighthouse lovers in record numbers. With this year's event including the Pensacola Light, it was a real challenge to visit all five sites over one weekend.

At Crooked River, we validated many visitors' tickets who had begun at Pensacola. Our guest book sign-in records 222 visitors over the two-day challenge, but we know that many people did not sign in, just got in line waiting their turn to climb.

It was exciting to see such a marvelous turnout this year, and we are hoping it will now become an annual event.

Gift shop sales, raffles, and donation jars all did very well, and we are looking forward to the next challenge.

FULL MOON TOWER TOURS

A new event for this spring was our Full Moon Tower Tours. Visitors enjoyed a moonlit climb of the lighthouse and then a beverage with goodies baked by pastry chef Sally Crown. We also included a free movie in the park. In May we had quite a crowd for the "super moon."

Watch for our announcements of the climb and movie nights for this fall and winter. We are on facebook as well as on the web at www.crookedriverlighthouse.org

Future Plans...

The CLA is working with the City of Carrabelle in trying to buy the one acre lot on the corner of Cape St. and Hwy 98. That will allow us to expand the park and improve our entrance.

We are soon going to have a bronze plaque to recognize that Crooked River Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The museum has been pressure washed and we have purchased the supplies, so we will soon have a nice new coat of white paint. Then we will paint the porch floor.

Please share with us your ideas for how we can make Crooked River Lighthouse Park even better.

.....

A message from our Vice President for Membership,

The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association has come a long way from being an organization that sells t-shirts at special events. It currently cooperates with the City of Carrabelle to maintain a historic structure built in 1895, the Crooked River Lighthouse, along with a museum and a recreational park. It has accomplished a lot, but with success comes additional challenges and the need for volunteer help increases. Now that the Crooked River Lighthouse is opened for climbing on a regular basis, volunteers can sign up to supervise this activity. We also have a beautiful recreation park that needs members who are interested in landscaping and horticulture design that preserves a Florida native plant habitat. Museum guides are an important component of our organization. You may have a talent that will allow us to expand our services. In short, we have a place for you!

Please let us know your interests so we can work together to make the Crooked River Lighthouse park and museum the best that it can be.

Thank you,
Arlene Oehler



Our new bear proof trash can REALLY IS!



Two new picnic tables from the City of Carrabelle have made it possible for more visitors to enjoy a picnic in the



park.

Visitors are entertained and informed by our "talking picture" video of our first lightkeeper, Mr. Williams, explaining how he and his family lived and worked at Crooked River Light Station in the 1890's.



These are some of the educational materials we are using in the development of programs for school field trips and other visits by children. Even adults like the paper models of the lighthouse.