



Crooked River Lighthouse

Carrabelle Lighthouse Association

PO Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322
850-697-2732
Winter 2014

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

President's Report:

Greetings Crooked River Lighthouse fans!

So much has happened here since June. Thanks to Chester Reese for all of his excellent work - our new fence is up, most of the cross ties around the lighthouse have been removed and used to designate parking areas as well as edging the native plant garden. Our new entrance sign was installed just in time for Lantern Fest.

Joan Matey and Kathy Swaggerty did an excellent video about the moving and restoration of our historic wash house. It featured Shaun Donahoe, Mary Beth Henry and Chester Reese. Arlene and I took it to the Florida Lighthouse Association meeting in Deerfield Beach, FL in October. It was the keynote presentation and the FLA members loved it! We really enjoyed seeing Mary Katzer and the trip was easy thanks to John and Patsy Canetta who provided our transportation.

The buoys that Don Rider restored so well for us have been set up on either side of the drive and are looking right at home. Don also worked out in the hot sun for days and reworked our brick paver area. He even gave it a nice ramp. We expressed our appreciation by purchasing a big brick in his honor. What a great guy he is!

On Oct. 26 Joan Matey put together another fantastic Lantern Fest event that was bigger and better than ever! Of course she had lots of help from a large and enthusiastic group of local volunteers. Special thanks go to William Massey and his crew. I think we get better at this every year. It was a wonderful evening.

I must not forget...we had three lantern making workshops leading up to Lantern Fest. The first was a jellyfish lantern workshop by Tallahassee artist Perdita Ross.

In the second workshop I helped participants make jellyfish and slide-together lanterns made with geometric shapes. The third workshop was lovely floral designs with our own Laurel Newman providing instruction.

All of our lanterns were displayed for Lantern Fest and the jellyfish were part of the wonderful "undersea world" in the bilge of the pirate ship. Another new feature for this year was our silent auction. Many thanks go to all who donated items for the event and to those who bid on them. You helped to make it a great success. One lucky winner will soon have a romantic gourmet dinner served up on the lighthouse gallery.

In the museum, we have a new light-keeper's jacket and cap on display. Rodney Reeves donated \$100.00 toward the purchase. We have a new display of art prints in the gift shop. Come by and have a look.

We had a good group when we finally got to see our movie in the park on Thursday, Nov. 14. It was the 1954 version of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The weather was a little cool, but nice. We shared some warm popcorn and hot chocolate. Come join us in March for our first movie of the new year. We are very excited that the pedestrian/bike path from the Carrabelle Beach Park to the lighthouse is now under construction and the Cape St. corner lot will be ours in March! Hip, hip, hooray! I think we should have a big celebratory parade when it's done.

Maybe the Big Bend Scenic Byway folks will start on our kiosk soon and we will really feel like we are "on the map."

Thank you all for your support.

Come visit us soon,
Delores Hardin

Looking Better All the Time

Laurel Newman



The summer and fall months have seen a multitude of improvements accomplished at the Crooked River Lighthouse grounds.

In August, contractor Chester Reese erected a picket fence across the front of the museum yard, a simple straight-topped style very similar to the original fence that once enclosed the keeper's house grounds. The native plant garden got a facelift, courtesy of Lesley Cox and the Sea Oats Garden Club, including identification signs for the plants.



In September, volunteer extraordinaire Don Rider reset all the bricks on a stable concrete base, and built a retaining barrier around the edge, eliminating the uneven, wobbly appearance the bricks had begun to exhibit. A beautifully accomplished job, with room to expand built into the design. Well done!



In October, Chester Reese was busy again, removing the railroad ties from around the

lighthouse, and re-using them elsewhere on the property. There are now clearly marked parking spots across the front, drive-through barriers next to the handicap pad and in front of the pedestrian path, and a new, neater border for the native plant garden at the base of the lighthouse. The native plant garden barrier also includes pilings at each corner, soon to be embellished with nautical rope, courtesy of Chester. He also installed the bear-proof trash receptacle on a concrete pad, in the shade of the sand pines in front of the pavilion. No more burned hands or toppled trash!

A small bulletin board in the pavilion now serves as a place to post event notices, instead of tacking them to the uprights.

The City of Carrabelle workers, supervised by William Massey, moved the channel



markers (repainted by Don Rider in April) to their new post at the top of the driveway in late October. Finally, the most visible and dramatic improvement, our new entrance sign, was also built and installed by Chester Reese during the last weeks of October, just in time for Lantern Fest!

Special thanks to Chester Reese, for all that he so ably, and cheerfully, accomplishes for the CLA.



Lending Library for Members

The CLA now has its own small collection of books available for interested readers among the membership. The books are categorized into Fiction, Non-fiction, Non-fiction/Reference.

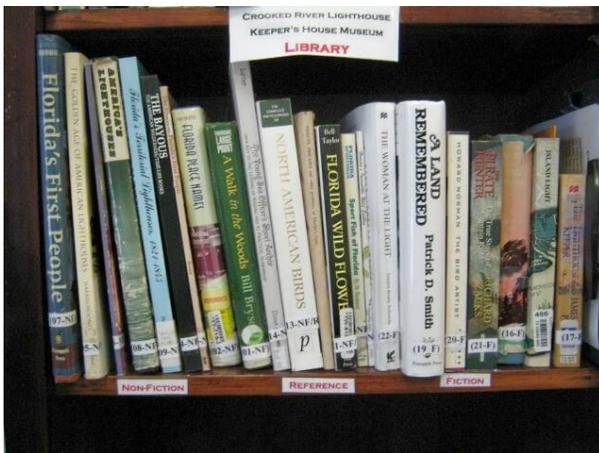
Reference books may be read in the museum; they are not available for lending.

The fiction collection includes tales of lighthouses and keepers, pirates, and even some old local history.

The reference section has works related to lighthouses, Florida and its history, inhabitants, plants and more.

We will gladly accept donations of books in these categories, or anything pertinent to lighthouses, life in Florida, nature and environment, and maritime themes.

Stop by the Keeper's House Museum and have a look!



Through the lens...looking back

In 2013, we learned a lot about our lighthouse's history, and more about the daily lives of the early keepers.

In August, Gale Warren, grandson of the first assistant keeper, William Henry Harrison "Tip" Warner, paid us another visit. After his first visit in 2012, he had mailed us documents and a photograph of his grandfather, which are now part of the history room display. On his most recent visit, he purchased a series of memorial bricks for his family, beginning with Tip, and following the line down to Tip's great-great-great grandsons, Henry W. Rayboun and Jesse F. Warren V.

In addition, He gave us a collection of news clippings that Tip had saved from the New York



Herald in 1896 and 97, featuring tales of the U.S. Lifesaving Service, as well as articles on nautical themes, and the prevailing news of the time, the "strained relations" with Spain. A letter to the Editor from a Carrabelle man in 1898 was preserved as well. It shows the concern Tip and other keepers may have been feeling at the time. Blocker's letter called for "two forts located on either side of East Pass with modern guns would command and protect all this section of country..." Fortunately, the fears that Spanish ships would "steam through the pass" were never realized.

All of these yellowing clippings, a few letters and other documents, are preserved and stored in the flat file that Curator Joan Matey procured for us in September.

Following Gale's visit, a day or two later, his daughter and grandson (the



Rayboun family) came by to "see where great grandpa worked."

In October, CLA vice-president Lesley Cox was asked by Madeleine Carr to participate in an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class offering in the Maguire Auditorium at Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee. "Of course my topic was the Crooked River Lighthouse," Cox said. "I began with the Hurricane of 1873 that destroyed the Dog Island lighthouse for the third time and led to the 1889 Lighthouse Board request to build a new light on the mainland." The account of the hurricane was taken from a November 1902 news clipping from the Times, which was one of the first old documents that Gale Warren passed along to us.

All the clippings, letters, and other documents are available for viewing in the Museum during open hours.

Lantern Fest 2013

Lantern Workshops: Glowing Success!



This year, in preparation for Lantern Fest, along with our guest artist Perdita Ross' clever jellyfish

lanterns, Delores and Laurel decided to expand the design possibilities, and hosted two more workshops, each presenting a different type of handcraft.

Delores, in her search for simple yet interesting designs, discovered the geometric "slider" designs that look simple,

but are deceptively difficult to master! An enthusiastic group was not defeated by the challenge, and



had a good time assembling their creations.

Laurel decided on tissue papier-mâché formed over plastic drink bottles of assorted shapes and sizes, cut and glued together to form flower shapes. Time-consuming preparation made this impractical to do from the start in one workshop, so pre-made forms were provided, and the participants' creativity did



the rest. A beautiful floral collection joined the flowing jellyfish and geometric orbs in our crafted

lantern display.

We'll do it again in 2014; watch for the announcement at the end of summer!

Our Lantern Fest 2013 was so full of things to do, see and hear that it is hard to include them all.

Along with the usual tower climbs, we had great

food at the "cafe" in the pavilion, exhibits and a silent auction in the museum/gift shop, a fantastic undersea display in the under the ship area, lantern making and games for the kids on the porch, ancient craft demonstrations (blacksmithing and candle dipping); some local vendors and organizations were also invited to set up tables, and lots of entertainment was provided on the ship stage. The Killavil Irish Band played several sets; there was a reading of "The Keeper of the Dog Island Light;" and a performance by Theater with a Mission. Last but not least, we all enjoyed a great performance by the TCC Dance Company.



Thanks to Rod Gasche for the photos.

Our Visitors

The final chapter of 2013 was played out here with a wide variety of visitors big and small, old and young. Some of the memorable are introduced here...

In early September, Chris Petsch, who grew up in Carrabelle, joined the National Guard and married before moving, stopped by while visiting his mother, CLA member Lisa Munson, and brought his little girl, Jules, to see the lighthouse. While Jules was too small to climb, she did enjoy having her picture taken as "the littlest keeper."



Later the same day, our neighbor Grayson Riner (pink house across Hwy 98) came by with an old piece of iron he found while building a new seawall for his property. Encrusted with corals and algae, the remnant was found in the path of the original lighthouse dock, and he believed it may have been part of the structure. Curator Joan Matey has it in the artifacts collection, and is trying to determine its former use.



Later in the month, Laurel Newman was gifted with a surprise visit from some of her family, Jamie Rudd and Trevor Newman (far left), and step-daughter Tiffany Newman, and older sons Tristen and Troy.



The older boys climbed the lighthouse with Jamie, and then conquered the pirate ship.

Early in October, the Keeper's House Museum building experienced a positive invasion of katydids! The bright green leafy-winged hoppers seemed to be



attracted to the bright white woodwork of the railings, deck ceiling, and walls. Visitors were often sidetracked taking photos of the pretty creatures, instead of the main attraction!



On October 5, a long-planned honeymoon surprise was accomplished! Chris Nelson had called the Museum months in advance, told us his plans, and ordered a brick for his wife-to-be, Belinds. The brick was received and installed the week before they

made their trip. Chris brought Belinda to see and read her brick (left) and was rewarded with this reaction! (right)



After the honeymooners climbed the lighthouse, shopped, and moved on to the next adventure, a man was observed wading through the waves of coreopsis in the meadow alongside the driveway near the highway.

He was picking handfuls of the golden flowers, constantly seeming to make the decision, "just one more bunch..." It turned out to be local resident Ray Tyre, who had been reminded by the flood of flowers that he had yet to get an anniversary gift for his wife. "I just had to get some," he said, "she loves these wildflowers. Didn't mean to be trespassing..." After being assured that he was welcome to the blooms, he finished off his bouquet with a couple of perky fern fronds.



The pirate ship "Carrabella" always attracts local pirate crews, and on a Sunday in October, the "perfect storm" of pirate crews all arrived on the same day. "Captain" River Sheridan, (right) promptly recruited the rambunctious duo Jack and Joey O for the day's adventures. While their parents chatted and enjoyed their children's creative play, the pirate ship and fort were captured once again.



Twins Ava and Zoe Everett have the dubious distinction of being the smallest climbers ever caught sneaking up the lighthouse. Their father came and apologized profusely afterwards, but the girls were unrepentant. They have since returned for their birthday party, and dutifully obeyed the rules. Maybe next year, they will climb with approval.



Obviously, we have fun with our visitors! We never know who's going to show up...but we do know it will be enjoyable for all...come see us soon, and bring the family!

There be PIRATES here!

On Saturday, January 18, the good ship *Carrabella* in the Crooked River Lighthouse Park in Carrabelle was captured by a band of pirates, a.k.a. the Capital Chordsmen's Barbershop Harmony Chorus .

Members of the group, in full pirate regalia, (think "Pirates of the Caribbean") were on site to shoot promotional stills for their upcoming presentation of "Heigh Ho – It's a Barbershop Harmony Show" at Tallahassee Community College Turner Auditorium on Saturday, June 14.

The group became aware of the "pirate ship" when Jody Jacobsen, wife of chapter president Steve Jacobsen, heard of it through the Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce on one of her frequent trips to the town for business meetings.

"I knew it would be the perfect setting for the promotional pictures for this show," she said Saturday.

The Chordsmen were enjoying their roles as pirates, and a chorus of "Aaargh!" was frequently heard echoing from the ship's deck during the shoot.

Before leaving for their return to Tallahassee, the group formed up on the lighthouse steps and treated Lighthouse Museum staffers to a harmonized rendition of "Shine on Me."

And a fine tune it was, mates.



The museum has many items available for loan and Ken is arranging for Curator Arlyn Daniels to meet with the curators of Florida lighthouses.



Arlene and I did the keynote presentation of the video done by Joan Matey and Kathy Swaggerty about the moving and restoration of our wash house. Everyone seemed to love it and they snapped up the Lantern Fest postcards we brought. After lunch, we were able to climb the lighthouse and enjoy the surrounding park.



Florida Lighthouse Association Meetings

Delores Hardin

On October 12, 2013 John and Patsy Canetta, Arlene Oehler and I attended the FLA meeting at Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. Grant awards were made to Egmont Key, Anclote Key, Fowey Rocks and Jupiter Lighthouse. FLA President Ken Smith did a slide presentation on his visit to the Coast Guard Museum in Maryland.

On Jan. 24-25, 2014 Joan Matey and I attended the FLA meeting at Amelia Island Lighthouse. John and Patsy Canetta were there, too.



Joan was able to meet with Coast Guard Museum Curator Arlyn Daniels and other Florida Lighthouse museum curators. I foresee good things coming to Florida lighthouses from this.



The beautiful lens.

Membership and Memorial Bricks:

Thanks to all members for the response to my letter to return to or renew your membership. To date, seventeen members have responded and three have been returned by the Post Office as unable to forward.

Memberships will now be for the calendar year, January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2014. This should make it easier to remember so please renew now for 2014.

A form is attached for your convenience. Please make sure to include your email address if you would like to receive your newsletter and other notices by email.

I would also like to welcome Ken Reynolds, Missy Cumbie, Kathleen Oman, and Jim and Jeannie Newton as new members. Some of them have already pitched in and volunteered to help at the Lighthouse. Thank you for your support. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association is also recognizing several members with a lifetime membership for their dedication and hard work. They are David and Eugenia Butler, John and Patsy Canetta, Jimmy and Peggy Higgins, Laurel Newman, Ben and Barbara Revell, Mary Ann Shields and Ruth Varner. We thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do.

Please keep in mind that volunteers are always needed at Crooked River Lighthouse.

Since July twelve new bricks have been ordered. Eight of these have been placed and four are yet to be delivered. If you have not had a chance to see our updated brick walk, please stop and let us know what you think. We always appreciate suggestions. **Remember the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association when shopping for a lasting Christmas present. A membership would last a year and a memorial brick for always!**

Sharon Rider, Vice-President: Membership and Memorial Bricks



The mayor of Port St. Joe was there to tell us about the moving of the Cape San Blas lighthouse station. They were able to get a much reduced cost by

breaking the work into separate projects. There was talk of having the next FLA meeting in Port St. Joe.

We were honored to have the opportunity to climb the Amelia Island Lighthouse and see their beautiful third order lens with 12 bull's-eyes. It is Florida's oldest lighthouse and has dual walls that are four feet thick at the bottom and two feet thick at the top. It was built in 1839 with bricks re-used from the Cumberland Island Lighthouse. It has 69 granite steps that are steep and difficult to climb. The light is rarely opened for visitors.



