



Crooked River Lighthouse

Carrabelle Lighthouse Association

PO Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322
850-697-2732
Summer 2015

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

2015-16 Officers Elected



L to R top: Don Rider, VP Bricks/Membership; Missy Cumbie, Executive VP; Steve Allen, President. L to R bottom: Sharon Rider, Secretary; Rodney Reeves, Historian; Delores Hardin, Treasurer; not shown, Lesley Cox, VP Public Relations/meetings

Crooked River Lighthouse Research

In our last newsletter, John Canetta told us about the Jan. 11 visit of Candace Clifford who we have contracted with to do research on Crooked River Lighthouse at the National Archives.

John is still working on going through the many pages of documents she found, but she did answer his most burning question right away. [Our lighthouse was manufactured by Tacony Iron and Metal Company of Philadelphia, PA.](#)

New Keeper's Log

We also told you in our last newsletter about the work that Don Rider did with Mr. Knappenberger to make sure that our light keeps shining. Don is now keeping a log of all work done on the light so we will have an accurate record of what work has been done and when maintenance is next due.

Walking Trail and Benches

St. James Bay Golf Resort was kind enough to donate several bales of pine straw for our new walking trail in the park. We are working slowly to develop the trail and Chester Reese is going to install some benches along the path so visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery and the wildlife. I'm looking forward to sitting under our mulberry tree.



Riverfront Festival Booth

Delores Hardin did a fundraiser booth at the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival for the lighthouse. She sold items from our gift shop and gave away lots of lighthouse brochures and free climb tickets.

Camp Gordon Johnston Day Swap Meet

The annual Camp Gordon Johnston Day celebration this year included a swap meet. Delores Hardin did a "yard sale" booth and sold items donated by our lighthouse association members. She was able to raise \$95 for the lighthouse.

Tigers Internship Program Cut

We are very sad to announce that, due to budget cuts we have lost our wonderful young intern, Gerald Messer. He was a great help to us and we truly do miss him terribly.

A letter to our members from our new CLA President Steve Allen

Recently, I was honored to be selected as President of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association (Crooked River Lighthouse). When I moved here, 15 years ago, I remember attending my first Crooked River Lighthouse meeting. I especially remember the incredibly spry Ruth Varner. Her boundless energy and the twinkle in her eye revealed a deep passion for the Crooked River Lighthouse and I came to learn that her leadership and tireless effort were a critical part of building the membership and support that continues today with the Crooked River Lighthouse Association.

Since that meeting, the lens was relit as a private aid to navigation and a replica of an original light keeper's house was erected to host a museum and gift shop. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association's fundraising efforts combined with support from the city and additional grant funds added adjacent property and relocated and restored the original wash house to the site.

In addition, park improvements and expansion has continued to grow the modern presence of the Crooked River Lighthouse Park.

Today the Crooked River Lighthouse shines again as a beacon of pride and dedicated effort of many volunteers.

Each year the Lighthouse through its volunteers, hosts a sublime celebration among the pines trees commemorating the lighthouse's birthday.

Attendees at Lantern Fest and visitors throughout the year take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about our local maritime history and to climb the historic steel tower and behold its breath taking vistas from this faceted jewel of the forgotten coast.

Who knew that the efforts of a small but passionate and intentional group of volunteers could accomplish so much? I think that Ruth would be so proud. The challenges ahead will require a similar level of passion and dedication.

The rebuilding of the "Carrabella", recently lost to fire and the continued development and restoration of the historic and cultural resources will undoubtedly continue and I am delighted to lead the effort for the coming year.

Join us, and let's continue to shine as a beacon of effort and steadfastness. Together, there is much to accomplish.

Best Regards,



Steven W. Allen



The Day *The Carrabella* Burned

Laurel Newman

On Sunday, May 10, I arrived at the Keeper's House Museum at about 11:25 a.m. I came early in order to balance the cash register for the week, before the day's business began at noon. As I opened the shutters, I looked around the park to see if there were any early visitors, or playgrounders about. I didn't see a soul, and even though I looked, did not see any discarded cans, bottles, cups, or other trash I usually have to go retrieve from around the playground and throw away in the bin. All was quiet. Quiet for about fifteen minutes, when a loud pounding on the front door roused me to find a man shouting at me, "You have a heck of a big fire out here!"



It was a horrific sight : the lovely Carrabella engulfed, stem to stern, in roaring flames, eagerly feeding on the brisk southerly breeze. I called 911 while showing the man and his companion (I never did get their names) where the hose was located. The 911 operator informed me that she had already dispatched police and fire units, and that they would arrive shortly. This was at about 11:55 am, I believe.



Carrabelle Police Officer Amber Cardwell and Chief Kincaid arrived a few minutes later, among a growing number of neighbors and visitors, all shocked by the inferno they were witnessing. I called then-president of the CLA, Delores Hardin, and told her what was happening. She arrived shortly after.

The Carrabelle Volunteer Fire Department finally came on the scene, but by then, it was obvious that the ship had been lost. The firefighters quickly contained the blaze, saving the residence behind the lighthouse from also catching fire.



Later, our surveillance videos proved to be of little help in determining the identity of the culprit. Between obsolete equipment, poor quality imaging, and impossibly long downloading times, little progress has yet been made in gaining more information through enhancement of the available images.

Community reaction ranged from angry outrage to tearful questions of "Why/How could anyone do something so awful?" No answers to that, but the common reaction WAS to promise to help us rebuild. Consequences began soon after, with the Franklin County School canceling its annual 6th grade field trip because of the ship's loss. It did not, however, stop Tallahassee's Gilchrist Academy Summer Camp field trip a couple of weeks later.

Please visit our Facebook page (search for Crooked River Lighthouse) or our web page at www.crookedriverlighthouse.or to find a link to our gofundme account information for the "Rebuild the Carrabella" fund (GoFundMe.com/wkrhm8). Look for plastic jars at area stores for the "Coins for the Carrabella" campaign, too.

Annual Coastal Blessing

We had a lovely day on May 31 for the annual Coastal Blessing and several of the local clergy participated. Each asked for a quiet hurricane season and safe passage for local seafarers. Afterward, tea, cake and cookies were enjoyed by all.



L to R: Pastor Ron Barks and his wife of the Assembly of God Church, Pastor Byron Sherman and his wife of the First Baptist Church, Rodney Reeves who read a Native American prayer and Mother Phoebe of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence

Tripadvisor has awarded a 2015 Certificate of Excellence to Crooked River Lighthouse based on favorable ratings from our visitors. Thank you to all who took the time to give us a positive rating.

Quilt Donated for Fundraiser



L to R: Peggy Kight, and Othelia Clark, Vice President of the Quilt Guild with Missy Cumbie, CLA vice president and Steve Allen, CLA president

On Tuesday, July 7, 2015 the Lanark Village Wandering Star Quilt Guild presented a beautiful hand stitched bowtie quilt to the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. Annually, the Guild selects an organization to receive a quilt to support their work in the community. The quilters also donate their finely crafted creations to hospice and local veterans.

The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association will be selling raffle tickets for the quilt, with the goal of raising \$1,000 to be added to the funds raised for rebuilding the recently burned Pirate Ship Carrabella playground at Crooked River Lighthouse Park. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00 and will be available at the lighthouse museum or purchased from members of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association.

For local CLA members, we have envelopes of raffle tickets ready at the lighthouse museum. Please stop in and pick up an envelope of tickets to sell and/or purchase for yourself. Instructions are on the envelope. The person who sells the most raffle tickets will win a lovely reversible tote bag.

For those who don't live nearby, you can send a check to Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, PO Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322. We will put your name and phone number on your tickets and include them in the drawing. We plan to draw the winning ticket at the end of the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge on Lighthouse Day in April 2016.

Dance Company Donation

The Tallahassee Community College Dance Company has been an extremely popular part of our annual Lantern Fest celebration for years. They have also been great supporters of the lighthouse, coming to events early, helping us set things up and even bringing cake. They loved our Pirate Ship Carrabella and decided that they had to try to help us bring her back. What they decided to do was to donate part of the proceeds from their next concert toward the fund to rebuild the Carrabella. The performance was on Friday, July 31. Thank you, dancers!

Our Visitors

Our visitors continue to surprise us; each brings something different to share.

On March 20, the first day of spring, the United States Lighthouse Society tour group led by Mike Boucher arrived for an afternoon of lighthouse climbing, passport stamping, souvenir shopping, and general “lighthouse gossip”. There were about thirty members in the tour group; it made for a pleasant, busy afternoon.



On Easter Sunday, April 5, (ordinarily a slow day at the lighthouse) descendants of the Sink family came by for their annual visit. Russell and Glova Sink purchased the original keeper’s and assistant keeper’s houses back in 1964, had them moved to their present location a couple of miles west of the lighthouse and lived in one of them until the mid 1980’s. This year, grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoyed the park and the pirate ship.



Later in April, on the 26th, there were two very different sorts of visitors. First, Julie Stephens, a local lady and long-time lighthouse friend, came by “on a

mission.” The former pastor of Carrabelle Methodist Church had been entrusted with a special friend of her granddaughter, and Miss Julie was bringing him on a lighthouse excursion. The friend was



introduced: Flat Stanley, whose own mission was to return to his friend with a collection of pictures of places he visits in our town. Miss Julie happily posed him at the lighthouse door, and at the keeper’s desk, wearing the hat for the picture. (Flat Stanley insisted.)

Later that same day, we were happy to receive a visit from Tom Mason and the Blue Buccaneers, last seen here at Carrabelle Riverfront Festival. Mason wrote the prize-winning song for the Lantern Fest song competition last year, “ Shine, Crooked River, Shine.” The band was happy to climb the tower, and Mason even bought a membership, and promised to return for our next Lantern Fest celebration.



**Carrabelle Lighthouse Association
Membership Application**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

(You will receive only membership news)

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

Please indicate type of membership.

_____ \$15 / NEW MEMBER (INDIVIDUAL)

_____ \$12 / RENEWAL (INDIVIDUAL)

_____ \$25 / FAMILY _____ \$22 / RENEWAL

_____ \$100 / BUSINESS

_____ \$250 or more - GUARDIAN of the LIGHT

*Please make checks payable to:
Carrabelle Lighthouse Association*

Mail this form to:

**CLA
P.O. BOX 373
Carrabelle, FL 32322**

A membership card will be sent to you that will entitle you (as individual card bearer) to free climbs of the lighthouse for one year.

A family membership will also receive one membership card, which will entitle free climbing for one year for family members living in the same household (not to exceed 5).

A business membership will receive one membership card. Anyone with proof of their employment with your business will be entitled to free climbing for the year.

**YOU can help create a brick walkway at
historic Crooked River Lighthouse Park**

Inscribed brick pavers, **8" X 4"**, will form a walkway at the Crooked River Lighthouse Park.

Would you like to remember a family member or a relative? A local business can express involvement in the community by placing a brick paver in its name.

For a **\$40.00** tax deductible contribution, you can have your name or the name of a friend or family member inscribed on an **8" X 4"** brick paver on the Crooked River Lighthouse Park walkway which will connect the Keeper's House Museum to the historic Crooked River Lighthouse.*

Make check payable to the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association.

Please print the inscription clearly with capital letters on the 3 lines provided. There is a 20 space maximum per line. This includes space between each word and name.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone# _____

Number of bricks ordered: _____

Total Amount enclosed: _____

Completed order forms and payments can be sent to Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322

*There is also a 12" X 12" brick paver available for \$80.00. Call (850) 697-2732 or write to the above address to receive information regarding the 12" X 12" paver.