A Very Good Year at the Crooked River Lighthouse!

2016 has been a good year for the Lighthouse and for the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. We've been busy and keep our small crew of volunteers hopping. In the spring, we expanded our "open" hours to include Wednesdays. We are now open Wednesday through Sunday, 12pm – 5pm. This creates more opportunities for visitors to the area to see our beautiful Lighthouse.

Annual Coastal Blessing

May 29th, the day hurricane season begins, Church leaders from Carrabelle area climbed to the top of the lighthouse to say a prayer. The blessings are for safety and protection from the storms that come this way during hurricane season. Joan Matey read the Native American prayer. Following the Blessing, a reception was held in the Keepers House for the participants and guests. It was a beautiful day.

Quilt Winner!

Friday, May 13th, turned out to be a lucky day for Ken Reynolds of Lanark Village, shown here with Joan Matey, happily wrapped in the bowtie quilt, which was generously provided to us for the raffle by the Lanark Village Quilt Guild. The winning ticket was drawn by Wanda Mayo, our North Florida representative of the Florida Lighthouse Association, who stopped by to invite our members to the next FLA meeting, to be held in Mayport, and to catch up on the latest news here at Crooked River. We would like to thank all those who purchased tickets, you helped us raise over $700 for the "Rebuild the Carrabella" fund!

Shown at the top of the Lighthouse:
Pastor Byron Sherman of the First Baptist Church, Joan Matey, Carrabelle Lighthouse Curator, Pastor Ron Barks of the Assembly of God church, Mother Phoebe of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, and Pastor Mark Collins of the Carrabelle Christian Center.
Carrabella Fund Growing
The efforts to raise funds to replace our beautiful lost pirate ship continue. Kathleen Oman’s “Coins for Carrabella” jars are still bringing a steady flow of funds into the account, visitors to the museum and gift shop almost always leave a little something in the jar, and generous donations still pop up in the mail. To date, we have raised $9,253.50 towards our new ship.
We are planning to move ahead soon but first, we are seeking any possible grant funds that can be added to the amount already donated. We want the new ship to be the best one we can build!

Crab Cake Cook-off!
The First Crab Cake Cook-Off for the Carrabella was an unqualified success! Organized by our energetic volunteer Kathleen Oman, the Cook-Off was held at the Marine Street Grill, located in the Harry’s Bar courtyard in Carrabelle. Four chefs contributed their skills; Jon Johnson, Sid McOmie, Joe Brown, and host Sean O’Shea, who was unable to attend due to the birth of his daughter that morning. O’Shea appointed a proxy chef in his place.

Local merchants were generous with their donations of door prizes, and many friends, members and restaurant patrons purchased door prize tickets, as well as participating in the crab cake judging.
Coast Line publisher Chuck Spicer stepped up as announcer, his stentorian voice easily rising above the din of conversation, music, and general hilarity.

Michael Allen, Oyster Radio host, attended with his family.

After the many door prizes were given to lucky winners, event organizer Kathleen Oman counted the “votes”: variously colored toothpicks, one color for each entry.
Once counted, the vote was in: Sid McOmie won, with Jon Johnson coming a close second.
We had our very first wedding at Crooked River Lighthouse on the evening of August 20. The bride and groom are Deanna and Gagan Mittal. We want to thank Keisha Messer for officiating, Rod Gasche for taking photographs, Sally Crown for baking the cake, Laurel Newman for help with decorating, and Kathy Swaggerty for providing the music.

On Sunday, Mar 13, our past-president/current Treasurer Delores Hardin and (retired) historian John Canetta installed our new "OPEN" banner at the top of the driveway on Highway 98! It draws attention to the entrance at Barbara Revell Drive, and visitors have remarked on how easy it is to spot 'where to turn'!

The Florida Channel Features The Crooked River Lighthouse
The Florida Channel came to the Lighthouse on June 13th to do some filming for their series on Florida Lighthouses. Check out the program at this address: http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/florida-lights-crooked-river-lighthouse/

Delores Hardin and Steve Allen did a great job on the show!

Full Moon Climbing
The "supermoon" of Monday, November 14th, dubbed the "Beaver Moon" because it falls at a time of the year when American settlers ahead of the biggest full moon supermoon moon reaches its closest point to the Earth along the elliptical orbit, object to look and brighter inusual.
Lantern Fest Season Begins with Fun
This year's Lantern Making Workshops were outstanding! Participants were able to express their creativity making lanterns that added to the magical atmosphere of Lantern Fest.

There were three workshops with three different lantern styles and all of them fun! Carrabell Artist Association sponsored a workshop at Rio Carrabelle.

Lantern Fest 2016
Always a Magical Night!
The 2016 Crooked River Lighthouse Lantern Fest was Saturday, October 22, 6-10 pm. The highlight of the festival was a play based on a shipwreck on our Forgotten Coast in 1766. Also featured were musicians, Michael Pace, Christy Crandall & Charles Wilkinson; the dazzling TCC Dancers; Moonlight Tower Climbs; Candle Dipping and Ancient Crafts; Star Gazing with the Tallahassee Astronomers Club; Children's Activities; Enchanting Glowing Lantern Display; Museum and Gift Shop Open; and Good Food and Desserts!

.....but first our Volunteers shine
As the writer, director and actor playing Pierre Viaud, the lives of the victims of the shipwreck came to life at Lantern Fest.

The play starred Melanie Humble, River Sheridan, Richard McLean, Bob Inguagiato, Don Denig, Scot Wilson, Richard Fravel, Cal Allen and Jeff Ilardi. Musicians were Michael Pace, Christy Crandall and Charlie Wilkinson. In addition to Joan Matey as the stage manager, there was a huge group of volunteers helping with costumes, sets, sound, lights, chairs, props, make-up and projections.

The Play

1776: Shipwrecked on Dog Island

With an ancient tale, “Shipwreck and Adventures of Monsieur Pierre Viaud”, researched by Professor Robin Fabel, and the first Lantern Fest drama, “Disaster on Dog Island; the Wreck of Le Tigre” by Caroline Hatchell Ilardi, Don Denig was able to add his own touch of creativity and write the new drama.
The heart of Lantern Fest is the volunteers who donate their time and talents to making the night special. It is their gift to the community and to all the fans of the Crooked River Lighthouse.
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

Memberships run for the calendar year. Renewals after October 15th will include the following year.
A membership card will be sent to you that will entitle you (the individual) to free climbs
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 (up to 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 the **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.

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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.