



Crooked River Lighthouse

Carrabelle Lighthouse Association

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A message from our CLA president

If you have driven past the lighthouse park in the last six months, you may have noticed some changes happening to the site. Hopefully, over the next six you will see even more as we continue to make some site improvements. By thinning some of the trees, we revealed our beloved lighthouse tower and keeper's house for better vistas from the land and sea, not to mention US98. Interesting enough, we have had several Carrabelle residents visit for the first time and comment that they knew we (Carrabelle) had a lighthouse but were never sure where it was. This took us aback but confirmed that the decision made by the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association was well founded.



I guess, sometimes, you start on a project like this and it invigorates you and you discover other improvements and issues that require attention. This is the case at the Crooked River Lighthouse. We are currently pursuing projects that will improve signage and landscaping, plus cleaning and repairing some of the existing site elements. We are in the process of creating a vision and management plan that will guide us through these efforts.

Many of you know about the loss of the "Carrabella", the grand pirate ship playground, to fire a little over two years ago. We have had a

great year raising funds for its replacement. We had identified a local community fund raising goal of 10k and began 2017 just a bit shy of that goal. We identified several fundraising activities and our wonderful volunteers went to work. Not only did we reach it, we have nearly doubled it.

We want to specifically note the generous contribution of Harry's Bar and Grill on Marine Street who contributed some "loose" change they had hanging around. Nearly \$3,400 were removed from the walls, ceilings and counters by our volunteers. This money had been stapled and tacked by patrons over the last fifty years. Thanks, to all.

Our new Carrabella fund is 18k and growing. This combined with the insurance from the City of Carrabelle and the fund has grown to above 50k. All I can say is "Wow" and "Argh". We identified the new location for the ship and are now working on a conceptual plan for the "Carrabella 2.0" and hope to leverage the 50k and community volunteers to rebuild this treasure. Stay tuned, good things are happening.

The efforts of a small but passionate and intentional group of volunteers can accomplish so much. I think that the late Ruth Varner, one of the founders of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association would be very proud.

Thanks in advance, for your many contributions to our effort to maintain and improve our historic Crooked River Lighthouse. Together, we will ensure that this beacon and its community will shine for years to come.

Best Regards,

Steven W. Allen

Annual Coastal Blessing

May 28th, the day hurricane season begins, Church leaders from Carrabelle area came to the Crooked River Lighthouse to offer prayers for our 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.

◆ Harry's Dirty Money



Our good friends at Harry's Bar in Carrabelle decided to do some remodeling and offered us a great opportunity to remove the old bills that had been tacked up on their walls for the past many years. It took our crew of volunteers about 3 days work to take it down and about the same amount of time to clean, sort and count the bills. Some were so damaged they had to be sent to the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Mutilated Bills Department.

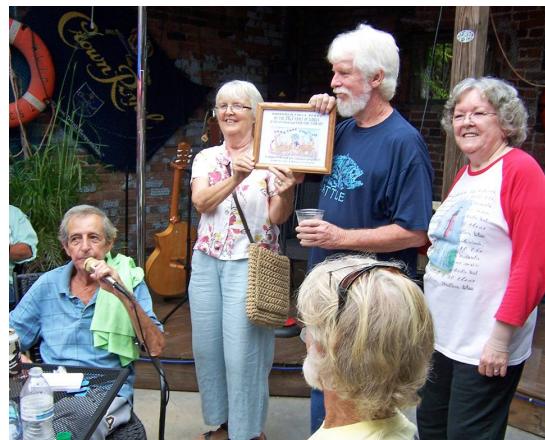


Crab Cake Cook-off! July 29

The second annual Crab Cake Cook-Off was an astounding success! Held again at the Marina Grill in the courtyard at Harry's Bar in Carrabelle, seven cooks (Jon Johnson, Sid McOmie, Beth Knowlton Petit, Two Bros Restaurant, Marine Street Grill, Selina Winchester, and Barbie Everett) vied for the title of Cook-Off winner with their own special versions of crab cake. Provided with specially-priced crab from Millender's Seafood, the proud chefs lined up their creations along the sideboard, and the crowd (there was a REAL crowd this year) eagerly lined up to sample the fare.



Meanwhile, tables laden with a variety of attractive items tempted everyone to bid on the assorted artwork, crafts, tableware and gift certificates donated by local merchants for a silent auction. With background music from blues guitarist Slim Fatz, the event was once again cheerfully emceed by Chuck Spicer, who provided wryly humorous commentary while calling out ticket numbers for the many door prizes.



Finally, all the food was consumed, and the judges (Mayor Brenda LaPaz was one of them) made their decision, and the votes for the People's Choice were tallied.

This year, Jon Johnson received the Judge's Choice award, while Sid McOmie (last year's winner) took home the People's Choice prize.



When all was added up, this year's cook-off netted the Carrabella Fund a whopping \$1,132!

Delores Hardin presented Harry's Bar with a certificate of appreciation for their generous donation and continuing support of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association.



1766: Shipwrecked on Dog Island

The play: "1766: Shipwrecked on Dog Island" by Don Denig had its first indoor performance on Memorial Day weekend as a benefit for the Crooked River Lighthouse. Actors from the Panhandle Players did a fantastic job of portraying the challenging roles of the 18th century French travelers.



We want to thank the actors, director, cast and crew; those who bought tickets and made donations; and those who volunteered or supported our efforts. Thanks also go to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Lantern Workshops



The star lantern workshop at Rio Carrabelle was a great hit and some beautiful stars were made. A big thank you goes to Aurora Hansen and the Filipino American Society of Tallahassee.



Our other two lantern workshops were paper lantern designs and beaded jar lanterns.



Lantern Fest

Lantern Fest 2017 was another one for the record! Great attendance, combined with two popular entertainment shows gave us one of our best-ever events.



The three Irish siblings who form Killavil gave two memorable performances, presenting traditional ballads and even taking audience requests. As always, the fresh and lively tunes were enthusiastically received by the audience, most of whom stayed for the second set!

Relieving the band, the Tallahassee Community College dancers took over the stage in the first of two energetic performances, thrilling onlookers with their energy and grace as they performed their stunning dance routines.



The later show featured their trademark “glow in the dark” effects, mesmerizing as always.



And of course we celebrated the lighthouse's birthday with a cake.



Something new was added this year. The kids from the ABC school (Apalachicola Bay Charter school) made quite a collection of lanterns that were on display in the wash house.



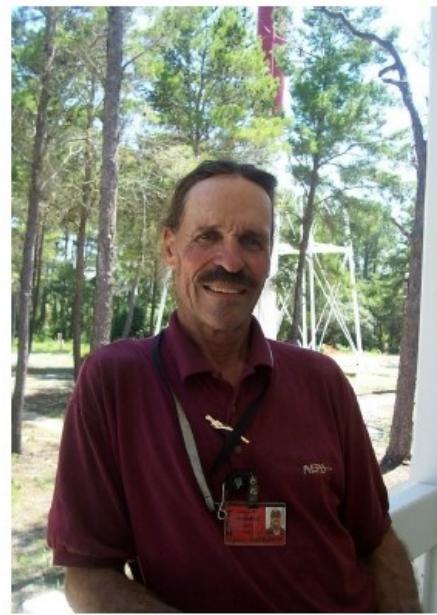
When all was over, and counted up, a record setting gate had been collected, and over 70 tower climbs for the evening!



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.

Our thanks also go to Duke Energy, Franklin County Tourist Development Council, Carrabelle Junction (good coffee), the kitchen crew from the Senior Center in Carrabelle(our food vendor) and last but not least, Sally Crown and the other bakers of goodies who supplied our Beacon Bistro.

Gregory Newman



To the members of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, Laurel Newman is our "Lighthouse Lady." She is always here working with our volunteers and answering questions about the history of the lighthouse and the Carrabelle area. Her husband, Gregory Newman, was Carrabelle's "Mr. Airport." He was always there working, lending a hand or flying around.

The Newmans have lived, worked and volunteered in the Carrabelle area for many years. Greg was flying his little yellow plane near the Carrabelle airport when he had engine trouble and crashed into the forest. A few hours later, he died at the hospital in Tallahassee.

He will be honored at a memorial service on February 18 at the Carrabelle Christian Family Life Center at 1:30 pm.



We apologize to our members for the delay in getting a newsletter out to you. Our newsletter is a team effort produced by Laurel Newman, Delores Hardin, and Kathy Swaggerty and we have all had family/health issues this past year.

We get our pictures from several sources. This time we'd like to thank Sheri Wesson and Carrabelle Mayor Brenda LaPaz.



