

Crooked River Lighthouse

Carrabelle Lighthouse Association

PO Box 373, Carrabelle, FL 32322
850-697-2732
Summer 2013

Visit our Website: crookedriverlighthouse.org

Email: lighthouse2@fairpoint.net

Come visit Crooked River Lighthouse on facebook

President's Message

Hey, Crooked River Lighthouse fans!

My name is Delores Hardin and I am honored and excited to be the new president of the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. The next couple of years will be a period of growth and change for us and I am very glad to be part of the team that will help make it all happen. I think our new officers will bring lots of positive energy to our organization.

Sharon Rider is our new Vice-President for Membership. She will keep our membership records and is developing plans for recruiting new members. Sharon will also be in charge of brick orders and other fund-raising projects. She is a bundle of energy and chock full of great ideas.

Lesley Cox is our new Vice-President for Special Events and Public Relations. She will be working with Curator Joan Matey on Lantern Fest and other events and promotions. She will also continue as our webmaster and go-to computer person.

Kathy Swaggerty is our new Treasurer. We have been working together on the lighthouse accounts and she has already made some great suggestions and asked some important questions. I just love that!

Arlene Oehler is our new Secretary - a job for which she has plenty of experience and knowledge. We couldn't ask for a better person to keep good records of our meetings and keep us calm if we get carried away.

John Canetta continues as our Historian. He is excited about getting a chance to work on research with a person at the National Archives. It would be wonderful if he could find the answers to many of our questions about the origins and history of our lighthouse. Who knows what he will discover?

Laurel Newman is still our museum/gift shop attendant, book purchasing agent and unofficial editor of our newsletter. She is also collaborating with Sharon Rider on

putting together a collection of short stories about the lighthouse and the local area, so if you have any interesting stories they can use please give them a call (697-2732), write or email – lighthouse2@fairpoint.net – or better yet, stop by and chat.

As you can see, we have a great team ready to get going on lots of new projects. One of the first changes you will notice this year is that we are rebuilding part of the white picket fence that used to be around the light station. We will start with just a short section in front of the museum.

We are also working on getting a temporary entrance sign so people will know we are here. We will do a more permanent sign after construction is completed on the pedestrian/bike path between the lighthouse and Carrabelle Beach Park as well as the Big Bend Scenic Byway kiosk that will be built in the park.

Curator Joan Matey will be developing displays for our historic wash house and getting signs made for it. She has some great programs lined up for Lantern Fest 2014.

We welcome our members' comments and suggestions so please come by, call or write to us. We would love to hear from you. Thank you for your support.



Delores Hardin and Lesley Cox



This is our new National Register of Historic Places plaque that has been installed next to the lighthouse on a piece of limestone.

Nelson Martin of Sopchoppy selected and prepared the limestone rock. He is an experienced exhibit builder and owner of Florida Thatching.

Our visitors

By Laurel Newman

We have an incredible assortment of visitors here at the Crooked River Lighthouse and Keeper's House Museum. Most of them fall into the expected categories of visitors from near and far, and local folks who visit often and love to show their own visitors "their" lighthouse park. But we also get the occasional unique traveler, or the older person revisiting a site memorable for its importance in his/her life, as well as the encounters with enthusiastic youngsters whose fascination with our lighthouse gives us hope for the future .

Presenting just a few of these, more to follow in future editions of the CLA Newsletter...

The St. Jude Walker

On May 6, a humid, overcast day, a rather scruffy individual wearing a blaze-orange vest walked down the driveway, with a wheeled cart in tow.

He settled down in the shade of the pavilion, where our intern, Gerald Messer, (standing base duty while visitors climbed) engaged him in conversation.

The young man, sweating in the heat, had a sign on the back of his vest, and a more detailed poster affixed to the back of his cart, advertising his walk to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Mario Landeras, originally from Los Angeles, California, was one year into an unsupported cross-country walk to raise awareness for childhood cancer research.

"I had spent a few months volunteering for children with life-threatening illness," he said, "but I wanted to do more, and the idea just sort of hit me one day, to walk, and talk." His original goal, beginning in May 2012, was to reach Portland, Maine, in one year, raising what money and awareness he could along the way. Although affiliated with St. Jude's Children's Hospital for the fund-raising effort, he

receives no support (aside from appreciation and encouragement) in his endeavor.

"A friend of mine in L.A.," he said, "offered to donate money for me not to do this. She was worried about me walking alone through the West. But I had no problems." Gerald asked Landeras how he had funded his travels so far. "Family and friends helped me get started," he said, "and my Facebook page address is on the sign, and there's a 'donate' button there.

People have been generous. So far, it's been grassroots fundraising, but lately I've been thinking of hitting some cities and trying for a bigger goal."



Mario Landeras at the base of the lighthouse after his climb

After talking with the visitors who had climbed the tower, one of those visitors came into the museum and donated a climb for Landeras, so he had the opportunity to see our spectacular view. We wish him luck and a safe journey on his mission.

A Painter Comes Back

On February 8 of this year, the Crooked River Lighthouse welcomed back an old acquaintance. Retired Coast Guardsman Jack Flaherty, who served aboard the USCG vessel Juniper, built in 1965.

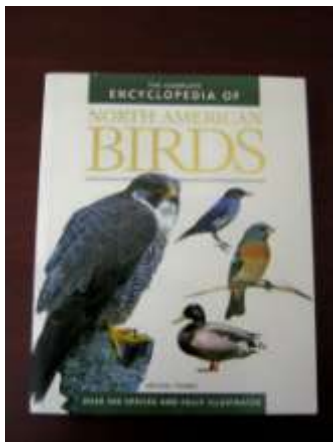
"I was assigned the duty of foreman over the crew who painted the lighthouse in about 1975," he said. "It took us about two weeks, and by the time we finished, the



Jack Flaherty, USCG (Ret.)

mosquitoes had about got all our blood," he chuckled. Flaherty was pleased to see the restoration and the Keeper's House Museum, saying that it "maintained a sense of the maritime history" he had always associated with his days in the Carrabelle area. Then he took command of the pirate ship and sailed away for a while...

Some of our frequent visitors, like Lydia and Rodney Cassidy, become CLA members. The Cassidys became members to take advantage of the family climbing privileges, and come from their Tallahassee home about once a month for their daughters to enjoy a day in the park with Grandma, while Lydia and Rodney pursue their avocation: bird-watching! Earlier this year, on one of their visits, they were very excited to spot a bird rare for this area at the time it was seen. After learning of the woeful lack of



knowledge of the Museum staff on the subject of bird identification, Lydia promised to donate a good reference book, and she was true to her word! The Crooked River Keeper's House Museum library now has our own copy of "The Complete Encyclopedia of North American Birds." It is only one of the many reference volumes on the shelves of our small collection.

Other frequent visitors are Jack and Joey, two small firecrackers disguised as children, who drag their good-natured father to the lighthouse park a couple of times a month from their home in Sopchoppy. Jack is interested in everything around him, liking to collect rocks, shells, and pine cones from the grounds, then proudly labeling them "fossils." He is also an accomplished artist for his mere seven years, and produced a work just for us on his latest visit in June.



Coastal Blessing 2013

On May 26, The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association hosted the third annual Coastal Blessing ceremony, (almost) coinciding with the onset of hurricane season, which officially began June 1st.

Pastor Ron Barks of the Assembly of God church, and Mother Phoebe of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, gave the blessings, alternately thanking the Almighty for the area's escape from the worst of the past season's weather, and asking for future safety from the storms the upcoming months will bring.



Pastor and Mrs. Ron Barks; Mother Phoebe; Dan Cox.

After the blessing, refreshments were shared, and all hope for another season without a major storm event.

Captain River's Film Debut

As anyone who has ever met him knows, our friend 'Captain' River Sheridan has a remarkable imagination, and expresses it through inventive stories about his favorite places, like the lighthouse and the "Carrabella."

On Sunday, March 10, our resident videographer-in-practice Kathy Swaggerty, met with Captain River (and his Mom) to attempt to capture some of these fanciful tales, told by the 'Captain' himself.



River and Kathy

Although not used to the camera, exhibiting uncharacteristic shyness, River soon loosened up once he was asked particular questions, and the (unedited) results show a new and different way of looking at our familiar lighthouse and park. The footage will be incorporated into a longer feature, which is in the editing process.

Wash House Update

Work has continued sporadically on the wash house restoration since the completion of the ramp and railings. Contractor Chester Reese is working on details now, like the new flashing and boxing of the eaves, as well as hardware for the doors. One new detail is the black cast iron star decoration mounted in the center of the lintel above the door, echoing the black star over the lighthouse door.



A new hasp for a padlock has been installed on the front door, and one of Chester's "finds", a brass pull handle, now serves the back inside exit door.



As a related project, Reese has also completed the repainting of the entire deck and railings around the Keeper's House, adding a truly "finished" aspect.

Field Trips are Fun

On Monday, May 13, the Franklin County School's sixth graders descended upon the Crooked River Lighthouse and Park excited for a day full of new experiences in learning, exercise, and fun.

About fifty students arrived by 9 a.m. and were divided into four groups for the day's adventures: Cutter Captains, Keepers, Coasties, and Life Savers.



The student groups attended a short class on optics, learning the principles of lighthouse lenses and how they function, hosted by Richard Reeves, and then enjoyed a guided tour of lighthouse history in the museum, from curator Joan Matey.



Meanwhile, other student groups had the opportunity to climb the lighthouse, with volunteer Jim Smith directing traffic at the base and new volunteer Charlie Curran standing duty at the top of the tower. For several of the students, this was their first lighthouse-climbing experience. From the thank-you notes the students wrote after their

trip, one girl, Haleigh Mann, said "...it was...my first time climbing the lighthouse, it was very scary. I wish I could do it again."



Similar remarks were made by many of the other students, and many also enjoyed making the lighthouse models with Delores Hardin in the pavilion, playing on the pirate ship, and finding all the items on the scavenger hunt list. According to Jessica R, "When we did the scavenger hunt, it wasn't very challenging. You should make it a bit harder."



Overall, the students enjoyed the outing, and expressed their appreciation for the new things they learned and all the fun they had at the Crooked River Lighthouse Museum and Park.

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 an 8" X 8" brick paver available for \$80.00. Call (850) 697-2732 or write to the above address to receive information regarding the 8" X 8" paver.