

Brick Cleaning Concludes!



Brick cleaners gathered in front of the brick cleaning table for a final group shot.

work days. The project began on October 6, 2006, with a test work day, and ramped up to full speed ahead on the first anniversary of the collapse of the lighthouse.

Once again, we thank all the individuals and businesses who made this effort possible: Home Depot stores in Tallahassee and Panama City for donating rotary hammers; Lowes stores in Tallahassee and Panama City for providing rotary hammers at cost, and Bruce McLeod, Harold Byrd, and Walter Hoch for picking up the remainder of that cost; Rick Plessinger and Oyster Radio for the use of the Begonia Street brickyard; the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District for providing electricity; Taylor's Building Supply for storing and moving the pallets of bricks; Roy Ogles and ANERR for the fencing; Karen Rudder for sandwiches; Jim Kemp for cooking the burgers, hot dogs, and other good lunches that helped keep us going; Dee Grinenko for the much-anticipated treats and sweets; and Joe and Charolette Bacher for the cold ones that rewarded the end of each work day.

But most of all, a huge salute goes to each and every one of you who worked through the heat, the cold, the dust, and the aching bones to help clean the bricks. The lighthouse thanks you. Your dedication is responsible for the incredible progress we have made. All this humble brick cleaner can say is, "What a ride!!!"

Volunteer brick cleaners finished cleaning the original bricks that will be re-used in the reconstruction of the Cape St. George Light on Friday, February 22, 2008. The last bricks to be cleaned were the bricks that were hand salvaged after the lighthouse fell. These bricks had been stored at the lighthouse job site, so brick cleaners were able to finish their work in the shadow of the lighthouse.

Over the last 17 months, 58 people worked 1,763 hours to clean 22,440 bricks on 48