

# **Lighthouse News Line**

## **Funding for Light Added to State Budget!**

**In an unprecedented action, the Florida House and Senate have agreed to add line item funding for three lighthouses to the state budget. Included in the funding is \$350,000 for the Cape St. George Light. Other lighthouses benefitting from the total \$1 million appropriation are Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle and Anclote Key Lighthouse near Tarpon Springs.**

**Also included in the budget is funding for the \$50,000 Small Matching Grant for SGLA which received preliminary approval last month. The money is specified in the budget proposal hammered out this week by the House-Senate conference committee. The next step is a vote on the budget by the full legislature, expected to be taken before the regularly scheduled end of the legislative session on May 4. Then it will be up to Governor Charlie Crist, who will have the final say on whether the lighthouse funding remains in the budget. The governor had asked for \$5 million for lighthouse preservation in his original budget request, so he is expected to support the final number.**

**Instrumental in the approval of the funding for the two lighthouses in Franklin County was the tremendous support of Representative Will Kendrick. Since visiting our brickcleaning site and lantern room in early February, Rep. Kendrick has been an enthusiastic advocate for our reconstruction efforts. He has tirelessly lobbied his colleagues in the House for support of this funding, and credits his success to the impressive effort by the volunteers determined to rebuild the Cape St. George Light!**

**Please take the time to write or email your Representative and Senator to thank them for their support. Also drop a note of thanks to Governor Charlie Crist and let him know that we are ready to start building when funds become available in July! Email addresses for Representatives, Senators, and the Governor can be found on the state's website at [www.myflorida.gov](http://www.myflorida.gov).**