

# Lighthouse News Line

## Lantern Room Reconstruction Begins!



SGLA President Dennis Barnell reviews lantern room pieces with Darlene Lynn and John Allen of Allen Architectural Metals. In the background is a pedestrian shelter for the Manhattan Bridge (left) and lamp posts for a community in South Carolina, two of the firm's current projects.

The St. George Lighthouse Association has entered into an agreement with Allen Architectural Metals, Inc. of Talladega, Alabama, to reconstruct the damaged pieces of the Cape St. George Light's lantern room. The goal is to have the lantern room rebuilt and on display by the end of the year!

The base plates and cornice pieces of the lantern room will be recast from ductile iron. The remaining pieces, including guard rails, mullion bars, roof rafters, bird cage uprights, vertical anchor bars, and the rafter connecting ring, will be fabricated from steel. In all, 67 pieces will be produced by Allen to replace original pieces that are too damaged to be reused. Six of the original guard rail pieces are reusable and will be restored and included in the new lantern room construction. All parts

will be thermal spray galvanized and prime painted. Allen will also provide new stainless-steel hardware, such as the nuts and bolts needed to connect the pieces.

Allen Architectural Metals is renowned for its innovative work in the field of custom casting, restoration and preservation. When Dennis Barnell and Terry Kemp visited their Talladega foundry, they viewed such projects as the restoration of the 1969 Saturn rocket for the Huntsville Air and Space Museum; creation of pedestrian shelters for the Manhattan Bridge, neighbor to the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City; and the casting of ornamental panels for the city of Chicago's subway kiosks. The firm has also done work for the United States Capitol and Department of Justice Buildings in Washington, D.C., the New York Stock Exchange, the California Governor's Mansion, Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, and Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, to list just a few of their many projects.

When the metal work is completed, the SGLA will assemble the lantern room on a wooden platform for display, possibly in the County Park on St. George Island. The Franklin County Commission will be asked to approve the location of the lantern room -- and eventually the reconstructed lighthouse -- in the park at their October meeting.

All of the original metal pieces of the lantern room that have been recovered to date will be treated for desalinization and preservation by the Conservation Lab within the State Division of Historical Resources. These historic pieces will eventually be displayed at the reconstructed lighthouse.

The SGLA has raised most of the funds needed for the lantern room project, but we are still several thousand dollars short. We only have a few months to make up the shortfall, so please consider making a tax-deductible donation today!