

One Thousand Finds for Lighthouse Cache

by Lois Swoboda

The Saint George Lighthouse geocache has just been found for the one thousandth time.

The cache, hidden on December 6, 2006, is by far the most visited geocache in the county and one of the most popular in Florida.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

At its simplest level, geocaching requires eight steps. Players register for a free membership online at www.geocaching.com; visit the "Hide & Seek a Cache" page and enter a postal code then choose any geocache from the list and click on its name. They then seek a chosen cache using a handheld GPS receiver.

Visitors 1000 and 1001 to the lighthouse cache were Ashley Watts aka "Wattsgirl" and friend Amanda Baldwin both of Crossville, Tennessee.

The best friends are both teachers and visited the cache while on an annual girl's getaway.

Although Baldwin had found about 30 geocaches in the past, it was Watts' first day caching and the St. George Lighthouse cache was her ninth find.

Baldwin said she began geocaching when her daughter found information on the hobby on the internet.

This was the women's first visit to Franklin County and they were very impressed.

In addition to caching, they camped at Julian Bruce State Park, kayaked and fished.

"We are looking forward to coming back," said Watts.



Ashley Watts, "Wattsgirl," bags the St. George Lighthouse Cache