Flag Pole Installed in Lighthouse Park

Something new has been added to Lighthouse Park! A majestic 40-foot nautical style flagpole with a 10-foot yardarm now displays the colors in front of the Keeper’s House.

The flagpole was partially funded by donations in memory of island resident Jim Lambert, who passed away earlier this year. A small plaque in his memory will be installed at the site.

While temporary United States and State of Florida flags have been acquired to fly on the pole, State Senator Bill Montford has agreed to provide a United States flag and State of Florida flag that have flown over the State Capitol in Tallahassee. A lighthouse flag will also be added to the yardarm. A formal dedication ceremony will be planned for 2014.

A flagpole, which was a common feature of light stations under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Coast Guard, has long been planned as a finishing touch to the park.

The SGLA Board of Directors opted for the nautical style instead of a single-mast pole in keeping with the style of pole frequently seen at military locations.

SGLA lifetime patron and recently retired USCG Chief Mark Vail was instrumental in doing the research for the selection of the pole and coordinated the installation. We think he did a great job! Thank you, Mark.
Holiday Shopping Fun at the Lighthouse Gift Shop

Even though warm days, foggy mornings, and t-shirt afternoons are not long gone, Christmas is right around the corner! That means that Lighthouse Gift Shop staff members Carol, Adele, and Dany have been busy stocking the shelves with new merchandise sure to delight everyone on your holiday gift list.

Added to the extensive selection of unique jewelry for ladies are sterling silver earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings, and polished stone pendants in many colors. Always in demand are Caty Greene’s bead and shell creations, Diann Worzalla’s fused glass line, and scrimshaw earrings and pendants featuring the Cape St. George Light etched into ivory salvaged from recycled piano keys.

Do you need gifts for your best clients, or hostess gifts for friends who have invited you to share some holiday cheer? The Gift Shop has an attractively-priced selection of tabletop items including decorative glass and painted ceramic appetizer plates, handpainted lighthouse wine glasses, and lovely etched glass containers that could hold a candle or a small bouquet.

The ever-popular Christmas ornaments with the lighthouse painted on the inside of the glass in the ancient Oriental style come in their own velvet gift box. Another special ornament features the lighthouse painted on a glass ball filled with beach sand and tiny shells.

Fill adult’s holiday stockings with a wide array of stuffer items, including wildlife notecards, wine bottle stoppers, hors d’oeuvres spreaders, beachy bottle openers, flip-flop change purses, and lighthouse bookmarks and magnets.

For the children on your list, check out the selection of affordable toys, many with an educational or nature-based theme. Hex Bugs are a current hit, as are games like Solitaire Chess and Scrambled States of America. Educational playing cards, story cubes, wooden brain-teaser puzzles, and plush sea animals and pirates are sure to entertain the kids and grandkids while on vacation at the beach as well as back at home.

The Gift Shop has an excellent selection of books for both adults and children. The just-released “A Taste of St. George Island” cookbook, which features recipes from island residents and the art of islander Beth Appleton, is a fundraiser for the St. George Island First Responders. John Spohrer’s new book, “The Seasons of Apalachicola Bay” is the latest addition to the offering of books and prints by this renowned local wildlife photographer and writer. Many other publications highlight the flora and fauna of our island paradise, and the history of northwest Florida.
Lighthouse tank tops and short and long-sleeved t-shirts are available in many new colors, and make a great souvenir of your visit to the historic lighthouse. U.S. Lighthouse Service caps in navy and tan are a favorite of those visiting the lighthouses on the Forgotten Coast.

So whether you are a resident of Franklin County or a visitor to our beautiful area, find that special gift or memento of your trip at the Cape St. George Lighthouse Gift Shop. Carol, Adele, and Dany are looking forward to helping you with all your holiday shopping!

Although the Lighthouse and Gift Shop are now operating on a Winter Hours schedule, both will be open for extended hours during the holidays.

Third SGI Home Tour Set for February

Seven stunning island homes will be featured on the 2014 St. George Island Tour of Homes on Saturday, February 8, 2014. The Tour Committee has completed its review of the nominated homes and the selections include three homes in the Plantation, three homes in Gulf Beaches, and one home on the East End. The Lighthouse, Keeper’s House, and Plantation Clubhouse are also included on the Tour.

The Tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are now available at the Lighthouse Gift Shop for $15 each, and will be available on Tour Day in Lighthouse Park and at the Plantation Clubhouse for $20. If you order your ticket by phone with a credit card payment, you will be able to pick up your tickets at the Gift Shop before Tour Day, or at “will call” tables in Lighthouse Park and at the Plantation Clubhouse on the day of the Tour.

Again we will be providing shuttle service to homes located in the St. George Plantation. When you purchase your Tour ticket, you will be asked if you will be riding the shuttle. An advance count of shuttle riders is critical to help us plan shuttle capacity. If you own property in the Plantation, or ride with someone who does, you can take your vehicle into the gated community. Everyone else must ride the shuttle to visit the Plantation homes.

Shuttles will leave every 30 minutes from the parking lot to the west of the Lighthouse. Tour participants who drive into the Plantation are asked to park at the Clubhouse and ride the shuttle to the Plantation homes on the Tour. Parking at the homes is limited, and the shuttles need space to turn around.

Tour weekend will kick-off Friday evening, February 7, with an opening event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jay Abbott Firehouse, 324 East Pine Avenue. Featured speaker will be island resident James L. Hargrove, retired University of Georgia professor and author of “The Oyster King,” which tells the fictionalized story of William Lee Popham, the first man to attempt the development of St. George Island in the 1920’s. Popham was an evangelist and poet from Kentucky who bought St. George Island with the intention of selling homesites tied to a share of the bay’s oyster harvest.

Refreshments will be served, and participants will be eligible for a number of door prizes.

Please mark your 2014 calendars for this fun event which benefits the St. George Lighthouse Association!
Lighthouse Loses Another Friend

Verner Roberts, a beloved friend and benefactor to the Cape St. George Light, passed away on September 16. Verner was the wife of the late William Roberts, who donated to the Lighthouse Museum many items from his father’s and grandfather’s lives as Keepers of the Cape St. George Light.

Verner frequently visited St. George Island with Bill during the days of construction for both the Lighthouse and the Keeper’s House. They took great pleasure in visiting the Museum, which in many ways is a tribute to the service and generosity of the Roberts family. We miss them both.

Verner was buried alongside Bill and other members of the Roberts family in the cemetery near their home in Mary Esther, Florida.

Please Patronize Our Business Members

- Aloha Bugs Pest Management
- BJ’s Pizza
- Kristy Branch Banks, P.A.
- The Butler Agency
- Century 21 Collins Realty, Inc.
- Collins Vacation Rentals
- Steve Harris, Realtor
- Island Adventures
- Island Outfitters
- Bobby James Roofing
- Journeys of St. George Island
- Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
- Resort Vacation Properties of SGI
- Thomas M. Shuler, Attorney-at-Law
- Survivors Bait and Tackle
- St. George Island Civic Club
- St. George Island Realty
- Jerry Thompson, Realtor

Holiday Hours

The Lighthouse and the Museum & Gift Shop will observe the following hours during the holiday season:

- Friday, December 20 & Saturday, December 21 -- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, December 22 -- noon to 5 p.m.
- Monday, December 23 -- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26 -- Closed
- Friday, December 27 & Saturday, December 28 -- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, December 29 -- noon to 5 p.m.
- Monday, December 30 -- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 31 -- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 1 & Thursday, January 2 -- Closed
Celebrating the Holidays on St. George Island

The Holiday Season on St. George Island officially began on December 6 with the Island Lights celebration in Lighthouse Park. Sponsored by the St. George Business Association, the popular event featured Girl Scouts caroling, cookies and cocoa, and the arrival of Santa Claus on St. George Island Fire Truck #8. Children who visited Santa received goodie bags filled with toys and edible treats. The Lighthouse and Keeper’s House were decked out with wreaths, lights, and garland, as was the neighboring Visitor Center.

Santa arrived on the St. George Fire Truck (center), escorted by Business Association President Beth Brinkley, and photographed by Amanda Kollar, as son Harrison and friend greet the Jolly Fellow. The photo at top right shows the Girl Scout carolers on the Keeper’s House steps.

Photographs by Lou and Betsy Kellenberger
Quick Blinks

- SGLA welcomes to the Board of Directors our newest member, Bob Heide. Bob is a retired Cable Industry entrepreneur, and a Lifetime Patron member of SGLA. He resides on St. George Island with his wife Mary Jean. Bob was elected by the Board to fill the unfinished term of Richard Saucer, who resigned from the Board when he left the island to move to North Georgia.

- Alex Klahm, metalsmith designer from St. Petersburg, Florida, travelled to St. George Island on the day after Thanksgiving to take detailed measurements for the replacement of the lantern room glass and installation of an air venting system in the lantern room. Klahm recently completed a project at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina, and now will begin work on fabrication of the replacement components at his shop. Since the lighthouse will have to be closed for several weeks for the installation, the work will not begin until after the New Year.

- The last Full Moon Climb of 2013 will be held on Monday, December 16, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Reservations for the Sunset & Full Moon Climb with hors d’oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon are available for $10 for SGLA members and $15 for non-members by calling the Gift Shop at 850-927-7745. After sunset, climbers are allowed as space and time permit at the cost of $5 for SGLA members and $10 for non-members. Check the Calendar on our website (www.stgeorgelight.org) in the coming weeks for a listing of 2014 Full Moon Climbs.

- Commemorative pavers in St. George Lighthouse Park make great Christmas gifts! Pavers at $50 each can be ordered at the Lighthouse Gift Shop. Pavers ordered for the holidays will be installed after the New Year, but certificates with the paver inscription are available to put under the tree!

A Parting Shot . . .

Cape St. George Lighthouse Keeper Stanley Colvin and friend Lilly greeted Santa in Lighthouse Park. Lilly, a very festive young lady, looked stunning in her favorite red velvet holiday dress!

As we come to the end of another year, we sincerely thank all the members and friends of the St. George Lighthouse Association for your support and friendship in 2013. Stanley, Lilly, and all the SGLA officers and Lighthouse & Museum staff extend Happy Holiday greetings to one and all!

Photograph by Lois Swoboda