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Summer 2015

SGLA Welcomes Newest Lifetime Member

It is with great pride that we introduce to our membership our newest and youngest Lifetime Patron Member – Joseph Taylor of Smyrna, Tennessee. Joseph is six years old, and is in the first grade at Stewart’s Creek Elementary School in Smyrna.

The Taylor family – Joseph and his dad George, mom Deanna, and sisters Brenda, Michelle, and Ginelle – have a townhome in the Villas on the island, and Joseph has been coming to St. George since before he could walk.

His dad says that the first question Joseph asks when they arrive on the island is always “Is the lighthouse open?” He loves the lighthouse, and climbs to the top as many as six times a day when they visit! He is our best ambassador, telling family and friends all about our lighthouse.

Joseph also enjoys karate, soccer, video games, and being outdoors. He is an accomplished pianist, and performed at the Mall in the Taylor’s former hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, at Christmas last year.



But, without a doubt, his primary passion when he visits the island is the Cape St. George Light. He says that he hopes to be on the SGLA Board of Directors and serve as President someday. We would be delighted to have his participation!

As his dad says, “Joseph is a great kid with a big heart and a true love for the lighthouse!” We couldn’t agree more, and are delighted to have the support of Joseph and his family. We hope they will visit again soon.

GOOD SAM is at the LIGHTHOUSE!

People who travel in motor homes, campers, fifth wheels, or other types of travel trailers are probably familiar with the Good Sam Club, an organization that provides resources, assistance, and discounted services for the RV community. Their publication "Good Sam Highways," an insert in quarterly editions of *Trailer Life* and *MotorHome* magazines, includes a feature called "Where's Good Sam?" which encourages members to submit a photo of their RV near a recognizable North American Landmark.

When the photo is published in "Highways," readers can submit their guess as to the name of the landmark, and correct entries are included in a drawing for a \$50 Camping World gift card.

Guess where Good Sam was earlier this summer? Right here at the Cape St. George Light! Check out the photo below.

Thanks to SGLA member and RV'er Susan Antekeier for sending us a copy of the article. She didn't tell us whether she submitted the correct answer and won a prize!



Please Patronize Our Business Members

Aloha Bugs Pest Management
Mason & Marilyn Bean, Realtors
BJ's Pizza
Builders by the Sea, Inc.
Century 21 Collins Realty, Inc.
Collins Vacation Rentals
Steve Harris, Realtor
Island Adventures
Island Outfitters

Bobby James Roofing
Journeys of SGI, Inc.
Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
Pandora Schlitt, Realtor
Thomas M. Shuler, Attorney-at-Law
Suncoast Vacation Rentals
Survivors Bait and Tackle
St. George Island Civic Club
Jerry Thompson, Realtor

Comings and Goings

Summer has brought with it several changes to the staff who always do a wonderful job operating the Cape St. George Light and the Keeper's House Museum and Gift Shop.

We are seeing less of former Lighthouse Keeper Mark Vail, who left his position at the door of the lighthouse to spend more summer hours with family. Mark has remained on staff to do behind-the-scenes maintenance work, most recently pressure washing and sealing the stairs and decking around the Keeper's House.

Gift Shop sales assistants Sandy Dixon and Carolyn White have decided to pursue other opportunities, though Sandy still helps out with Full Moon Climbs when possible. Summer employee Joiner Ivey has left us to return to college at the University of Virginia at Wise, VA. We thank them all and wish them the best with their new activities!

We welcome our new Lighthouse Keeper, Susan Uhl, who works at the lighthouse on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays. Susan has been on board for about a month, and she says that she loves "being near the water and meeting so many happy people." Currently residing in Carrabelle with her husband Bruce, Susan was born in Clearwater and lived in Tarpon Springs for a number of years before relocating to Queens, New York, where she and Bruce raised four children. When she's not

greeting lighthouse guests or working to keep the lighthouse tidy and spotless, Susan enjoys playing trivia, collecting antiques, and cheering for Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos.

Dawn Peck is one of two new sales associates working with Carol Talley at the Lighthouse Gift Shop. Dawn retired after a career as a Meeting and Exhibit Planner with Hollister, Inc., a company that produces medical devices. She travelled extensively worldwide for 24 years, and now she and her husband Don live in Eastpoint. She loves living on the Forgotten Coast, which she says is "like being on vacation every day!" In her spare time Dawn enjoys quilting, reading, and playing with their dog, Harley.

Also new to the Gift Shop is sales associate Dottie Evans. Dottie may be a familiar face to folks who have seen her in past years at her family-operated business Seafood-2-Go Retail Market in Apalachicola, or more recently at the Apalachicola IGA. Dottie and her husband Tracy live in Eastpoint, where she enjoys gardening, church activities, and birding – ask her about the pileated woodpecker she recently spotted in her yard!

We welcome all our new staff members and hope they will enjoy many happy and gratifying years working at the lighthouse and gift shop and meeting all our enthusiastic guests!

Keeper's Son Visits the Lighthouse



Leonard Montgomery, son of Lighthouse Keeper John W. Montgomery, visited the Cape St. George Light with his daughter Elsa Montgomery in June. John W. Montgomery became Assistant Keeper at the Cape St. George Light in 1938 and served at the lighthouse until it was automated in 1949, making him the last lighthouse keeper at Cape St. George. Leonard currently lives in Panama City Beach.

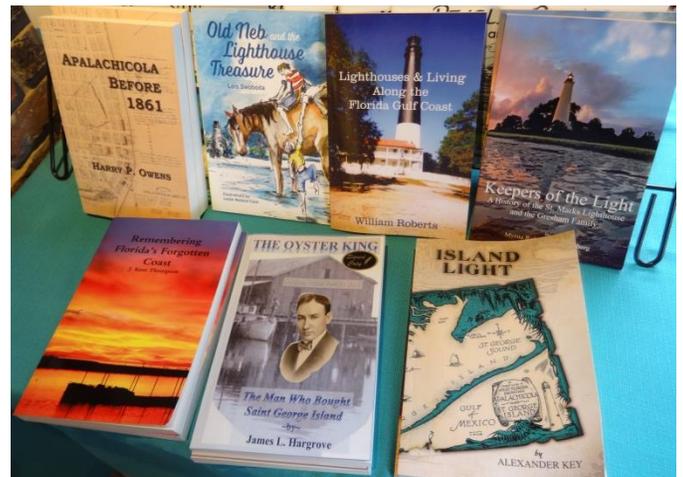
Good Beach Reads from the Lighthouse Gift Shop

Have the recent rainy days left you wanting to curl up in a dry spot with a good book? The Lighthouse Gift Shop is featuring a number of books by local authors that highlight the beauty and the history of the Forgotten Coast.

At the top of the list are two books by SGLA members. ***Old Neb and the Lighthouse Treasure***, written by Apalachicola journalist Lois Swoboda, is a children's book that will truly appeal to children of all ages. It tells the tale of the lighthouse keeper's children and their friends as they search for treasure buried on St. George Island with the help of the faithful lighthouse horse, Old Neb. Illustrated by Apalachicola artist Leslie Wallace-Coon, the book is the first in a series starring the lovable lighthouse horse.

James L. Hargrove volunteers as a docent at the Lighthouse Museum but is also a well-published author. One of his many books is the ***The Oyster King***, which tells the story of William Lee Popham, Kentucky preacher turned aspiring oyster farmer and would-be developer of St. George Island. Popham's transformation from Oyster King on St. George Island to convicted felon in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary is an entertaining read.

A dear and generous friend of the lighthouse until his death in 2011 at the age of 88, William Roberts was the author of ***Lighthouses & Living Along the Florida Gulf Coast***. Bill recounts the story of three generations of lighthouse keepers – his grandfather and father who both served at the Cape St. George Light, and his brother who tended the Crooked River Lighthouse. Peppared with humorous anecdotes about growing up at the lighthouse on St. George Island, this little book is a delightful look at lighthouse life on the Forgotten Coast.



Wakulla County native Myrna Roberts Kanekkeberg is the author of ***Keepers of the Light***, which tells the story of our neighbor St. Marks Lighthouse and its keepers from the Fine and Gresham families. The author is a member of the Gresham family, who were keepers at St. Marks for 57 years.

Remembering Florida's Forgotten Coast, by J. Kent Thompson of Tallahassee, includes stories of Northwest Florida from Cedar Key to Panama City. The book's chapters on Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, Bay, Taylor, Dixie, and Levy Counties are full of interesting anecdotes about the area.

Apalachicola Before 1861, the recently-published doctoral dissertation of Harry P. Owens, has for years been the go-to resource for information on antebellum life in middle Florida. Dr. Owens, who studied at Auburn University and has a Ph.D. from Florida State University, is a Professor Emeritus of history at the University of Mississippi.

Written in 1950 by renowned Apalachicola author Alexander Key, ***Island Light*** is a captivating tale set at the lighthouse on St. George Island and in Apalachicola after the Civil War. As described on the cover, "Revenge, loyalty, honor, passion and greed clash in this dramatic tale, set among the raw and rugged elements of

Florida's Gulf Coast." **Island Light** was performed as a play sponsored by the Panhandle Players and the St. George Lighthouse Association in 2013.

Several lovely books highlighting local photography are also offered at the Lighthouse Gift Shop. Port St. Joe photographer Debbie Hooper treats readers to a photographic journey to Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Port St. Joe, Apalachicola, Wewahitchka, St. Vincent and St. George Islands in **From My Eyes To Yours**.

Two books by longtime Franklin County writer and nature photographer John Spohrer, **Florida's Forgotten Coast** and **The Seasons of Apalachicola Bay**, combine beautiful photography and poignant descriptions of a fragile environment into lasting keepsakes of a visit – or a life – on the Forgotten Coast.

Rounding out the local literary selections are two wonderful cookbooks. (How could we forget the culinary delicacies and homegrown recipes featuring fabulous Bay and Gulf seafood?) **Apalachicola Bay Cookbook** is the latest offering of local recipes compiled by the women of Franklin County's Philaco Woman's Club. **A Taste of St. George Island: The Art of Gulf Coast Cooking** is a fundraising project by the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department, featuring delicious island recipes and the work of local artist Beth Appleton. Both are great additions to the collection of anyone who loves to cook and eat!

Visit the Lighthouse Gift Shop today and take home a volume of local color that will enhance your appreciation of our beautiful Forgotten Coast!

Quick Blinks

- Casey Wilkerson of Tyler, Texas was the lucky winner of a framed print of the Cape St. George Light by artist Sam Lyons raffled at the lighthouse in honor of National Lighthouse Day on August 7, 2015. All visitors who climbed the lighthouse or made purchases in the Gift Shop on National Lighthouse Day received free raffle tickets for the drawing. The Wilkerson family earned more than 30 tickets! National Lighthouse Day commemorates the Act of Congress passed on August 7, 1789 which authorized the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers.
- A new record was set at the July 1 Full Moon Climb with 13 climbers for the sunset and moonrise, and 50 people who climbed to see the view of the full moon. 63 climbers enjoyed a clear evening and a spectacular full moon!
- The new Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Driving Tour brochure, featuring the Cape St. George Light, the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, the Crooked River Lighthouse, and the St. Marks Lighthouse, has gone to press. Look for it at the five Florida Welcome Centers and local Visitor Centers around mid-September.

A Parting Shot



Fourth of July lighthouse visitors Kate, Ken, and Koran Burgun enjoyed their climb to the top of the lighthouse and the panoramic view of the island. They appreciated the history of our lighthouse shared with them by Keeper Jim Dunkin, who appears to be photo-bombing their selfie!