

## **Tour of Homes a Huge Success!**

The Fourth Annual St. George Island Tour of Homes was a tremendous success, attracting an estimated 700 participants and raising more than \$15,000 for the Cape St. George Light!

With the sun shining on the Valentine's Day event, the enthusiastic tour-goers visited seven beautiful and unique island homes along with the St. George Plantation Clubhouse and the Lighthouse and Keeper's House. Attendance was up by more than 25 per cent over last year, and the proceeds more than doubled.

While about a quarter of the attendees came from near and far parts of Florida, the balance of the crowd represented 25 other states and Canada. About half of the participants were "snowbird" visitors, who continue to support the lighthouse by attending and volunteering at the Tour of Homes. Many of these long-term visitors, who spend a month or more in north Florida during the winter, said that the tour is always a highlight of their stay.

The Friday evening kick-off event attracted more than 160 people to the Jay Abbott Firehouse to enjoy refreshments and hear a fascinating presentation about the local Florida black bear population by Bear Specialist Kaitlin O'Connell Goode of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The evening's popular door prizes included such bear-related items as locally produced honey and honey pots donated by area businesses and supporters. Artists Tom Tiffin and Susan Richardson donated prints of their work that were raffled at the conclusion of the event.

Contributing to the success of the 2015 tour was a large increase in sponsorship revenue coming from Business Sponsors and the newly-introduced individual Tour Supporter campaign.

As always, we can't say enough about the more than 100 wonderful volunteers who made the tour happen, and the seven generous homeowners who so graciously opened their homes to tour participants. Without the support of our volunteers and homeowners, the tour would not be possible.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, attended, supported, or in any other way participated in this wonderfully successful effort!

Posted by Kemp Terry - Sunday, 02/15/15