

# Lighthouse News Line

## Cape St. George Light Is Complete and Open!



Over 400 people visited the Cape St. George Light on Saturday, November 29, the first day the lighthouse was open for public climbing.

The Cape St. George Light was open to the public for Lighthouse Preview Days this past weekend, and officially open to the public on Monday, December 1.

Preview Days, which gave visitors a chance to climb the lighthouse at no charge on Saturday and Sunday, attracted more than 560 people to the lighthouse! Visitors from as far away as Houston, Arizona, and Hawaii stood in line for as much as an hour to climb the 92 wooden spiral stairs to the watch room and the eight-rung ladder to the lantern room. Even pouring rain late in the afternoon on Saturday and drizzle and wind on Sunday did not keep the enthusiastic crowds

away.

Cries of "Awesome" and "Fabulous" echoed through the masonry tower as climbers squeezed through the scuttle hole into the lantern room and saw the breathtaking view of the island, Apalachicola Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Reporters from the Associated Press and WCTV in Tallahassee were on hand to announce the news of the successful opening to the public. Coverage of the event was also provided by the Apalachicola Times, Franklin Chronicle, Tallahassee Democrat, Panama City News Herald, Coastline, and WOYS Radio. Brendan Farrington's article for the Associated Press has already appeared in newspapers in West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Naples, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, and The Villages.

Lighthouse Association members were joined by several other Franklin County non-profit organizations on Saturday. Franklin Needs sold calendars to raise money for breast cancer treatment in the county, Franklin County Public Library sold overstocked books, Philaco Woman's Club sold their cookbooks, and the Boy Scouts of St. George Island saved hungry climbers by offering hot dogs and soft drinks.

Even though there is still work to do on the landscaping in the park and construction of the Keeper's House, it was an exceptionally rewarding day for the many volunteers and contributors who worked so hard to make the reconstruction of our historic lighthouse a reality. A formal dedication ceremony is planned for early 2009.