

## 6TH ANNUAL SGI TOUR OF HOMES FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Home selections for the 2017 Tour have been completed and we are excited to have a fabulous line-up of unique homes which represent the best of the island life “from beach to bay” and span the entire island from the east end of the island to the west.

The Tour is the principal fundraiser for the St. George Lighthouse Association and last year's proceeds helped fund the creation of the magnificent replica of our Fresnel lens that is on display in the Keeper's House Museum.

Tour weekend will kick-off with a presentation and reception at the Jay Abbott Firehouse on Friday, February 10th from 6-8 PM. The kick-off event is free to TOH ticket holders; others are welcome for a contribution of \$5.00.

Guest speaker at the reception is professional photographer, author and Florida Master Naturalist John Spohrer, who has lived on the Forgotten Coast since 1980. John's stunning photos of nature like you've never seen before will be on display.



Tour of Homes tickets will be available in late December at the Lighthouse Gift Shop for \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the tour. You can stop by the gift shop or place your order by phone. Please visit our website for complete details at: [www.sgitourofhomes.com](http://www.sgitourofhomes.com) and check back often for updates on the TOH.

Shuttle service into the Plantation is provided as this is a gated community on the west end of the island.

## Tour of Homes Kicks-Off Friday Evening

Acclaimed nature photographer John Spohrer will be the featured speaker at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SGI Tour of Homes kick-off reception on Friday evening February 10, 2017, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jay Abbott Firehouse on East Pine Avenue.

John Spohrer is a Florida Master Naturalist who has photographed the landscape and animals of the Forgotten Coast since 1980. His work has resulted in two large-format books that can be viewed at [www.forgottencoastoutdoors.com](http://www.forgottencoastoutdoors.com). He is semi-retired and splits his time between the Forgotten Coast and St. Francisville, La.



His awards include special recognition from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for “fostering an appreciation of Florida’s fish and wildlife.” He has exhibited extensively in the Southeast including the Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta, Ga.; The Tallahassee Museum; and the History, Culture and Arts Center in Apalachicola.

His exhibit, “Working Boats of the Forgotten Coast”, will be on display during the Tour of Homes at the Plantation Clubhouse gallery in St. George Plantation, St. George Island.

His talk will be titled “The Art of Outdoor Photography” and will center on the stories behind some of his iconic images of the Forgotten Coast.

The Friday evening kick-off event is open to Tour ticket holders at no charge, and for a \$5.00 contribution for guests without Tour tickets. The event includes complimentary hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar, as well as a number of door prizes.

Please join us on Friday for this event which starts another great Tour of Homes weekend!

# Maintenance Projects at the Lighthouse

Two panes of glass in the lantern room mysteriously cracked this fall. Both panes have been replaced, but the cause of the cracks is open for speculation: Sonic boom? Stress cracks? Rust build-up on the iron framework? Did this also happen in earlier days?

Experts that we have spoken with have different explanations, and your guess is as good as ours. The two panes cracked on different days within weeks of each other, and we are working on identifying a cause and solution to the issue.



*Hoisting a boxed replacement panel of glass to the top of the lighthouse.*



*Replacement panel arrived safely to the top of the lighthouse, ready to be installed*



## Keeper's House Updates

Contractor Todd Griffith replaces the Keeper's House back door. Moisture intrusion and ants had taken up residence in the door and frame but thanks to Todd, the Keeper's House is once again secure.



**New Website** Have you checked out our new website? We'd love to hear from you, and article suggestions or pictures are always welcome.

Visit our new site at [www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org) and email your comments, articles or pictures to: [info@stgeorgelight.org](mailto:info@stgeorgelight.org)



## Remembering a Boat Trip to Cape St. George by James Hargrove

In May of 2005, just two months before Hurricane Dennis kicked off the worst storm season in memory, my son and I decided to take a small boat to the north side of Little St. George Island and walk over to the old lighthouse. John was 23 and had set his mind on getting to see the lighthouse he had heard so much about. We realized that the lighthouse was in peril, but no one had any idea that the 153 year-old structure would collapse that October.

John and his sister, Katy, had surprised me by buying a 12-foot folding boat with a little 6 horsepower motor for Christmas. He does not fish, but correctly inferred that Little St. George Island would have excellent seashells he could collect. I verified that the weather would be fair with little wind the next day, and we packed water bottles and a snack and launched the boat at Sawyer Street.

The 7-mile ride over was smooth and beautiful. The little motor purred along, and in half an hour, we had passed Sikes Cut and pulled around to the back side of Little St. George. The boat was far too small to think about going through to the Gulf of Mexico and landing in the surf, so we tied up near the long dock that extends into the bay in Horseshoe Cove.

It took very little time to find one of the sand roads that leads south across the island. John and I saw an old building along the road that could have been part of a turpentine camp, or possibly part of the Marshall House compound. Rusted machinery lay beside the path, either left behind by a contractor or possibly by Herbert and Pearl Marshall, the last residents of the island.

John and I walked for about half a mile through a magnificent maritime forest comprised of old slash pines until we reached the Gulf beach. We knew nothing about the lighthouse history at that time, and probably overlooked the cat-faced scars on the older trees. Pearl Porter Marshall noted in her memoir, *A Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*, that her father had leased his land to various turpentine producers. Later, she and her husband leased rights to Mr. C.C. Land, who operated a turpentine still at Green Point next to Highway 65 near Eastpoint until the 1950's.

As we approached the beach, we immediately saw that John's notion about seashells was correct. A thick band of shells glistened in the sun as far as the eye could see. We were not sure where the lighthouse was located, but decided to head east as we gathered shells.

*James Hargrove holding up a large whelk shell*



John soon began to find very large, heavy old whelk shells partly buried near the high water mark near the forest. The shells were blackened with mineral deposits, indicating that they were very old. Some shells along the beach are thousand year-old fossils that have been buried and uncovered by storms. He started hunting them, leaving me to scout around the beach, where I found a Scotch bonnet, numerous large shark's eyes and olives, a giant tun shell, and even a murex shell.

We finally reached the bend in Cape St. George and saw the lighthouse in the distance. Although the tide was going out, it had clearly reached the edge of the forest because pine snags lined the beach. Dying trees behind the snags were clear signs of beach erosion, and the lighthouse itself stood partly in the surf. The thought had not occurred to us that the lighthouse station had been abandoned partly because of erosion caused by hurricanes Andrew and Opal just ten years before.



*John Hargrove examining a seashell he found at the base of the Cape St. George Lighthouse in 2005*

We waded out to the lighthouse and climbed the foundation that contractor Bill Grimes had built when the Cape St. George Lighthouse Society paid him to stabilize the tower. I took photos of John at the doorway and some views of the inside of the tower. We now know that the Coast Guard had replaced the old wooden stairs with metal ones, and probably removed the modern beacon when they decommissioned the lighthouse in 1994, just one year before Hurricane Opal struck and moved the tower off its foundation. Torn from their brackets by Opal, the metal stairs became a hazard and were removed by a volunteer team led by SGLA founder Dennis Barnell.

The rest of the Cape St. George Light Station was a shambles. Nothing remained of the buildings except the base of the chimney from the 1876 keeper's quarters and bricks that marked where the oil house had stood.

## Remembering a Boat Trip to Cape St. George by James Hargrove—*continued*

On our way back to the boat, we trudged a mile through the sand lugging heavy sacks of shells. By the time we headed back to Big St. George Island, darkness had fallen and an east wind was blowing up waves that challenged the little boat. Swells hit us as we made our way past Sikes Cut, and the prop would actually come out of the water as we topped the waves. When we finally saw car lights ahead, I said, “That would be your Mom, parked on Sawyer Street, trying to show us the way back.”

Like every other person who visited the lighthouse in those years, we were stunned when the lighthouse collapsed on October 21, 2005. The trip gives us a better perspective on the amazing achievement by members of the St. George Lighthouse Association who salvaged the tower and rebuilt it in Lighthouse Park. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, visitors can now visit the museum and gift shop and learn the history my son and I did not yet know, and then climb the stairs to the tower for an unforgettable experience.



*Looking up the tower years after the Coast Guard had removed the stairs*



*A view through the tower window*

## Cape St. George Lighthouse Souvenir Booklet

### “Cape St. George Light, A Florida Treasure”

The St. George Lighthouse Association is pleased to announce the publication of a full-color, 36-page souvenir booklet entitled, “Cape Saint George Lighthouse, A Florida Treasure.”

Association members James Hargrove, Carol Talley, and Terry Kemp compiled text and photographs to recount the role of the lighthouse in over 180 years of Apalachicola’s maritime history. The final layout was completed by local graphic designer, Cindy Clark.

The narrative begins with the 1804 Forbes Purchase and describes the need for the lighthouse as an aid to navigation to protect ships engaged in the cotton trade from the shoals around the passes into Apalachicola Bay. The earliest lighthouse was built at West Pass in 1833, and was rebuilt on Cape St. George in 1848. After the great Florida hurricane of 1851, a stronger tower that survived for 153 years was built on the Cape in 1852.

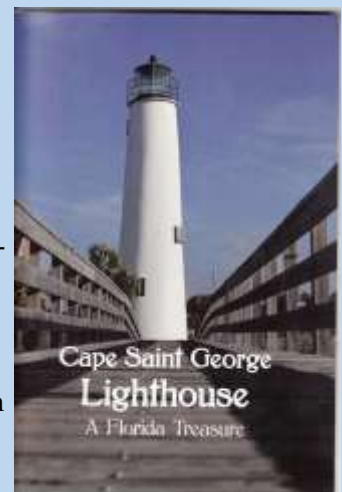
The new booklet describes the earliest lights and the 1857 conversion to the more powerful beam produced by a third-order Fresnel lens. The narrative summarizes events that interrupted commerce during the Civil War and the resumption of trade during Reconstruction.

Also highlighted are the lives of prominent lighthouse keepers and their families, including Edward Porter, Pearl Porter Marshall, and members of the Walter Roberts family. Vintage photographs illustrate keepers’ lives and the narrative includes information from current displays and digital archives from the Lighthouse Museum and Gift Shop in Lighthouse Park on St. George Island.

The booklet concludes with the story of the collapse of the lighthouse in 2005 after several hurricanes surged through the area, and its reconstruction through the persistent work of many Franklin County residents and volunteers.

“Cape Saint George Lighthouse, A Florida Treasure” is available at the Lighthouse Gift Shop adjacent to the lighthouse at the center of St. George Island. All proceeds will be used to support ongoing maintenance and updates of the Cape St. George Lighthouse by the non-profit St. George Lighthouse Association.

For more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.



## ***St. George Lighthouse Association Board Members***



*Pictured left to right:  
Susan Baldino, Phyllis  
Vitale-Lewis, Terry  
Kemp, Bud Hayes, Skip  
Kemp, Fred Stanley, Vito  
Bell, Stanley Colvin and  
Bob Heide. Not pic-  
tured, SGLA Founder,  
Dennis Barnell.*

It was a full house at the Keeper's House Conference Room for the October SGLA Board meeting with all nine Board members in attendance. Each of them come from various professional backgrounds and bring a level of expertise that includes marketing, finance, insurance, law or computer knowledge, and volunteers their time for the St. George Lighthouse Association.

Thanks to their volunteer efforts, the Cape St. George Lighthouse continues to shine.

### **Gift Ideas**

Do you need a gift for that hard to buy for person? Why don't you consider Pathways to the Light Brick Paver Sponsorship and engrave your recipients name in history. Cost is only \$50.00 per paver and the inscription can be up to 3 lines with up to 18 characters per line.

Call the Gift Shop today at 850-927-7745 or click the link below to take you to our website to download the Brick Paver Form: <http://www.stgeorgelight.org/support-us/pavers/>

**YOUR NAME HERE,  
KIDS, GRANDKIDS  
OR WHATEVER!!!**

You can also consider giving the gift of a St. George Lighthouse Membership. Membership with SGLA entitles the recipients to discounts at the gift shop, free lighthouse climbing for a year, voting rights at the annual meeting, and helping to preserve the Cape St. George Lighthouse. Click the following link for more information and download the membership application: <http://www.stgeorgelight.org/support-us/membership/>



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\*\*\*Click on any of the Business Members to be directed to their Website or Facebook page\*\*\*



## Holiday Hours



The Lighthouse, Keeper's House, Museum & Gift Shop will observe the following hours during the holiday season:

Dec. 22 - Closed  
 Dec. 23 - 10 AM - 5PM  
 Dec. 24 & 25 - Closed  
 Dec. 26, 27 & 28 - 10 AM - 5PM  
 Dec. 29 - Closed  
 Dec. 30 - 10 AM - 5PM  
 Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 - Closed  
 Jan. 2 - Closed for Inventory

## Winter Hours

November 1 - February 28  
 Daily, except Thursday: Noon - 5 PM  
 Thurs: Closed

The St. George Lighthouse Association Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Docents wish you a wonderful holiday season as 2016 comes to a close.

Our greatest wish is good health, happiness and peace to all.

The Lighthouse stands today due to the generous support of our community and members and welcomes visitors from all over the world.

We look forward to a prosperous new year as the Cape St. George Lighthouse continues to light the way to our beautiful St. George Island.

# HOLIDAY GIFTS AVAILABLE AT THE KEEPER'S HOUSE

Need some unique Christmas gifts this year? The Lighthouse Gift Shop has a wide variety of choices for children, adults and even your furry friends.

You can also give a Lighthouse Membership to that special person so they can enjoy all the benefits of being a SGLA member.

Stop in and see Carol, Dawn or Dottie for some great gift ideas as you work on your holiday shopping list.



**Shark Backpack**—Want to make some 4, 5 or 6 year old very happy on Christmas morning? Consider this very cute Shark Backpack. Very soft and cuddly but not made for heavy books, etc. hence our recommendation for younger kids.



**Pirate & Mermaid Umbrellas**— These umbrellas are really cute and amazingly sturdy. The handle of the Pirate umbrella is made to look like a sword. The handle of the Mermaid Umbrella is a pink seahorse.



## **Cape St. George Lighthouse Puzzle—**

This is a 672 piece jigsaw puzzle with a collage of pictures graciously contributed by local photographers. When put together the puzzle is 18" x 24.5". The puzzle picture follows the history of our favorite lighthouse—from the last days of the 1852 Lighthouse on Little St. George Island, to the recovery of the fallen lighthouse, the volunteer cleaning of 22,000 bricks, the construction of the new lighthouse, and the

lighthouse and keeper's house as they look today.



**Jewelry**—The ladies can never have too much jewelry. It is always a good gift. We have jewelry in all price ranges, all colors and styles. Whatever you're looking for, sterling silver, shell, sea glass or other jewelry, we have a great selection.



**Wine Glasses**—A great gift. We have both lighthouse & sea turtle wine glasses. Give a set of two or give one with a bottle of wine.



**Plates for the table or display—** display on the wall or use to serve your favorite dish. We carry a wide variety of plates and bowls.



**Happy Fish**—local author & craftsman, James Hargrove, has created a line of wall art called "Happy Fish". Cut from wood and hand painted, the fish are made to look like the fish of the Gulf of Mexico and guess what? They are smiling—thus, the name, Happy Fish!



# Full Moon Climbs for 2017

The Cape St. George Lighthouse will again be open for Sunset/Full Moon Climbs in 2017. The schedule is listed below, and pre-paid reservations for the sunset and moonrise portion of the climb are accepted in advance for any climb dates.

Full Moon Climbs at the Cape St. George Lighthouse include light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. Cost is \$15.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for members of the St. George Lighthouse Association.

After sunset, people are invited to climb to the top of the lighthouse for a breathtaking view of the full moon, as space and time permit. Cost is \$10.00 for the general public and \$5.00 for SGLA members.

Parking is available in lots at either side of the park. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

## 2017 Schedule of Full Moon Climbs At the Cape St. George Lighthouse

January 11, 2017	5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
February 10, 2017	6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
March 12, 2017	7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
April 10, 2017	7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
May 10, 2017	8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
June 9, 2017	8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
July 9, 2017	8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
August 7, 2017	8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
September 5, 2017	7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
October 5, 2017	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
November 3, 2017	6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
December 3, 2017	5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



*Photo by James Hargrove*

## A Parting Shot . . .

It's beginning to look like Christmas on St. George Island & Santa stopped by to get your wish list!!



*Brady Fisher, from Eastpoint visits Santa at Lighthouse Park. Brady is the son of Keith & Laura Fisher and his wish list included a guinea pig, Minecraft, Legos and an iPad. Brady is 8 years old and attends Franklin County school in Eastpoint.*

