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Winter 2012

2011 – The Year in Review

The year 2011 was a momentous year for the Cape St. George Light, marked by major achievements but also by irreplaceable losses. In addition to completing the Keeper's House and opening the Lighthouse Museum and Keeper's House Gift Shop, we lost our dear friend Bill Roberts. Here is a chronology of other notable events from 2011.

January

- Lighthouse Keeper Stanley Colvin spoke about the Cape St. George Light at the meeting of the Apalachicola Historical Society. Her well-received presentation included facts and figures about the history of the lighthouse, as well as anecdotes taken from keepers' logs and correspondence.

February

- SGI resident Dr. Michael Wilder agreed to donate his handmade model of the Danish warship Norske Love to the Lighthouse Museum.



Norske Love

March

- A Certificate of Occupancy was granted for the Lighthouse Keepers House.

April



Jim Wolfram and Marty Ray grilled chickens for Florida Lighthouse Day.

- Florida Lighthouse Day was celebrated on April 16 with BBQ chicken dinners, music, and free climbing at the lighthouse. A record 377 people climbed the lighthouse.



A crowd waits to climb.

- More than 50 SGLA members gathered on the grounds of the lighthouse for the 2011 annual meeting at the end of April. Officers and directors were elected.
- The number of lighthouse climbers since the lighthouse opened in December of 2008 surpassed 40,000.

May

- The SGLA board held their first meeting in the Keepers House conference room.
- Journalists from the Society of American Travel Writers and the TDC Press Tour visited the lighthouse.
- Plein Air artists painted in Lighthouse Park as part of their annual visit to the Forgotten Coast. SGLA, a sponsor of the Plein Air Paint-Out, honored the artists with a reception at the Keepers House attended by more than 100 people.



Artists Reception.

June

- An extension was added to the lantern room ladder, greatly improving access to the lantern room.

July

- Carol Talley was hired as manager of the Keepers House Gift Shop.
- Lighthouse lampist Joe Cocking presented to the board a plan for restoration of the 3rd order Fresnel lens damaged during Hurricane Katrina. It is possible that this lens came from the Cape St. George Light. The U.S. Coast Guard indicated that they would consider loaning the lens to SGLA if we fund the restoration.
- SGLA was awarded a \$4,000 grant for the 2012 Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge and a \$3,600 grant for the SGI Tour of Homes. The grants were made by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

August



The Lighthouse Museum.

- The Lighthouse Museum and the Keepers House Gift Shop opened on August 21, with exhibits highlighting the history of the lighthouse and the contributions of the lighthouse keepers. Keeper son and grandson Bill Roberts was honored as a benefactor of the museum for donating many items from his family's life at the Cape St. George Light.

- Exhibits on the history of St. George Island were installed in the SGI Visitor Center.

- SGLA was awarded two grants by the Florida Lighthouse Association. A \$5,000 grant will help fund an Audio-Visual exhibit in the museum. A \$2,725 grant will help support the Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge.

September

- Adele Colston was hired as sales assistant in the Gift Shop.

October

- HAM radio operators broadcasted from the lighthouse during the Oyster Festival on Columbus Day weekend. SGLA sold roasted oysters at the festival.
- About 100 students from Apalachicola's Project Impact program visited the lighthouse for a presentation by Keeper Stanley Colvin and a climb up the tower. Project Impact is an after-school program for children of all ages.



- Modification of the lighthouse vent ball to alleviate summer heat in the lantern room was completed. Holes were drilled around the bottom of the ball and covered with screen to prevent infestation by wasps, which is a common problem in lighthouse lantern rooms.

Jeremy Willoughby working on the vent ball.

- The Florida Lighthouse Association met in Port St. Joe, with climbs of the Cape St. George Light a featured part of the weekend meeting. SGLA officers Dennis Barnell and Terry Kemp and museum designer Jerry Murphy spoke to the meeting about the process of building the keeper's house and creating a lighthouse museum.

November

- Lighthouse friend Bill Roberts passed away unexpectedly from complications due to a fall. Bill was a true friend of the Cape St. George Light, and supported our efforts with the donation of many items now displayed in the museum. We very much miss his visits – like the one pictured at the right, where he joined a brick-cleaning session in 2007.



- Ten journalists from around the U.S. visited the lighthouse as part of a press tour funded by BP.

December

- The copyright for *Lighthouses & Living Along the Florida Gulf Coast*, the book by Bill Roberts, was transferred to the St. George Lighthouse Association by the Roberts family.
- Stan and Mary Farnham donated their collection of Harbour Lights statuettes to the Cape St. George Light. Stan is the former president of the Florida Lighthouse Association and previously donated his lighthouse keeper's uniform to the museum.

St. George Island Tour of Homes Coming Soon!

Tickets are selling fast for the first St. George Island Tour of Homes! The event, which includes a Friday evening reception on February 3 and the tour on Saturday, February 4, is sponsored by the St. George Lighthouse Association. The tour will feature seven island residences on the beach and the bay and in between, from the East End to the Plantation. Also included will be the Lighthouse Keeper's House and the new Plantation Club House.

Tour weekend will kick-off with a Friday evening reception at the Jay Abbott Firehouse on East Pine Avenue, featuring presentations on island architectural design and landscaping. The reception, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., will include light refreshments and raffle prizes. Homes will not be open for touring on Friday.

Saturday's tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will start the day in St. George Lighthouse Park, where they will exchange their tickets for a tour program and wristband. Tickets can also be exchanged for the mandatory wristbands at the Friday evening reception and at tour homes on Saturday. Coffee and homemade muffins will be available for sale at Ticket Central in the park. Tour programs will be labeled with a time to board the Lighthouse shuttle which will take participants to the three homes in the Plantation and the Plantation Club House. Plantation property owners or renters are encouraged to park at the Club House and ride the Plantation shuttle to the homes on tour. Visits to the homes outside of the Plantation will be by participants' private vehicles.

We offer a sincere THANK YOU to the homeowners who have graciously allowed their homes to be part of the tour. We also thank the local businesses in the home renovation industry who have generously helped sponsor the tour. Sponsors are listed on the tour website at www.sgitourofhomes.com and on the back of the tour program, and we encourage you to patronize them. And lastly, the first SGI Tour of Homes would not be possible without the trail-blazing work of co-chairs Dany and Marty Ray and the legion of volunteers that they have assembled to make the tour a success!

ST. GEORGE ISLAND
TOUR OF HOMES
FEBRUARY 3-4, 2012



FEATURING DISTINCTIVE HOMES FROM BEACH TO BAY

FRANKLIN COUNTY
We're Salty!

Ticket and schedule information available online at sgitourofhomes.com
850-927-7744 . 888-927-7744 Sponsored by St. George Lighthouse Association

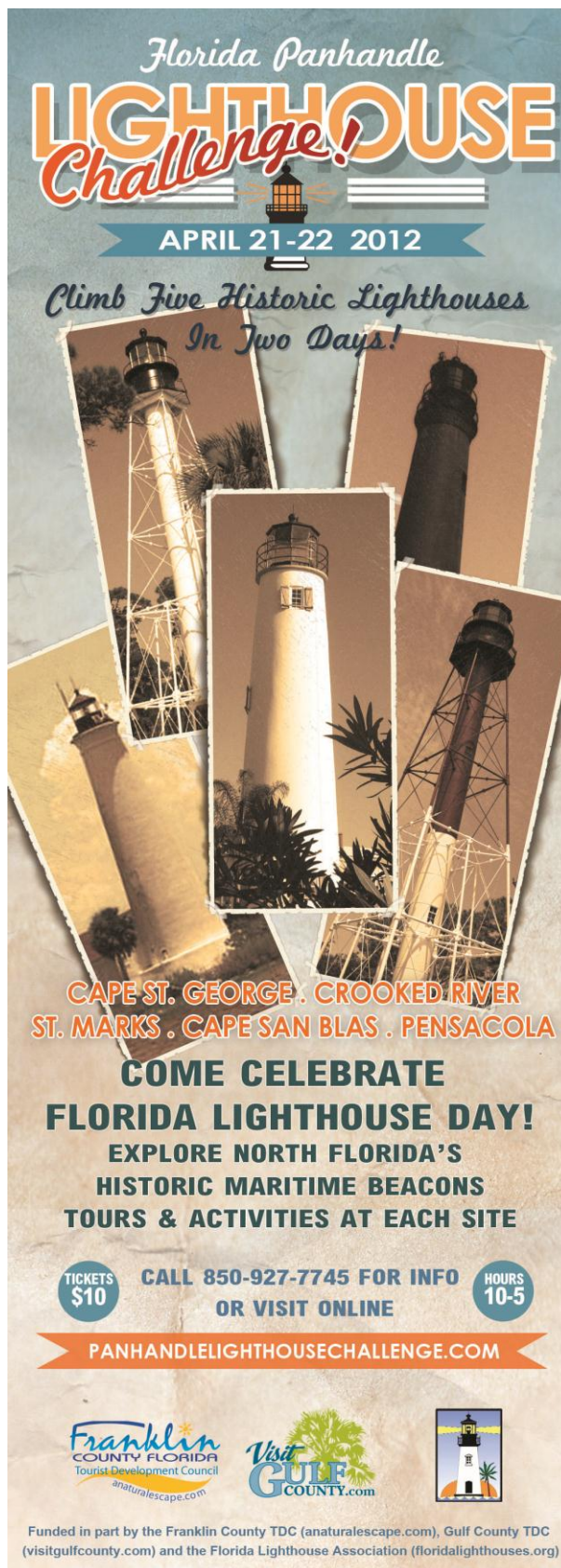
Lighthouse Challenge Coming to the Florida Panhandle

The Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22, 2012 will celebrate the five lighthouses in Northwest Florida – Cape St. George Light, Crooked River Lighthouse, St. Marks Lighthouse, Cape San Blas Lighthouse, and Pensacola Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse Challenge will bring lighthouse enthusiasts from all over the country to “meet the challenge” of climbing or visiting the five historic lighthouses. For the price of a Challenge ticket, participants will be able to climb a total of more than 500 steps into the maritime history of the Florida Panhandle!

Climb 131 stairs to the top of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and take in panoramic views of the Gulf of Mexico and St. Joe Bay. Make the trek up 92 wooden stairs and an eight-rung ladder into the lantern room of the Cape St. George Light, for spectacular views of the Gulf and the bridge to the island over beautiful Apalachicola Bay. Climb 138 stairs up the Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle to the open-air gallery offering breathtaking vistas of the wooded area around the lighthouse and the Gulf beyond. The St. Marks Lighthouse, which reaches 82 feet over Apalachee Bay, will not be open for climbing, but Challenge participants will be able to enter the base of the lighthouse and visit the keeper’s house.

New to the Lighthouse Challenge in 2012 is the Pensacola Lighthouse. For a real challenge, climb 177 stairs to the top of the distinctive black and white tower to see the magnificent first order Fresnel lens and views of Pensacola Bay and the Naval Air Station.



The poster features a collage of five lighthouses: Cape St. George Light, Crooked River Lighthouse, St. Marks Lighthouse, Cape San Blas Lighthouse, and Pensacola Lighthouse. The text is arranged in a vertical layout, starting with the event title and dates, followed by a call to action, a list of lighthouse names, and event details like ticket prices and hours.

Florida Panhandle
LIGHTHOUSE
Challenge!

APRIL 21-22 2012

*Climb Five Historic Lighthouses
In Two Days!*

CAPE ST. GEORGE . CROOKED RIVER
ST. MARKS . CAPE SAN BLAS . PENSACOLA

**COME CELEBRATE
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY!**
EXPLORE NORTH FLORIDA'S
HISTORIC MARITIME BEACONS
TOURS & ACTIVITIES AT EACH SITE

TICKETS \$10 CALL 850-927-7745 FOR INFO HOURS 10-5
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PANHANDLELIGHTHOUSECHALLENGE.COM

Franklin COUNTY FLORIDA Tourist Development Council anaturalescape.com
Visit GULF COUNTY.com
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Funded in part by the Franklin County TDC (anaturalescape.com), Gulf County TDC (visitgulfcounty.com) and the Florida Lighthouse Association (floridalighthouses.org)

The Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge, timed to commemorate Florida Lighthouse Day on April 21, is intended to raise awareness about northwest Florida's lighthouses and encourage support for the efforts to preserve these historic structures.

Visitors to the five lighthouses during the two-day event will receive a complimentary commemorative souvenir at each lighthouse, with a sixth souvenir and a Florida Lighthouse Association Completion Certificate awarded to participants who visit all five.

Challenge tickets will be available at any of the participating lighthouses on the days of the event. Tickets will be priced at \$10.00 per person, and you must be at least 44 inches tall to participate. Each admission price includes one commemorative tote bag (while supplies last) and one raffle ticket, and entitles participants to visit the five lighthouses at

no charge. There is an additional entry fee at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

Each of the unique Panhandle lighthouses will offer raffle prizes, as well as other activities during the Challenge. Food, music, arts and crafts, and living history presentations will be part of the fun-filled weekend. Hours for the Challenge are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

The Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge is supported in part by grants from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council, the Gulf County Tourist Development Council, and the Florida Lighthouse Association. For more information, please visit our website at www.panhandlelighthousechallenge.com.

Win Challenge Lodging in the Cape San Blas Keeper's House!

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse is raffling the opportunity to spend the weekend of the Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge as a resident of the Head Keeper's Cottage. Tickets are available now for the raffle to win two nights and three days in the cottage next door to the Gift Shop at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. The bedroom has one double bed. Children are not eligible to participate.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available in the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Gift Shop or by contacting Beverly Douds at 850-229-1151 or csblighthouselady2008@gmail.com. The drawing will be held on April 1, 2012.



The Keeper's Cottages at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse

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SGLA Membership Renewal Time Coming Soon

Memberships in the St. George Lighthouse Association are renewable at the end of March, so be on the lookout for renewal information in the mail soon. Our strength lies in our membership, and we hope that each of you will consider renewing your membership, or even upgrading to the next level. Or you can opt out of all of this by becoming a Lifetime Patron. For a \$500 Lifetime Patron membership, you can avoid annual membership renewal solicitations!

There are many benefits to membership in the St. George Lighthouse Association, including unlimited free climbing at the Cape St. George Light. Depending on the membership level, family and friends can be included as well. A second benefit is a 10 per cent discount on the merchandise in our beautiful new Gift Shop, which Gift Shop Manager Carol Talley has filled with all kinds of delightful items. And of course the greatest benefit of all is helping to preserve our historic lighthouse and tell its story for years to come!

Please Patronize Our Business Members

Aloha Bugs Pest Management
Marilyn and Mason Bean, Realtors
BJ's Pizza
The Butler Agency
Century 21 Collins Realty, Inc.
Collins Vacation Rentals
Steve Harris, Realtor
Island Adventures
Bobby James Roofing
Journeys of St. George Island

Knorrwood Antiques, Gettysburg, PA
Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
Resort Vacation Properties of St. George Island
Thomas M. Shuler, Attorney-at-Law
Sometimes It's Hotter Seasoning Company
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St. George Island Civic Club
Jerry Thompson, Realtor

Join Our Growing List of Lifetime Patrons!

Rick Alexander
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Benson & Betty Ann Skelton
St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum
Donna Stafford
Bob Staib
Glenn Swigart
Tampa Bay Harbour Lights Club
Mark Vail
Rex & Cindy Whiteman
Lon & Penny Wilkens
Lucille Wray

Thank You to All our Members!

Quick Blinks

- If you haven't visited the Keeper's House Gift Shop lately, a number of new items have arrived. There are t-shirts in new colors, more games and pirate banks for the kids, rustic wall art painted with an image of the Cape St. George Light, scrimshaw-style pocket knives, and fabulous black mugs imprinted with a graphic of the lighthouse. Gift Shop Manager Carol Talley has other items arriving in time for spring break, so stop in to check out the great selection of jewelry, lighthouse merchandise, hostess gifts, and children's items.
- The Florida Lighthouse Association will meet on Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11, at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, FL. The station includes two lighthouses, one of which may be accessible to FLA visitors. Lighthouse restoration architect Ken Smith will be the keynote speaker. For more information, visit the FLA website at <http://www.floridalighthouses.org>.
- The February Full Moon Climb is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The \$10 admission price for SGLA members includes light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon. Spring Full Moon Climbs are set for March 8, April 6, and May 6. Reservations are recommended, so contact the SGI Visitor Center at 850-927-7744 or toll free at 888-927-7744. For additional information, please visit our website at www.stgeorgelight.org.
- The next set of engraved pavers for St. George Lighthouse Park will be ordered in early March for installation later in the month. Access the order form on our website at www.stgeorgelight.org or call the Keeper's House Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 to place your order.

A Parting Shot

St. George Plantation Photo Contest Winner 2011



You have seen this wonderful photo by Betsy Kellenberger before, but great art is worth seeing again and again, especially when the work of one of our members wins an award. But we always knew that Betsy and the Cape St. George Light are award winners

Congratulations, Betsy!