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Winter 2013

Second SGI Tour of Homes Draws Crowds and Great Reviews

The 2013 St. George Island Tour of Homes was once again a tremendous success!

The numbers speak for themselves: 500 participants, over 100 volunteers, and over \$8,000 raised for the Lighthouse Association. The event, now in its second year, exceeded participation and revenue of last year's inaugural event by about 30 per cent.

Comments on the hundreds of praised the homes ("absolutely docents ("so friendly and nice", helpful"), and the shuttle system organized drivers, so well informed"). said they would attend another SGI

Visitors came from 28 states and two snowbirds who were spending a participants came from as far away as

Eight unique and lovely homes were lighthouse, keeper's house, and the St. George Plantation clubhouse. Three homes were in the Plantation, four in the central Gulf Beaches area, and one on the East End. Some were beachfront, some bayfront, and some in between – a diverse array of beautiful island homes.



surveys completed by Tour participants lovely", "beautiful inspiring houses"), the "hosts and hostesses were very ("very smooth transporting", "well A whopping 95 per cent of respondents Tour of Homes.

foreign countries, many of them month or longer in the area. Florida Naples and Fort Lauderdale.

featured on the tour, along with the capacity crowd enjoyed beverages and a selection of tasty hors d'oeuvres prepared by lighthouse volunteers. Erik Lovestrand, education director for the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, delighted the crowd with a lively presentation on the ecology of the Apalachicola Bay and Estuary. To conclude the evening,

a number of lucky participants took home raffle prizes like bird houses and garden art selected to complement the natural theme of the evening.

Many thanks to all who helped make the Tour so successful: the wonderful homeowners; the docents, drivers, and other volunteers; our generous sponsors; our gift shop staff who sold hundreds of tickets, fielded phone calls, and answered lots of questions; the supportive leadership of the St. George Plantation Owners Association; and, of course, all the Tour participants who came to share a little bit of our island life.

We hope to see all of you next year!

SGLA Reviews Vision, Mission, and Values

The SGLA Board of Directors recently adopted new statements of the Vision, Mission, and Values that govern the operation of our association. A Board committee led by Director Vito Bell and assisted by FSU Museum Studies Professor Dr. Susan Baldino and Business/Life Coach Gail Rieglmayer (both SGLA members) developed the new statements of our direction based on input from the entire Board. We are proud of our accomplishments and the successful organization that we have become, and we want to prepare ourselves for even greater things in the future. We thank you, our membership, for your continuing support.

SGLA Vision Statement

The Cape St. George Lighthouse and Keeper's House Museum and its Board of Directors and employees strive to make it the most highly regarded and most frequently visited Light Station in Northwest Florida, and in so doing provide the most rewarding experience possible for our visitors, members, and guests.

SGLA Mission Statement

The Cape St. George Lighthouse, the Keeper's House Museum and the St. George Lighthouse Association serve to preserve and explain the historic contributions that the Light and its keepers have made to Apalachicola, Florida and its environs. The Museum works to educate the local community and all visitors to the role the Light Station played in facilitating commerce and nautical travel along the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast. In the process, the museum strives to preserve and maintain artifacts used during the Cape St. George Light's time in service.

SGLA Statement of Core Values

Demonstrate common respect for all people including Visitors, Employees, and Members.

Respect all opinions, especially those other than one's own.

Deal openly and honestly.

Do what is best for the organization and its future.

Say what you mean and do what you say.

Promote a sense of teamwork with the Board, the Employees, and the Membership.

Lighthouse Chili Supports Fire Department

The St. George Lighthouse Association's Lighthouse Chili booth raised over \$160 for the SGI Volunteer Fire Department at the annual Charity Chili Cookoff on March 2.



Jerry, Richard, Lydia, and Terry say, "It's gettin' kinda CHILI in here!"

Richard Saucer prepared a big pot of traditional chili to sell in \$1 tasting cups to raise money for the Fire Department. The day was sunny, but appropriately "chilly," so the hot stuff sold out quickly.

Our special thanks to Lydia and Jerry, and to all the Lighthouse Chiliheads who came out to help, eat chili, and support a great cause!

Our spicy entry in the International Chili Society competition was prepared by Lydia Murphy, who was assisted by husband Jerry. Jerry is the president of Murphy & Orr Exhibits, the firm that produced the exhibits in the Lighthouse Museum. Lighthouse Chili was one of 40+ entries in the local competition, whose winner goes on to compete in the national ICS contest.

While Lydia was working up her special blend of top-grade beef and exotic spices, SGLA Vice President Skip Kemp and Director



Lydia and Jerry Murphy cook Chili.

Civil War History Weekend Activity

SGLA Hosts "Island Light" Production

St. George Lighthouse Park will be one of the venues for events during the Civil War Living History Weekend, planned for May 17 - 19.

Franklin County's local theater troupe, the Panhandle Players, will work with the Lighthouse Association to produce vignettes from "Island Light," a novel by Apalachicola author Alexander Key. "Island Light" tells the tale of Max Ewing from Apalachicola, a lieutenant with the Confederate States Navy who escapes from prison in the Dry Tortugas and makes his way home after the War Between the States. Ewing is planning revenge for the wartime fate of his hometown, when circumstances lead him to St. George Island and a job as a substitute for the injured assistant lighthouse keeper.

SGLA member Henry Kozlowsky will write the script for the vignettes, which will be co-directed by Ann Cowles and Caroline Ilardi. Caroline is also working on costumes, and SGLA member Dan Wheeler will do the lighting. The Lighthouse Association, led by members Elaine Kozlowsky and Terry Kemp, will work on props for the production, to be staged in Lighthouse Park. We are in need of a small, old wooden boat; some driftwood logs; and possibly a few simple pieces of period-looking furniture. If you know where such items can be found, or would like to help in any other way, let Terry know at info@stgeorgelight.org.

The event is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, May 18, with the exact time to be determined.

All Things Renew in Spring (including your SGLA Membership)

Winter is almost over, and Spring means it's time to renew your Lighthouse Association membership.

Watch your mail in the weeks ahead for renewal information. Or if you want to save us the cost of postage, drop off your renewal at the Gift Shop or mail it to SGLA, 2B East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328.

There are five categories of membership -- Individual (\$25); Family (\$50); Keeper (\$100); Lifetime Patron (\$500+); and Business (\$125).

Members enjoy free climbing privileges at the lighthouse as follows:

Individual – Member named on Membership Card for membership term.

Family – Member, spouse, and children under age 18 for membership term.

Keeper – Member, spouse, and all family members for membership term.

Lifetime Patron – Member, spouse, all family members, and accompanying guests for life of member.

Business – Owner/Principal, spouse, and all family members for membership term; employees, one free climb per membership year.

Members also receive a 10% discount on merchandise (pavers excluded) at the Lighthouse Gift Shop; quarterly newsletters and email updates; and voting privileges at membership meetings. The St. George Lighthouse Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS regulation.

New Sign Installed at Lighthouse Park

Lighthouse Park is sporting a terrific new sign that announces the Cape St. George Light, the Museum, and the Gift Shop as well as our neighbor, the SGI Visitor Center. The sign also credits our ongoing support from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

The colorful sign, designed and built by Sauls Signs & Designs of Tallahassee, combines painted poly-metal panels with sandblasted urethane accents to create an eye-catching 3-D design. It is mounted on a weather-proof aluminum frame on milled old-growth cypress posts.

Bob Sauls has chronicled the construction of the sign on his blog at <http://letteringbench.blogspot.com/2013/03/cape-st-george-lighthouse-progression.html>. There are three postings about the project. Navigate between them by clicking on “older post” or “newer post” at the bottom of the entry.



Next to come will be new but less dramatic signage at the Museum and Gift Shop, and informational signs to help visitors enjoy Lighthouse Park.

Florida Lighthouse Day

Florida Lighthouse Day will be observed on Saturday, April 20, with a day of free climbing at the Cape St. George Light. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Florida Lighthouse Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in April to raise awareness of the 30 remaining lighthouses in our State. Many Florida lighthouses offer special commemorative events on this day. So if you are in Florida on April 20 but can't be with us on St. George Island, visit the nearest lighthouse and honor these important players in our maritime history.

Museum Docents Needed

Spring Break 2013 is upon us, and the busy summer tourist season is not far behind.

We are looking for volunteers to help as docents in the museum during the busy periods, so that Carol, Adele, and Dany can focus on merchandise and climbing ticket sales in the Gift Shop. Docents receive training about the museum displays and potential problem spots and can sign up for shifts of a couple of hours. It's a fun way to meet our visitors, share your knowledge about the lighthouse, and feel good about helping out. Thanks to SGLA member Pam Vest for organizing the docent effort.

CLIMB TO THE MOON

Thanks to the new sign built by SGLA member Isaac Lang, the monthly Sunset/Full Moon Climbs have been selling out in advance every month. Below is the schedule for the next few months, so call the Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 to make your reservations. The cost of the Climb is \$10 for SGLA members (\$15 for non-members) and includes light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon. After sunset, members can climb for \$5 (\$10 for non-members) as time and space allow.

March 26: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
April 25: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
May 24: 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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
Island Outfitters

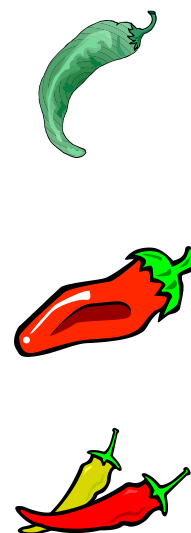
Bobby James Roofing
Knorrwood Antiques, Gettysburg, PA
Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
Resort Vacation Properties of SGI
Thomas M. Shuler, Attorney-at-Law
Survivors Bait and Tackle
St. George Island Civic Club
St. George Island Realty
Jerry Thompson, Realtor

Welcome new Business Members, John and Kristen Shelby of St. George Island Realty, and returning member Lois Swoboda of Aloha Bugs Pest Management.

Quick Blinks

- Plans are underway to replace the polycarbonate panels in the lantern room with laminate glass. The new glass will be a welcome change for the many climbers who want to take photos of Apalachicola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico from the top of the lighthouse.
- SGLA is preparing to receive a generous donation of almost 200 Harbour Lights figurines and Christmas ornaments from Derith Bennett of Tampa, Florida. The miniatures depict lighthouses in at least a dozen states. Ms. Bennett's donation will add to SGLA's Harbour Lights collection, started by FLA President Stan Farnham and wife Mary with their donation in 2011. We hope to be able to display many of the figurines at the Lighthouse Museum, but have permission from the donors to use the collections for fundraising for the Cape St. George Light when necessary.
- Speaking of Stan and Mary Farnham, they have relocated from their home in Naples to be closer to family in Iowa. In addition to the Harbour Lights collection, Stan donated his lighthouse keeper's uniform to our museum, where it is proudly displayed as part of our Keepers exhibit. We will miss Stan and Mary's occasional visits to the Cape St. George Light, and we wish them well in their new home.
- SGLA will host a booth at the Open House on St. Vincent Island on Friday, March 22, joining exhibitors from St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Apalachicola Riverkeepers, ANERR, and the Florida Park Service, among others. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes wagon tours, photo safaris, hiking, bird walks, music, and history and nature presentations. Participation is on a first-come first-served basis with the first boat leaving from the Indian Pass boat ramp at 9 a.m. For more information, see www.stvincentfriends.com.
- The fundraising for the repair of the third order Fresnel lens is progressing, but we need to solicit grant money to realize this dream. If you have any ideas or connections with possible grant resources, please let us hear from you.
- SGLA appeared before the Franklin County TDC's open meeting on utilization of potential Restore Act funds and proposed an upgrade to Lighthouse Park. More to come on this topic of great interest....

A Parting Shot



The 2013 SGI Charity Chili Cookoff was enjoyed by a motley crew of Lighthouse Chiliheads, including Jerry Murphy, Lydia Murphy, Richard Saucer, Bob Kriegner, Karen Rudder, Ed Barnell, Skip Kemp, Terry Kemp, and Chili Dogs Gus and Rosie. Thank you to everyone who helped with or visited the Lighthouse Chili Booth!