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Spring 2012

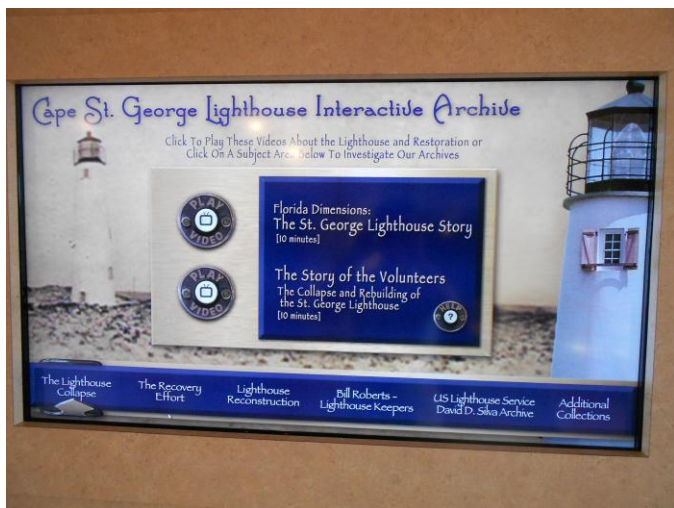
## **Audio-Visual Exhibit Added to Museum**

A new exhibit has been added to the Lighthouse Museum. The Cape St. George Light “Interactive Archive” is an audio-visual exhibit including videos, still photographs, documents, and text detailing the history of the Cape St. George Light. Installation of the exhibit in the Keeper’s House Museum was completed in March, 2012.



The collapse of the Cape St. George Light in October of 2005 was a newsworthy occurrence in the Florida Panhandle, and the event received considerable media coverage. Several videographers also filmed the reconstruction of the historic structure and developed brief documentaries about the lighthouse. This audio-video footage formed the basis for the exhibit, so that visitors could view the various news accounts of our lighthouse.

The exhibit, however, is more than just a collection of video clips. It is a digital repository for videos, photographs, and documents about the lighthouse and its keepers. The resulting Interactive Archive offers not only the opportunity to view a number of news clips and documentary pieces about the Cape St. George Light, but it also provides us with a method for storing and sharing photographs and documents about the Lighthouse. We will be able to use this archive as a storage medium for future photographs and documents that may be made available to the St. George Lighthouse Association.



*Introductory Screen*

The current components of the exhibit are as follows:

“Florida Dimensions: The St. George Lighthouse Story” -- This segment includes two video documentaries produced by WFSU for their Florida Dimensions program. The first video, filmed about half-way through the reconstruction project, focuses on the history of the lighthouse and the reconstruction. The second was filmed during the dedication ceremony held after completion of the reconstruction. Total duration is approximately 10 minutes.

“The Story of the Volunteers: The Collapse and Rebuilding of the St. George Lighthouse” --This 10-minute video was produced for the Florida Lighthouse Association by George Steitz of Impact Productions.

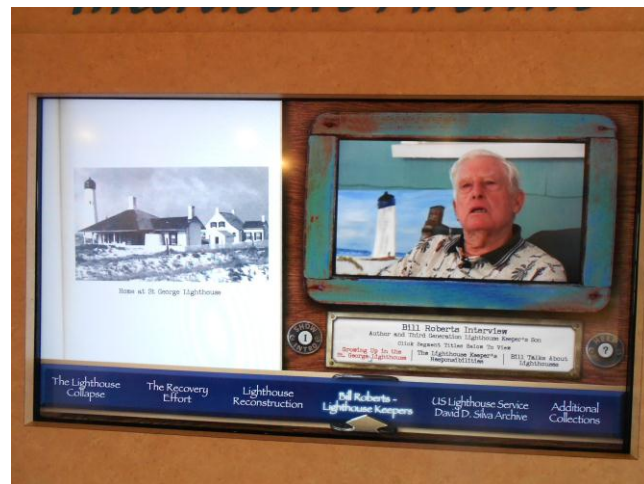
The Interactive Archive currently includes six separate archives:

“The Lighthouse Collapse” includes clips of the coverage of the collapse of the lighthouse from the three local television stations, and a collection of captioned photographs of the fallen lighthouse.

“The Recovery Effort” includes “home” video of the heavy equipment doing recovery work on Little St. George Island, filmed by Terry Kemp and narrated by SGLA member Eric Roberts, as well as a collection of captioned photographs of the recovery effort.

“Lighthouse Reconstruction” includes a video of reconstruction produced by WFSU for the Florida Portraits program, and a collection of captioned photographs of the reconstruction process.

“Bill Roberts: Lighthouse Keepers” includes excerpts from an interview with Bill Roberts done by Mike Rowan of WSRE, the PBS affiliated television station in Pensacola. The interview is illustrated by a series of captioned photographs from the Roberts Family Collection and the Florida State Archives.



*Bill Roberts Archive*

“U.S. Lighthouse Service: David D. Silva Archive” includes documents outlining the Lighthouse Service career of Keeper David D. Silva, and photographs from a Silva family album. These materials were provided by various members of the Silva family.

“Additional Collections” is an archive available for the display of items that may be added or donated in the future. Documents and photographs can be scanned and entered into the archive in a preset format.

This exhibit was funded in part by a \$5,000 grant from the Florida Lighthouse Association; by cumulative contributions in memory of Bill Roberts and J. Paul Rakel; and by major contributions by Susan and Jim McClendon, Karen and Bill Powers, Bob Staib, the St. George Island Civic Club, and Terry and Jim Kemp. We thank everyone whose contribution – large or small – made this exhibit possible.

# Membership Renewals Are Due

Spring is the time to renew your membership in the St. George Lighthouse Association. Renewal notices were mailed in early April, and in the month since the mailing, about half of our members have already renewed!

So if you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your contribution in today. Don't miss the chance to climb the lighthouse for free, get a discount at the Gift Shop, and feel good about supporting the Cape St. George Light. It is the support of our members who make exciting additions like the new Interactive Archive exhibit possible.

If you did not receive a renewal mailing, that could be for one of two reasons. You may already be a Lifetime Patron, and we thank you for your generous contribution. Or it may be that you have not renewed for a number of years – but we still send you our newsletter in the hope that you will see something that will make you want to join us again. We would welcome you back!

## Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge

In spite of stormy skies for the opening day on April 21, the Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge celebrated Northwest Florida's lighthouses with 300 participants "meeting the challenge" of visiting the five lighthouses in a two-day time period.



*Volunteer Sherri Roberts (center) greets Challenge participants.*

The rain gave way to blue skies and strong winds on Sunday. But while the weather may have kept local people from venturing out, lighthouse lovers who had travelled long distances to participate in the Challenge made the event a success. Based on survey responses, Challenge attendees came from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, New York, Tennessee, Indiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania,

Ohio, California, Missouri, New Hampshire, and all parts of Florida. Two participants came from Wasilla, Alaska, and four came from Varese, Italy.

The five participating lighthouses were Cape St. George Light, Crooked River Lighthouse, St. Marks Lighthouse, Cape San Blas Lighthouse, and Pensacola Lighthouse.



*Climbers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey with volunteers Dany and Marty Ray.*

At each lighthouse visited, participants received a unique lenticular bookmark featuring two alternating images of the lighthouse. Those who visited all five lighthouses received a special completion button and a certificate from the Florida Lighthouse Association.



Each lighthouse offered raffle prizes, food, music, arts and crafts, and other events of their choosing – often with the participation of other local non-profit organizations.



*Meteorologist Chris Smith (center) with Dennis Barnell, Mauri Smith, and SGLA members Caryl Collier, and Suzanne Ollila.*

At the Cape St. George Light, the Philaco Woman's Club sold baked treats and copies of their cookbook, the Friends of the Franklin County Public

Library held a used book sale, and the St. George Island Yacht Club sold their t-shirts.

Special "celebrity" guest Chris Smith, Chief Meteorologist for WJHG-TV in Panama City, visited four of the lighthouses and covered the event for the station's weekend newscasts. While at Cape St. George on Sunday afternoon, Chris and his wife Mauri assisted by drawing the winning tickets for our raffle prizes.

The Lighthouse Challenge helps raise awareness of the lighthouses in Northwest Florida, all of which have special maintenance and preservation needs. The proceeds from the Challenge are divided among the lighthouses to help meet the expenses of preserving these historic beacons.

## *SGLA's Spring Tradition: Hosting Plein Air Artists*



*The crowd under the tent.*

Once again the St. George Lighthouse Association hosted a reception for Plein Air artists visiting the area for the Plein Air Invitational Paint-Out, May 3-13.

Since last year's party venue has been filled with museum exhibits, this year's reception was held "en plein air:" under a tent set up in front of the lighthouse.

Artists who had spent the afternoon painting in and around Lighthouse Park were joined by several other artists for snacks provided by Charolette Bacher of Sometimes It's Hotter Seasoning Company, as well as a variety of liquid refreshments.

Demonstrating the art of painting in the open air were Harold Frontz at one of the beach pavilions, Natalia Andreeva on the beach in front of The Blue Parrot, and Trish Beckham who captured a small dune sunflower on canvas and sold the piece that evening! Harold Frontz presented a discussion of the plein air process and the techniques he uses. The presentation accompanied an exhibit of several paintings produced during previous paint-outs which was on view upstairs in the Keeper's House all week.



*Charolette's wonderful hors d'oeuvres!*



*Harold Frontz demonstrating his plein air technique.*

Other artists who joined us for the reception included James Hempel, Katie Dobson Cundiff, Ken DeWaard, Nancie King Mertz, and Bill Farnsworth, whose accommodations during the Paint-Out were provided by SGLA members Adele and Newt Colston.



*The Art: The large painting at right was painted by Natalia Andreeva near The Blue Parrot.*

## *Special Signed Book at Gift Shop*

Artist Bill Farnsworth from Venice, Florida, painted some spectacular scenes while attending the Plein Air Invitational Paint-Out on the Adele and Newt Colston, who that for over 30 years Bill worked books. Further conversation “Abbie Against The Storm,” is the young girl helped her father tend small island off the coast of Maine.



*Adele with “Abbie Against the Storm.”*

during a violent storm, and the story of her perseverance and commitment is truly inspiring. Carol Talley, who manages our Lighthouse Gift Shop where Adele works as sales assistant, wasted no time in firing off an order for the books so that Bill could sign them while he was here. So visit the Lighthouse Gift Shop for a copy of this heartwarming book, written by Marcia Vaughn and beautifully illustrated by our new friend, Bill Farnsworth!

Forgotten Coast. But SGLA members hosted Bill in their island home, learned as an illustrator, primarily of children’s revealed that one of these books, true story of Abbie Burgess, who as a the Matinicus Rock Lighthouse on a Abbie heroically kept the light burning

## **“Business After Hours” Conducted at the Lighthouse**

The St. George Lighthouse Association along with the St. George Island Civic Club and the St. George Island Business Association sponsored the May “Business After Hours” for the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members enjoyed Charolette Bacher’s homemade pizzas and other snacks, and many visited the Lighthouse Museum and Gift Shop for the first time.

Thank you to all the Chamber members who attended this event, and to Islanders who participated to welcome the Chamber to St. George Island.



*SGLA members Carol Miley and Vito Bell (right) serve guests “after hours.”*

## **Officers Elected at SGLA Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the St. George Lighthouse Association was held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in St. George Lighthouse Park. About 30 members were in attendance. Prior to the business meeting, VP Jim Kemp manned the grill for a hotdog cook-out, with chili by Newt Colston and cole slaw by Dany Ray.

A highlight of the meeting was Lighthouse Keeper Stanley Colvin's report that from the opening of the lighthouse on December 1, 2008 through March 2012, a total of 55,499 people have climbed the lighthouse. She said visitors in the past year have included groups from the U.S. Lighthouse Society, Geiger & Associates press tour, the ABC School, Project Impact, the Florida Lighthouse Association, Snowbird Day participants, Tour of Homes visitors, Bicycle Florida, and participants in the Sunset/Full Moon Climbs.

Visitor Center Executive Director Elaine Rosenthal reported another successful year for the VC, with 22,000 people from all over the world stopping in. Elaine reported that in the last year the interior of the Visitor Center has been painted, the exterior has been cleaned, and an exhibit detailing SGI history has been installed.

Dennis said that a future goal of the association may be the acquisition of a Fresnel lens to be displayed in the museum. He said that a lens would not be installed in the lantern room due to space limitations.

The membership elected officers and directors for the coming year. They are: Dennis Barnell, President; Jim Kemp, Vice President; Terry Kemp, Secretary; Phyllis Vitale-Lewis, Treasurer; and Directors Joe Bacher, Dennis Barnell, Vito Bell, Doug Brandt, Bud Hayes, Jim Kemp, Terry Kemp, Phyllis Vitale-Lewis, Richard Saucer, and Fred Stanley.

## ***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

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

## Quick Blinks

- A big thank you to Adele and Newt Colston who donated four wonderful rocking chairs to be used on the porch of the Keeper's House. If you are wondering why you haven't seen them, it's because they are being repainted in "Coast Guard green," which was the standard trim color for USCG buildings. They will provide a welcome resting spot for folks whose friends or relatives just can't tear themselves away from our fabulous Gift Shop!
- If you are on the island, you have probably noticed that the light at the top of the lighthouse is turned off. This is in keeping with the current restriction on our permit as a Private Aid to Navigation which requires that the light be extinguished from May 1 through October 31 to protect sea turtles who nest on our beaches.
- Thanks to SGLA member Isaac Lang who produced a terrific Full Moon Climb sign that we can use to publicize the climb during the preceding week. The sign has clever "bolt-on" panels for the days of the week, so that every month we can promote the day of the climb.
- It looks like the wildly popular St. George Island Tour of Homes will be an annual event. Your Board of Directors decided to schedule it for the second weekend in February. Hopefully the weather will always be as cooperative as it was this year!

## A Parting Shot . . . .



*Everyone needs an occasional bath - even the Lighthouse!*

*SGLA member John Olander gave the bottom of the tower a scrubbing before departing for his summer home in Niagara Falls. We hope that all our friends who are leaving for the summer have a great time. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!*