

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association presents our

St. Helena Island Workshop on Home Crafts from 1850 to 1910

Sunday July 22 through Wednesday July 25, 2018

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association is offering a new workshop, Home Crafts - 1850 - 1910. This program, taught by Shelly and Jeff Gier, re-enactors, will concentrate on life on St. Helena Island. Travel back in time and experience life of our ancestors. Did you know that in 1850 there were about 30 year around residents and 200 seasonal residents living on St. Helena? This fishing village had a general store, cooper shop, school, and many houses.

On a clear day there might be over 100 vessels tied up at the crib dock. The majority of the men in the village were fishermen. The women tended the home, made jams and jellies, mended fish nets, made patchwork quilts, hand dipped candles, and made their own bread. By 1880, the lighthouse had been standing for 8 years and the village people left the island for mainland towns and cities.

The participants of this workshop will all pitch in and help cook historic meals after starting a fire with a flint



Apple Pandowdy, cooked in an iron skillet over an open fire, tasty and ready to savor

and steel or a lens. They will pump fresh water from the certified well, hand wash dishes, use a shave horse and draw knife to produce a personal hiking stick, make twisted cord using the vegetation found on the island, learn about the residents of St. Helena

by exploring old census records and visiting the village site. There will be fishnets to mend, candles to make, and bread to bake. And there may be some English country dancing in the boathouse one evening.

On Sunday, July 22, 2018, participants for this workshop will board the vessel Ugly Ann, a retired Maine lobster boat moored near the Mackinaw City Marina in Mackinaw City at 9:00 AM for the forty-five minute ride to St. Helena Island, located seven miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. Upon arrival to the restored, 1873 light station, the participants will settle into their rooms in the Lighthouse and then enjoy a grand tour of the station grounds and a large luncheon. The Lighthouse has four bedrooms. The two small bedrooms each have a double bed. The two large bedrooms have one double bed and two twin beds each. Two additional twin mattresses are available for "camping on the floor".



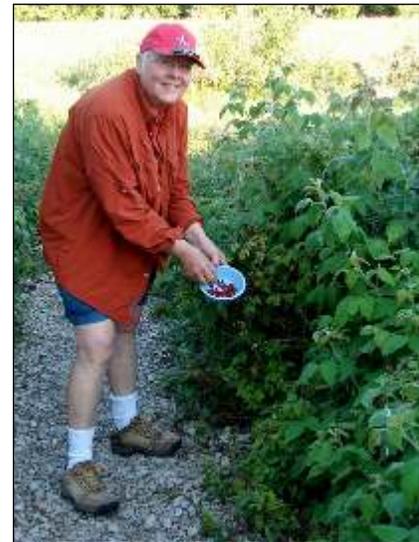
The St. Helena Island Light Station will serve as your home during the 5 day workshop

The GLLKA will provide pillows and blankets, and the participants will bring their own pillowcase and sheets or a sleeping bag. A packing list will be provided for each participant so they will know what to bring for a pleasurable stay.

During those periods when the mind wanders back to the 21 Century, participants can enjoy activities like kayaking, walking the cobblestone beach, identifying wildflowers, napping, relaxing in a lawn chair, waving at passing sailboats taking part in the 110th Chicago to Mackinac Sailboat Race, swimming in cool, clean Lake Michi-

gan, or reading a good book. Spectacular sunsets and sunrises can be seen over the Lake.

Two clean outdoor latrines can be found in a lovely grove of cedar trees a short walk from the lighthouse dwelling and an emergency toilet can be found in the basement of the main dwelling. On demand propane heaters provide warm showers. Solar panels provide electricity to charge cell phones and camera batteries, but not enough power for a hair dryer! Flashlights are used at night to provide light when needed. After dark, a roaring campfire on the beach will be



Picking wild raspberries on St. Helena Island



Shelly and Jeff Gier, the historical reinactors who will serve as your instructors for this workshop

perfect for telling ghost stories, roasting marshmallows, or just relaxing before bedtime. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed on the property.

After four days of living in the past, the Ugly Anne will arrive about 11 AM on Wednesday July 25, for the return trip to Mackinaw City, arriving at the dock at around noon.

The cost of the workshop for each participant is \$300.00. All workshop participants must be members of the GLLKA. A one year membership costs \$40.00 and can be purchased at www.gllka.com. The fee includes sleeping accommodations in the lighthouse, three meals a day plus snacks and craft supplies and instructions. The workshop is limited to 8 participants who must be physically able to transfer from the Ugly Ann to an inflatable boat that will transport participants to the dock. Participants should also plan medications and other essentials to include an extra day in case windy or stormy weather makes it impossible for the Ugly Ann to service the Island.

For more information and a registration form, please contact the GLLKA office at 231-436-5580 or e-mail GLLKA at info@gllka.com.