

THE OCTOBER ISLANDER

October 20 Pig Roast - The October meeting is a social meeting at the St. George Island

Lighthouse Park at 6:30 p.m. Visitors Welcome

BYOB and a covered dish

Dr. Dean Grubbs, FSU Marine Lab Addresses September Meeting

Dr. R. Dean Grubbs, Oceanographer at the Florida State University Marine Lab, spoke to the members at the September meeting about his studies of large fishes and the



effect of the Deep Horizon oil blowout on this area. Dr. Grubbs grew up in Perry, Florida, and became interested in sharks and sting rays during vacations at Dekle Beach on the coast of Taylor County. Dean explained that sharks and sting rays are in the same Class of fishes and how they are related. Dean's specialty has taken him all over the world and he has appeared on Discovery Channel's Shark Week as well as National

Geographic TV channel's Dangerous Encounters programs. One recent show was on endangered sawfish in Andros, Bahamas in 2010 and another was filmed in Hawaii with Brady Barr about the most ancient of the living sharks, the giant sixgills. The Andros program showed him as he tagged a huge sawfish.

In his present research on how the Deepwater Horizon spill has affected sea life, Dean addressed several questions: Are there differences (based on latitude or depth) in the assemblages of sharks and large bony fishes along the 300 km Big Bend shoreline of Florida? What is the trophic (food web) structure and are there regional differences? Are there differences in assemblages and food webs before and after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill? Have these fishes been exposed to petroleum-related (See Dr. Grubbs, page 2)

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The October Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will 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. The recently opened Lighthouse Museum and Gift Shop will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the Full Moon Climb. The sun will set at 7:12 p.m. and the moon will rise at 7:23p.m. on October 12. The October "Hunter's Moon" should be a spectacular sight from the top of the lighthouse. (See Lighthouse, page 2)

Improvement Work Begins at U.S. 98 and Island Drive Intersection

Construction crews will begin a 122-day project to add left-turn lanes at the northbound, eastbound and (See Intersection, page 2)

(Dr. Grubbs, from page 1)
toxins?

He recently made a trip near the oil spill during Tropical storm Lee's foray in the Gulf last month. During this trip, they caught several fishes called snake eels. Dean showed several pictures of these eels.



Dean and 6 foot snake eel

He is also very interested in the 6 gill shark which lives very deep in the Gulf. There is a picture of Dean holding and kissing a 6 gill shark at his FSU website:

(dgrubbs@bio.fsu.edu).



Tiger shark caught off Dog Island

Another interesting story was about the shark that had a luminescent bottom that mimicked the light above.

This ability camouflaged the shark from attacks from below.

One series of pictures showed a 12 foot long tiger shark caught in 5 feet of water off Dog Island. That story and pictures caught many members by surprise.

(Lighthouse, from page 1)

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 St. George Island Visitor

Center at 850-927-7744 or

toll free at 888-927-7744.

(Intersection, from page 1)

westbound approaches of the

U.S. 98 and S.R. 300, Island

Drive intersection in

Eastpoint beginning Monday,

Oct. 3. The \$601,000 project

also includes sidewalk

construction, drainage

improvements, signage and

pavement markings.

Motorists are reminded to use

caution while traveling

through the construction

zones and that traffic

violations double when

workers are present.

Franklin County Oyster Festival

The family festival will take

place on St. George Island

and in Eastpoint on

October 7, 8 & 9, and

highlight the county's proud

seafood heritage. Visitors can

expect educational displays

and demonstrations, a

shucking tournament, and

events in which they are

invited to participate. Those

activities include a 5K run, an

afternoon of children's fun,

and a fishing tournament.

Seafood will be served

throughout the weekend.

Contact SGI Visitor Center

850-927-7744, or Charolette

@ 850-927-5039.

The St. George Island Sheriff's Patrol

The Franklin County Sheriff's

office is looking for residents

who will volunteer to help

keep our island safe.

Volunteers who qualify will

be issued identification cards,

caps and uniform shirts and

take their turn patrolling the

island in a marked Sheriff's

Patrol car. Qualifications

include a background check,

two four-hour classroom

sessions, and other

designated training from the

Franklin County Sheriff's

office.

As a volunteer, you can

schedule yourself to patrol

when and as often as you

like. You will not confront violators, but will add “presence” to law enforcement on the island - patrolling and radioing suspicious activity and infractions to the Sheriff’s Office, who will promptly dispatch deputies to investigate and address problems. An additional marked Sheriff’s car patrolling the island will help discourage unlawful activities. For more information, please contact Sandy Mitchem at 850-899-8300.

Visitor Center News

There have been some major changes at the St. George Island Visitor Center. Most of the items about the lighthouse have been replaced with storyboards and items about St. George Island, and more will be added. A new turpentine exhibit will be available soon. And there will be better labels and explanations of the items already on display.

Upcoming Events

Apalachicola: Galleries and Shops will be open from 6-8pm on October 8 and restaurants will feature great specials during Apalachicola’s Second Saturday. Consider it a monthly “open house” for downtown Apalachicola; “Second Saturdays” is a chance for folks to meet the business owners, local artists, chefs and

supporters of the downtown district. Stroll through the galleries, shops and businesses and have a tasty dinner between 6-8pm and then after, from 8-10pm gather in Riverfront Park for live music! Skip Tanner’s Blues Band will be joined by Grammy nominee “Slim Fats”!

The Hallowscream Spooktacular Haunted

House:Friday, October 21, at 2011 Ft. Coombs Armory, Fourth Street & Avenue D, Apalachicola. CAUTION: Not for the faint at heart...Come for an unforgettable Halloween experience and help raise money for a great cause. Rooms of terror at every turn. Beginning at 8:00 PM. Cost is \$5 per person and all proceeds go towards The Justin B. Griffin Memorial Skate Park Fund. Justin Brice Griffin Memorial Skate Park Mission is to build a first class skate park for public use in the town Apalachicola, FL and honor the memory of Justin Brice Griffin.

The Hallowscream Spooktacular Costume Party

Saturday, October 22, 2011, at Ft. Coombs Armory, Avenue D & Fourth Street, Apalachicola. Put on your best costume and come prepared for a good time! Join us for the 2nd Annual Costume Party and Dance on Saturday, October 22nd beginning at 8:00 p.m. Entry is a \$5 donation and all proceeds go to The Justin B. Griffin Memorial Skate Park Fund. This is a B.Y.O.B. event and no one under 21 will be permitted. We hope to see you there to raise money for a great cause!

Ghostwalk Haunts

Apalachicola: Saturday, October 29, 2011, Hauntings will abound in Apalachicola on Saturday, October 29 at the Historic Chestnut Street Cemetery. From 7-9 p.m. local history enthusiasts from the Apalachicola Area Historical Society will don the garb and take on the persona of several of the cemetery’s more notable inhabitants to tell their tale of life in Apalachicola more than 100 years ago. A circular tour will send people off in the cemetery, outlined with candles, with a lantern at each gravesite. A nominal donation will be collected for purpose of restoring and repairing the graveyard.

2011 Florida Seafood Festival



Friday, November 4, 2011 through Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Battery Park, Apalachicola. The Florida Seafood Festival is a two day event annually drawing thousands of visitors to the historic town of Apalachicola in scenic Franklin County. The Festival is held at the mouth of

the Apalachicola river under the shady oaks of Apalachicola's Battery Park. The festival features delicious seafood, arts and crafts exhibits, seafood related events, Musical Entertainment. Some of the notable events include Oyster Eating and Oyster Shucking contest, Blue Crab Races, Cooking Contest ,Parade, 5k Redfish Run and The Blessing of the Fleet.

Downtown Oyster Roast

Friday, November 4, 2011
Downtown Apalachicola, Commerce Street. Seafood lovers and oyster aficionados get ready. The 6th annual Downtown Oyster Roast takes place November 4th, 6:00 to 9:00 pm in downtown Apalachicola. The event, sponsored by the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce, will feature roasted oysters, oyster on the half shell, creamy artichoke, oyster and thyme soup, fresh local shrimp, blue crabs, salad greens and scratch cakes. The event will take place downtown Apalachicola, across the street from the Riverfront Park in adjoining lot next to the Grady Market. Local blues man Joe Hutchinson will provide live entertainment. For tickets call (850) 653-9419 or email info@apalachicolabay.org.

Carrabelle: 3rd Annual Forgotten Coast Black Bear Festival This is an event dedicated to helping people understand and live in harmony with the fascinating Florida black bear.

The family-oriented festival is

celebrating its 3rd year and is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sands Park in Carrabelle, FL. It is a free event.

There will be presentations by bear biologists discussing bear biology and behavior. Free guided tours of the Apalachicola National Forest will be offered to visitors, so they can see and learn about bear habitat first hand. Biologist Adam Warwick will be onsite to talk with visitors. Adam gained international attention in June 2008 when he rescued a drugged black bear from the waters off Alligator Point.

There will be bear education displays along with examples of bear-resistant garbage cans, electric fencing and a trap used to capture bears when necessary. Literature about bears and other local wildlife will be available, as well as a children's area with various activities. Live music, craft and food vendors will also be at the festival.

"Our goal is for festival-goers to learn everything they always wanted to know about the Florida black bear and more," said David Telesco, FWC's statewide bear management program coordinator and one of the festival's organizers. Apalachicola National Forest is home to one of the largest populations of black bears in Florida. Helping people understand bear behavior is one of the primary goals for the festival. The more people know about bears the more they can appreciate them without having conflict. For more information about the 3rd Annual Forgotten

Coast Black Bear Festival, contact Allen Loyd at: allenloyd@earthlink.net or call 727-823-3888.

3rd Annual Charity Gumbo

Cook Off: Saturday, November 12, at Lanark Village Boat Club grounds. The St. James/Lanark Volunteer Fire Department will be presenting its 3rd Annual Charity Gumbo Cook Off. Visitors can enjoy the taste of competition gumbo, music and auction, all on the shores of the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. All benefits this year will go to retrofitting new roll up doors and storm shutters for the Lanark Village Fire Department building.

Civic Club Pig Roast: If you know someone considering membership next year, invite them to come along.

Visit our website: www.sgicivicclub.org for the latest news.

2011 Board of Directors

Mason Bean President
mason@century21collinsrealty.com
927-2382

Jim Troyan Vice President
jtroyan123@juno.com 927-4577
Eric Roberts Secretary/Editor
egrob2@fairpoint.net 927-3082

Tom Slocum Treasurer
tslocum@fairpoint.net 927-4692

Directors:

Terry Kemp
fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net 927-2000

Glynda Ratliff
giratliff@aol.com 927-3888

Isaac Lang Past-President
isaaclang@gmail.com 927-3520

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 451,
Eastpoint, FL 32328**