

# THE SEPTEMBER ISLANDER

Next meeting September 15 - Speaker Dr. Dean Grubbs, FSU Marine Lab

*The meeting is in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue  
6:30 p.m., Social—7:00 p.m., Dinner—7:30 p.m., Program & Business Meeting*

*BYOB and a covered dish*

## County Homeless Student Coordinator Addresses Civic Club

Sandi Hengle, an employee of the Franklin County School System spoke to the Civic Club members about the new Backpack Buddies program for homeless students.



*Sandi Hengle*

The program is part of the Franklin County School Nutrition Association. They created the Backpack Buddies because "hunger doesn't stop on the weekends." This program makes backpacks available for students, not for books, but for food. Participating students receive a backpack on Friday with nutritious food for the weekend. The backpacks are returned on Monday and restocked for the following Friday.

This is an unfunded program and needs assistance to provide this service. The Association selects the children in need and each child will be anonymous. Recommendations from teachers, employees and the administration are used to select the participants by verified economical hardship. A donation of \$25 will feed one child for one month. This adds up to 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners and 8 snacks. This comes to less than \$1 per meal. You may contact Sandi at 670-2810.

## Fire mitigation work on SGI

Two of the Florida Forestry fire mitigation specialists, Todd Shroeder and Victor Rowland, who spoke to our members at the July meeting were on the Island August 31, working on a 75-acre project on the bay side of the island from about East 5th St. to East 10th St. They were cutting and widening overgrown county roads and mowing DEP property. *(See Forestry, page 2)*

## Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage officially opens

With publicity in Apalachicola, Tallahassee and Panama City generating interest, many visitors walked through the new Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage on Sunday, August 21.



*Jim and Dot Skofronic, from Tallahassee, look over one of the exhibits*

The museum and gift shop are housed in the recently-completed Lighthouse Keeper's House, which is a replica of the original Keeper's House that stood on Little St. George Island. The Keeper's House is located next to the lighthouse in St. George Lighthouse Park at the center of the island. William Roberts, whose father and grandfather both served as Lighthouse Keepers at the Cape St. George Light, *(See Cottage, page 2)*

*(Cottage, from page 1)*  
was at the opening to sign copies of his book, “Lighthouses & Living Along the Florida Gulf Coast.”

The first phase of the exhibits in the museum focuses on the need for a lighthouse on St. George Island and the history of the lighthouse which was first built in 1833 and was reconstructed in 1848, 1852, and 2008.



*Civic Club members helped out at the opening*

On display are original pieces of the 1852 lighthouse, which collapsed into the Gulf of Mexico on October 21, 2005 and was rebuilt through a major community effort. Another exhibit tells the story of the Keepers who lived and worked at the historic lighthouse, and features a number of tools and memorabilia donated by the Roberts family.

On display is a Keeper’s uniform, worn by Stan Farnham during his recent tenure as President of the Florida Lighthouse Association. The uniform is the centerpiece of an exhibit

which includes a tribute to the many members of the U.S. Lighthouse Service who kept the nation’s lights burning to protect mariners for more than 100 years. The Lighthouse Gift Shop will be under the management of island resident and Civic Club member Carol Talley and



*Carol Talley talking with a visitor*

will offer items commemorating the Cape St. George Light, as well as a selection of jewelry and gifts for children.

Along with Bill Roberts’ book, the Gift Shop will feature “Island Light,” the recently reprinted novel by Apalachicola author Alexander Key which tells a Civil War-era tale set at the Cape St. George Light.

Tickets for climbing the lighthouse are now available at the Gift Shop.

The Museum and Gift Shop will be open the same hours as the Cape St. George Lighthouse: Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., and closed on Thursdays.

*(Forestry, from page 1)*

They are cutting and widening overgrown county roads, with county permission, and mowing DEP property as close to homes as possible. They will grid the area into small blocks for controlled burning this winter.



They are using a low ground impact machine called a GYRO-TRAC to mow scrub vegetation, while leaving mature timber and palms unharmed. Since most of this land is buffer preserve, they are working in conjunction with ANERR on the project.



They praised the spirit of cooperation from ANERR that facilitated the project, and expressed their gratitude for the support of the St. George Island Civic Club. (Photographs by Terry Kemp)

### ***Upcoming Events***

***SGI:*** The September Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse is on Monday, September 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Museum and Gift Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (See *Upcoming Events, Page 3*)

(Upcoming Events, from page 2)  
Shop will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for participants who want to visit the Keeper's House prior to sunset/moonrise. Reservations are recommended, call the Visitor Center at 850-927-7744 or toll free at 888-927-7744.

### **Franklin County Oyster**

**Festival** The family festival will take place in Eastpoint and on St. George Island, 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.

**Eastpoint:** The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will celebrate estuaries day on Friday, September 23rd. The educational event will teach children and adults about the Apalachicola Bay estuary, which is one of the most productive in the Northern Hemisphere. The event starts at 1:30 and ends at 6:30. There is something for everyone in the family including games and activities such as live reptiles on display, beach scavenger hunt and net making demonstrations. There will also be touch tanks featuring local wildlife. The first 200 visitors will get free Estuaries Day t-shirts and there will be a number of door prizes

given away. Estuaries Day will be held at the research Reserve nature center at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Florida.

**Eastpoint Pork-a-thon** September 3 to benefit the Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department. Pick up a cooked rack of ribs or butt between 12:00 and 4:00 at the Eastpoint Fire Department 24 Sixth Street, Eastpoint.

**Apalachicola:** Labor Day weekend concert at Riverfront Park in Apalachicola. The Pepper Drive Blues band will be playing from 8 to 10pm on Saturday, September 3. This is a fundraiser for the Franklin County Food Pantry and is the official Kick-off for the Holiday Food Drive. There will be hotdogs and hamburgers, Cajun peanuts and other refreshments. Please bring can goods as a donation.

**"Clue" Murder Mystery Weekend** from Friday, September 9, through Saturday, September 10 at 80 Sixth Street, Apalachicola. Come as Colonel and Mrs. Mustard, Miss Scarlet and Bo, Mr. & Mrs. Peacock and the other "Clue" characters. Dress the part and join us on the hunt to solve the crime. Come as a couple or a group. Our mystery package includes meet and greet wine reception Friday and Saturday, wonderful breakfasts, afternoon tea and cookies plus our exciting Mystery Event!

**Apalachicola's Second Saturday.** Galleries and Shops will be open from 6-8pm and restaurants will feature great specials. 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"!

### **Apalachicola Maritime**

**Museum** The Museum at 103 Water Street on Saturday, September 17 will serve as a launching site for cleanup volunteers who want to paddle. Launch your own canoe or kayak from our location, or rent a kayak from our new fleet of boats made from recycled plastic. There will be gloves, trash bags, snacks, water, and data sheets for volunteers. Register in advance by calling 850-653-2500. If you'd like to rent a kayak for the cleanup, book online for the best rate at [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org) and use promo code WEBSTORE

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