

THE JANUARY ISLANDER

Next meeting January 19 - Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

BYOB and a covered dish

Visit our website: www.sgcivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area updated weekly

President Mason Bean Reviews 2011 Activities and Accomplishments

At the St. George Island Civic Club annual Christmas dinner on December 15, President Mason Bean talked about the events of 2011. He began with the New Year's Bonfire that brought in 2011 and finished with an invitation to meet the evening of December 31 on the beach behind the Cape St. George



Mason Bean Lighthouse Park to bring in 2012. He reviewed the speakers for the year. **Dr. Felicia Coleman**, Director of the FSU Marine Lab in

St. James, **Jack Rudloe**, Director of the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories on U.S. 98 in Panacea and **Dr. R. Dean Grubbs**, Oceanographer at the Florida State University Marine Lab spoke of their own specialties and experiences. They also discussed what effects the Deep Water Horizon spill may have on our Gulf habitat.



Jimmy Lewis cleans up after **Dennis Barnell**, **Fred Stanley**, **Carol Talley**, **Sandy Michem** and **Jim Kemp**

Gail Riegelmayr made a presentation about the Saint George Island Forward (SGIF) organization. The goal of SGIF is to share information on an initiative currently underway to preserve and protect SGI's

special and unique character. SGIF was also prominent in promoting the St. George Island Sheriff's Patrol, which is now assisting the Franklin County Sheriff's department by providing a presence on the Island. **Lois Swoboda**, reporter and photographer for *The Times* in Apalachicola, made a presentation at the June Civic Club meeting for the Florida Wild Mammal Association. The club has made several donations to this association.

Todd Schroeder, wildfire mitigation specialist for the Florida State Division of Forestry, spoke at the July Civic Club meeting. He



Todd Schroeder and **Victor Rowland**

was accompanied by Victor Rowland from Eastpoint and Joey Taranto (See 2011 Recap, page 2)

(2011 Recap, page 1)
Senior Forest Ranger at East Bay.

Todd talked about what we could do to lower our risk of losing property and lives through a forest fire.

Pat O'Connell of Guardian ad litem spoke to the membership about how this organization helps needy children in Franklin County. The Program is viewed as the voice for Florida's abused & neglected children.

Cecilia Harris was thanked for her work in getting the Saint George



Island Civic Club a float for the Island's Fourth of July parade. Cecilia got the Fire Department's utility trailer, decorations from Richard Saucer, the Civic Club banner and, with the help of several club volunteers, managed to have great fun and provide great publicity for the club.

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

part of the Franklin County School Nutrition Association.

The October social meeting at St. George Lighthouse Park began



Fred Stanley and Steve Kearney at the Pig Roast early on Thursday morning with several members lighting a smoker and placing our guest of the evening on the grate. Mason Bean, Tom Slocum, Fred Stanley, Fran Giknis, Paul Riegelmeier and Steve Kearney spent most of the day tending to the future meal of the night. St. George Island Fire Chief **Jay Abbott** was the speaker at the November club meeting. He related how much the Volunteer Fire Department depended on the charity of the civic club and the members. In 2011, the hat drive produced \$29,955 and the Chili Cookoff raised \$75,000. In 2012 they need to reach those figures or better.

Mason then mentioned the names of our friends lost in 2011: Shirley Adams, Thom Lewis, Helen

Marsh, Jack Mossberg and Dr. Mike Wilder.

Nominations were made for the 2012 Board of Directors, seconded and elected. The new Board is listed at the end of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The January Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Monday, January 9. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 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 sun will set at 5:57 p.m. and the moon will rise at 6:38 p.m. on January 9. 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. Reservations are recommended.

For reservations or more information, please contact the St. George Island
(See Lighthouse, page 4)

(Lighthouse, from page 3)
Visitor Center at 850-927-7744 or toll free at 888-927-7744.

Apalachicola: Friday, January 20 through Sunday, January 22 at The Dixie Theatre, 21 Avenue E, Pas de Vie Ballet, Tallahassee's premiere ballet company, returns to the Dixie after a fabulous standing ovation performance in 2011, it will take your breath away.

Elvis & Friends do the Dixie Friday, January 27 through Sunday, January 29. Spectacular tribute artist Todd Alan Herendeen & his Follow That Dream Band have become one of the Dixie Theatre's most popular shows. Elvis is joined by Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison among others.

FSU School of Music, David Kalhous, Pianist Sunday, January 29, at Trinity Episcopal Church 79 Sixth Street. Begins at 4 PM, open reception in Benedict Hall following the concert, door donation \$5.

St. George Island Tour of Homes

The first-ever St. George Island Tour of Homes will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 4, sponsored by the St. George Lighthouse Association, Inc. Tickets cost \$15 in advance and \$20 on Feb. 4. Sales will be limited to 200 tickets.

An associated reception

and discussion on island-style interior decorating and external landscaping will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Feb. 3 at the St. George Island Fire Station, 324 East Pine Avenue, St. George Island. The event is free.



"We have a great selection of homes from the Plantation to the East End and from the beachfront to the bay," said Dany Ray, event co-chairperson. "We have modern and traditional beach-front homes, bay-front homes and historic homes. This is the first and best chance for people to get a total view of the island lifestyle from inside some of our best and most interesting homes." Tickets are at the Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce, 122 Commerce St, Apalachicola; Gardens, Inc., 149 Commerce St., Apalachicola; St. George Lighthouse Museum and the Visitor Center, St. George Island; and by

telephone at (850) 927-7744 or toll-free at (888) 927-7744. Tickets will be available Feb. 4 at Lighthouse Park, St. George Island.

Christmas Party Pictures



New Year's Eve Bonfire

This year's bonfire started in the early afternoon on December 31, with club *(See Bonfire, page 4)*

(Bonfire, from page 3) members setting up the stage and digging the hole in the sand for the foot warming bonfire. Thanks to Mason Bean, Fran Giknis, Larry Poston, Steve Kearney and Jason Poston . We had quite a turnout as you can see from the pictures.



Mason stacks the wood



Lighting of Bonfire



On left: Steve Kearney & Larry Poston. Sharon Poston is sitting in the middle front



Photo of crowd from dune walkover



Setting up DJ tent



Larry Poston, Steve Kearney, Fran Giknis and Jason Poston



Tom Wood & Mason Bean



Lighthouse with Christmas lights



Fire Chief Jay Abbott on the scene



The setup crew admires their work



Part of the crowd on New Year's Eve

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