

THE MAY ISLANDER

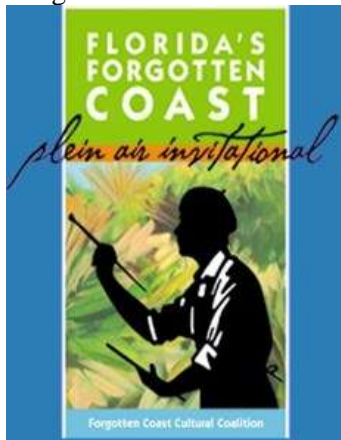
Next meeting May 17: the speaker is Curt Blair of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council

Social begins at 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

Susan Bassett previews the Plein Air Invitational

More than 20 nationally acclaimed artists will gather on Florida's Forgotten Coast from May 3-13 to participate in the 7th annual Florida's Forgotten Coast Plein Air Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out. Painters will set up their easels and pull out their brushes to document the landscape and culture of this last vestige of authentic "Old Florida" – the coastal stretch of scenic North Florida between Mexico Beach and Alligator Point.



Susan Bassett introduced Natalie Shoaf and Joe Taylor to give us background information of the Invitational and how they select the artists. This year Newt and Adele Colston will

host one of the artists in their home.

This is considered the premier art event in Northwest Florida.

Attendance is expected to exceed 5000 art enthusiasts. Last year, individuals from more than half of the states (27) registered at this event. The Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition is sponsoring the event with marketing help provided by the Gulf and Franklin County TDC's, the Mexico Beach CDC, Visit Florida, The Gulf and Apalachicola Chambers of Commerce and the St Joe Company.

Winter Bingo Sets New Record

The Winter Bingo set a record of \$4,568. Interest was so high Bingo continued into April.



One last game, which had a winner take all pot, saw \$125 given away. Easter week, with Spring Break in Georgia and Alabama, had almost every rental house on the Island occupied.

Public Service Commission holds meeting on Water Management Rate Hike Request

On April 25, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) held a town meeting at the Jay Abbott Fire Hall. More than 70 residents of St. George Island attended the meeting with several Civic Club members addressing the Commission. No one spoke in favor of the rate hike. PSC employee Bart Fletcher chaired the meeting with Todd Brown of the Division of Economic Regulation in attendance. Erik Saylor, Office of Public Counsel, which represents the consumer in these rate request matters, was also in attendance.

Water Management Services, Inc. (WMSI) Executives and employees attended the meeting. They sat at the rear of the room, but could not speak because this was an opportunity for the customers to address the PSC. The decision on the rate request is due on July 31 with a protest period of 90 days available to the utility and to the customers, depending on the decision. The PowerPoint presentation shown at the meeting is available on the Civic Club website: www.sgicivicclub.org.

***Weather Doesn't Dampen
Lighthouse Climb
Enthusiasm***

The Weather on April 21 did not cooperate for the Second Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge. Participants were to visit and/or climb five lighthouses in Northwest Florida. Lighthouses participating were: Cape St. George Light on St. George Island, Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle, St. Marks Lighthouse in St. Marks, Cape San Blas Lighthouse on Cape San Blas and new this was the Pensacola light house.

Rain began early on Saturday morning and got increasingly worse. Lightning forced the closing of several of the lighthouses around 11 a.m. That was followed by gusts of wind and torrential rain. Participants continued to come by even during the worst of the weather. Rain tickets were provided for those who wanted to return later and stamps were given out to the hardy lighthouse enthusiasts. Fortunately, the weather on Sunday was beautiful. In spite of the weather, the Challenge brought 300 climbers from all over the U.S. to St. George Island.

***Noted marine biologist
Dr. Anne Rudloe dies***

In March of 2011, the speaker for the Civic Club meeting was Jack Rudloe, Director of the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories on U.S. 98 in Panacea. Accompanying Jack

that night was his wife Dr. Anne Rudloe.

In the Sunday, April 29 edition of the Tallahassee Democrat, the top story on the Local/State page was an article about her death. Dr. Rudloe was a noted marine biologist, environmental activist and author.

***Upcoming Events:
St. George Island
Cinco de Mayo***

The Franklin County Humane Society will hold their annual Cinco de Mayo fundraiser and auction at Sometime It's Hotter on May 5.

This year, since the Kentucky Derby will also be held on that date, its name will be Cinco de Mayo & Cinco de Derby. You can watch the Derby on a large flat screen TV.

There will be a Raffle and Silent Auction featuring art, jewelry, weekend getaways and more.

A 50/50 Derby Pool Blind Draw for Win, Place and Show will highlight the festivities. Half will go to the Humane Society and half to the Pool Winner.

Two contests will also be held: Best Derby Hat and Best Homemade Salsa (1st, 2nd and 3rd places).

As usual, there will be a Cash Bar with Mexican Beers, Margarita Coolers and Wines. Tacos and Nachos will be served. (See the attached poster)

Cape St. George Lighthouse

The May Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Sunday, May 6. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will

take place from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 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 8:20 p.m. and the moon will rise at 9:19 p.m. on May 6.

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.

The Cape St. George Light is located in St. George Lighthouse Park at the center of St. George Island. 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.

Journey's Spring Demo Day Saturday, May 26, Journey's of St. George Island will hold



their annual Spring Demo Day at the Marina across from Harry A's on St. George Island.

(See Kayak, page 2)

(Kayak, from page 1)

Come and try out a kayak or catch on to the Stand Up Paddle Board craze! Call 850-927-3259 for more information.

Apalachicola:

Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour

Plans are underway for the 20th annual Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church. All of the homes on tour this year are over one hundred (100) years old and beautifully showcase this year's theme of "A Passion for Preservation."



The tour is expected to attract over one thousand visitors to Apalachicola, Florida on Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th, 2012. Preceding Saturday's Home & Garden Tour is an all-day Symposium on Friday, May 4th. The Symposium will feature nationally renowned historical preservationists and architects, and will entertain and educate attendees on the history of area homes, churches and museums.

Albert Handell Art Workshop

The Forgotten Coast is a "natural escape" for nature lovers and history buffs. Endless views of sea oats, sand dunes, lighthouses, shrimp and oyster boats, sunrise and sunsets over

marshes and historic village scenes are all at your fingertips for these workshops. Albert Handell, from New Mexico Plein-air Landscape, will offer an intense week of study and painting followed by critiques and lectures. The week will start with a Sunday evening "Meet and Greet" wine reception at Camellia Hall. Workshops include all day painting and afternoon critiques and dining together at local seafood and specialty restaurants. Please contact Lynn Wilson at lynnwilson2@aol.com for more information. The final workshop of the year will be with Jack Pardue in November.

2012 JBG Rockfest

Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Battery Park (under the bridge), Apalachicola. Gates open at 9:00 Am. \$10 entry fee. Bring your chairs and a cooler and enjoy a day full of rock! Proceeds go to benefit the JBG Skate Park.

Carrabelle

Full Moon Tower Tour



On Saturday, May 5, and Sunday, May 6, the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association is offering Full

Moon Tower Tours & Moonlit Maritime Movies from 7-10 pm. Climb tickets are \$10, includes beverage and pastry. Weather permitting. Films start at dark. Bring your own chairs. There is limited parking, so please carpool.

May 5 "The Old Man and the Sea"

1958 Spencer Tracy

June 3 "Mutiny on the Bounty"

1935 Clark Gable, Charles Laughton

Forgotten Coast Open

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 at St. James Bay Golf Resort, 151 Laughing Gull Lane, Carrabelle.

The region's best professional and amateur golfers compete in a 2-day stroke play event at the beautiful, challenging golf course at St. James Bay. This will be a great competition with prizes on one of Northwest Florida's best layouts.

**Visit our website at:
www.sgicivicclub.org**

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