

# THE OCTOBER ISLANDER

Next meeting October 18 for our Annual Pig Roast

Social begins at 6:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Park

*BYOB and a covered dish*

## ***Update re: water issues on St. George Island***

Water Management Services, Inc. (WMSI), the sole provider of water on St. George Island, is for sale. Earlier this year the City of Carrabelle applied to the Department of Environmental Protection for a loan to purchase the water company. The St. George Island Civic Club, the Plantation Owners Association and St. George Island Forward combined forces with the goal of postponing this action until enough knowledge could be gathered to determine what was best for the Island.

Due partially to these efforts, the City of Carrabelle has since decided not to purchase WMSI. This decision provided necessary time to consider other options for ownership of the water provider that would best serve the interests of Island residents and property owners. Everyone who contributed to this effort was instrumental in this favorable result.

Through an appeal made to Island property owners, there is now almost

\$16,000 in a bank account to aid in procuring consultant and legal advice. Thank you to all who sent in money. An organization, the SGI Water District, Inc., a non-profit entity, has been formed to inquire into ownership and management alternatives for the Island's water utility. This organization has met with several consultants and, as one alternative, is considering the purchase of WMSI. A recent Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) decision was made on a rate increase request by WMSI. This decision allowed a portion of the requested increase in rates (over 30%), an increase in connection fees to \$5,300 and also required that an escrow account be set up to ensure that revenues were applied to needed maintenance and improvements. The PSC decision may be found at <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/FILINGS/12/05764-12/05764-12.pdf>. A protest to this ruling was filed by the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) on several of the decisions (See *Water, page 2*)

## ***State Park Ranger Josh Hodson speaks to Civic Club***

Our guest speaker at the September meeting was Head Ranger Josh Hodson of the State Park on St. George Island. He brought us up-to-date on the amenities available at the Park.



***Josh Hodson***

The attendance at the Park has almost doubled in 2012 over 2011. When you consider Tropical Storm Debby and the possibility of Hurricane Isaac coming ashore, that is much higher than expected. Josh thinks the rating from Dr. Beach of the Park as one of the top five Beaches in the Nation helped tremendously.

There is now a graded road that ends in a parking area for 20 vehicles at the easternmost end of the Island. He does recommend driving a truck rather than a road car, but a 4x4 is not needed.

(See *State Park, Page 2*)

### ***Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse***

The September Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Sunday, September 30. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 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 7:26 p.m. and the moon will rise at 7:37 p.m. on September 30. 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, where Island Drive (the road off the bridge) ends at Gulf Beach Drive.

Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. Parking is available. For reservations or more information, please contact the St. George Island Visitor Center at 850-927-7744 or toll free at 888-927-7744.

*(Water, from Page 1)*

included in the filing.

That protest has not been entered onto the PSC website as yet.

There is still much study and many difficult decisions to be made regarding the future of water services on the Island. We will do our best to inform each and every Island property owner of the progress of the potential sale of this essential utility.

*(State Park, from Page 1)*

Veterans can get a 25% discount by bringing their Form dd214 when they purchase a membership. Disabled visitors can use special equipment to access the beach and even float in the Gulf.

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### ***Apalachicola Jazz & Wine Festival***

The Franklins' Promise Coalition is trying to raise money to restock the food pantry and is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Schedule of Events -  
September 27, Thursday, Wine And Jazz Dinner, 7pm Veranda's Bistro  
September 28, Friday, Jazz After Hours, 7-9pm, Tamara's Tapas Bar  
September 29, Jazz in the Park, 3-10pm, Wine Tasting, 3-6pm, Riverfront Park  
September 30, Brunch, Jazz on the Veranda, 11am-2pm, Veranda's Bistro For more information contact: [www.franklinspromisecoalition.org](http://www.franklinspromisecoalition.org)

### ***Authors in Apalach***

The Apalachicola Municipal Library will host the Second Annual Authors in Apalach on September 28 & 29. This year's event will include a Civil War candlelit dinner with Jeff Shaara, author of the recently published historical military novel "Blaze of Glory."

Continuing with that theme, there will also be a ceremonial flag placement on the graves of Civil War veterans that are buried in the Chestnut Street Cemetery. Apalachicola's Historic Raney House will be the event's main location to meet local authors and purchase their books. In addition to the candlelight dinner and book signings, this year's festival will feature historians, storytellers and authors as well as a closing reception at the Orman House State Park. New authors this year will include Doug Alderson and Michael Morris. Morris has roots in the Big Bend area of Florida and his new book, Man in the Blue Moon is set in Apalachicola in 1918. One of his previous books, Wiregrass, is partially set in Apalachicola. For more information call 850-653-8436.

### ***Eastpoint***

#### ***National Estuaries Day***

It's all about the Bay on Sept. 28 as the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research (ANERR) celebrates National Estuaries Day at its new Research and Visitor Center in Eastpoint. The festivities will run from 1:30-6 p.m. and (See ANERR, Page 3)

*(ANERR, from Page 2)*  
will feature family-friendly activities and exhibits. The Visitor Center is located near the St. George Island Bridge at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint. For more info call 850-670-7700.

**Carrabelle** This marks the sixth consecutive year that the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum has been asked to participate in the Smithsonian Magazine's Annual National Museum Day. The museum is located in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex, at 1001 Gray Ave., Carrabelle, Florida. We will be welcoming visitors from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Come view our ever-growing exhibits. Documentary movies will be shown throughout the day—some highlighting local people. Hear live music and enjoy free refreshments! As always, admission is by donation. You can learn more about the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum and download directions at [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com). For more information, e-mail [campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net](mailto:campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net) or call (850) 697-8575.

For further information on National Museum Day, please visit [www.smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday)

**Apalachicola**  
***Sculpturing on the Edge***  
**Workshop**

Expand your technical and conceptual boundaries using concrete as your medium and your imagination as your

guide. Students will create sculptural objects from polymer cement and mixed media, resulting in a piece to take home that can be placed indoors or out. All levels welcome.

Wed., October 3, 2012 – 9:30am-4pm through Sat., Oct., 6, 9am-4pm at the Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art, Corner of Water Street and Avenue E, Apalachicola, FL 32320. Cost: \$495.00 plus a \$50.00 materials fee (which covers all materials except those personal objects you may want to use in the sculptures).

Deadline to Register: September 3, 2012  
Please mail a deposit check for \$200 of your workshop fee made payable to: Historic Apalachicola, Inc, P.O. Box 86, Apalachicola, FL 32329 attn: Paulette Moss  
Instructor: Johan Hagaman  
[www.johanhagamanstudio.com](http://www.johanhagamanstudio.com) 615-661-8854

**Carrabelle**  
***Black Bear Festival***

Sands Park 503 Highway 98  
October 6, 2012 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A free, fun, family festival with children's activities, tours into bear habitat, music by King Cotton, food, educational exhibits and more!

Carrabelle is home to one of the largest populations of black bears in Florida. Helping people understand bear behavior and how to avoid conflicts are the primary goals of the festival.

**Apalachicola**  
***Blues Along the Riverfront***



Apalachicola's riverfront will be alive with jazz and blues music in October as the town hosts a month-long series of benefit blues and jazz concerts. The concert series kicks off October 6 with Grammy nominee Slim Fats at the Listening Room located at the Center for History, Culture & Arts overlooking the Apalachicola River. On Oct. 13, the Second Saturday monthly event will feature the Smackwater Retrievers group in Riverfront Park. On October 20, several blues bands will perform as part of a Blues in the Park event in downtown Apalachicola and Oct. 27 will bring blues to the docks of the Apalachicola Maritime Museum.

***Wooden Boats Display***

Dan Houston will display a few of his beautiful hand-built boats and provide a demonstration of a steam box, used to steam and bend planks. He will discuss his lifelong passion for boats, as well as boat building techniques such as lofting and the table of offsets. Mr. Houston grew up on the Flint River near Albany, Georgia, and acquired "boat disease" at an early age. When he was 14, Dan and his best friend  
*(See Boats, Page 4)*

***(Boats, from Page 3)***

left the family farm on the Flint River and made several week to ten day trips in a 13-foot skiff to Apalachicola and on to Panama City, camping along the river and on St. George and Shell Islands. He has had a hand in building more than ten wooden boats. Museum founder George Floyd will also announce plans for the upcoming restoration project on the Golden Ball, an original 1962 Herreshoff. This will serve as a community demonstration project. Once she is restored, Golden Ball will become part of our fleet and will be used for sail training and education. Learn how you can get involved as part of the crew.

All lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a low country boil on the docks (weather permitting) or other reception. The cost of each event is \$5. Advance reservation is required for guaranteed seating. Reserve online at [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org) or call (850) 653-2500.

***FSU Marine Lab at St. Theresa Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta***

Build yourself a boat out of recycles & race as best you can! What's the point? Crossing the finish line? Not really. Staying afloat? That'll do! The first Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta is Saturday, October 6th, from 12noon - 6:pm. Come on down to the Coast for the day. Registration \$25 per boat. To register online go to:

<http://marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach/regatta.html>

***Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament***

Tee up with business members from around the Franklin, Gulf, Leon, and Wakulla County areas at the 9th Annual Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament on Wednesday, October 10th, 2012. Tee time is 1:00 pm on the beautiful St James Bay Golf Course, just east of Carrabelle. The tournament will be a flighted man scramble, low score wins with prizes for the top three teams. Scores will be totaled and prizes will be awarded at the reception following the tournament, Cost per team is \$400, \$100 per player. Fees include range balls, golf carts equipped with color GPS system. Tournament proceeds will go toward the Chamber's building fund. For more information contact the Apalachicola Bay Chamber at (850) 653-9419 or email at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

***Apalachicola***

***Dr. Rhonda Kimbrough Lecture: The History of Ft. Gadsden***

Dr. Kimbrough will talk about the historic events at Fort Gadsden, National Historic Landmark 15 miles upstream from Apalachicola, and their international implications. A British fort, escaped slaves, Native Americans, General Andrew Jackson, the American military, and the Spanish control of Florida combine into one of the most dramatic

events in 19th century Florida history. Since obtaining an M.A. in Anthropology from Florida State University in 1990, Rhonda Majors Kimbrough has served as an archaeologist with the National Forests in Florida. She currently manages their heritage program which includes cultural resource management, forest history and tribal relations associated with a 1.2 million-acre land base. Responsibilities include 3294 archaeological sites, 24 historic structures and consultation with eleven federally recognized Tribes All lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a low country boil on the docks (weather permitting) or other reception. The cost of each event is \$5. Advance reservation is required for guaranteed seating. Reserve online at [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org) or call (850) 653-2500.

***Apalachicola, Eastpoint & St. George Island***

The annual Running for the Bay Marathon will be held Oct. 21.

It begins in Apalachicola before heading over the beautiful Apalachicola Bay to Eastpoint and then crossing the bridge to St. George Island. The run, which begins at 7:00 AM, includes full marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K (all with wheelchair divisions) and Walk-a-Thon. St. George Island is the half-way point of the full marathon. For more information, go to [www.runningforthebay.com](http://www.runningforthebay.com)

**Carrabelle Lantern Fest**

Friday, October 26 through  
Saturday, October 27 at 1975  
Highway 98 West, Carrabelle  
Beach



The Crooked River Lighthouse will host another evening of maritime enchantment for the 117th birthday of the lighthouse! The park will again be filled with beautiful glowing lanterns, talented musicians, dancers, dramatic story tellers and masters of traditional crafts. This year will focus on crafting useful fibers using natural local vegetation. A blacksmith demonstrator will be back and the Tallahassee Community College Dance Company.

A 70 foot pirate ship will feature a special dramatic presentation, recalling the souls of those lost at sea during the many historic shipwrecks along our coastline.

Be sure to climb the tower Saturday night, the moon above will be nearly full and the lanterns will be visible below.

**St. James Bay  
2012 Battle at the Bay Golf  
Tournament**

Saturday October 27 and  
Sunday October 28, is the  
date for an open field event at  
St. James Bay Golf Course.  
The Battle at the Bay benefits  
Franklin County Habitat for  
Humanity. The goal is to  
provide a unique fun  
experience at the beautiful St.  
James Bay Golf Resort at an  
affordable price with great  
prizes. The 2012 Battle at the  
Bay is a two-player team  
event with formats conducive  
to good and competitive  
scoring for all levels of  
golfers. For more  
information, call (850) 697-  
9606 or go to  
[www.stjamesbay.com](http://www.stjamesbay.com)

**Apalachicola 2012 Ghostwalk**



Hauntings will abound  
Apalachicola on Oct. 27 at  
the Historic Chestnut Street  
Cemetery. From 7-9 pm 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. For more  
information go to  
[www.apalachicolahistoricalsoctety.org](http://www.apalachicolahistoricalsoctety.org)

**Apalachicola's 49th annual  
Florida Seafood Festival**

This is Florida's oldest  
maritime event and annually  
draws thousands of visitors to  
Apalachicola. It is held at the  
mouth of the Apalachicola  
River at Battery Park on  
Friday and Saturday, Nov.  
2nd and 3rd. The festival  
features delicious seafood,  
arts and crafts exhibits,  
seafood related events and  
musical entertainment - this  
year's headliner is Lee  
Brice. Some of the notable  
events includes Oyster  
Eating and Oyster Shucking  
contest, Blue Crab Races,  
Cooking Contest, a  
downtown Parade, 5k  
Redfish Run and the Blessing  
of the Fleet.

*Thanks to the Franklin County  
Tourist Development Council for  
upcoming events.*

Visit our website at:

[www.sgcivicclub.org](http://www.sgcivicclub.org)

2012 Board of Directors

Mason Bean President  
[mason@century21collinsrealty.com](mailto:mason@century21collinsrealty.com)  
927-2382

Newt Colston Vice-President  
[Newtcol@gmail.com](mailto:Newtcol@gmail.com) 927-3001

Eric Roberts Secretary/Editor  
[egrob2@fairpoint.net](mailto:egrob2@fairpoint.net) 927-3082

Ann Giknis Treasurer  
[giknis@fairpoint.net](mailto:giknis@fairpoint.net) 927-3647

Directors:

Terry Kemp  
[fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net](mailto:fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net) 927-2000

Glynda Ratliff  
[gjratliff@aol.com](mailto:gjratliff@aol.com) 927-3888

Tom Slocum  
[tslocum@fairpoint.net](mailto:tslocum@fairpoint.net) 927-4692

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

[email@sgcivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:email@sgcivicclub@gmail.com)