

# 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*

## President Mason Bean Reviews 2012 Activities and Happenings

At the St. George Island Civic Club annual Christmas dinner on December 13, President Mason Bean talked about the events of 2012. He began with the New Year's Bonfire that brought in 2012 and finished with an invitation to meet the evening of December 31 on the beach behind the Cape St. George Lighthouse Park to bring in 2013. He then reviewed the speakers and programs for the year. The Panhandle Players entertained members at January meeting with a scene from "Murder at the Howard Johnson's". Director Ed Tiley introduced three of the Panhandle Players; Bob Inguagiato - Megan Lamb and Ed Aguiar. Bill Mahan of the Franklin County Extension Service made a presentation at the February meeting on the proliferation and dangers of the Lionfish and the survey of the recovery of the Goliath Grouper. The harvest of goliath grouper was prohibited in U.S. waters in 1990. Since this time, the *(See 2012 Review, Page 2)*

## Gail Riegelmayer Voted 2012 Volunteer

When all the votes were counted there were only 8 votes separating the first and fourth place nominees for 2012's Volunteer of the Year. Gail was instrumental in the effort to stop the City of Carrabelle from purchasing WMSI on the Island. She produced flyers, letters to politicians and members of the Public



*From Left: Mason Bean, Dany Ray, Gail Riegelmayer & John Olander (Not present was Ada Long)*

Service Commission and an Op/Ed piece for Civic Club President Mason Bean that was published in the Apalachicola Times. She also organized a trip to the PSC hearing on the WMSI rate increase request and a Carrabelle Commission meeting. The nominees were Ada Long, Dany Ray, Gail Riegelmayer and John Olander. All gave of their personal time to improve the Island through trash pickup and recycling, the Tour of Homes, Bingo, landscaping and volunteering wherever they could.

## Tom Slocum Gives Update on SGI Water Department

The St. George Island Water District, Inc. was formed out of the Civic Club, but is a separate not-for-profit Florida company with no formal ties to the Civic Club. It was established after the Civic Club was successful in providing Carrabelle officials and citizens with accurate information that caused them to stop the city's efforts to buy Water Management Systems, Inc. (WSMI).

To accomplish that initial goal, the Civic Club raised approximately \$15,000 for printing information cards, distribution of those cards and other expenses. The solicitation card said that some of the money may be used to look at other ownership options. Thank you for your support in that very important effort. The money remaining after the initial effort with Carrabelle provided the seed funds to get the SGI Water District started. While the organization heading the effort is now different, our goal is *(See Water District, Page 2)*

*(Water District, Page 1)*  
unchanged: To seek the best way to provide St. George Island with a dependable supply of quality potable water at a reasonable cost. When we started, buying Water Management Systems, Inc. (WSMI), was our last choice of options, but as we investigated the situation no other potential buyers could be found. Now, our goal is to learn if it is to the Islanders' advantage to buy the system. If we do buy the company, our intention is to close SGI Water District and form a new, user-owned, not-for-profit company that will give Island water user the most control possible over our water supply. Water users on the island would have control of the company by electing a board of directors made up of Island property owners. We need your financial help again. We are now in the beginning stages of a due diligence process to determine the true value of WMSI. In order to do that in a responsible way, we are incurring costs that we anticipate will be more than the original \$15,000 raised for this effort, plus some additional funds that have come in since then. For example, we have:

- \* Hired an attorney to provide the necessary legal guidance. Our attorney is Michelle Anchors of Keefe, Anchors & Gordon in Fort Walton Beach, Fl. She is very experienced in working with small, user-owned water companies.
- \* Purchased officer and director insurance for the Board of Directors. That is standard procedure for most organizations these days. For example, the Civic Club board also has O&D insurance.
- \* Hired an engineering firm to study the condition of WMSI's wells, pumps, pipes, storage tanks and other physical plant, as well as permits, licenses and other important elements of the company. We must be sure that the company is in good physical condition before we move further forward. The firm is Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., of Panama City, Fl. It is a well respected company with offices and projects throughout the state. The next step, if we do move forward, would be a careful financial review. Please continue your financial support. We believe we will need an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 to continue our due diligence efforts and, if we proceed to buy the company, to do the

necessary filings and paperwork needed to apply for a low-interest loan from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide the funds for the purchase. We have talked with the DEP. There were no promises, top people there know who we are, what we are doing and have encouraged us to continue our work. Thanks again for your support. We will provide regular updates on the work underway.

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extent to which goliath grouper have recovered is not clearly understood, and scientists need help in assessing the recovery of goliath grouper populations in Florida. At the March club meeting, Gail Riegelmayr talked about a rate increase Water Management Services, Inc. (WSMI) requested through the Office of Public Counsel (OPC), which is associated with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). In April, Susan Bassett talked about the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida's Forgotten Coast Plein Air Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out. She 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 *(See 2012 Review, page 3)*

*(2012 Review, Page 2)*

hosted one of the artists in their home .

This is considered the premier art event in Northwest Florida.

Pinki Jackel, the Chair of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, spoke to members in attendance at the May Civic Club meeting. She went over several of the landscaping efforts by the County on the Island and other items. She then surprised everyone by announcing that the City of Carrabelle had applied for a \$15 million loan to purchase the water management system (WMSI) on the Island. On June 21, the St. George Island Civic Club helped the Plantation Owners Association and St. George Island Forward hold a meeting to discuss the impending sale of Water Management System, Inc. (WMSI) to the City of Carrabelle. The meeting was held in the Plantation Club House in order to use their better telephone conference equipment. On July 23, the following email was sent out by Commissioners of the City of Carrabelle: "The Public Meeting for Thursday has been canceled and will not be rescheduled at this time." This meant that action by Carrabelle to purchase Water Management was

postponed and may not happen at all." This was accomplished by the actions of many Islanders pulling together into an effort to have better control of issues facing us. Vice-President Newt Colston made a presentation regarding recent events pertaining to the potential sale of Water Management (WMSI) and the recent Public Service Commission (PSC) meeting. He read excerpts from the PSC staff report and a letter that owner Gene Brown had sent to the PSC. Mr. Brown, owner of Water Management Services, Inc., attended the August meeting of the St. George Island Civic Club and was accompanied by Nita Molsbee, Operations Manager and Hank Garrett, Assistant Operations Manager of WMSI on the Island. After speaking for a couple of minutes, he made himself available for questions from the members.

Mr. Brown stated that WMSI is for sale and he is willing to work with the SGI Water District. 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.

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.

The annual October Luau and Pig Roast was held in lieu of the normal meeting at Lighthouse Park in October. President Mason Bean and a group of



*From left: Lamar Hartsfield, Fred Stanley and Mason Bean were just 3 of the volunteers to set up the pig roast*

volunteers started up the smoker around 8 a.m. and stayed until time for the Luau. Other members brought salads, side dishes and desserts.

The November meeting turned out to be one of the largest of the year with approximately 100 members present. Several presentations and reports on various topics, nominations for Volunteer *(See 2012 Review, Page 4)*

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**Christmas Dinner**

of the Year, voting on donations, next month's meeting date and the selection of the 2013 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors for 2013 are:  
President – Newt Colston  
Vice-President – Steve Childers  
Treasurer – Ann Giknis  
Secretary – Eric Roberts  
Directors – Terry Kemp, Fred Stanley, Lon Wilkens  
Mason then mentioned the names of our friends lost in 2012. Mason thanked Cecilia Harris 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 and the Civic Club banner and, with the help of several club volunteers, managed to have great fun and provided great publicity for the club.

**Lighthouse Climb to Benefit Food Pantry**

Climb the Cape St. George Lighthouse on the Friday after Christmas, and you will help feed the hungry

in Franklin County. The St. George Lighthouse Association has announced that all climbing revenues received on Friday, December 28, will be donated to the Franklin County Food Pantry. This will include daytime climbing revenues, as well as revenues from the Full Moon Climb, which will be held on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

“The Cape St. George Light has long been a beacon of hope for people in Franklin County,” said SGLA President Dennis Barnell. “During this holiday season, we think that it is important for the lighthouse to continue to give hope to community residents,” he said, “especially at a time when people who depend on our waters for their livelihood are faced with difficulties beyond their control.”

The lighthouse will be open for climbing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 28. Climbing fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth age 16 or younger. Children who are six years old or younger can climb at no charge. And, as always, there is no charge for St. George Lighthouse Association members and active members of the U.S. military with a current ID. SGLA also has reciprocal

arrangements with the Florida Lighthouse Association and the St. Augustine Lighthouse, allowing members of those organizations to climb at no charge. Climbers must be at least 40 inches tall. The Sunset / Full Moon Climb on December 28 will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and includes light snacks and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. The sun sets at 5:49 p.m. and the moon rises at 6:21 p.m. on December 28. Cost for the Full Moon Climb is \$15.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for SGLA members. After sunset, additional climbers can view the full moon for \$10.00 or \$5.00 for SGLA members, as time and space permit. Advance reservations for the Full Moon Climb can be made by calling the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Visit the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island on December 28 and join in the spirit of helping others during this holiday season!

**Upcoming Events:** SGI Civic Club Bonfire December 31 at 6:30 p.m. on the beach at SGI Lighthouse Park

**Apalachicola** Dixie Theatre Friday, January 4, through Sunday, January 6 The 34 (See Upcoming Events, Page 5)



**(Upcoming Events, page 4)**

**West Theatre: We Go Everywhere Together** George can't hear, Henry can't see - so they kind of help each other out. Join two whimsical old-timers on a hope-filled adventure, where dreams have no age limit and love is just a speed date away. A sidesplitting memoir of life, love and hip replacements! Tickets are available by calling 850-653-3200.

**Weems Memorial**

**Healthcare Foundation "Butts and Clucks by the Bay" Cook Off** January, 5 2013 from Noon until 5 PM at Riverfront Park in Downtown Apalachicola. The foundation is sponsoring a pork butt and chicken cooking contest. Local, state and out of state teams participate in this contest. Awards are given for various categories - Cooking, presentation of booth, presentation of food, etc... Dinner is served to the public and an auction will be held with Harry Arnold as the auctioneer.

**Ilse Newell Concert - Read Gainesford**, a New Zealand Pianist, begins at 4:00 pm on Sunday, January 6 at Trinity Church, 6th and Avenue E, Apalachicola.

**Swingin' Harpoon Blues Band** Friday, January 11 at the Dixie Theatre. Back for their 2nd season with an award winning style, this band delivers a fabulous solid sound. Comprised of some of the area's most talented musicians, playing a mix of Swing and Detroit blues & jazz.

**London at the Dixie** January 12. London Arrington returns to the Dixie stage for his 3rd appearance. He brings his own band with him this time 'round to perform our favorite show tunes and some smooth, smooth jazz.

**Saltwater Music with Del Suggs** Sunday, January 13, A Panhandle favorite back for his 3rd season, Del brings his unique style and his very talented buddies to perform acoustic rock, pop, blues, and folk...with a sunburn.

**Pas de Vie Ballet** Friday, January 18 through Sunday, January 20. Tallahassee's premiere ballet company returns to the Dixie after incredible standing ovation performances in 2011 and 2012, They'll take your breath away...dance at it's finest!

**Apalachicola Oyster Cook-off** Saturday, January 19 on Water Street, The Third Annual Oyster Cook-Off to benefit the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2013. The Friday evening event will be a preview of the oyster-related silent auction items, along with a sampling of the Apalachicola Bay's tasty bivalves. The actual cook-off on Saturday will start at 11 a.m. Contestants are encouraged to enter with their favorite recipe. All forms of oysters will be available to taste: raw, steamed, fried. Other food items and refreshments will be available for purchase also. The day's activities will include live music and

dancing performances. More information will be posted soon at [www.oystercookoff.com](http://www.oystercookoff.com), and the event can be followed on Facebook.

**Elvis & Friends do the Dixie** Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27.

Spectacular tribute artist Todd Alan Herendeen & his Follow That Dream Band have become one of the Dixie Theatre's most popular shows...Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison, among others, join Elvis.

**It's time to renew for 2013. Dues are \$20 per person and checks should be made out to SGI Civic Club and mailed to P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. They can also be turned in at a SGI Civic Club meeting. Please include your email address.**

Visit our website:

[www.sgicivicclub.org](http://www.sgicivicclub.org) for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area

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