

# THE SEPTEMBER ISLANDER

Next meeting September 19 in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. William Herrnkind, FSU Marine Lab (See article below)

*BYOB and a covered dish*

## USFWC Explains Turtle Ordinance and Penalties

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Lisa Lehnhoff spoke to a small group of members about Franklin County's Turtle Ordinance and what penalties could be assessed against home owners.

While Franklin County's turtle light ordinance has been in effect since the 90's, it can only be enforced by the County.



*Lisa Lehnhoff and Lois Swoboda*

Apalachicola & Carrabelle Times photo/journalist Lois Swoboda was in attendance and she wrote in the August 22 edition, "Lisa said that the ordinance covers all lights that can be seen from the shore. This includes beach front and many first tier residences. She said red light filters for stage productions could be used

over lights to provide protection. On Thursday, Aug. 15, USFW biologist Lisa Lehnhoff addressed about 20 St. George Islanders when the civic club met on the subject of sea turtles and lighting. All sea turtles are on the federal list of threatened species. Both adult turtles coming ashore to nest and hatchlings returning to the sea can be disoriented by artificial lights.

Lehnhoff told the group Franklin County passed the Panhandle's first ordinance protecting sea turtles in 1997.

Over the last six months, the county received two letters from USFW warning that this ordinance is not being properly enforced. The second letter included a list of 140 residences with lighting that appears to be out of compliance with the county law.

Lehnhoff said USFW is now asking the sheriff's office to enforce the county ordinance. If that doesn't work, she said, USFW plans to enforce the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on St. George Island.

*(See Turtles, Page Two)*

## *FSU Marine Lab Associate to Speak*

Dr. William Herrnkind, a Professor Emeritus and Senior Scientist in Residence at the FSUCML, (Animal behavior, science education and outreach) will speak about the behavior and natural history of panhandle habitats and organisms. There are interconnections among them that many of us will have seen but perhaps not fully appreciated. Dr. Herrnkind was instrumental in fighting the St. Joe takeover of the property where the FSU Lab stands.

## *Summer Bingo Ends*

The SGI Civic Club ended summer bingo after the second Tuesday in August. The Civic Club sponsored Bingo has made over \$9,000 this year. We averaged around 180 in attendance this summer until August when that dropped below 50 people. On two occasions we had to turn people away (only 200 allowed). Bingo will start again in January on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at the SGI firehouse.

*(Turtles, from Page One)*  
County law requires that both interior and exterior light be completely shielded so that neither the bulb nor its reflection can be seen by nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. The county is also supposed to see that lighting fixtures and window treatments are compliant for all construction that occurs seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line. Violations of the county ordinance are punishable as misdemeanors with a fine of up to \$500 a day and up to 60 days in the county jail.”  
Members Adele Colston, Dany Ray and Sherri Roberts related that when they volunteered at the SGI Visitor’s Center, they passed out red filters to attach to flashlights. Lisa told the members to check out lighting stores for the red filters used by stage productions and photographers and cut them to fit. Several members asked about an ordinance to darken the Island and she said she would like that, but that would have to be done by the Franklin County Commission.  
Access to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission section about lights and sea turtles can be found at:

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehab>

[itats/managed/sea-turtles/turtles-lights/](http://itats/managed/sea-turtles/turtles-lights/)  
Websites that have turtle friendly lights are:  
<http://seaturtlelighting.net/lighting/> and  
<http://www.starrynightlights.com/Sea-Turtles/turtle-friendly-lighting.html>

### ***Florida Wild Mammal Association needs help***

One of the charities that we have supported in the past by collecting food and cleaning supplies is the Florida Wild Mammal Association (FWMA) in Wakulla County. While not a Franklin County entity, FWMA does assist in rescuing injured animals from Franklin County. Anyone who has access to a computer can quickly and easily help the injured and orphaned wild animals being cared for by FWMA. They now have a Wish-List on Walmart’s website, and it is fun and easy to do a little shopping to help the animals. Just go to [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com); click on Registry, then Wish List; enter “FWMA” as the first name and “INC” as the last name and click “Find”; click on FWMA INC under Registrant. Then start shopping! It is interesting to see what Chris Beatty, FWMA’s director, needs for the day-to-day operation of this facility. Where else might you have the fun

opportunity to shop for 100 bottles of Dawn or 200 four-packs of Gerber’s assorted baby food or 25 boxes of Cheerios? All items are delivered directly to FWMA, and your purchases are tax-deductible.

### ***Upcoming Events***

*Rock ByThe Tee 2013 - Golf & Rock Charity Event*  
Golf Tournament on September 7th at 9am  
[St. James Bay Golf Resort](#) in Carrabelle. [Click here for a registration form](#)



### ***Live Music***

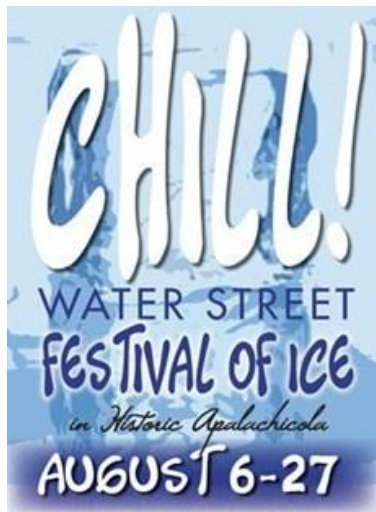
September 5th, 6th & 7th  
Harry A's Restaurant & Bar on St. George Island.  
For more information, go to [www.rockbythesea.org/rbtee2013](http://www.rockbythesea.org/rbtee2013) or email [rick@rwatsonandassociates.com](mailto:rick@rwatsonandassociates.com)

### ***Franklin County Coastal Cleanup***

Saturday, September 21 - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Volunteers should wear/bring: Sunscreen, Bugspray, Protective Clothing such as hats, long pants, long-  
*(See Clean up, Page 3)*

(Clean up, from page 2) sleeved shirts), Work/Closed Toe Water Shoes. Volunteers will be provided: Trash bags, Gloves, Data Cards, Snacks, Drinking Water and T-Shirts. Sponsored by Franklin County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling and Franklin County Parks & Recreation, Apalachicola Riverkeeper and International Coastal Cleanup. For more information, call 850-927-3776.

### ***Festival of Ice***



An ice carving event, originally scheduled for Aug. 17 as part of the annual Apalachicola Festival of Ice, has been rescheduled for Sept. 7 at the Gorrie Museum in Historic Apalachicola. The event, honoring Dr. John Gorrie, father of modern refrigeration, will take place from 12-5 p.m. and feature music, games and ice carving competition. For more information, contact:

[www.historicapalachicola.com](http://www.historicapalachicola.com)

### ***Apalachicola Maritime Museum Steam Engine Exhibit***



The Apalachicola Maritime Museum at 103 Water Street, continues with their promotion of the era of Steamboat travel, AMM will be unveiling two new elements to complement the newly opened Steam Engine exhibit where two live working steam engines can be operated by visitors. AMM will be adding a display of over 20 steam pressure gauges and nearly 30 steam whistles. The steam whistles will be mounted to allow visitors to operate the whistles to experience the sounds once common when steam vessels arrived into port. In addition the museum will be placing the 12 whistle calliope on display to allow operation during this event. AAMM will have two working steam launches on display at the museum and will offer rides aboard, weather permitting. For more information, call 850-653-2500 or go to: [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org)

### **Full Moon Paddle Trips from Apalachicola Maritime Museum**

Wednesday, September 18 the paddle trips will depart from the Breakaway paddle sports facility for a moonlit

trip down the Apalachicola River arriving at the AMM docks. The paddle group will be accompanied by a support vessel to help ensure safety. Check in for the trip must be by 6 PM at the AMM facility at 103 Water Street from which paddlers will be shuttled by van to the launch site at Breakaway. Experienced paddlers only for this trip please. The trip cost is \$20. For the less energetic or less experienced, they will be running full moon trips aboard the Starfish departing the docks at 7 PM. You are welcome to bring food and beverage on this trip. For more information, call 850-653-2500 or go to: [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org)

### **St. George Island Lighthouse Sunset/Full Moon Climb**

Will be on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. On the evening of the full moon in September. Watch the Sun set and the Full Moon rise from the top of the Cape St. George Light! Tickets are \$15.00 per person, or \$10.00 for St. George Lighthouse Association members, and include light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon. After sunset, additional climbers are welcome at the top for a view of the Full Moon, as time and space permit. The Full Moon only climb is \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 for SGLA members. Reservations are (See Lighthouse, Page 4)

*(Lighthouse, from Page 3)* recommended, and can be made by calling 850-927-7745 or by stopping by the Keeper's House Museum. [www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org)

### **Estuaries Day**

It's all about the Bay on Sept. 27 as the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) celebrates National Estuaries Day at its Research and Visitor Center Drive. The festivities will run from 1:30-6 p.m. on Friday, September 27 and will feature family-friendly activities and exhibits. For more information, call 850-670-7703 or contact [www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola/default.htm)

### **Riverkeeper Monthly Paddle Trip**

Join the Apalachicola Riverkeepers on their monthly paddling trip on September 28 in and around the Apalachicola River and Bay. The trips are free to members and \$30 for non-members. In addition to their monthly paddling trips, the Apalachicola Riverkeepers are also hosting longer paddling excursions (10+) miles which are best suited for paddlers with experience. For more information, call 850-653-8936 or contact: [www.apalachicolariverkeeper.org/4th\\_saturday\\_paddle0.aspx](http://www.apalachicolariverkeeper.org/4th_saturday_paddle0.aspx)

### **Camp Gordon Johnston Museum Day**

This marks the seventh consecutive year that the

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum has been asked to participate in the Smithsonian Magazine's Annual National Museum Day. Museum Day will be held on Saturday, September 28. The museum is located in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex, at 1001 Gray Ave., Carrabelle, Florida. We will be welcoming visitors from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. Come view our ever-growing exhibits. If his health allows, author Kenneth Tucker, WWII B-17 Tail Gunner born in East Point, FL, will be signing books. Our gift shop will be open all day. 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). Email us at [campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net](mailto:campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net) or call (850) 697-8575.

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

Tee up with business members from around the Franklin, Gulf, Leon and Wakulla County areas at the 10th annual Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament on Wednesday, October 9, 2010. Tee-time is 1:00 pm on the beautiful St James Bay Golf Course east of Carrabelle. Well-known golf course designer Robert Walker created this perfectly manicured 18-hole

championship course that creates a challenge for even the most skillful golfer, yet is still a course golfers of all abilities will love. The tournament will be a flighted four man scramble, low score wins with prizes for the top three teams. Scores will be totaled and prizes awarded at a reception following the tournament. Cost per team is \$400, \$100 per player. Fees include range balls, golf carts equipped with the latest color GPS system. Tournament proceeds will go toward the Chamber's building fund. For more information, call 850-653-9419 or go to [www.apalachicolabay.org](http://www.apalachicolabay.org)

*Thanks to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council for Upcoming Events.*  
<http://www.saltyflorida.com/events>

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

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