



The Islander

April 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

The April meeting will be on the 16th at the Volunteer Firehouse. Bring a side dish and enjoy meeting with fellow Islanders. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meal at 7:00. The speaker will be Anita Grove of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Joe Taylor of the Franklin County Food Pantry Spoke at March Meeting



Joe Taylor

The Franklin County Food Pantry's mission is to distribute supplemental food to the most vulnerable citizens of Franklin County. Hunger and inadequate nutrition leaves adults and children vulnerable to poor health and chronic diseases, including depression. By helping get healthy food to hungry families the community is able to address the problem.

The successful operation of a food pantry obviously depends upon a regular supply of donated food products and funding. Thanks to the Americas Second Harvest of the Big Bend and the City and County Commissioners for their continued support. However, in order for a food pantry to serve the needs of those families and individuals that are less fortunate, cash donations are needed as well.

At the same time, recent contributions to Food Banks and other emergency providers of free and low-cost food have been stretched. It is only through the partnership with local churches, schools and caring individual donors that the pantry is able to continue the operation of our local food pantry. For more information about Franklin County Hunger and Nutrition Initiatives, contact Joe Taylor, Executive Director, 323-0176 or to drop off food donations. Please call Lori Switzer, Food Pantry Coordinator at 323-0515.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The April Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Saturday, April 4. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will include light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. The sun will set at 8:00 p.m. and the "Pink" moon will rise at (See *Lighthouse*, Page 2)

(Lighthouse, From Page 1)

8:22 p.m. This moon is named after the flower “grass pink” or ‘wild ground phlox,” which is one of the first and most widespread flowers to bloom in the spring. 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. Parking is available in lots at either side of the park. Reservations are recommended; please call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Winter Bingo a Success

Kelly Rowland said that March 24 was the last night of Winter Bingo. The Club raised



around \$5,000 during this session. Kelly thanked all the volunteers that made this one of the best Bingo seasons.

When Should You Fertilize?

Les Harrison, Franklin County Extension Office

Spring 2015 began on March 20. Aside from the notice in the almanac, the profusely blooming trees and plants are an excellent indicator of the season’s change.

The vernal equinox, as spring is technically known, is a good indicator warmer weather is here and the growing season is underway. Of course there can be those weather exceptions which inflict a late season dose of cold and frost, but warmer temperatures have arrived.

Part of stimulating growth in Franklin County’s gardens, orchards and home landscapes is the annual practice of the application of fertilizer. Historically a relatively recent development, most people have little to no understanding of plant nutrients or how fertilizers produce positive results.

Adding to the confusion is the overwhelming number of fertilizer product choices in the marketplace. While much of the packaging has beautiful illustrations, these products should be used for their specifically intended applications. Soil testing before spreading fertilizer is the best way to determine the plant nutrients available, and this service is offered through the UF/IFAS Franklin Extension Office and from other soil labs. Once submitted, the results are usually back in less than two weeks.

The test details the soil’s pH (its acidity/alkalinity level) and the major nutrients phosphorus and potassium. There is no viable test for nitrogen in the soil, so recommendations for plant species are based on research. The minor nutrients magnesium and calcium are also reported.

Based on the nutrients available and the needs of a particular class of plants, a fertilizer recommendation is made. The *(See Plants, Page Three)*

(Plants, From Page Two)

order of nutrients is always the same with these recommendations: nitrogen required, phosphorus required and then potassium required to get the best results.

This order of nutrients is also maintained on every bag, bottle and package of fertilizer sold in Florida. The numbers on fertilizer packaging and tags represent a percentage, by volume, of the available nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK).

A 5-10-15 mixed fertilizer is five percent nitrogen, ten percent phosphorus, and 15 percent potassium. In a 50 pound bag of fertilizer this analysis equates to 15 pounds of nutrients with the remaining 35 pounds being filler and any minor nutrients.

Knowing the available nutrients in the soil based on the soil test report, a gardener can quickly calculate the amount of fertilizer to apply. For example, two pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet would require 40 pounds of 5-10-15 to meet the nitrogen requirement (2 pounds divided by five percent or .05 equals 40).

A critical point is not to apply too much fertilizer. While 40 pounds in this example is good, 80 pounds is not twice as good. Excess nutrients cannot be utilized by the intended plants and will likely become runoff. The excess will end up in groundwater becoming a source of pollution and promoting the growth of weeds and/or algae.

So use fertilizer efficiently, and by the time the summer solstice arrives on June 21, gardens and lawns will be growing well with no unintended ill effects.

Contact the UF/IFAS Franklin County Extension Office at 850-653-9337 or <http://franklin.ifas.ufl.edu/> to learn more about using fertilizer efficiently in Franklin County.

Les Harrison, the UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension Director, is part of the Extension team serving Franklin County.

How to write a news release

Eric Roberts, Editor

I have recently received many news releases and articles for publication in The Islander. These news releases do not follow the most accepted publications of style including: The Associated Press Stylebook, The Modern Language Association Style Manual and The Chicago Manual of Style. The current Style Manuals all state you use a single space after a sentence. Most of the news items have two spaces between sentences.

I have heard the argument that when learning to type, the teacher always said use two spaces after each sentence (Exactly what I was taught). However, that was based on the type available at the time for typewriters (the 50's, 60' and 70's). In the 1980's, The Associated Press Stylebook, and others, began recommending only one space between sentences. Any press release with two spaces require the editor to pay someone to remove that space and when you consider that space means money for newspapers and book publishers, that extra space will be deleted.

The point is, it's not only widely accepted, it is expected that you use only one space between sentences.

Another problem is the use of the year when writing about an upcoming event. You only need to publish the year if it is **not** this year. This also causes an editor to pay someone to edit out not only the year, but the comma and space proceeding the year itself (six spaces). There are programs that will do that for them, but the smaller the outlet, the more chance that it will cost the paper time and money to physically make the correction. **DO NOT USE ALL CAPS!** Once again, an editor has to make a decision to pay someone to rewrite the copy or not use the news release at all.

Finally, do not use "I, me, we, or us". A news release should always be written in the *(See News Release, Page Four)*

(News Release, From Page Three)

third party. You are not paying for an advertisement or writing a letter to the editor.

If your article does get published in a paper, or magazine, go back and see how close it is to your original release. See how many spaces are between sentences and how many times the year of the event is included in the publication. I also suggest looking at any newspaper, magazine article or book that does not justify to the right to see how it is done professionally.

You will stand a better chance that your article will be published as you wrote it if you follow these simple rules.

Upcoming Events

Apalachicola Reserve Offers Lecture on Rattlesnakes

The Apalachicola National Research Reserve (ANERR) is offering an hour-long lecture about the local rattlesnake population on Thursday, April 2, from 2 - 3 p.m. at the ANERR Nature Center in Eastpoint. Mark Margres from Florida State University will discuss the ecology, evolution, and conservation of the eastern diamondback rattlesnake including the genetic basis of adaptation in snake venoms, particularly among island populations including Little St. George Island.

Mark Margres is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biological Science at Florida State University. This lecture is free and registration is not required. For more information contact Gibby Conrad, 850-670-7702 or email

Gibby.Conrad@dep.state.fl.us.

ANERR Looking for Volunteers to help bag Oysters

Please help the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) fill mesh bags with oyster shells on the morning

of Friday, April 3rd, from 9:00am-12:00pm at Scipio Creek Commercial Marina in Apalachicola. The bagged shells will be used to build a breakwater that will protect the shoreline of Cape (Little) St. George Island. The oyster breakwater will help dissipate wave action that erodes the shoreline. ANERR will also plant a living shoreline to reestablish a vegetative buffer on the shoreline. Living Shorelines provide shoreline stabilization using a combination of coastal native vegetation for sediment stabilization and breakwaters constructed of oyster shells, limestone rock, or other structures conducive to the natural environment.

The historic Marshall House is located on Cape St. George. Years of wave action have eroded the shore which makes the historic structure vulnerable to storms. To help ensure the structure is protected, ANERR will build the breakwater and reestablish a living shoreline on the bayside of the island. Please wear closed toed shoes, bring sunscreen, a hat, and a bottle or cup to drink from. ANERR will provide the gloves, shovels, and water. The bags will be assembled at Scipio Creek Commercial Marina at the north end of Market Street. For more information Kim Wren, 850-670-7718, email Kim.Wren@dep.state.fl.us.

Duck Hunter Shoots Angel

On Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 PM at the Dixie Theatre, the Panhandle Players present *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel*, a story of two bumbling Alabama duck-hunting brothers who think they accidentally shot down an angel. Hailed by audiences as a comedy with a heartfelt message, the play follows the intersecting paths of the two guilt-ridden duck hunters (Royce Rolstad, III and Robbie Johnson), a depressed tabloid journalist (Henry Kozlowsky), his reluctant (See **Duck Hunter**, Page Five)

(Duck Hunter, From Page Four)

photographer (Don Denig), their crazed boss (Bob Ingugiato), a shopgirl at a local Gasmart (Jeana Crozier), a half-man/half-alligator (Rodney Reeves), and a ghost (Bobbi Seward). The themes of redemption, race, media and north vs, south are all explored in hilarious fashion, and the play features a surprise ending that playgoers don't see coming.

Tickets are \$15. For more information, call (404)326-7791.

ANERR Lecture on Songbird Migration

On Wednesday, April 15, 2:00-3:00pm, Alan Kneidel will lecture on "The Influence of Coastal Weather Patterns on the Use of a Florida Barrier Island by Trans-Gulf Migrants." For the past two springs, a team of NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center (ECSC) researchers from Delaware State University have been studying the migrant songbird community on St. George Island. One of the goals of this study has been to determine whether local weather patterns are associated with the magnitude, temporal variability, and physical condition of migrants using the island as a migratory stopover site. This presentation will focus on the results of this study, while providing context for determining the ecological importance of this vulnerable coastal habitat to the annual cycle of migratory songbirds.

This lecture is free and registration is not required. For more information contact Megan Lamb 850-670- 7709, email Megan.Lamb@dep.state.fl.us

Apalachicola Antique & Classic Boat Show

On Saturday, April 18, at the Apalachicola Waterfront, see all types of antique boats, classic examples of traditional vessels, work boats, fiberglass classics, antique outboard motor displays, antique cars, boat building



demonstrations and more! Call (850) 653-9419 or visit www.anticqueboatshow.org.

Fifth Annual Putt-Masters: A Mini Golf Tournament to Benefit the Franklin County Public Library

April 18th marks the fifth annual Putt-Masters Tournament sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin County Public Library. This is the signature fundraiser that benefits the Franklin County Public Library. The tournament begins at noon and lasts until the final group finishes. Businesses, groups, and individuals sponsor four-person teams. Sponsored teams tee off throughout the afternoon to see who will take home Green Champ Caps and a beautiful trophy. The competition is serious for some. Many returning teams have improved their "putt" over the years. Others just play for fun and enjoy good food, drink, and the company of friends.

The library is a vital county resource. The services provided are free, but funding is limited. The Friends of Franklin County Public Library is proud to help fund both the Carrabelle and Eastpoint branches of our public library system. And, without help from businesses and individuals throughout the community and their participation, this would not be possible.

Books, e-books, games, CDs, DVDs, audio-books, free Wi-Fi, computers and computer ***(See Library, Page Six)***

(Library, From Page Five)

classes, youth programs, community meeting rooms complete with a smart board are just a few of the services found at the Franklin County public library. Go visit the local branch to see what's happening.

The Red Pirate Family Grill and Oyster Bar in Eastpoint is the host of the event.

Owners Shirley and Jimmy Sapp graciously provide a beautiful 18-hole course with a water feature for an entire afternoon of putting fun! Players, fans and library supporters can quench their thirst and enjoy delicious food while having fun and raising money for the library.

Various levels of sponsorship are available. To participate or volunteer, call the Carrabelle library at 697-2366, the Eastpoint library at 670-8151, or contact Anna Carmichael, 850-273-1174, or email at anna.carmichael@yahoo.com

Carrabelle Riverfront Festival

On Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, go to Carrabelle and join in the festivities at the Pirates of the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival on Marine Street along the riverfront. Arts and Crafts, Seafood, Pet Parade, Live Music, Maritime Exhibits, Fishy Fashion Show, Food Booths, and Kids Zone. For more information, call 850-320-8225 or go to

www.carrabelleriverfrontfestival.com

FSU Marine Lab Open House

The FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory will hold its next Open House Event on April 25 from 10 am to 3 pm. It only happens every other year, so mark the calendar! From tiny tots to the most mature adults and those who never quite grew up -- there will be something to educate, fascinate and entertain everyone!

Highlights include:

- Tours of the 65-ft research vessel, APALACHEE

- Displays and activities presented by the scientists on their research
- Activities Presented by Saturday-at-the-Sea (SATS)
 - Salty Seas
 - Hard Luck Stories
 - Touch Tanks
 - Thar She Blows! (sperm whale exhibit)
 - Irradiation Station (orient yourself with critters that naturally protect themselves from the sun)
 - Fishy, fishy, fish.....
- Interactive displays by scientists from FSU and Florida conservation agencies
- "In the Know" Talks in the FSUCML Auditorium
- Scavenger hunt for the kids
- Food available for purchase from a local vendor
- Plenty of parking

Take a beautiful drive down to the coast for a day of fun!

4th Saturday Paddle

Join the Apalachicola Riverkeeper for a volunteer-led 4th Saturday Paddle. Explore one of the many creeks or tributaries of the mighty Apalachicola River, and sometimes the mighty Apalachicola River itself. Most of these trips are suitable for paddlers of many different levels of skill and experience. The Riverkeeper know what will be appropriate to accommodate participants. On those rare occasions that require more skill, they will suggest a future trip that's more suitable.

Kayaks are available on "first-reserve, first-get basis." Each one-person kayak includes a PFD (personal floatation device) and paddle. Don't forget a kayak, paddle and PFD, which must be worn at all times while on the water.

(See Paddle, Page Seven)

(Paddle, From Page Six)

Please plan to reserve a space (and a kayak, if needed) at least two days in advance. Reservations for 4th Saturday Paddle trips can be requested by email or by calling the Apalachicola Riverkeeper office at 850-653-8936. Prior to the paddle, the trip organizer will contact participants and provide additional details (time, point of departure, weather uncertainties, etc.).

Paddle trips are FREE to Riverkeeper members, and \$30 each to non-members (which provides an annual membership for the family, so any other trips are free for 1 full year).

Please Remember! Paddlers need to bring: water; snacks/lunch; sunscreen; bug spray; hat; camera; and any other items that might be needed, and all in a water proof bag which can be secured to the boat. Make sure to bring clothing that won't get heavy if it gets wet. There are also occasional Sunday Paddle Excursions. These are longer and more challenging, and are suitable for paddlers who have significant experience. Excursions are typically announced a month in advance on the Riverkeeper website or Facebook page. For more information, call 850-653-8936 or go to apalachicolariverkeeper.org/4th-saturday-paddle/

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

Challenge to Civic Club Members

The Board of Directors has challenged Club members to reduce the ecological footprint by bringing their own reusable plates, flatware and glasses to the Club meetings.

Please visit our website:

www.sgivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at sgivicclub@gmail.com Dues are \$20 per person and can be mailed

to SGI Civic Club, P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. Now is the time to pay the dues for 2015. Checks may be made to SGI Civic Club.

Note: If you have not renewed for 2015 by April 1, you will be considered a non-active member and will no longer receive the Newsletter or other notifications.

2015 Board of Directors

Chris Jensen President
jensenchris@me.com

Eric Roberts Vice-President
egrob2@fairpoint.net

Mike O'Connell Treasurer
poconnell1414@gmail.com

Linda Thurman Secretary
sgibeach1@gmail.com

Directors:

Lon Wilkens
pennywilk@charter.net

Kelly Rowland
krowland@mediacombb.net

Immediate Past President
Steve Childers

schilders1946@hotmail.com

The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts,
egrob2@fairpoint.net

Bingo Party 2011



From Left: Phyllis Lewis, Skip Kemp, Adele Colston, Sherri Roberts and Marilyn Bean