



# The Islander

May 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

**The May meeting will be on the 21st 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 from Franklin County Emergency Management. Residents who got the Island passes may need to renew. This would be an excellent opportunity to renew.**

## **Jenna Harper of ANERR Spoke at April Meeting**

Jenna Harper is the Manager of the Apalachicola National Research Reserve. She also oversees the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve and 11 Aquatic Preserves throughout the Panhandle.



### ***Jenna Harper of ANERR***

Jenna holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine and Freshwater Biology and a Master's degree in Fisheries Biology from the University of New Hampshire. She has worked for DEP for over 12 years. Since 2008, Jenna has been the Reserve's Research Coordinator and Assistant Manager, supervising projects focusing on oysters, salt marshes, fish and invertebrate communities, sea turtles, water quality and climate - on top of collaborating with

visiting universities and agencies on a variety of both local and regional projects. She can be reached at 850-670-7700.

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated in 1979. It is located in Franklin, Gulf and Calhoun counties, within one of the least populated coastal areas of the state. The Apalachicola River basin is only part of the larger Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system (ACF) which drains an area covering approximately 19,600 miles, extending into the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Florida portion contains about 2,800 square miles and the population within Florida's basin is probably less than 100,000 individuals. The boundary of ANERR includes the lower 52 miles of the Apalachicola River and floodplain, as well as most of Apalachicola Bay. It includes lands managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), FloridaFish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Park Service, Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) and the Florida Coastal Office. Of the uplands acreage within ANERR, The Florida Coastal Office manages 6,794 acres, the USFWS manages 11,938 acres (St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge), the Florida Park Service manages 2,024 acres (St. George Island State Park), FWC manages 63,814 acres and NFWMD manages 36,241 acres. The balance of the total acreage is open water, including Apalachicola Bay Aquatic Preserve (80,875 acres).

***(Information is from the ANERR website.)***

## **Incorporation Efforts for SGI Put on Hold**

The St George Island (SGI) Growth Management Committee has spent a year researching, gathering feedback, and developing documents for an application package to the Florida Legislature to consider an Incorporation Referendum for SGI. The committee's focus was not to be pro or con on the issue of incorporation, but rather to bring the issue to a vote - that is, to hold the Incorporation Referendum.

Newt Colston recently made a presentation to the Franklin County Commission regarding incorporating St. George Island into the Village of SGI.

Pinki Jackel introduced a motion to send a letter of support to the state, but it died for lack of a second.

After the presentation by the committee and after the committee left the meeting, a local SGI businessman asked the Commission if they would support incorporation.

Commissioner Parrish moved to state that the board is against incorporation and the motion passed unanimously.

Non-support by Franklin County is a major impediment to a successful implementation of Government Lite on SGI. It appears that further pursuit of incorporation might place SGI in a precarious position wherein the County could cease services and/or charge SGI residents additional county taxes. Until such time as SGI residents are prepared to fund a full municipal incorporation (i.e., SGI law enforcement, roads, mosquito control, full administrative offices, etc.), the committee recommends no further pursuit of the Incorporation Referendum.

The committee members were: Newt Colston, Elaine Rosenthal, Carol Talley, Diane Bodenhamer, Tom Wood and Don Murry. (Note: this article was condensed from a final synopsis by the committee.)

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

The May Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse will be held on Sunday, May 3. 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 8:18 p.m. and the "Flower" moon will rise at 8:03 p.m. on May 3. This moon is named in honor of the abundant blooms in the month of May. 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.



Reservations are recommended; please call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

## **Where Do I Plant new growth?**

Les Harrison

The warm weather and sunny skies are here to stay for a while. Outdoor activities are on the top of many lists of Franklin County residents for chores, and fun.

It is true the lawn has to be mowed now, but it is better, much better, than trudging through snowy slush. Fishing on a lake with thinning ice is marginally better than (See *New Growth*, Page Three)

*(New Growth, From Page Two)*

contracting cabin fever, however a walk in on the beach is a much more palatable choice.

For many, this is the time of year to identify locations in the home landscape where additional shrubs or trees should be installed. Many potted ornamental plants are currently blooming so selection of the preferred color is simplified.

A trip to the nursery will likely result in purchases favored by the homeowner which will improve the visual quality and unique individualism of their landscape. A few considerations can vastly improve the chances for a successful home horticulture endeavor.

Be sure the plant is in the “right place” in the home landscape. This concept includes the plant’s final size, light and soil requirements, and other necessities for healthy growth and development.

Some plants need full sun exposure to grow and develop. Without the solar rays these plants and trees will languish in the shade and eventually expire without ever fulfilling their potential.

Likewise, shade loving plants will quickly fail in the scalding light of full sun exposure. Partial to total shade will deliver the filtered light necessary for these plants to prosper and deliver their lush foliage.

A range of soil conditions will drastically affect the performance of most shrubs, annuals and trees. An excellent starting point is to soil test the proposed planting area.

The soil test report will provide details on what nutrients are available, and the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. Many currently popular shrubs and annuals will develop completely only in acidic soils.

Proximity to the coast increases the possibility that soils are alkaline.

Additionally, many homes of masonry or concrete construction have cement or mortar residue in the soil next to the structure.

Cement and mortar are primarily lime, which raises the soils alkalinity as it degrades. The homeowner will need to take corrective action to assure success with acid loving plants.

Soil density can be another factor which should be considered. Sandy soils dry out quickly and can be a problem for plants which demand a consistently moist growing media.

Likewise, dense soils or those with high levels of organic matter which hold water will be a challenge for shrubs needing a dryer environment. Fungal disease issues will quickly arise and defeat the owner’s efforts.

Terminal plant size and shape are a consideration with long term consequences. Determine the room which will be needed for the mature plant.

Perennial shrubs planted next to a home may provide a “finished look” today, but can prematurely lead to the plants demise in five years. Trees planted too close to structures or under power lines will require excessive trimming and likely die prematurely.

While color of blooms and leaves is a consideration during the purchase of plants and trees, be sure the plants needs can be met, too. Everyone will be happier in the long run.

To learn more about spring planting in Franklin County contact the UF/IFAS Franklin County Extension Office at 850-653-9337 or <http://franklin.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

### *Upcoming Events*

#### *Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour*

Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church at 79 Sixth Street, Apalachicola, enjoy the annual Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour. From the canopied Shadow Lane neighborhood to the long vistas of the *(See Apalachicola Tour, Page Four)*

*(Apalachicola Tour, From Page Three)*  
avenues in the historic district and the



charming side streets that sequester special treasures, Apalachicola has some very exceptional treats in store for its spring tour of homes. The many renovations and restorations currently underway among the city's residences and businesses attest to community as well as personal pride. This year the houses run the gamut from imposing two-story homes to quaint cottages of yesteryear and new construction. The featured house for the 2015 tour is the home of Anne and Clint Eason. One of the most stately homes on Ave. C this Queen Anne-style home, constructed of local pine and black cypress, dates back to 1892. Interestingly, it was erected on the site of the former county jail. Built by local merchant Rudolph Collins, the house later became known as the Lovett house for the many decades that this large family shared these living quarters. Anne Eason comments that "This is the Collins/ Lovett house. We are blessed to be custodians. Nurturing feelings envelop us here." In the year 2000, the house was fully restored by local contractor, Bill Barnes, for former owner, Beverly Austin. The following year it was honored with the Florida State Chrysalis Award for Historic Preservation. There are many wonderful architectural details in the home including the original gingerbread, doors, fireplaces and windows. The kitchen and a room upstairs have been added, yet the integrity of the original home has been

maintained. The house is enhanced by the Eason's comfortable and inviting decor and their use of a mixture of antiques and contemporary and custom-built pieces. Art work abounds from whimsical paintings and sculpture to spectacular woodcarvings and pottery by Anne Eason herself. The stylish chicken coop in the back garden houses a variety of exotic poultry. Visitors to the house will find much to delight them in this home.

Evensong service at Trinity Episcopal Church will be held on Friday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. This service provides the traditional opening for the home tour. It will be followed by a reception to which all are invited. Homes will be open only on Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets will be available at \$20 until the day of the event. On Saturday, May 2, ticket sales will begin at 9:30 a.m. at \$25 per ticket. A gourmet lunch will be served at Benedict Hall on the grounds of Trinity Church from 11:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. during the tour. In addition, a silent auction, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., will be a part of Saturday's festivities.

Guests to Apalachicola can enhance their weekend experience by allowing time to visit the many historical buildings and churches, museums, inns and parks that mark this historic town as a truly original locale.

For more information, call 850-653-9550, or go to:

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

### ***Forgotten Coast en Plein Air***

Artists capture Florida's Forgotten Coast with brush and canvas during this 10 day event, May 1st-11th. Celebrating 10 years of documenting the landscape and culture of this last vestige of authentic "Old Florida", *Forgotten Coast en Plein Air*, (*See Plein Air, Page Five*)

***(Plein Air, From Page Four)***

America's Great Paint-out is among the world's most prestigious plein air events. Focusing on artistic excellence and the production of investment quality art is the trademark of the 10-day event. The invitational features 21 internationally acclaimed artists, as well as, six featured "Florida's Finest en Plein Air" artists



honored as Plein Air Ambassadors, two Plein Air Portrait experts and the Plein Air Academy's Master Artist Faculty. Expanded exhibits, a Collectors' Forum, distinguished guest speakers, and surprises that will be fresh and new to the plein air community are all in the making! Book your reservations early for the best rates! For more information, call 800-378-8419, or go to: [www.pleinairfl.com](http://www.pleinairfl.com)

This year the St. George Lighthouse Association is honored to partner with event PleinAir organizers to host Student Art Day in St. George Lighthouse Park on Wednesday, May 6. Each of the invited plein air artists will work with a local student as they paint in the area around our lighthouse from 10 a.m. until noon. A community lunch with the students and artists will be held in the park pavilions from noon to 1 p.m.

***May 2 - Golf Gone Wild Tournament - A golf tournament and art auction to help injured, orphaned birds and wildlife.*** St. James Bay Golf Resort is located on Highway 98 on beautiful Apalachicola Bay just minutes east of Carrabelle, Florida. This is an Audubon sanctioned course and a pleasure to play. There will be 4-player teams

8:30 a.m. registration

10 a.m. Shotgun Start

\$100 entry per person includes: golf, cart, range, lunch at Crooked River Grill and cash prizes to winners.

Help support Golf Gone Wild to benefit the Florida Wild Mammal Association and help the injured and orphaned wildlife on the Forgotten Coast.

Our silent auction is the main way Golf Gone Wild raises money. When you donate to our silent auction you make FWMA's work possible. FWMA is entirely funded from private funds. Not a dime of Government support. Please donate an item or service and help us save lives. To donate or become a sponsor please call Lois at (850) 653-5857.

**Event Schedule**

- 8:30 a.m. Range will be OPEN
  - 8:30 a.m. Registration (Don't forget to buy your mulligans!)
  - 8:30 a.m. Silent Auction opens-Come and bid on some exquisite items
  - 9:45 Players meeting for announcements
  - 10 a.m. Shotgun Start for a great day of golf!
  - 2:30 - 3 p.m Buffet Lunch at the splendid Crooked River Grill
  - 3 p.m. Scoring and Awards Ceremony
  - 2-4 p.m. Meet Doofy and Gizmo at the Animal Encounters
  - 4:45 p.m. Silent Auction closes - Hope you win some of those great items you bid on!
- For more information, call 850-697-9606 or go to: [www.stjamesbay.com](http://www.stjamesbay.com)

***Camp Gordon Johnston Days***

The Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days were established to celebrate historic wartime Carrabelle and the service of our veterans from WWII to present. All veterans and their family, friends, and supporters are invited to Carrabelle from Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9. On Friday, registration will continue throughout the day. Boat excursions to Dog *(See Gordon Johnston, Page Six)*

*(Gordon Johnston, From Page Five)*

Island, where many practice beach landings were held during WWII training, will be provided by Towboats U.S. Passage for each participant will cost \$25.00. There must be a minimum of three persons before the boat will leave. This is a sightseeing trip—we will not disembark on Dog Island. For reservations call: (850) 697-8909 or 697-3360. At 6 P.M., the Lanark American Legion Post 82, Camp Gordon Johnston, will host a southern seafood buffet. Legion members, WWII veterans and active duty troops only are invited to attend this event. On Saturday, May 9th, all participants are invited to begin the day with breakfast at the Masonic Lodge, 108 NE First Street, in Carrabelle. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 A.M. at a cost of \$6.00. Breakfast is free to active-duty troops and WWII veterans.

At approximately 10:45 A.M., on Highway 98 in Carrabelle, the parade will begin featuring WWII vehicles, tanks, and modern military equipment. Marching bands, active duty soldiers, civic groups, and re-enactors will participate in the parade festivities. This year the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, First Florida Chapter, will be bringing their restored vintage military vehicles to participate in the parade.

Afterwards they will form up at the old Gulf State Bank location in Carrabelle to conduct their “swap” business. The public is cordially invited to attend this parade, paying tribute to veterans of all branches of service, from all past and current wartime and peacetime efforts. The public is also invited to come to the “Swap” location to view the vehicles, purchase souvenirs and talk to the participants. If you wish to register on-line to be in the parade, please: call Sidney Winchester at: (850) 524-3927 or Mike Horvath at (850) 251-3928. Saturday evening will feature a dinner and dance.

The CGJ Museum will be open for visitors on Thursday 1200–1600 hours, Friday

0900–1600 and Saturday 0900–1500 hours. The Museum is closed Sundays.

### ***Rock By The Sea***



Make plans for Rock By The Sea on St. George Island on May 14-17. This will be held at Harry A's at 28 W. Bayshore Drive. Rock by the Sea, Inc is dedicated to organizing music festivals and events where money is raised to assist deserving charities who provide direct services to those in need. Every Rock by the Sea event is an intimate showcase of music designed to bring people together for the love of music and the common goal of helping these charities. For more information, call 850-222-0000, or go to: [www.rockbythesea.org](http://www.rockbythesea.org)

### ***Forgotten Coast Paddle Jam***

On Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, Paddle Jam 2015 will celebrate the Forgotten Coast through paddle sports, music & food. Paddle Jam is a “fluid festival” with events happening at various locations in Apalachicola and St. George Island. If you love paddle we invite you to join with us and paddle2love as we help those in need!

On Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be an attempt to set a World Record on the Apalachicola River aiming to involve "raft up" over 3500+ kayaks. The current Guinness World Record was set by One Square Mile of Hope (USA) in Inlet, New York, USA, on September 13, 2014 when 3150 kayaks and canoes rafted up together. The event will take place at the confluence of the Apalachicola River and the Apalachicola Bay (1 mile from the *(See Paddle Jam, Page Seven)*

*(Paddle Jam, From Page Six)*

Apalachicola High Bridge). Launching locations will be spaced out at public landing and private marinas along the Apalachicola River. Kayaks will gather and be linked by boaters arm in arm or paddle to paddle and assembled for 30 seconds. Proceeds from the "kayak raft" event will go



to helping "at risk" children, youth and families in need through the Outreach Ministries of the ASGI Cooperative Parish. Paddle Jam will also showcase live local music and local food. You can also visit the various Festival information booths or local museums and parks. Stroll the historic district or shop with the local vendors. Paddle Jam offers something for everyone and is for people who are passionate about life on the Forgotten Coast. For more information, go to: [www.paddle2love.com/paddle-jam-2015.html](http://www.paddle2love.com/paddle-jam-2015.html)

### ***ANERR Workshop: Living Shorelines***

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) will host a workshop on Living Shorelines on Friday, May 15, 9:30-11:30 am. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the St George Island Plantation Homeowners' Association at the St George Island Plantation Clubhouse. Zach Schang with the Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves Office in Pensacola will talk about living shorelines vs. harden shorelines. He will discuss how to evaluate a shoreline by considering the physical factors such as wave energy, prevailing wind and wave direction, vegetation, and soil type. He will also present living shoreline methods, materials, permitting, and share success stories of local living shorelines.

Coastal erosion is a natural process. It is caused by currents, wave action, wind, storms and even boat wakes. The traditional use of harden methods like seawalls and rip rap can often increase coastal erosion in neighboring properties and remove the ability of the shoreline to carry out natural processes. Alternatively, living shorelines use plants, sand, and limited use of oyster shells or rock to provide shoreline protection and maintain valuable habitat that stabilizes the shoreline, protects the surrounding riparian and intertidal environment, increases water quality via filtration of upland run-off, and creates habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

The lecture is free and registration is required. For more information please contact Anita Grove at 850-670-7708 or [Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us) or Margo Posten at 850-670-7719

[Margaret.Posten@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Margaret.Posten@dep.state.fl.us)

For more information, call 850-670-7708.

## ***IN Concert: Franklin County School Band***



On Sunday, May 17, the Franklin County School Band's Concert in the Park – Karl Lester, Conductor - begins at 4pm. in Apalachicola. For more information, go to [www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org/)

### ***ANERR Lecture On Inshore Fishing***

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 3 p.m., the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve at 108 Island Drive in Eastpoint, will have an hour-long lecture about inshore recreational fishing without a boat. Education Coordinator and multiple fishing tournament winner Jeff Dutrow will discuss his favorite strategies for catching inshore fish. Topics will include where to go –surf, oyster bars, grass flats, jetties and the bay; when to go – tides, season, water conditions, and time of day; and what to do –gear to use and how to use it. This lecture is free and registration is not required. However, seating is limited. For more information contact Jeff Dutrow, 850-670-7711 or email [jeff.dutrow@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:jeff.dutrow@dep.state.fl.us)

### ***Red Snapper Tournament - Carrabelle***

On Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, the first Red Snapper Tournament of the year. Fish the tournament on the first two days of opening season for red snapper. \$5,000 Guaranteed Payout. The tournament

starts at C-Quarters Marina at 501 St. James Ave., Carrabelle. For more information, call 850-697-8400 or go to : [www.c-quartersmarina.com](http://www.c-quartersmarina.com)

### **4th Saturday Paddle**

Join Apalachicola Riverkeeper for a volunteer-led 4th Saturday Paddle on Saturday, May 23. We'll 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. Just let us know what your level is, and we'll almost always be able to accommodate you. On those rare occasions that require more skill, we'll suggest a future trip that's more suitable.

We have kayaks available on "first-reserve, first-get basis." Each one-person kayak includes a PFD (personal floatation device) and paddle. If you bring your own kayak, don't forget your paddle and PFD, which must be worn at all times while on the water. Please plan to reserve your space (and your 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 paddlers and provide them with additional details (time, point of departure, weather uncertainties, etc.). Paddle trips are FREE to our members, and \$30 each to non-members (which gives you an annual membership for your family, so any other trips are free for 1 full year). Don't forget to bring: water; snacks/lunch; sunscreen; bug spray; hat; camera; and any other items you might want/need, and all in a water proof bag which can be secured to the boat. Make sure you wear clothing that won't weigh you down if it gets wet. There are also occasional Sunday Paddle (*See Riverkeeper, Page Nine*)



***(Riverkeeper, From Page Eight)***

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 our website or our Facebook page.



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

**SGI Sports Bar**

The Public is invited to attend a P&Z Public Workshop on May 12th re: a proposed St George Island Sports bar and restaurant at the corner of West Pine and First Street. Many in the community have been aware of potential plans to build this sports bar. The proposal was placed on and then removed from the Planning & Zoning Agenda in a couple of past meetings. The workshop will be after the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Board on May 12 with a 3D video of the planned sports bar.

**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.sgicivicclub.org](http://www.sgicivicclub.org) for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at [sgicivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:sgicivicclub@gmail.com) Dues are \$20 per person and can be mailed to SGI Civic Club, P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. Checks may be made to SGI Civic Club.

**2015 Board of Directors**

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