



# The Islander

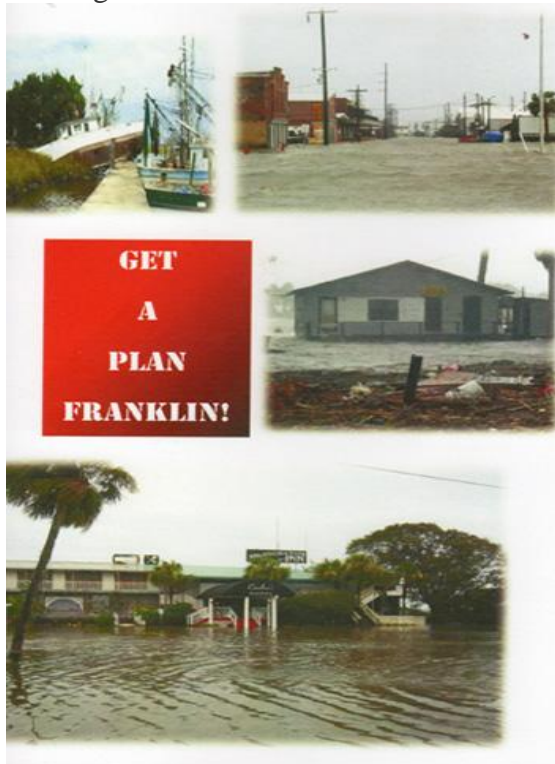
June 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

**The June meeting will be on the 18th 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.**

## Franklin Emergency Management Presents Info on Hurricanes

Pamela Brownell, Director of the Franklin County Emergency Agency and Tress Dameron, Coordinator, made a presentation on Hurricane Preparedness at our May meeting.



They came early on Thursday evening to issue passes to return to the Island after an emergency. They said the old passes would

get residents back on the Island as long as the address they have on record has not changed.

After a storm, Franklin County residents will utilize their re-entry pass to gain access to residencies.

- Passes must be visible thru the windshield at all times
- Each area is color coded so only residents that live in that area should be in that area
- Going to a place of business is okay

The probability for at least one major hurricane making landfall on the Gulf Coast is 47% and that probability jumps to 61% for at least one severe storm to track into the Caribbean. This is the reason that Franklin County Emergency Management and CERT team stress the importance of being storm ready.

Families should have an appropriately well-stocked disaster kit as well as a well-rehearsed disaster plan.

A list of hotels that accept pets can be found at: <http://www.petfriendlytravel.com>

Much more information can be found at: <http://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/>

SGI Volunteer Fire Chief, Jay Abbott advised they will be available on the Island up to a Category One hurricane, but will evacuate fire equipment for any categories above that.

There is confusion when the bridge will be closed. Currently it is when sustained winds exceed 50 mph. There is talk that it may be reduced to 30 mph.

## **Membership Letter Increases Participation in SGI Civic Club**

According to Treasurer Mike O'Connell and Secretary Linda Thurman, membership in the SGI Civic Club has increased by 166 members since a mass mailing (approved at the April club meeting) was sent out May 1<sup>st</sup>. We now have a total of 305 members. Mike says that membership forms are still coming in.

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

The May Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse will be held on Tuesday, June 2. 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.

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.

## ***Upcoming Events***

### ***Turtle Talk***

Join ANERR on Wednesday, June 3 at 108 Island Dr., Eastpoint for a presentation on Turtle Nesting. ANERR will host this presentation every Wednesday in June, July and August, 2015, from 2:00-3:00pm. /the dates are June 3,10,17,24 July, 1, 8,15,22,29 and August 5,12,19,26.

Sea turtle nesting season is here! During the first week of May, sea turtle nests have been spotted on both St George Island and St. Vincent Island and volunteers and staff are monitoring remaining area beaches for their crawls. Each spring hundreds of these grand creatures arise from Gulf waters to lay their eggs on our sandy shores. Most of the turtles that nest here are Loggerheads, *Caretta caretta*, but we do get some Green sea turtles, *Chelonia mydas* and Leatherback sea turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*.



Hatchlings will start to crawl out of their nests approximately two months after being laid and continue to emerge through October. On average there are 90 nests on Little St George and 150 nests on St. George every year.

Bruce Drye has been monitoring turtle nesting on St. George since 1990, after he retired from the St. George Island State Park. At first a volunteer, he was later hired by ANERR to oversee the project each year. Bruce started the ANERR St. George Island Volunteer Turtles which also help monitor the nests.

Two interns will be working with Bruce this season. Amy Bergstrom from the *(See Turtles, Page Three)*

*(Turtles, From Page Two)*

Milwaukee, Wisconsin area has been an intern at both the Racine Zoo and at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and Kallie Gannon, a senior at Eastern Michigan University, earning her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science.

Little St. George Island has been monitored by ANERR staff since 1988. Megan Lamb with NOAA's Environmental Cooperative Science Center has been assisting with turtle nesting on Little St. George since 2004, and overseeing the beach since 2009.

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer free weekly talks about sea turtles, their nesting habits, how the nests are identified, protected and how visitors and residents can help sea turtles have a successful nesting season, on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM. For more info, call 850-670-7700. Or go to:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola/](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola/)

### ***Youth Fishing Tournament***



Charles and Rex Pennycuff will host their 15th annual Fisherman's Choice Youth Fishing Tournament on June 6th. Kids 16 and under will fish for fresh and saltwater species. Each entry receives a t-shirt, and after the tournament, attendees are invited to attend a cookout at Fisherman's Choice in Eastpoint. Entry is free and generally about

200 kids sign up. For more information, call 850-670-8808.

### ***Free Fishing Days***

Free fishing days provide an excellent opportunity for parents who don't yet have licenses to take youth fishing or avid anglers to introduce a friend to fishing without having to purchase a license. On these days, the fishing license requirement is waived for all recreational anglers (residents and non-residents). All other rules (e.g., seasons, bag and size limits) apply. **License-free freshwater days for 2015 and beyond**

Second Saturday and Sunday in June  
**License-free saltwater days for 2015 and beyond**

First Saturday and Sunday in June

First Saturday in September

Saturday following Thanksgiving

The saltwater waiver applies to any recreational harvest requiring a saltwater fishing license (e.g., crabbing, lobstering, scalloping, etc.) as well as fishing from shore or a boat. A snook or spiny lobster permit is not required on these days. For more information, go to:

[myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-a-license/free-fishing/](http://myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-a-license/free-fishing/)

### ***Saltwater Fishing Tournament***

The Tallahassee Builders Association 27th Annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held at C-Quarters Marina at 501 St. James Ave. in Carrabelle on Saturday, June 13. There will be cash prizes for In-Shore and Off-Shore Grand Slams and the largest fish of various species. For more information, call 850-697-8400. Or go to:

[www.c-quartersmarina.com](http://www.c-quartersmarina.com)

### ***St. George Island Mullet Toss***

This annual fun event will take place June 13 from 10 am till 5 pm on the beach in *(See Mullet Toss, Page Four)*

*(Mullet Toss, From Page Three)*



front of Blue Parrot Oceanfront Cafe on St. George Island. This Mullet Toss is sponsored by The Blue Parrot for the benefit of the Apalachicola Bay Charter School. For a nominal entry fee you get a unique Mullet Toss T Shirt, and 2 mullet to throw. Visitors and Locals compete for prizes and bragging rights. For more information, call 850-927-2987, or go to [www.blueparrotsgo.com/calendar/mullet\\_toss.htm](http://www.blueparrotsgo.com/calendar/mullet_toss.htm)

### **Reserve Wednesday Lecture**



Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve announces a new monthly natural history lecture series, "Reserve Wednesdays," that explores the ecology, geology and natural history of the Florida Panhandle. Free lectures will be held the third Wednesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Apalachicola Research Reserve Nature Center in Eastpoint.

### **Annual Big Bend Saltwater Classic**

The Moorings of Carrabelle will host the 24rd Annual Big Bend Classic on Father's

Day Weekend, June 19th through the 21st, 2015. The Classic will begin from 1000 US Hwy 98, Carrabelle. All of the proceeds from the Big Bend Saltwater Classic are used to develop artificial reefs in the Northeastern Gulf of Mexico. For more information, call 850-697-2800, or go to [saltwaterclassic.com/](http://saltwaterclassic.com/)

### **Forgotten Coast Open Golf Tournament**

Please come to the St. James Bay Golf Resort on Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, at 151 Laughing Gull Lane, Carrabelle, for the annual Forgotten Coast Open. This year the tournament features a flighted, open field Individual Stroke Play event, a team Four Ball event, daily Proximity Contests, daily Skins Games, Day Money competitions, a scratch Shootout, and more! Competitors will enjoy exciting golf on the challenging, meticulously-maintained, Golf Course at St. James Bay, great prizes and outstanding southern hospitality. Your assistance in growing the Forgotten Coast Open is greatly appreciated. Please share the entry forms with all of your golfing buddies, business associates and club members, display them on community information boards, and feel free to make copies or forward E-mails. The more the merrier – everyone is welcome!

We have also included sponsorship information for interested individuals and businesses. Sponsorships are a great value – they include a \$200.00 tournament entry – as well as a tax-deductible opportunity to reach the regional golfing demographic. Event proceeds benefit the Bayou Bash Reef Building Initiative and the MBARA (Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association). Download an entry form [here](#). For more information, call 850-697-9606, or go to [www.stjamesbay.com](http://www.stjamesbay.com)

### ***4th Saturday Paddle***

Join Apalachicola Riverkeeper for a volunteer-led 4th Saturday Paddle on Saturday, June 27. 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-come, first-served" 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 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. For more information, call 850-653-8936, or go to [apalachicolariverkeeper.org/4th-saturday-paddle/](http://apalachicolariverkeeper.org/4th-saturday-paddle/)

### ***Butts & Clucks Cook-off By the Bay***

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Weems Memorial Healthcare Foundation holds the 5th annual Butts & Clucks Cook-off By the Bay in Battery Park, Apalachicola. Come out for great food and friendly competition. They will be selling Championship Pulled Pork dinners or come out and compete in the competition. Registration is \$50 to compete in two categories Chicken and Pork. The Grand Champion wins a Championship belt to wear for bragging rights. For more information, go to:

[www.weemsmemorial.com/p/foundation.aspx](http://www.weemsmemorial.com/p/foundation.aspx)

### ***School of Art: Michael Harrell Watercolor***

Watercolor on the Apalachicola River with Michael Harrell – June 18-21 - Informal lectures and discussions with question-and-answers on the different aspects of  
(See *Watercolor*, Page Six)

*(Watercolor, From Page Five)*



watercolor painting from design and composition to technique. The students will do step-by-step painting with one-on-one instruction and critiques. Classes held at the Apalachicola School of Art in downtown Apalachicola at 86 Market Street. For more information, call 1-855-272-5224 or go to: [www.apalachिकासchoolofart.com](http://www.apalachिकासchoolofart.com)

*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.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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The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts