



# The Islander

July 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

**The July 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.**

## **Franklin Emergency Management Will Issue Island Access Passes**

Passes to return to SGI after an emergency are available at the Franklin County Emergency Management office at the Apalachicola Airport complex west of Apalachicola. More information and an application form can be found at: <http://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/>

## **Big Winners at Bingo**

A group of Iowa visitors won big at the June 9<sup>th</sup> bingo game. The 7 women from Iowa won 3 bingo games and 2 door prizes including the \$160 winning card of the final game of the night.



The winners donated \$60 of their winnings back to the SGI Civic Club.

They last visited SGI 2 years ago, but were turned away because the room was filled to capacity. Learning from that experience, they arrived early and were known as the “rowdy table”.

The club still made over \$700 and had an attendance of 175.

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

According to Treasurer Mike O’Connell and Secretary Linda Thurman, we now have a total membership in the SGI Civic Club of 377. Mike says that membership forms are still coming in.

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

The first July Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse will be held on Wednesday, July 1. 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 8:44 p.m. and the “Buck” moon will rise at 8:21 p.m. on July 1. Bucks generally begin to grow new antlers in the month of July. Full moon names were created by Native American tribes, specifically the Algonquins, to keep track of the seasons. There will be a second full moon on July 31.

*(See Lighthouse, Page Two)*

***(Lighthouse, From Page One)***

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 every Wednesday in July and August, from 2:00-3:00pm. /the dates are July, 8,15,22,29 and August 5,12,19,26. 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.

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, but we do get some Green sea turtles and Leatherback sea turtles. 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 Dye 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 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.

***SGI Independence Parade***

Come on down to St. George Island for the wettest and wildest Independence Day parade on the Forgotten Coast! Because most visitors depart and arrive on Saturdays and Sundays, this year there will be two parades to better accommodate our visitors – the first will be on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the second will be on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Decorate your vehicle and join in the fun! Anyone in costume, on a float or in a ***(See Independence Day, Page Three)***

***(Independence Day, from Page Two)***

decorated vehicle, golf cart or bicycle can participate. Bring your squirt guns and plan to get wet! No water balloons please, they are harmful to the local wildlife. Line up at the intersection of 1st Street West and West Pine Street at 11:00am. Parade begins at noon. For more information please contact Vicki Frost at Eddy Teach's at 927-5050.



Schedule: July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11:00am, line up at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and West Pine. Parade starts at noon.  
July 6<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am, line up at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and West Pine. Parade starts at noon.

***Apalachicola Independence Eve Celebration***



Apalachicola has big plans for a memorable Independence Eve celebration on its riverfront. For the fourth consecutive year, the community has combined its resources for a July 3 spectacular, culminating in a stunning fireworks display over the Apalachicola River.

Beginning at 4 p.m. in Riverfront Park, hub of the Independence Eve activities, a crew from among more than 50 volunteers will be busy serving up Firecracker Fried Shrimp, Wings of Freedom, and Hero Hot Dogs. Refreshments including wine and locally brewed Oyster City Beer will also be available.

Children will take part in face painting, games and age-appropriate fun for America's birthday weekend. There'll be lots of musical entertainment, including the United Methodist Church youth band and soloist Maxine Kellogg.

At 6 p.m. the featured entertainment, Johnny Barbato and the Lucky Doggs, out of New Orleans, will take the stage at Riverfront Park. At 6:30 p.m, across from the historic district in Lafayette Park, the Red, White and Blue parade, coordinated by Franklin's Promise, will line up, drawing conveyances from walkers to wheelchairs, bicycles to golf carts, all emblazoned in red, white and blue. The parade heads down Avenue B to Riverfront Park, where everyone is invited to enjoy free hand-scooped ice cream.

The patriotic party continues as the excitement grows, leading to a Veterans Tribute at 8:30 p.m. Apalachicola city commissioner Jimmy Elliott, who served with the Army overseas in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm and three tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom, will be the featured speaker.

Debbie Fletcher will sing the God Bless America and immediately afterwards, a 20-minute fireworks extravaganza, launched by PyroShows, of LaFollette, Tennessee will be launched from a barge, illuminating the river that once served as the height of Florida commerce during its 19<sup>th</sup> century heyday. For those who wish to relax in an up-close seat on the docks, savoring wine or locally brewed Oyster City Beer, table sponsorships and reserved seating are available. Lawn (*See Apalachicola, Page Four*)

*(Apalachicola, from Page Three)*

chairs and picnic blankets are welcome on the grass.

The celebration is being coordinated by Historic Apalachicola Main Street in partnership with the City of Apalachicola, Franklin's Promise Coalition, and the Apalachicola Bay Chamber Of Commerce. For more information, please visit [www.ApalachicolaMainStreet.org](http://www.ApalachicolaMainStreet.org) or contact Harry Arnold: (850) 524-0770 or Jim Bachrach (850) 899-8689, or email Executive Director Augusta West at [awest@ApalachicolaMainStreet.org](mailto:awest@ApalachicolaMainStreet.org).

#### ***4th of July Freedom Fest***

Come celebrate our great country's spirit of freedom and independence on Saturday, July 4. Watch the greatest fireworks display on the Island from the Blue Parrot decks at 68 West Gorrie Dr., St. George Island.

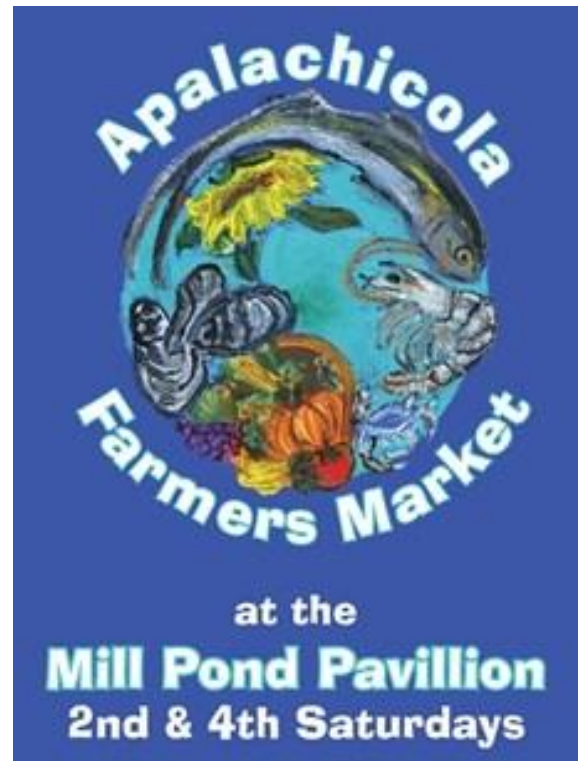
Have a delicious fresh seafood dinner while the sky lights up. Enjoy drinks from the Tiki Bar while the crowd oooohs and aaahs.

Music and fun.

For more information, call 850-927-2987 or go to [www.blueparrotsgi.com](http://www.blueparrotsgi.com)

#### ***Apalachicola Farmers Market***

Local seafood, produce, herbs, and honey, homemade breads and pies, along with other regional specialties will be part of the fare offered at the Apalachicola Farmers Market which opens July 11 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Mill Pond Pavilion, located at the north end of Market Street in Historic Apalachicola.



The Farmers Market will be open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at the Pavillion, which overlooks the historic Scipio Creek boat basin.

Browse the market for goodies such as tomato pie, local eggs, homemade jams, jellies, salsa and barbeque sauce, locally-produced soaps, handmade turquoise jewelry, and perennials.

Enjoy music with your friends and neighbors in a beautiful setting by the water. Relax under the live oaks that grace the Farmers Market on the Mill Pond off Scipio Creek.

From the blinking light in Apalachicola Center, the Farmers Market is just down Market Street less than a mile.

For more information, call 860-918-3594

## ***Youth Fishing Tournament***



Kids from all over the South are invited to attend the 10th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament on Saturday, July 18. Open to all kids 16 and younger. Registration is required on-site at 501 St. James Ave., Carrabelle. Sponsored by Jimmie Crowder of C-Quarters Marina, [FishFloridaTag.org](http://FishFloridaTag.org) and local businesses.

For more information, call 850-697-8400 or go to [c-quartersmarina.com](http://c-quartersmarina.com)

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

Join Apalachicola Riverkeeper for a volunteer-led 4th Saturday Paddle on Saturday, July 25. 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 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/)

### ***ANERR Workshop: Blue Carbon***

*Blue Carbon: A Management Tool for the Conservation and Restoration of Coastal Wetlands* will be offered by the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve on July 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 am-4:30 pm at 108 Island Dr., Eastpoint. Leading Blue Carbon experts Steve Emmett-Mattox with Restore America's Estuaries and Dr. Stephen Crooks will explore the greenhouse gas benefits provided by tidal wetlands, salt marshes, seagrasses, mangroves, and other coastal ecosystems, and how these concepts can be used to support land conservation and restoration goals, plus generate new revenue opportunities. They will discuss the economics of blue carbon, the basics of coastal landscape project planning, models, and implementation practices, and the benefits of combining blue carbon projects with traditional conservation and restoration activities.

This workshop is intended for anyone interested in coastal conservation and restoration, including natural resource managers, land owners, land trust managers, policy makers, planners, real estate professionals, attorneys and financial advisors, academia, and federal, state and local officials.

Presenters include Steve Emmett-Mattox and Dr. Stephen Crooks. Mr. Emmett-Mattox is the Senior Director for Strategic Planning and Programs for Restore America's Estuaries, where he leads the U.S. blue carbon effort and has been developing strategic initiatives for 15 years. Dr. Crooks is the Director of Climate Change Services for Environmental Science Associates, Co-Chair of the International Blue Carbon Working Group and member of the IPCC Working Group that drafted the 2013 guidelines to include wetlands in national greenhouse gas inventories.

Registration is \$20. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. To register go to <http://gulfalliancetraining.com/detail.aspx?id=96> For more information, please contact Anita Grove at [Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us) or (850) 670-7708 or Margo Posten at [Margaret.Posten@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Margaret.Posten@dep.state.fl.us) or (850) 670-7719.

### ***SGL Lighthouse Second July Full Moon Climb***

There are 2 chances to climb to the top of the Cape St. George Light in July to watch the sunset and the rise of the full moon Friday, July 31. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb includes 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. Because space is limited,



reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 or go to [www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org)

***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