



The Islander

August 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

The August meeting will be on the 20th 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. No program is planned.

SGI Civic Club Membership Increases

According to Treasurer Mike O'Connell and Secretary Linda Thurman, we now have 381 members in the SGI Civic Club. Mike says that membership forms are still coming in. We also had 2 renew at the July meeting.

Beach Pit Restaurant Fire

Recently, SGI Civic Club Director-at-Large Kelly Rowland and fellow firefighter Paul Juno responded to a fire at the Beach Pit restaurant. Paul was later injured in a collision between a golf cart and a motor vehicle on West Gulf Beach Drive. That



crash resulted in the death of long-time SGI resident Phillip Spratt. Paul is recovering from his injuries.

Summer Bingo nears End

SGI Civic Club Bingo Coordinator Kelly Rowland said that as of August 4 we had made \$5,903.58 and have had 1,375 bingo players. The next night of Bingo will be on August 11. Bingo usually continues through the 2nd week in August.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

On Saturday, August 29, climb to the top of the Cape St. George Light to watch the sunset and the rise of the full moon. 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.

The sun will set at 8:05 p.m. and the "Sturgeon" moon will rise at 8:05 p.m. on August 29. The August full moon was named after the sturgeon, a large fish common to the Great Lakes and other large bodies of water, because the fish is most readily caught during this month. A species of sturgeon has occasionally been found in (*See Lighthouse, Page Two*)

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the Apalachicola River. Full moons were named by native American tribes, primarily the Algonquins who ranged from New England to the Great Lakes, to keep up with the changing seasons.

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.

Upcoming Events

Turtle Talk

Sea turtle nesting season is here! During the first week of May, sea turtle nests were spotted on both St George Island and St. Vincent Island, and volunteers and staff have been 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, 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. The SGI Volunteer Turtles group said that as of August 5, they had counted 217 nests on the Island.

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.

Dates of the remaining presentations will be August 12, 19 and 26 at 2:00 PM. For more information, call 850-670-7700.

Apalachicola Farmers Market

Local seafood, produce, herbs, and honey, homemade breads and pies, along with other regional specialties will be fare offered at the Apalachicola Farmers Market which will be open from 9 am to 1 pm on August 8 and the 22nd at the Mill Pond Pavilion, located at the north end of Market Street in Historic Apalachicola.

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.

Interested in becoming a vendor or volunteer? Email

apalachicolafarmersmarket@gmail.com to be a part of this vibrant community.

18th Annual St. George Island Sizzler 5K Race & One Mile Fun Run

On Saturday, August 8, the annual St. George Island Sizzler 5K Race & One Mile Fun Run event sponsored by the Tate's Hell Track Club. The One Mile Fun Run begins



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at 6:30pm and the 5K Race begins at 7:00pm. All proceeds benefit the Franklin County Humane Society.

After the race, enjoy a Post Race Party with fresh seafood & beverages at St. George Lighthouse Park with live music by Debi Jordan. On-site registration & packet pickup begins at 4:00pm at St. George Lighthouse Park.

The Post Race Party and awards will be at St. George Lighthouse Park at 7:30pm. Discounts for military personnel and school cross country teams.

For more information, visit: www.stgeorgeislandsizzler.com or call 850-509-2191 or email info@stgeorgeislandsizzler.com

V-Day at St. George Island State Park



August 15 is the 70 year anniversary of V-Day or Victory Day, which marked the end of World War II in 1945. Florida was an active training ground for the United States military. The Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum in nearby Carrabelle will be at St. George Island State Park to talk about the relationship between the camp, St. George Island and other nearby areas. Come to the park to see military vehicle displays, equipment and historical information highlighting the important role Florida played in training for the battlefield during World War II. Vehicles and displays provided by Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum and the Military Vehicle Preservation Association. For more information, call 850-697-8757 or go to www.campgordonjohnston.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 for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at 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.

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The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts