



The Islander

December 2015

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

The next club meeting is December 17. This meeting normally does not have a speaker. Social hour begins at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. Program begins at 7:30.

We now have a new website address: Stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org. Due to a lack of customer service on our old website provider, we moved the website to the new address.

November Speaker Addressed Bear Safety and Recent Hunt

Caitlin Goode of the Florida Wildlife Commission spoke about the recent bear hunt in Florida and suggestions about dealing with bears.



Caitlin O'Connell Goode

Caitlin is the niece of Civic Club Treasurer Mike O'Connell and has spoken before at the Civic Club. In June 2015, the FWC approved a limited bear hunt to take place beginning Oct. 24, 2015 in four of the seven Bear Management Units (BMUs). The purpose of reinstating a bear hunting season was to stabilize expanding bear populations in different parts of the state that are capable of supporting hunting.

As other states have shown, hunting is the most effective and responsible method for managing the growth of bear populations but is just one part of FWC's overall approach to managing bears.

Florida black bear populations have increased greatly over recent decades. Based on rigorous scientific updates, Florida black bears number more than 3,500.

FWC took a conservative approach to setting harvest objectives, building in buffers so the number of bears harvested would stabilize growing populations.

Buffers were built in to ensure a continuation of healthy bear numbers.

Updated population information for three additional BMUs is expected in 2016. In addition to updated population information for three additional BMUs (East Panhandle, West Panhandle and South), FWC also will use information from the 2015 hunt to guide management efforts in subsequent years.

FWC had mechanisms in place for daily monitoring of the harvest and season closure, so when the harvest approached the statewide objective of 320, FWC was prepared and stopped the hunt.

The East Panhandle (our area) and the Central bear management units (BMUs) were closed for the rest of the season beginning Sunday, Oct. 25 while the North and South BMUs were closed to hunting beginning Monday, Oct. 26.

The total harvest for the four bear managements units open during the 2015 bear hunt was 298.

(See Bears, Page Two)

(Bears, From Page One)

The breakdown by Bear Management Unit is as follows:

- East Panhandle BMU = 112 bears
- Central BMU = 139 bears
- North BMU = 25 bears
- South BMU = 22 bears

While harvest was higher than expected in the East Panhandle and Central BMUs, success rates were comparable to other states with similar hunt structures and were within sustainable limits. The higher-than-expected harvest in the East Panhandle likely reflects a higher bear population in that unit and indicates that the population is significantly higher than the East Panhandle's 2002 population estimate of 600 bears.

It is illegal to feed bears and other wildlife. If you encounter a bear, back away slowly and stand tall.

St. George Island Cat Allies

In November, crews of local and out of state Volunteers, Dr. Hobson Fulmer and Vet Techs from Franklin and surrounding counties worked diligently for 4 days to Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Release (TNVR) 91 free roaming cats on St. George Island. This event not only keeps the cat population under control and disease free, but also helps control the rodent population. This year, with the leadership of Cathy Buell, SGI Cat Allies have TNVR 377 homeless cats in the Apalachicola, Eastpoint and SGI areas. SGI Cat Allies need support to continue efforts by volunteering and making donations. SGI Cat Allies is a registered public 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Financial contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Those who choose to volunteer their time can assist in locating homeless cats, becoming cat community caretakers or participating in the TNVR process. Please contact SGI Cat Allies at www.sgicatallies.com and like SGI Cat Allies on Facebook.

Upcoming Events

Camp Gordon Johnston Historic Marker Dedication



The Camp Gordon Johnston World War Two Museum cordially invites you to a formal dedication of our historic marker



WHERE: 1873 US HWY 98 WEST
JACKSON FROM CARRABELLE BEACH
WHEN: 1000 HOURS, 3 DECEMBER, 2015

THE MARKER IS BEING PLACED ON THE PROPERTY WHERE THE PERMANENT BUILDING FOR PHASE ONE OF THE CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL PARK WILL BE LOCATED.

On Thursday, December 3, a historic marker will be dedicated at 1873 Highway 98, in Carrabelle.

The schedule will be:

10:00 a.m. – Unveiling of marker, comments from City, County and State officials.

10:30 a.m. – Tour of museum property, surveys, rendering of Phase One and Memorial Pavilion will be passed out.

Visitors will be welcome to walk the site, observe the panoramic view of Carrabelle Beach and the bay where the WWII practice beach landings happened.

11:00 – Refreshments will be served at the Museum along with tours. There will be a WWII news short describing mission of the Amphibious Training Center at Camp Gordon Johnston. For more Information, call 850-697 8575.

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 open 9 am to 1 pm on December 12 and December 26, at the Mill Pond Pavilion, located at the north end of Market Street in Historic Apalachicola.

(See Market, Page Three)

(Market, From Page Two)

The Farmers Market will be open the 2nd and 4th 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.

Island Lights

Santa is coming to St. George Island! The annual Island Lights festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4 at the St. George Lighthouse Park. The one mile Jingle Jog starts at 4:30 p.m. on the bike path in front of Lighthouse Park. Be sure to arrive early to get your Santa hat and jingle bells. A \$5 per runner donation is suggested. Local children's choruses will be performing holiday musical selections throughout the event. Santa is expected to arrive around 5:00 p.m. He will arrive by fire engine and provide gifts to children age 10 and younger. Refreshments will include snacks, coffee, and hot chocolate. This event is rain or shine - in the event of inclement weather, tents will be set up. View the lighting of the Island palms at sundown. This event is hosted by the St. George Island Business Association. For more information call 850-323-1260. Ho, Ho, Ho!

Holiday Fresh Market

Why fight the crowds and traffic at the malls? On Saturday, December 5, come for the day or the weekend and find one-of-a-kind unusual presents. Shop in a relaxed, hassle free environment. Buy hand crafted Apalachicola specialties such as baked goods, artwork, wood carving, pottery, hand knit goods. Your gift shopping has never been easier! Located in front of the Dixie Theatre Avenue E and Market Street. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Call (850) 653-9419 for details.

Eastpoint Christmas Parade



The Eastpoint Christmas Celebration and Parade will be held Friday, December 11 at 4 pm. Following the parade, Santa will be at the Eastpoint Pavilion. Refreshments and gifts will be provided for children 10 and under.

21st Annual Holiday on the Harbor & Boat Parade

Make Plans to Put Your Boat in the Carrabelle Boat Parade of Lights & Holiday on the Harbor Saturday, December 12, at "dark 30".

(See Boat Parade, Page Four)

(Boat Parade, From Page Three)

Join in the Fun with Your Family and Friends! All Boats Welcome - Any Boat That Floats! Trophies and Prizes for each boat category!

Be sure to stay for the Fireworks Grand Finale.

Visit www.carrabelle.org to register online or download a registration form or you may also stop by the Chamber office at 105 St. James Avenue and pick up a registration. For more information, call 850-697-2585.

Due to computer problems, we were not able to use pictures from the October Pig Roast. Here are some of those pictures:



Elaine Kozłowski, Phyllis Lewis and Sherri Roberts



Skip Kemp, Neil Smith-Willow and Susan Kearney



Susan Kearney, Bud Hayes, Jane Nipps, Barbara Iman and Steve Kearney



Larry Iman, Paul Riegelmayr, Jimmy Lewis and Fred Stanley

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.stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. ***(Note new website address)***

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.

2015 Board of Directors

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The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts