



The Islander

January 2016

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

The next club meeting is January 21. The speaker will be Dr. Mariana Fuentes from the FSU Marine Lab in St. Teresa, a member of the FSUML team monitoring turtles. 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 by our old website provider, we moved the website to the new address.

December Meeting reviewed 2015

President Chris Jensen went over several activities held in 2015. The highlight was the number of donations that were made to Franklin County charities. We sent a total of \$15,953 in contributions broken down below:

Franklin County Public Library Programs - \$2000

Humane Society - \$1500

Food Bank/First Baptist of Eastpoint - \$1000

SGI Island Entrance Improvements - \$1000

Concerned Citizens of Franklin County - \$1000

SGI Business Association - \$1000

Eastpoint Elves (Christmas Gifts for needy children) - \$600

Big Bend Hospice - \$500

Cat Allies - 500

Apalachicola Riverkeepers – \$100

Matching funds to Franklin County Library for driveway – \$3800

We also made a \$2000 gift to improve the Volunteer Fire Department's gravel driveway and \$953 to purchase additional portable air conditioning units and tables for the Fire House meeting room where the civic club holds meetings and Bingo.

Benches arrive for Entrance Sign

As part of improvements to SGI, the Civic Club purchased benches for the entrance to the Island by the Welcome Sign.



Pat O'Connell models the new benches

Civic Club volunteers John Olander, Steve Childers, Fred Stanley and Michael O'Connell assembled these heavy duty benches acquired by the Civic Club for placement in the area of the "Welcome to Saint George Island" sign. For several years the Civic Club has worked to improve the appearance and usefulness of this
(See Benches, Page Two)

(Benches, From Page One)

favorite landmark of the island. Today the location has an enlarged oyster shell base area perfect for family photos, landscaping of native plants with irrigation if needed, and county-maintained pine straw mulch to give the area a more finished appearance. This year the Civic Club was able to add these two benches that will enable visitors and residents to enjoy this overlook with beautiful bay views.

ARETE Industries, a Florida-based company which produces commercial grade outdoor furniture and signage, manufactured the benches on behalf of the Civic Club and reduced their pricing by donating one of the benches for free. These traditional style benches are constructed of recycled plastic in "Sand" color that have the look of painted wood but without the maintenance. The recycled material does not splinter, crack, chip, peel or rot and is resistant to corrosive substances, insects, fungi, salt spray and other environmental stresses. The contoured seating, with slatted back, seat and arm rests, is designed for high traffic park and playground areas. The benches are assembled with commercial grade stainless steel hardware with additional protective and cosmetic coating. Civic Club volunteers will affix these benches to a concrete base to protect from flooding and vandalism.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

On Saturday, January 23, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., climb to the top of the Cape St. George Light and 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.

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.

Fifth Annual SGI Tour of Homes

The fifth annual St. George Island Tour of Homes will be held on February 13. Seven distinctive and beautiful homes will be featured during the fifth annual St. George Island Tour of Homes from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 13, benefitting the St. George Lighthouse Association (SGLA). Also included on the tour are the Cape St. George Lighthouse and Keeper's House, and the St. George Plantation Clubhouse. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 on the day of the Tour. Tour weekend will begin with a kick-off event on Friday, February 12, featuring a special presentation, refreshments, cash bar, and door prizes. Josh Hodson, manager of the St. George Island State Park, will talk about the scenic and award-winning park's wildlife and other amenities. This event, which is free for Tour of Homes ticket holders and \$5.00 for others, will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jay Abbott Firehouse, 324 East Pine Avenue, St. George Island.

Tour tickets are available at the Lighthouse Gift Shop on St. George Island. To order tickets, call the gift shop at (850) 927-7745. Tickets will be available on Tour day at Lighthouse Park and at the St. George Plantation Clubhouse.

SGLA is a non-profit Florida corporation organized to preserve, maintain and promote the Cape St. George Lighthouse. The Lighthouse was reconstructed in 2008 after *(See Tour, Page Three)*

(Tour, From Page Two)

collapsing in 2005. SGLA also built a replica of the Lighthouse Keeper's House which includes a museum and gift shop. Funds raised by SGLA are used for the ongoing maintenance of the Lighthouse, the Keeper's House and Lighthouse Park, and this year will help fund a new exhibit featuring a replica of the Cape St. George Light's third order Fresnel lens.

For more information, please visit our website at www.sgitourofhomes.com.

Upcoming Events

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 January 9th and 10th, at the Mill Pond Pavilion, located at the north end of Market Street in Historic Apalachicola. The Farmers Market will be open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at the Pavilion, 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.

IN Concert: The Forward Quartet



On Friday, January 8, at 102 St James Avenue, Carrabelle, Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts presents The Forward Quartet, a new jazz group based out of Tallahassee. They play new, original, modern jazz music. For more information, call 850-697-2180

IN Concert: Ben Sung



On Sunday, January 10, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 79 6th St, Apalachicola, the Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts presents Ben Sung, Assistant Professor of Violin at Florida State University. Ben Sung is also concertmaster of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, a faculty member of the Brevard Music Center and principal second violin of the Brevard Music Center Orchestra and a roster artist for Florida Arts on Tour.

Apalachicola Oyster Cook-Off



This event is held every year on the Friday and Saturday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in downtown Historic Apalachicola at Riverfront Park. This year will be on Friday, January 15, and Saturday, January 16.

All proceeds go directly towards paying for the brand new fire truck Apalachicola was able to purchase a few years ago, thanks to this sole fundraising event!

The event features a silent auction, oysters galore, shrimp, smoked mullet, hot dogs, hamburgers, local beer, live music, kids' activities, dancing performances and a 5K run!

Enter your best recipe and be a contestant in the oyster cook-off or just come out and enjoy a day of wonderful food, refreshments and music.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

The 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration will be held on Jan. 18 at 11:00 in the Apalachicola National Guard Armory. The event is packed with music, dance, food, awards and a special keynote speaker will be announced soon. Come help celebrate a life dedicated to service.

ANERR

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Reserve (ANERR) will host a free talk on Wednesday, January 20, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the ANERR Nature Center at 108

Island Drive in Eastpoint featuring artist Beth Appleton.

Appleton will discuss how the waters of Apalachicola Bay inspired her to create the incredible works of art in her latest exhibit, *Art+Science: Creative Exploration*, currently on display at the ANERR Nature Center. Appleton will also discuss how she discovered the beauty and significance of microscopic organisms known as diatoms, and translated the science behind these discoveries into a unique, descriptive and striking art form.

Apalachicola Area Gallery Crawl

The first Apalachicola Area Gallery Crawl is Saturday, January 23.

Some galleries will provide refreshments, music, along with artists' talks. Resident and guest artists will be on hand to talk with patrons about the art. Guests will enjoy visiting with friends while viewing the local art for sale and on display.

The Seven Galleries participating are:

49 Palmetto, 49 Avenue G, 850-323-1600, info@49palmetto.com 4- 6 p.m.

Artemis Gallery, 127 Commerce St, 850-653-2030 4-6PM

Bowery Art Gallery, 149 Commerce St., 850-653-2425 6-9PM

Richard Bickel Photography 81 Market, Street, 850-653-2828

info@richardbickelphotography.com
TBA

Iggy Art Gallery, 252 Water Street, 850-316-0130, jenny@iggyart.com 6-8PM

On The Water Front Gallery, 117 Market St 6-9PM

The Center for History, Culture and Art, 86 Water St, 888-272-5224,

apalachicolaschoolofart@gmail.com 6-9PM

The Area galleries will hold a Scavenger (*See Art, Page Five*)

Pictures from 2015:

Bonfire December 31



Chris Jensen, Fred Stanley and John Olander helped set up Civic Club DJ Booth



Steve Kearney and Brian Robinson helped dig hole for the Bonfire



Crowd at Bonfire



Roaring Bonfire



Kelly Rowland and Civic Club President Chris Jensen as he presents her with the 2014 Volunteer award



Jenna Harper of ANERR spoke at the May meeting



Erik Lovstrand a county extension agent from the University of Florida, spoke at the February meeting



Seven visitors from Iowa shared a \$160 prize at Summer Bingo



Joe Taylor of the Franklin County Food Pantry Spoke at March Meeting



Civic Club Board member Kelly Rowland and firefighter Paul Juno put out a fire at the Beach Pit restaurant in July



Pinki Jackel, our County Commissioner announced at the August meeting that she had been selected by Governor Scott to take over as Franklin County Supervisor of Elections



Humane Society President Karen Martin Spoke in September

October Pig Roast



Elaine Kozlowski, 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



Caitlin O'Connell Goode of Florida Wildlife spoke in November about the recent Florida Black Bear hunting season