



The Islander

May 2016

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

**The next club meeting is May 19. We now have a new website address:
Stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org.**

Big Bend Hospice Addresses April Meeting

Big Bend Hospice serves Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties. Fran Pybus and Michael Eurich came to the April meeting



Fran Prybus of Big Bend Hospice to explain services provided by their organization.

In 2015, Big Bend Hospice (BBH) provided direct patient hospice care to 1,634 patients and their families. BBH was recognized as “Best of Tallahassee” amongst area non-profit organizations and Non-Profit of the year by Wakulla County.

The mission of BBH is to provide compassionate care to individuals with a life-limiting illness, comfort their families
(See Hospice, Page Seven)

Rick Watson and Mark Curenton Discuss Zoning Change Request

Franklin County District One Commissioner Rick Watson and Franklin County Planner Mark Curenton addressed a request for a change of zoning of property owned by Walter Armistead from C2 (Commercial) to C3 (Commercial Recreation). This change



Mark Curenton

has been approved by Planning & Zoning and will be presented to the County Commission meeting in the Courthouse Annex in Apalachicola at 9:30 a.m. on May 3.

Mark said this is only a change in Zoning. Any plans to build a RV park would have to be presented again to P&Z along with complete site plans before it could be
(See RV Park, Page Two)

(RV Park, From Page One)

approved. These plans would have to address such items as: sewage, distance from wetlands, accessibility for vehicles and density. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would have to approve any plans that may have effects on the Bay and/or Island.

Paul Riegelmayr, who is the Island's representative on the Planning & Zoning committee, said that although he agreed to the variance change, he would have to see the completed plans for the site and the environmental impact it would have on the Island.

Rick Watson summed up the discussion with a suggestion that interested parties should attend the May 3 Franklin County Commission meeting.

The property is located North of East Pine Avenue and West of the old Eddie Teach's bar.

SGI Lighthouse Displays Replica Fresnel Lens

The following background on the new lens for the Cape St. George Light was written by the St. George Lighthouse Association.

The lens displayed in the Lighthouse Museum is a replica of the Third Order Fixed White Fresnel (pronounced Fra-nel) Lens that lighted the Cape St. George Light from 1857 to 1949.

The Fresnel lens was developed by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel in 1822, and revolutionized the technique for transmitting light over long distances. The lens uses an assembly of prisms supported by a brass frame to reflect and refract (or bend) the light coming from a single lamp, and concentrates the light into parallel horizontal beams. The small illustration in the center of the Time Line section along the bottom of the lens reader rail offers a simple depiction of how this process works.

“Third Order” refers to the size of the lens, which determines the distance over which its beam is visible. First order lenses are the largest at more than eight feet tall, and are generally used in seacoast lighthouses, like St. Augustine or Cape Hatteras. Usually considered the smallest, the sixth order lens is only about 17 inches tall and is used in river or harbor lighthouses. Our third order lens sent out a beam visible for about 14 nautical miles, which is 16 statute miles. “Fixed White” is the light characteristic of the lens. A fixed white lens emits a steady white light, and does not flash. When the Fresnel lens at Cape St. George was removed in 1949, the light characteristic was changed from fixed to flashing. The current Vega LED optic maintains the latter characteristic, and emits a one-second flash every six seconds.



*The Replica Fresnel lens on display in the SGI Lighthouse Museum (The picture does not do justice to the beauty of the lens)
(See Fresnel Lens, Page Three)*

(Fresnel Lens, From Page Two)

Three terms are commonly used in the discussion of lighthouse illumination: lantern, lens, and lamp. The “lantern” refers to the space at the top of the lighthouse where the lens is mounted; in today’s terminology the space is more commonly called the “lantern room.” The “lens” does not provide any light itself, but rather magnifies the light that comes from the “lamp.” Lamps or light sources changed considerably over time. The types of lamps used at Cape St. George are described in the Time Line at the bottom of the lens reader rail.

The 1833 lighthouse, built by sea-captain-turned-lighthouse-contractor Winslow Lewis, was most likely lighted by a candelabra arrangement of 13 or more whale oil Lewis Lamps, which Winslow Lewis patented in 1810. Because Lewis had a contract with the U.S. government to supply lamps for all U.S. lighthouses, the superior Fresnel lens technology was slow to be adopted in this country. Although a Fresnel lens was a large initial investment, the cost savings for fueling a single lamp instead of 13 was significant.

The replica Fresnel lens displayed here contains 149 individual prisms set into the brass framework. The prisms are made of acrylic rather than glass, because acrylic has a better light transmission percentage than glass, and is lighter in weight and much less expensive than glass. The prisms are tinted green to match those in historic Fresnel lenses.

Dan Spinella of Artworks Florida in Celebration, Florida built the lens using CAD drawings and computer models based on Augustin Fresnel’s original formulas. The brass frames are waterjet cut, then sanded and polished. The prisms are individually set and glazed into the framework.

The lamp displayed in the Lens Exhibit is a

reproduction Moderator Lamp, which would have been used starting around 1860. This specific lamp design was developed in 1883 by Joseph Funck, who worked for the Lighthouse Service. Lampists were always seeking to invent a brighter and cleaner light to use with Fresnel lenses, so that lighthouse keepers could spend less time cleaning soot off the prisms. The replica lamp in the exhibit was handcrafted by Kurt Fosburg of Superior Lighthouse Restoration, LLC in Michigan.

The long-awaited Fresnel lens has arrived and is on display at our lighthouse. The acrylic prisms and brass framework had been in production since August of 2015. It is on display in the northwest corner of the Lighthouse Museum. Michigan lampist Kurt Fosburg has built a replica Moderator Lamp which will illuminate the lens and be a part of the exhibit. (Thanks to Terry Kemp for this information)

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The May Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016. 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 8:29 p.m. and the “Flower” moon will rise at 8:24 p.m. on May 21. The May full moon is called the Flower moon because flowers are in abundant bloom at this time. Full Moon names are attributable to native American tribes, most notably the Algonquin, who named the moons to mark the changing seasons.

After sunset, people are invited to climb to the top of the lighthouse for a breathtaking (*See Lighthouse, Page Four*)

(Lighthouse, From Page Three)

view of the full moon, as space and time permit. Cost is \$10.00 for the general public and \$5.00 for SGLA members.

The Cape St. George Light is located in St. George Lighthouse Park at the center of St. George Island, where Island Drive (the road off the bridge) ends at Gulf Beach Drive. Parking is available in lots at either side of the park.

Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Civic Club Installs Two New Benches for Sunset Views



Terry and Jim Kemp took this picture on April 26. With the help of Mike & Pat O'Connell, Terry & Linda Burbee and Fred Stanley, the St. George Island Civic Club installed two benches for residents and visitors to enjoy our wonderful sunsets. One is on the right as you come off the bridge onto the Island and the other is next to the Welcome sign. We paid the Arete company for one bench and they gave us the second.

Upcoming Events

Forgotten Coast Plein Air

More than 20 nationally acclaimed artists

along with several hundred art enthusiasts will gather on Florida's Forgotten Coast soon to participate in the 11th annual Forgotten Coast en Plein Air Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out, May 6-15.



The event will include several exhibit venues stretching from Carrabelle more than 100 miles west along the coast to Mexico Beach. The 10 day event features daily artist demonstrations, workshops, art sales and a series of public receptions. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibits and attend the many free special events that occur throughout the 10 day event.

Now in the 11th year of documenting the landscape and culture of the last vestige of authentic "Old Florida", Forgotten Coast en Plein Air, America's Great Paint-out is among the world's most prestigious plein air events. Artistic excellence and the production of investment quality art continues to be the trademark of the 10-day festival. As the event moves into its second decade, organizers are honing what makes the Forgotten Coast event exceptional. May of 2016 will focus on the the natural environment with an emphasis on highlighting land conservation, habitat *(See Plein Air, Page Five)*

(Plein Air, From Page Four)

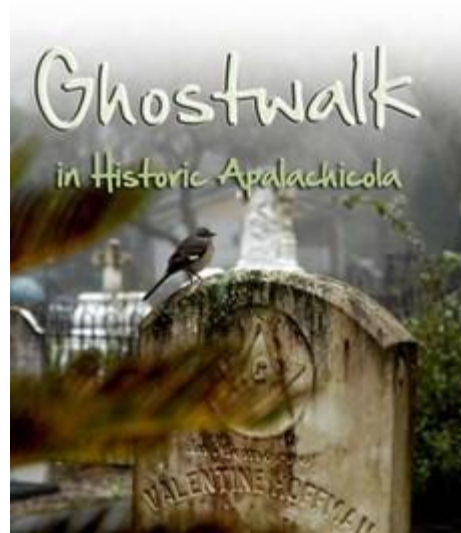
restoration and environmental stewardship. In 2017, the event will feature the region's rich culture and heritage, focusing on human capacity and storytelling through plein air painting. And the third segment in 2018 will celebrate the built environment. This human-made space in which people live, work, and recreate will showcase architecture, streetscapes, working waterfronts, and historic sites. While each year will have a programmatic focus for the purpose of examination in the series of lectures, presentations and discussions, collectors can be ensured that the paintings will be a superb mix of subject matter and styles.

The invitational features 21 internationally acclaimed artists, as well as, six "Florida's Finest en Plein Air" artists honored as Plein Air Ambassadors, and the Plein Air Academy's Master Artist Faculty. Expanded exhibits, a Collectors' Forum, distinguished guest speakers, and surprises that will be fresh and new to the plein air community are all in the making.

For more information, go to www.pleinairfl.com

Chestnut Street Cemetery Ghostwalk

On Saturday, May 7, enjoy the first Ghost Walk in 2016. There will be characters dressed in period clothing representing locals from Apalachicola's past buried at the Chestnut Cemetery. Price is \$5.00 at the front entrance of the cemetery the night of the event. AAHS members renewing or joining (\$10 fee) the night of the event will



get in free. For more information go to www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org/

Rock by the Sea 10

Rock By The Sea 10 Year Reunion Concert Thursday, May 12 thru Sunday, May 15 at Harry A's , 28 W. Bayshore Drive,, St. George Island, FL. SOLD OUT. You can get your tickets now for the Rock By The Sea Lite September 22-25. The September event is an intimate showcase of music held at Harry A's Restaurant and Bar on St. George Island, Florida, that includes a Golf Tournament at St. James Bay Golf Club. Rock by the Sea, Inc. is dedicated to organizing music festivals and events where they raise money to assist deserving charities who provide direct services to those in need. Every Rock by the Sea event is an intimate showcase of music designed to bring people together for the love of music and the common goal of helping these charities.

For more information, go to rockbythesea.org/

Paddle Jam

Grab your kayak and head to the coast May 20-22 and join in what organizers hope will be another world-record attempt to gather the largest number of kayaks together in one floating mass to break the current Guinness world record. The three-day Forgotten Coast PaddleJam event is sponsored by the



Forgotten Coast Paddle Club. The Guinness World record attempt is just one activity planned as part of the area-wide fund-raising event featuring paddle sports, music and food. Other activities planned include kayak and SUP races and live music throughout the county.

For more information, go to www.paddle2love.com

Florida State University Marine Laboratory Workshop: Exploring Nature

The Florida State University Coastal & Marine Lab (FSUML) will host a series of courses this summer entitled "Exploring Nature: Evening at the Edge of the Sea." The courses, scheduled to begin Saturday, May 21, at 3618 Coastal Highway 98, St. Teresa are designed to educate and inspire through a hands-on experience with the area's shores and shallows.

These courses are designed to educate and inspire through a hands-on experience with the strange and wonderful sea life along our pristine



shores and shallows. It begins with a brief, illustrated overview of the general ecology of this part of the Gulf of Mexico, spotlighting its more intriguing habitats and organisms. After a short, guided walking tour of the Lab, you will meet some of the local marine denizens in our seawater touch-tanks. From there, you don wading shoes and walk the exposed tidal sands where an array of fascinating creatures can be seen. The evening ends in the auditorium for some Q & A, visiting and refreshments.

Registration closes one week before the class, or until full. Price: \$ 40 adult, \$ 30 student.

The class schedule is as follows:

- Sat. May 21
- Fri. June 3
- Sat. June 18
- Sat. July 2
- Sun. July 17
- Sat. July 30
- Wed. August 17
- Sat. August 27

The summer course instructor is Dr. Heidi Geisz. Dr. Geisz, (FSUCML adjunct faculty) gravitated to the coast from Colorado 20 years ago. Although most of her experience is in the Antarctic marine ecosystem, studying at the Virginia Institute of Marine (See *Marine Lab, Page Six*)

(Marine Lab, From Page Five)

Science allowed her to explore the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean coasts. Following a fellowship in the House Natural Resources Committee, her most recent interests include marine science policy and education.

For more information, call 850-697-4120 or go to

www.marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach/workshops/exploring-nature

(Hospice, From Page One)

and provide emotional support to anyone who has lost a loved one.

BBH is not a place – it is a service. Their professionals provide end-of-life care to patients wherever the patient wishes to be. This could be in the patient’s home, a nursing home, an assisted living facility, a hospital or even a homeless shelter. Fran said that hospice care is about hope. Hope for completing your life the way you want. Hope to prepare. Hope to have your affairs in order. Hope to have comfort and dignity. She also stated that about 30% of participants actually “graduate” from Hospice.

BBH cares for the entire family – not only the patient. Their team of professionals helps educate the family members regarding the progression of the illness, so they will be better able to assist and care for the patient. The Caring Tree provides specialized youth bereavement services. Through age appropriate programs, BBH is able to connect young people who have suffered losses and show them that they are not

alone. They provide School- and agency-based grief groups, monthly youth nights and annual Camp Woe-Be-Gone and Teen Woe-Be-Gone sessions. They provide short and long term comprehensive opportunities for healing and education. There is an annual grief retreat for children ages 6 through 12.

There are also Teen Nights which are monthly grief support sessions for teens who have lost loved ones.

BBH is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization serving the Big Bend area since 1983.

You can call toll free to Big Bend Hospice at (800)772-5862 anytime for more information and guidance.

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

It’s time to renew dues for 2016

Dues not paid by April 30 will cause your name to be dropped from the active member list.

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. Our membership is now at 373.

