



The Islander

March 2017

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The next club meeting will be on March 16. Ricky Jones, County
Commissioner for District One will be the speaker

Notes from the February Civic Club Meeting

The February Civic Club meeting was held on the 16th at the Fire Station.

Treasurer Michael O'Connell led the meeting as President Bodenhamer was out of town. The Treasurers' report reflected a balance of approximately \$5,000. This total was after the final payment on the new Bingo machine, which is in use already.

Betsy Nofziger from the Elder Care Community Council of Franklin County (ECCC) gave a brief presentation about that organization's role in taking care of seniors in Franklin County. Betsy thanked our organization for donating our old bingo machine to ECCC. The Council will provide bingo for seniors in Apalachicola, not as a money-making endeavor but for entertainment only. Betsy emphasized that ECCC is a new local endeavor, and the organization is counting on organizations like the Civic Club for financial and volunteer support. If you are interested in more information, the email contact is Ecccfranklin@gmail.com.

The Civic Club is always looking for volunteers for our Winter Bingo on Tuesday nights to serve as greeters, money collectors, money counters, or emcee callers to operate the games. Michael encouraged volunteers to contact Secretary Kelly Rowland.

The March monthly meeting will feature guest speaker, Ricky Jones of Eastpoint,

who now represents the island on the Franklin County Commission. Please plan on attending this important event on March 16th.

The monthly potluck was again a successfully balanced meal, as attendees, without assignments, chose to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or appetizer. The Civic Club provided the main course--smoked turkey and ham. Most attendees remembered to bring their own their plastic ware instead of relying on paper goods supplied by the Club. We continue to diminish our environmental footprint.

Time to Renew Membership for 2017

The annual dues drive letter has been Mailed out. The dues are \$20 per person. That more than covers the meals you can receive at the meetings, including the Pig Roast in October. This also includes this newsletter that will report items of interest in Franklin County.

35th Annual SGI Charity Chili Cook-off

St. George Island hosted its 35th annual Charity Chili Cookoff and Auction on March 4 in the Lighthouse parking lot. Activities included a golf tournament, 5K Red Pepper Run, Chili Cook-off, Auction and the naming of Miss Chili Pepper and (*See Chili, Page Two*)

(Chili, From Page One)

Mr. Hot Sauce. All proceeds benefited the Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responder Unit.



The SGI Quilters raffled off their 2017 quilt whose theme was local wildlife.

All the proceeds from the raffle go to the SGI Fire Department.

Sheriff Smith opens Substation on SGI



From Left: Centennial Bank Manager Donnie Guy, Sheriff AJ Smith, District One County Commissioner Ricky Jones and two deputies pose outside the new Substation

New Franklin County Sheriff AJ Smith

made good on a campaign promise to establish a substation on St. George Island. Centennial Bank on the Island has provided an office in the bank for the Sheriff's use. Deputies will no longer have to drive up State Road 65 to do reports. Residents have noticed more deputies on the Island on patrol.

Lighthouse Full Moon Climb

The March Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Sunday, March 12. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 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 7:46 p.m. and the "Worm" moon will rise at 8:02 p.m. on March 12. The March full moon is called the Worm moon because as the snows melt and the ground thaws, earthworms begin to appear and the robins of spring are not far behind. 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 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.

Upcoming Events

Wooden Boat School

On Monday, March 6th, the Apalachicola Maritime Museum (AMM) Wooden Boat School (WBS) hosted an open house wooden boat construction event for touring kayaks. The kayak will be constructed from laminated strakes made of Okume, a tropical hardwood from the Congo region of Africa. Visitors and volunteers are welcome to come by to view or take part in construction projects under the direction of AMM WBS program manager Nicholas Cupp. The program is paid for by a sponsor or student who takes home the finished project at the end of the class. There are a wide variety of vessels that are able to be constructed in the AMM WBS programs including the Passagemaker sailing/rowing dory, Whitehall rowing shell, Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP), Pirogue, Canoe and the most popular, wooden kayaks. Examples of all of the foregoing constructed by the WBS staff are on display at the AMM at 103 Water Street. Overall there are more than 60 boat designs to select from. Boat construction building sponsorship/student programs run from \$250 to \$2,500 based on the complexity and size of the vessel selected. There are openings for a week long class starting on March 20th and classes on the first and third Monday week of each month. Contact the program manager via email at WoodenBoatSchool@AMMFL.org or by calling the AMM at 850-653-2500 or coming by the AMM at 103 Water Street in downtown Apalachicola.

Oysters 101

On Friday, March 10, from Noon to 4:00 at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, discover the

important role oysters play in the health of Apalachicola Bay. Learn about what makes Apalachicola Bay so ideal for growing oysters, what gives Apalachicola Bay



oysters their distinct taste and how oysters benefit the ecosystem. Please register in advance. For more information contact Emily Jackson at 850-670-7743 or send an email to emily.a.jackson@dep.state.fl.us or Anita Grove at (850) 670-7708 or Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us. Rain date is March 20th.

Full Moon Dinner Cruise



On Saturday, March 11th, enjoy a two hour Sunset and Full Moon dinner cruise amid the ambiance of oil lamps and city lights. The STARFISH is a US Coast Guard approved 40 passenger power catamaran operated by the Apalachicola Maritime Museum (AMM) for educational tours. The menu for the evening will be pesto chicken parmesan stuffed with mozzarella and a white wine Alfredo sauce on penne pasta with sautéed spinach, kale, tomato, fresh (*See Dinner, Page Four*)

(Dinner, From Page Three)

garlic and mushrooms, Caprice salad with goat cheese, a key lime pie for dessert and a selection of beverages. The AMM Founder will be hosting the event while providing a talk on maritime heritage, bio diversity and projects underway at the AMM. The STARFISH is operated by a USCG licensed Master Captain and Crew, is heated, surrounded by clear vinyl windows and has a bathroom with wash basin. The cost is \$75 per person with proceeds to support the educational mission of the AMM.

Reservations can be made online at [Full Moon Dinner Cruise](#), via the phone at 850-653-2500 or the AMM at 103 Water Street in downtown Apalachicola. See [River Trip Dining](#) to watch a video of a recently hosted river dining event trip.

Apalachicola Farmers Market



This local favorite is held the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the Mill Pond Pavillion at the Scipio Creek Marina in Apalachicola. Featuring seafood, produce, honey, homemade breads, pies, and other regional specialties from 9 am-1pm. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/ApalachicolaFarmersMarket

This month the market will be held March 11 and March 25

Beach Exploration: Tracks, Signs and Critters



Explore the beaches of Wakulla County, Mashas Sands, and Franklin County's Bald Point. Discover the diversity of life that can be found hidden under your feet and in the water at low tide. Cost is \$22. 8 am - 12 noon. Led by Instructor, Debbi Clifford, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, Certified Green Guide. For more information and to register, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/zewudl7>

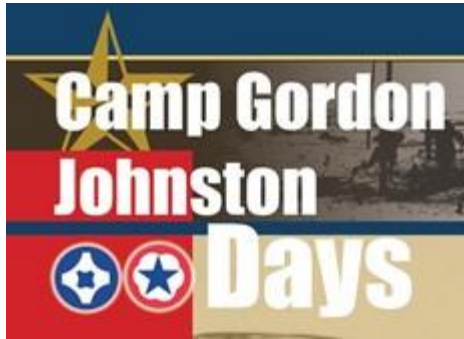
Carrabelle Airport Fly-In



On Saturday, March 11, at 317 Airport Road, Carrabelle, enjoy a family fun day filled with war bird displays, military tributes, helicopter rides, entertainment and food. From 9 am - 3 pm. Free admission. For more information, call 850-697-3618 or go to:

www.facebook.com/Carrabelle-Airport-Fly-in-1202838666474814/?fref=ts

Camp Gordon Johnston Days



The Camp Gordon Johnston Day event is scheduled for March 11, at 1001 Gray Avenue, Carrabelle and will feature exhibits from the camp, tours of the museum and a parade honoring military veterans. This annual event was created to honor the service of military veterans and to preserve the heritage of the men who trained at Camp Gordon Johnston, a WWII camp once located east of Carrabelle at Lanark Village. Camp Gordon Johnston opened in 1942 for training amphibious soldiers and their support groups. The camp trained a quarter of a million men and closed in June of 1946. For more information, call 850-697 8575 or go to:

www.campgordonjohnston.com

Wednesdays at ANERR: Seagrass Awareness

ANERR's Reserve Wednesday' talks are hosted on the third Wednesday of every month. March 15: Seagrass Awareness, Speaker: Jon Brucker, Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves from 2pm to 3pm at the ANERR Nature Center located at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint. Registration is not required, but seating is limited. Call for more information: (850) 670-7700.

Seepage Bog Wetlands Lecture

The conservation Lecture series continues with "Panhandle Florida's Spectacular Seepage Bog Wetlands: Vanishing Biodiversity and Why You Should Care" will be held on Thursday, March 16, at the FSU Marine Lab at 3618 US-98, St Teresa.



Dr. Bruce Means (Coastal Plains Institute.) will discuss the local wetlands of Florida's Panhandle and how current issues are shaping its biodiversity. 7 pm - 8 pm. Light refreshments will be provided prior to talk. For more information, call (850) 697-4120 or go to: www.marinelab.fsu.edu/

Forgotten Coast Film Festival

On Thursday, March 16, join the Carrabelle History Museum, for the Forgotten Coast Film Festival highlighting movies filmed around Carrabelle and the Forgotten Coast area. The goal is to bring the best quality Forgotten Coast area films to Carrabelle and introduce people to these wonderful works featuring our very own region. The March showing begins at 6 pm and will be "Apalachicola River: An American Treasure", a story about the Apalachicola River basin.

(See Film Festival, Page Six)

(Film Festival, From Page Five)

Screenings will take place at the Franklin County Senior Center at 201 NW Avenue F, in Carrabelle. There is no admission and refreshments will be available for purchase. No one under 18 please.

Presented by: Carrabelle History Museum. Funding in part by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council. For more information visit:

www.carrabellehistorymuseum.org

Authors in Apalach

The Apalachicola Margaret Key Library will host its 2017 Authors in Apalach event on Saturday, March 18, at the Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art at 86 Water Street, Apalachicola. This year's event theme is "Go Coastal, Go Local" and will feature celebrated writers including Mellissa Farrell, Christina McDermott and Emily Raffield, authors of "Saints of Old Florida." This year's event will also feature an author's forum with environmental authors Bruce Means, Joe Hutto, Doug Alderson and Apalachicola's own Michael Kinnett, author of "Apalachicola Pearl." Other noted authors to be featured will include Faith Eidse, Gil Autrey, Charles Farley, Jan Annino, Adrian Fogelin, Sara McFerrin and Dawn Lee McKenna. The event will run from 10AM to 5PM, with authors signing and selling books, and forums on different topics throughout the day. For more information, call 850-653-8436 or go to: www.apalachicolalibrary.com

Tate's Hell State Forest Clean-Up

There will be a State Forest Cleanup Day on March 18 from 8-noon. Meet 8:00-8:30 AM at Gully Branch Recreation Area and Landing in Tate's Hell State Forest. Volunteers should wear: Protective clothing

such as hats, light-weight long pants and long sleeve shirts; Work shoes that protect your feet from sharp objects, and that can get wet and muddy; Sunscreen; Gloves. Volunteers will be provided with: Insect repellent, Drinking Water and Trash Bags. For more information and sign up: call 850-697-0010 or go to:

www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Tate-s-Hell-State-Forest

Archaeology Day



Learn about the Forgotten Coast's earliest residents at Archaeology Day Saturday, March 18, from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint. Participants will learn about the science behind archaeology and view fossils, tools and pottery from the Apalachicola Bay area. Archaeological evidence that indicates that Apalachicola has been occupied for over 2,000 years and was considered a center for culture and commerce. The film Mounds at Turtle Harbor, which tells the story of the prehistoric Native America capital in Northwest Florida, will be shown. The Florida Public Archaeology Network will be onsite and participants are encouraged to bring artifacts they wish to be identified. This event is free and registration is not required. For more information, please call the Apalachicola National Research Reserve at 850-670-7700 and email Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us.

Bay Friendly Landscaping Workshop

On Friday, March 24, from 1:00 pm -3:30 pm, the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) will host a Bay Friendly Landscaping workshop. Yard



design and maintenance can have a big effect on adjacent water bodies. Learn to be Bay Friendly by implementing some simple techniques. Participants will learn about resources to help them transform their yard into a luscious bay conscious landscape. The class will also feature innovative Green Infrastructure techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, bio-swales, and more. The workshop will be held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328. The class is free. Please register for the class in advance. For more information contact Emily Jackson at (850) 670-7743 or send an email to Emily.A.Jackson@dep.state.fl.us.

Dos Blues Guys at Rio Carrabelle

On Friday, March 24, at 102 St James Avenue, Carrabelle, the "Dos Blues Guys" are traveling from Macon. Dos Blues Guys recently won the Atlanta Blues Challenge held at the Hard Rock Cafe and are competing in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis next month. They are a harp-blowin', fretboard-sliding, string-pickin' Blues Show! The cost is \$15 at the

door. For more information, go to: www.riocarrabelle.com/

Spring Fling Dance

There will be a Spring Fling Dance at the Lanark Village Chillas Hall on Saturday, March 25 from 7:30 pm until. The event will feature "Greg & Krewe" DJ. Bring a friend and your favorite finger food for all to enjoy. BOB. Donation \$6 each person. Chillas Hall, Lanark Village.

Coastal Art Showcase

The Carrabelle Artist Association (CAA) will present the Coastal Art Showcase, featuring new original artwork by well known local artists and new emerging artists. Works may include oils, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, photography, pottery and more. Many of these original works of art will be available for purchase. The CAA will provide demonstrations and workshops throughout the showcase along with opportunities to view artists at work. The Coastal Art Showcase will be held at the Rio Carrabelle, 102 St. James Ave (Hwy. 98) in Carrabelle from March 25, 2007 through April 22, 2017. Gallery hours will be Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 1-5 (closed Easter). For more information, go to: www.carrabelleartistassociation.com

IN Concert: Bay Choral Society Spring Concert

The Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts INconcert presents the Bay Area Choral Society's Spring Performance beginning at 4pm on Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26 at 79 Sixth Street, Apalachicola. George F. Handel's MESSIAH will be the Bay Area Choral Society's offering on (*See INconcert, Page Eight*)

(INconcert, From Page Seven)

March 26, in the historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Apalachicola.



Included in this 46 voice chorus are St. George Islanders, Barbara Hartsfield, Judi Little, Luci Mathews, Fred Genter, Glenna Smith, Lon Wilkens, Tom Wood, Pat & Sue Leach, and Tom Loughridge as well as the director, Merel Young.

Other choristers hail from as far as Mexico Beach to the west and Carrabelle to the east. Janis Ramos provides the piano accompaniment. This concert is part of the Ilse Newell concert series. A five dollar donation is recommended. The Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts is committed to cultural enrichment, raising awareness of the musical arts and providing support for student creative development. For more information, call 850-697-2180 or go to www.inconcertapalachicola.org

Carrabelle Cultural Crawl

A free, multi-venue showcasing art, history and fun in the heart of downtown Carrabelle will be held on Saturday, March 25. The activities take place at a variety of galleries, museums and spaces and are FREE and open to the public. Guests may start at any of the participating locations and visit as many of the participating sites as time allows. Locations include Carrabelle History Museum, Rio Carrabelle, Cal Allen’s Coastal Art Gallery and Studio, Carrabelle

Bottle House, Carrabelle Riverwalk Wharf, and more. Presented by the Carrabelle History Museum in partnership with Carrabelle CRA and Carrabelle Artist Association. For more information, call 850-697-2141 or go to: www.carrabellehistorymuseum.org

Tate's Hell Driving and Hiking Excursion

On Thursday, March 30, join an off-trail bush whack hike to a savanna to see what's flowering. You can look for Godfrey's Butterwort (*Pinguicula ionantha*), a federally threatened carnivorous plant that flowers in the early Spring. \$22 fee. 10 am - 3 pm. Led by Instructor, Lesley Cox, Owner Les Hassel Excursions, Certified Green Guide, Florida Master Naturalist, Florida Master Wildlife Conservationist. For more information and to register: <http://tinyurl.com/zewudl7>

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council for Upcoming Events. Go to: <http://www.saltyflorida.com/events>

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The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts