



The Islander

May 2017

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The next club meeting will be on May 18. Dan Myers who is opening Doc Myers Sports Barr will be the speaker

The President's Corner – Diane Bodenhamer

Aloha everyone! As April draws to a close, we are thankful for the blessing of incredible volunteers who protect us and our beautiful island! The wildfire on April 8th burned approximately 70 acres on the bayside of East Gulf Beaches, and although it burned on three sides of some of our members homes, not a home was lost or person injured!!

Highlights from the April 20th SGICC Meeting:

Our first collection for **Backpack Buddies Program** was a huge success! Budd & Diane delivered a trunkful of items to FCSMA (Cafeteria staff at Franklin County School) the following day. Every month we will collect *individually portioned, non-perishable items that require little to no cooking* (canned ravioli/soup/stew, individually wrapped pop tarts/granola bars/fruit chews, juice/milk boxes, instant grits/oatmeal, dried/canned fruit, crackers, pudding/jello cups. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional food items. SGI VFD Chief Jay Abbott was on hand to discuss the wildfire, take questions from members, and remind members that a no-burning/no charcoal grilling ban is in effect until further notice. Members approved a fundraiser to buy a Containment Fill (See President, Page Two)

Georgia Man Missing in Surf

The SGI Volunteer Fire Department, along with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife and aircraft from Bay County, continue to search for a Thomasville, Georgia man who disappeared in heavy surf on Sunday as he attempted to rescue a relative also caught in the surf. That relative made it to the beach behind the Lighthouse.

Franklin County Sheriff AJ Smith warned visitors that if a red flag is flying, don't go into the water.

THANK YOU Fundraiser for SGI VFD Equipment

After discussion with Chief Jay Abbott, SGICC membership approved a fundraising drive to buy a **Containment Fill Station** for the SGI VFD. This equipment is not in the VFD budget, but is on their wish list - it would allow staff to safely and economically fill air cylinders for the fire fighters on site (currently they have to drive to Port St Joe or other locations to fill cylinders). The station costs \$8000 - - \$2000 was approved by members to seed the fund, and Chief Abbott matched that amount with \$2000 Collected in contributions since the fire.

What can you do? We need to raise another \$4,000

To individually contribute, mail a check made out to SGI VFD to SGI Civic Club, (See Fundraiser, Page Two)

(President, From Page One)

School Superintendent Traci Moses spoke on the challenges during her first few month in office and shared her vision and goals for county schools. Also speaking was Volunteer Coordinator Allison Chipman, who discussed her work to corral the disparate volunteer efforts into a cohesive volunteer program for our schools.

Both speakers were well received and there followed a lively question and answer session. ***Please see the article on this page with suggestions from Allison regarding how to volunteer!***

We are still looking for another member to work with Diane and Mike O'Connell on the Commission Interface Committee for RICKY Jones. Please forward your name if you're interested.

We discussed the vandalism which destroyed one of the sunset benches erected by SGICC last year. Several options to replace the bench were discussed, with resolution being tabled to gather options and revisit it at the May meeting.

We have a Facebook Page! If you haven't seen it, please search for "**SGI Civic Club**", click on the page, then click "Like" and make sure "Following" is highlighted! I'm hoping this will increase our visibility and make communication even easier! Tell your friends!

That's it for now - please join us at 6:30pm on Thursday, **May 18th** for the next meeting!!

(Fundraiser, From Page One)

PO Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328 - note "VFD Fill Station" in the memo section. Talk it up on FB, in person, or however you can at local businesses and events, and to your neighbors. We'll be putting up flyers and talking to them ourselves - every little bit helps!

Additionally, Jay has "I Support SGI VFD" t-shirts for sale in long and short sleeve

versions for only \$25 dollars - he says "buy them and wear them" to show your support. If you can't get by the station, they'll be for sale again at the 5/20 SGICC meeting. Talk it up - contribute - let's get this wish fulfilled!!!

Volunteers Sought For Franklin County Schools

In response to member requests for more information, SGICC received the following letter from Allison Chipman, Franklin County School Board Volunteer Coordinator, regarding volunteer opportunities:

"Dear Valued Community Member, I am reaching out on behalf of the Franklin County District Office as the Volunteer Coordinator. Our office has worked this year to restructure our volunteer program with the intent to simplify the process and promote community involvement. We are very happy with the relationships that we have built over the last few months, the feedback that we have received and our new filing system that will allow for easy retrieval of documents for returning volunteers. With that being said, Superintendent Traci Moses has asked that we expand to establish partnership agreements to support various programs/clubs/classes and school initiative as well as implement a mentor program for the 2017-18 school year.

I am reaching out to you today to invite you to an interest meeting on Friday, May 5th 2017 at 12:30 (lunch provided) to discuss the district mentoring program, how it will function on campus and the overall goals we hope to achieve. Mrs. Harolyn Walker & I will also discuss opportunities to interact with our students through several meet-and-greet lunches that are scheduled for May 15th, 17th and 22nd.

It is our desire to build positive relationships (*See Schools, Page Three*)

(Schools, From Page Two)

between our students and community members as a means of support and encouragement. We hope that by holding this interest meeting we will be able to better determine the size of our target group for the 2017-18 school year and begin the process of registering those interested in becoming mentors.

The meeting will be held on May 5th @ 12:30. To ensure we have enough food for everyone, please contact me at 850-670-2810, ext. 4128 indicating your availability for attendance.

Allison Chipman,
FCSB Volunteer Coordinator
HR Specialist

Time to Renew Membership for 2017

Dues are \$20 per person and checks can be made out to SGI Civic Club and mailed to P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. We also request a valid email address if possible. Check with Kelly Rowland at krowland@mediacombb.net to see if you have renewed. April was the last newsletter sent to those who did not renew.

Lighthouse May Full Moon Climb

The May Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Wednesday, May 10. 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 8:22 p.m. and the "Flower" moon will rise at 8:18 p.m. on May 10. The May full moon is called the Flower moon because flowers are in abundant bloom. 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. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

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 12th annual Forgotten Coast en Plein Air Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out, May 5-14, 2017. The event will include several exhibit venues stretching from Carrabelle more than 100 miles west along the coast to Mexico Beach. The event features daily artist demonstrations, workshops, art sales and a series of public receptions. This year focuses on local culture with an emphasis on the people, the places and stories behind the plein air paintings. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibits and attend the many free special events that occur throughout the 10 day event.

Apalach Historic Home Tour

A time-honored tradition, the "Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour" is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Friday and Saturday, May 5-6. Trinity Episcopal Church pays homage to all the home and garden owners who have generously shared their homes and gardens with visitors for a quarter of a century. Join the festivities with *(See Tour, on Page Four)*

(Tour, From Page Three)

this year's selections of homes and gardens. From a stately mansion and two-story homes to tiny houses, we have a delightful array of dwellings to share with you.



Co-chairpersons, Beverley Connors and Ginger Madewell, announced that plans are underway for the 25th Annual “Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour” sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church. The tour is expected to attract hundreds of visitors to Apalachicola,

With great pleasure, we present the residence of Mariterese and Pat Balthrop as the featured home of the tour. This palatial Victorian stands as a paragon of style and boasts an august history in Apalachicola. The dwelling was completed in 1896 and was built for George and Elizabeth Porter Ruge. George Ruge was a co-partner in the Ruge Brothers Canning Company which utilized pasteurization to become Florida's first successful seafood packer. The property, on which the resplendent home is set,

occupies half of a city block. A deep and wide wrap-around veranda welcomes guests to turn back their watches to a more refined and slower-paced era. Since the house was purchased in 2013, upgrades have been made to the kitchen and master bath, but the original integrity of the house has been respected by the Balthrops who are only the third owners. The impressive foyer, with its beamed ceilings, rich heart pine floors and cypress wood paneling, culminates in an imposing staircase framed by triple-arch pilasters, setting the tone for the grand scope of the home. The interior décor, furnishings and art are in keeping with the home's magnificent style. Filled with artworks by American and international artists, they reflect both the diversity valued by the owners and their wide-ranging travels. Visitors will marvel at the scale and ornamentation of this spectacular house. Evensong service at Trinity Episcopal Church, the traditional opening for the home tour, begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5, followed by a reception to which all are invited. Homes will be open only on Saturday, May 6, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available at \$25 each at apalachicolahistorichometour.org or at the church office through Friday, May 5. On Saturday, May 6, tour tickets will be \$30 and ticket sales commence at 9:30 a.m. A luncheon will be served at Benedict Hall on the grounds of Trinity Church from 11:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. on the day of the tour (tickets are \$12). Simultaneous with the tour, a silent auction will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Guests to Apalachicola can enhance their weekend experience by allowing time to visit the many historical buildings and churches, museums, inns and parks that mark this historic town as a truly original locale.

Bay Friendly Landscaping Workshop



The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve at 108 Island Dr. in Eastpoint will be hosting a bay friendly landscaping workshop on Friday, May 5, from 1:00-3:30 pm. Yard design and maintenance can have a big effect on adjacent water bodies. Participants in the workshop 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, and bio-swales. Following the discussion portion of the workshop participants will have the option, for a small fee, to assemble their own rain barrel that they can take home. The workshop will be held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. The class is free, but rain barrels are \$20.00 per barrel. Please register for the class in advance. For more information, please call (850) 670-7708 or Email emily.a.jackson@dep.state.fl.us.

Cinco De Mayo

Come Celebrate at Sometimes It's Hotter, at on St George Island on Friday, May 5 starting at 4:00 at 112 East Gulf Beach Drive St. This is a fundraiser to benefit Franklin County Public Libraries. There will



be tacos, nachos, beer, wine, and margaritas. There will also be a silent auction, raffles, a book sale, and live music.

Paddle Jam

Grab your kayak and head to the coast May 5-7 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/

Art Exhibit

The Artists of Apalachicola Area (AAA) will host their 4th Annual Members Show May 6-21 st 117 Market Street in Apalachicola. Featured will be original artwork by local and surrounding area artists.. These works will include Ceramics, Sculpture, Painting of oil, pastel and watercolor, Jewelry and Photography. An opening reception will held on May 6 from 4-6 pm. at. Also on display, a "New Zealand Expedition" Show will be on exhibit through June 30. For more information, go to artistsofapalachicolaassociation.org/

Spring Ghostwalk

Stay in Apalachicola after the Trinity Tour of Homes Saturday, May 6 and enjoy the Apalachicola Historic Society's annual Spring Ghost Tour walk of the Historic Chestnut Street Cemetery in Apalachicola. History enthusiasts take on the persona of several of the cemetery's more notable inhabitants to tell of life in Apalachicola more than 100 years ago. The walk will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Living Shorelines Workshop



Coastal erosion is a natural process caused by currents, wave action, wind, storms and even boat wakes. The traditional methods using to harden the shoreline like seawalls and rip rap can often increase coastal erosion and remove the ability of the shoreline to carry out natural processes. The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) will host a workshop on Living Shorelines on Tuesday, May 9th, from 2:00-4:00 pm. The workshop will discuss living shorelines vs. harden shorelines, how to evaluate a shoreline by considering the physical factors such as wave energy, prevailing wind and wave direction, vegetation, and soil type, and present living shoreline methods, materials, permitting, and share success stories of local living shorelines. We will also look at types of plants to plant and visit a local living shoreline. The lecture is free, registration is suggested. For more information, please

contact Anita Grove at 850-670-7708 or Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us

Rock by the Sea



Rock by the Sea (RBTS), a charity music festival, returns to St. George Island for its 11th Spring event for 4-nights of music. The first night on May 10 is the Pre-Party and free to attend at Harry A's on St. George Island. RBTS raises money for pediatric cancer treatment, research, and other deserving children's charities. This year they are focusing their efforts on University of Florida's Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program. Rock by the Sea, for the first time, is partnering with ABC2 (Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure) (<http://www.abc2.org>) in a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$50,000. Last year RBTS donated \$35,000 to the UF program and have a goal this year to raise at least \$60,000. This match could mean \$110,000 to this program that is making real headway in clinical trials to weaponize a child's own immune system to seek out and destroy cancer cells.

ABC2 was born out of the massive need for brain tumor research. While basic scientific discoveries tell us more about cancer with each passing year, more than 90% of research stops at the financial "Valley of Death," never to be translated from (*See Rock by the Sea, Page Seven*)

(Rock by the Sea, From Page Six)

knowledge into new therapies for patients. This is why the UF Health's BTIP has their interest. They are reaching patients and making strides with Immunotherapy, a very promising new technique.

Drug discovery and development can take 10 to 15 years. When ABC2 backed Genentech to get Avastin approved by the FDA for glioblastoma, it became the first new brain cancer drug approved since 1999. Meanwhile, the median life expectancy of someone with glioblastoma is only about 18 months. Today in the US, 42 men, women and children lost their lives to brain cancer. It happened yesterday, and unless things change, it will happen again tomorrow.

"They noticed our support of the fine program at UF Health with Dr. Mitchell that they too support and thought together we can probably increase these donations," said Beth Gosnell, President of RBTS. "We are thrilled and inspired to raise as much money as we possibly can to maximize this match. "ABC2 is thrilled to partner with Rock by the Sea. We look for unique and different ways to make a difference in brain cancer research. We have supported Dr. Mitchell and his team's research for a number of years and when we saw that the festival benefited his program we couldn't wait to get involved!" Mindy Hoff, Fundraising and Events Manager.

If you have ever been inclined to support Rock by the Sea OR UF Health, but can't make it to the event, we hope people will go on line and donate or mail a check.

All the information is on the website. (www.rockbythesea.org) The event on St. George Island is over 4 nights and 22 bands and singer/songwriters, including Steve Everett, Michael Tolcher, Tony Lucca, of Season 3 of the Voice, Paul Pfau of the Voice's Season 8 and Team Pharrell. There will be a golf outing, an on-line Silent Auction and Raffle, as well as a wine pull and other fundraising activities. People

come from all over the country for this long weekend. For more information, go to www.rockbythesea.org or facebook.com/rockbythesea

Estuary Class



Do you know what an estuary is and why it is so vital to our economy and way of life? Join the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve on Friday, May 12th, 12:00-4:00pm to explore the estuary we depend on. Participants will learn about the habitats and creatures that make up our estuary and how the river and bay are intricately connected. See these habitats up close aboard the Reserve's research vessel the *Henry Lee*. The workshop will be based at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive in Eastpoint. The class is \$20.00. Please register in advance. For more information contact Anita Grove at (850) 670-7708. Or go to www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/apalachicola/ or email Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us. Rain date is May 26th.

Kayaking 101

Come and join us at St. George Island State Park at 1900 E. Gulf Beach Drive St. George Island, Saturday, May 13 and May 20, for a beginner's guide to kayaking. Staff and volunteers will be holding a Kayaking 101 program to learn basic paddling skills, learn about the park and will discover a few

common plants, trees, and wildlife. Registration is capped at 10, so contact us early to reserve your spot. Kayaks will be available at the park or you may bring your own if you like. All participants are required to wear a life jacket. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The training will last about 60 minutes and the on-water tour lasts about 1-2 hours, paddling a distance of approximately 2 miles. Program is free with your paid admission in to the park. For more information, call (850) 927-2111.

2017 Chickfest

Bowery Station, 131 Commerce St. is Apalachicola's home of great live music and is pleased to host Chickfest 2017 on Saturday, May 13. Chickfest is a daylong event that features some of the regions most talented female performers as a tribute to their contributions to the live music scene along the Gulf Coast. This year's event includes the Krickets, recent recipients of the IMEA Folk Artist of the Year award, along with the emerging talent, The Adventures of Annabelle Lyn, a dynamic trio that has recently been called upon to open for the Wood Brothers in Tallahassee. Other top level female talent includes Cat Braaten, Ashley Feller, and Savanna Leigh Bassett to round out a diverse realm of musical styles and performances. Attend this musical festival at Bowery Station for what is quickly becoming one of the best live music events of the year on the Forgotten Coast. For more information, call (850) 653-2211 or go to www.bowerystation.us

Look, Listen & Learn: The Civil War

Dale Cox, a Southern writer and historian, is the author of more than one dozen books on

Southern history and culture. His acclaimed Civil War study - "The Battle of Marianna, Florida" - was named best in its category by Civil War Books & Authors. His newest book is "The Fort at Prospect Bluff: History of the Negro Fort on the Apalachicola River". He will be sharing the stories and artifacts of the loss and perils of the Civil War along the Forgotten Coast on Saturday, May 20. The month of May of 1863 was a perilous time to be in the Forgotten Coast with two major tragedies - the explosion of the warship, *CSS Chattahoochee* on the Apalachicola River and the hurricane that hit the coast between Apalachicola and St. Marks. The presentation will be 10 am - 1 pm. at C-Quarters Marina, Upstairs Meeting Room, 501 St. James Avenue (US Highway 98) Carrabelle Presented by the Carrabelle History Museum.

Crooked River Lighthouse Coastal Blessing

The Crooked River Lighthouse Park at 975 HWY 98 W, in Carrabelle on Sunday, May 28, will host the Coastal Blessing where church leaders from the Carrabelle community will share a blessing for the coast and a safe hurricane season from the top of the lighthouse tower at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend this free event that has become an annual tradition at the lighthouse. Light refreshments will be available after the ceremony. Come early or stay after and enjoy the Keeper's House Museum. For more information, call 850-697-2732 or go to www.crookedriverlighthouse.org/

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

