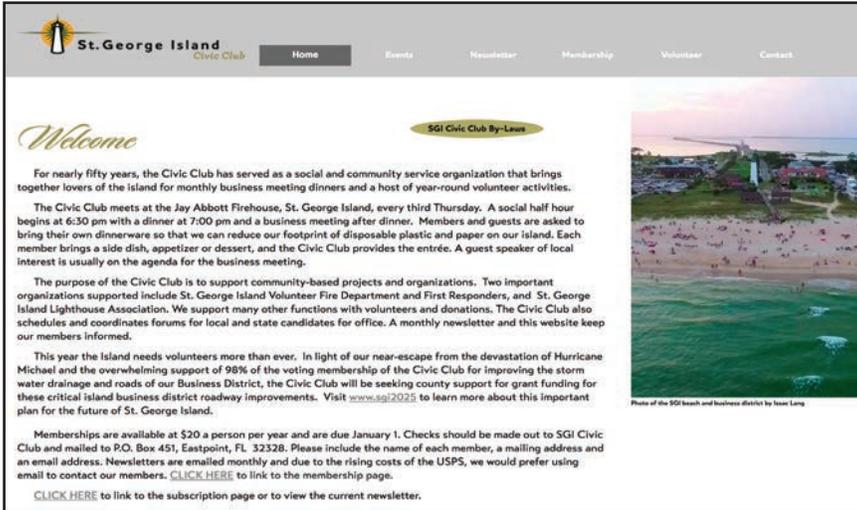




THE ISLANDER



Visit the new website at www.sgiCivicClub.com

IN THIS ISSUE

RESTORE Funds Become a Possibility for the Island page 2
County Commissioners vote on top SGI2025 priority

Shaping Policy on SGI page 2
Issues that are important to Island Life

General Election: House District #7 – Vote June 18 page 4
Information about voting dates and candidates

New Topics for Discussion page 4
A review of May Meeting discussions

SGI Business Association Gets Fresh Start page 5
New leadership and perspective

The New SGI Civic Club website is live page 6
Find out how it is working on your behalf

Apalachicola Regional Airport page 7
A new group has formed to support its expansion

Veterans Events page 8
Find out how to honor our local vets

Turtle Season Kick Off page 10

Audubon Stewardship Report page 10

Brewfest Report page 12

Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners Regular Meetings

June 4, 18, July 2 at 9:00 am
Commission Meeting Room, Apalachicola

Turtle Talk

June 4, 18, 25, July 2, 2 - 3 pm
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Nature Center
(850) 670-7708

Mullet Toss for Local Charities

June 8, 10 am - 5 pm
Blue Parrot, SGI
850-927-2987
www.blueparrotsgi.com

SGI Lighthouse Full Moon Climb

Strawberry Moon - June 17 @ 8:30 - 10 pm
850-927-7745 for information

Island Veterans Events

May 27, 10 am - Memorial Day Speaker Event
Veterans Memorial Plaza
June 7, 3 pm - Veteran's Reveille
Doc Myers' Island Pub & Sports Bar

SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)

6:30 pm, June 20 @ SGI Firehouse
Speaker: TBD
www.sgiCivicClub.com

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AREA EVENTS
CLICK www.ApalachicolaBay.org

SGI

2025.COM

A project of the SGI Civic Club

On Tuesday, May 21,
the Board of County Commissioners
voted to add the #1 project
of SGI 2025 Vision
to the county's list seeking
planning grants for 2020.

This project, as proposed,
will improve storm water drainage,
roadways, sidewalks, alley ways,
and parking in the
island's commercial district,
3rd to 3rd, beach to bay.

RESTORE Funds Become a Possibility for the Island

County Commissioners report by Pat O'Connell

Nearly a decade after the Deep Water Horizon oil spill disaster, St George Island is positioned to make application for a share of the millions of dollars in federal funds flowing to Franklin County. Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012, known as RESTORE, involves the funds paid by BP Oil and responsible party(ies) pursuant to a federal court order, negotiated settlement, or other legal agreement.

On Tuesday, May 21, the Board of County Commissioners voted to add the #1 project of SGI 2025 Vision to the county's list seeking planning grants for 2020. This project, as proposed, will improve storm water drainage, roadways, sidewalks, alley ways, and parking in the island's commercial district, 3rd to 3rd, beach to bay. The motion was made by SGI and Eastpoint representative Ricky Jones and seconded by Commissioner Smokey Parrish from Apalachicola. They argued these improvements are critical to protecting the island from future storm events, and the investment is necessary for this important economic engine for the county.

The county is relying on Langton Consulting <https://langtonconsulting.com/>, the county's contracted RESTORE advisor, to handle the complicated application and qualifying process. The BOCC set a June 4th deadline for Langton Consulting to receive requests for county projects and a June 18th date for Langton to report back to the Commission on which requests meet the federal RESTORE requirements for award. The planning grant for the island, if received, will fund the work of engineers in designing and estimating costs for the storm water and roadway improvements. After the planning stage, the Commission will decide whether or not to go forward seeking full funding to complete the SGI project. These funds could be sought for the 2021 funding cycle. At the request of the SGI Civic Club in December 2018, the Commission added this project to its 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule (CIS), an important designation for receiving RESTORE and other grants.

In addition to the SGI Infrastructure project, the Commission followed staff recommendations to request a planning grant for dune restoration along the shore of Franklin County, 16 miles of which are located on the island. The State Park and the private community of the Plantation are not eligible for county funds.

Shaping Future Policy in the County

SGI Civic Club By-Laws list its objectives. Among those are "providing a forum for discussing issues that interest and impact island residents and homeowners"; "providing leadership for Island improvements"; and "taking concerted action on matters which will in any way affect the welfare of the Island." In other words, the Civic Club is a place for discussion and action. When that discussion leads to contention and ill-will, it goes too far

and can destroy from inside the very organization it aims to help. If a minority group tries to block the will of the majority, balance is lost. More importantly, if the leadership does not try to accommodate all voices, it fails at its job. For nearly fifty years, the SGI Civic Club has continued to exist because the Club matters to its membership and the future of the island. As we look toward the next decade, the Club is stronger than ever.

We invite you to help us fulfill our objectives to be a place where discourse and action occur.

For much of 2018, the Club, under leadership of President James Donald, focused on the development of an infrastructure plan for long-delayed improvements to the SGI Commercial District. The Civic Club plan emerged after months of discussion and two separate votes—one by all interested parties and one by dues-paying members. The plan is SGI 2025Vision (www.sgi2025.com). Since that plan was adopted by the membership last year, the leadership has concentrated its efforts on that project: it has continued to research these issues; attend regular county BOCC and TDC meetings, meeting individually with staff and commissioners; and make formal requests to promote fulfillment of SGI 2025Vision and other infrastructure needs of the island.

Because the Club focused almost exclusively on the topics in the 2025Vision, the Club has had little opportunity to research and discuss other issues. At the May meeting President Michael O’Connell announced the creation of discussion groups around topics of interest to members so that ideas could be researched and recommended to the general membership, even though the Civic Club board is spending all its volunteer time on the Vision agenda. He expressed his belief that issues that matter will find advocates, if the opportunity is there.

So, are you upset about something happening on the island, or do you have a brilliant vision of a significant need? Then get engaged. If not you, then who?

Club member Gary Mahoney (gs_mahoney@hotmail.com, 850-228-7292) offered to lead the study of Golf Carts—traffic issues, improving the golf cart experience, and extending the use of golf carts down Gulf Beach Dr to the State Park. He hopes to hear from those who love or hate these vehicles because these popular modes of transportation are a part of our island culture.

SGI Business Association is looking into improving the atmosphere for island Food Trucks. Without code enforcement for this ordinance, county rules are flaunted and the safety of visitors and residents could be at risk. Again, food trucks are part of the island experience. If you have ideas or contributions regarding these discussions, contact SGI Business Association board member and Civic Club member Julie Krontz (Islanddogoutdoors@gmail.com 850-323-0154.

Other topics that you would like to take to a small group for research and development of ideas for the membership? Contact Michael O’Connell (poconnell1414@gmail.com 850-408-1773.



Club member Gary Mahoney will lead the study of Golf Carts—traffic issues, improving the golf cart experience, and extending the use of golf carts down Gulf Beach Dr to the State Park.

To help us identify fundraising ideas or learn about our charitable giving, email Jim Morris, Civic Club VP at jim.morr98@yahoo.com

SGI CIVIC CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President	Michael O’Connell... poconnell1414@gmail.com
Vice-President	Jim Morris..... jim.morr98@yahoo.com
Secretary	Loula Fuller-Myers..... lf Fuller@fuller-myers.com
Treasurer	Carol McCormick carolflys@gmail.com
Past Pres	James Donald jdonal278@gmail.com
At-Large	Ben Mathewson benz256@mac.com
At-Large	Pleas Howe pleassgi@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Communication	Buena Brown bjpeacock1@gmail.com
Winter Bingo	Ben Mathewson benz256@mac.com
Gov’t Relations	Pat O’Connell poconnell1414@gmail.com
Fundraising & Charitable Giving	Jim Morris..... jim.morr98@yahoo.com Carol McCormick carolflys@gmail.com

The Candidates



Jason Shoaf, R- Port St Joe

“From the BP oil spill to the Great Recession to Hurricane Michael, our region has faced incredibly difficult challenges in recent years. We need a leader in the Florida House who will fight for us and fight for our future. When I’m elected to serve as your State Representative, I will bring our North Florida values to the state Capitol... I will strengthen vocational training programs to give students the skills they need to build a career... and I will secure the support we need to rebuild after the devastation and destruction we suffered from Hurricane Michael. On June 18, vote for me, Jason Shoaf.”



Ryan Terrell, D – Tallahassee

“Here in the Florida Panhandle, old wounds and pain runs deep. In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, it’s time we not just rebuild- but reconstruct - our region, to be a welcoming and accepting place for all. I believe we have always been more than our scars. I am committed to a future for this area where no one is forgotten or left behind in our shared prosperity!”

General Election - House District #7

Don't Forget to Vote on June 18 or by Early Voting starting June 8. Our Future Depends on it.

Next month Franklin County will elect a new member to the Florida House of Representatives. This position is critical for our small county because of our heavy reliance on state funding for our schools, roads, environment, health care, and other public services. Some experts have cited our absence of having representation in the House as a potential cause of Franklin County receiving no Special (Earmarked) Appropriations in 2019 for its badly needed projects— such as the Emergency Operations Center or dune restoration after Hurricane Michael.

Both candidates in the General Election attended the SGI Civic Club Candidate Forum earlier this year. We gave each one the opportunity to submit a new statement for our newsletter.

May Dinner Meeting Brings New Topics for Discussion

In its May Dinner Meeting, the Civic Club took a break from its regular guest speaker format for the opportunity to talk informally about topics important to the leadership and the membership. Two categories of discussion emerged: 1) use of charitable donations generated by the Civic Club, and 2) isolated projects or topics not currently being addressed by the organization.

President Michael O’Connell announced that the Civic Club treasury has funds in excess of \$23,000, in large part due to the highly successful First Annual Civic Club Golf Tournament. This positive balance presents an opportunity to revisit our charitable giving practices of the past few years. Several members, recalling when the SGI Civic Club volunteers targeted projects specifically for the island, suggested that some of the donated funds might be used for island capital projects that would leave a more lasting legacy. Vice President Jim Morris volunteered to lead a committee to explore suggestions on what could be accomplished.

Several members suggested topics of interest that fall outside the focus of SGI2025Vision, the planning document adopted last year which represents our “wish list” of infrastructure improvements in the island Commercial District. Among those topics members are interested in discussing are 1) proposed new hospital facility to replace Weems; 2) better enforcement of regulations for food trucks; and 3) best regulation and use of golf carts. The group concluded that the Civic Club will not necessarily take a position pro or con on these topics but that gaining knowledge and understanding through discussions would be helpful. (for more, See “Shaping Future Policy in the County.”)

SGI Business Association Gets Fresh Start

In recent years the St George Island Business Association experienced the same problem that often imperils volunteer organizations—a lack of new people willing to do the work and bring fresh ideas to the group. As is often the case, the same individuals were responsible year after year of organizing the charitable efforts and attempting to unite all the businesses under a common vision. After a strong recruiting effort, the SGI Business Association has a slate of additional volunteers to lead the organization and make it a vibrant, influential voice for the commercial businesses on the island.

The SGI Business Association was created in 2004 to unite the businesses on the Island to increase profitability and enhance the visitor experience in our area. The Business Association gave a combined voice for the commercial enterprises located in the Commercial Area. 3rd to 3rd, beach to bay, on St. George. Other businesses have joined so they could participate in activities and have their voices added to issues and events pertaining to the economic environment. Overall their purposes are to create a positive, mutually supportive working environment; to improve the effectiveness and number of existing cultural events; and to represent SGI business requests and needs within the county.

In keeping with the original purpose of the association to represent the business district, only members who have a physical property inside the business district can vote on agenda items. All members, however, can participate in events, participate on committees, and provide input on topics being discussed.

Presently, the SGI Business Association hosts three events per year. The Island Lights, in early December, is the annual holiday event which brings Santa to the area to hear local children's wishes and add festiveness for full time residents and winter guests. They host Snowbird Appreciation Day every February to offer sumptuous island food to residents and winter visitors, who add so much to local volunteer resources when they are here. The Art and Wine Splash in October has become a very popular event, with local artists featured at various businesses where patrons can enjoy the original art and crafts, while sipping a different wine at each stop.

These SGI Business Association-coordinated events bring together the Island's visitors to socialize and to explore retail and other enterprises they might not otherwise patronize. The association's goal is to expand on these activities not only to enhance the visitor and resident experience but also increase the exposure and awareness of what our local businesses have to offer.

A critical role SGI Business Association plays is representing the island businesses to the county government. This is increasingly important to ensure they have a consensus position and are represented on items directly affecting their businesses. It is equally important in ensuring that the island receives resources from the county that are important to success and the quality of life on the island.



New SGI Business Association officers include:

President – Johnny Cadriel, The Beach Pit;
Vice President – Loula Fuller-Myers, Doc Myers' Grill; Secretary – Julie Krontz, Island Dog Outdoors;
Treasurer – Sheryl Simmons, Island Dog Beach and Surf Shop;

BOARD MEMBERS

Charlotte Bacher, Sometimes It's Hotter;
Sheila Hauser, Collins Vacation Rentals; and
Beth Brinkley, Resort Vacation Properties.

For more information, contact Julie Krontz at islanddogoutdoors@gmail.com.



St. George Island Civic Club

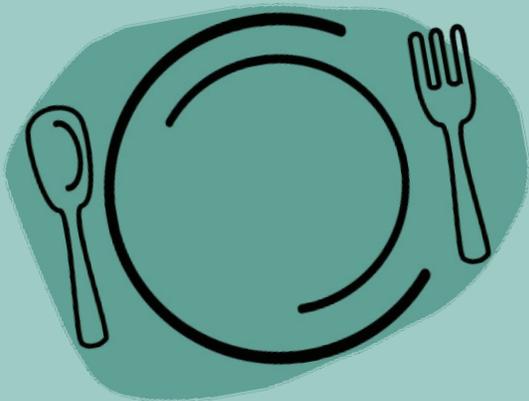
TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol McCormick reports on the growing membership roles of the Club. Nearly 100 new members have joined in 2019, bringing our total membership to more than 600, the highest membership since the Club's inception nearly 50 years ago. Approximately 160 members have not yet renewed and paid their 2019 dues. If you haven't done so, please send a check for \$20 per person to P. O. Box 451, Eastpoint 32328. Include your postal mailing address, your email address for each member, and the names of the members. Please PRINT or type that information. We are updating all our membership rolls and PRINT information is critical.



Visit the new website at

www.sgiCivicClub.com



CONSERVATION COMMITMENT

Civic Club members continue to impress us all with their displays of colorful dinnerware that are replacing the large quantities of throw-away debris typically associated with our monthly dinner events. The Club continues to offer paper plates and plastic utensils, but usage diminishes each month. Please join the fun and show off your lovely dinnerware.

Communications Committee Kicks Off New Civic Club Website

The chair of the Civic Club Communications Committee, Buena Brown, has announced the opening of the newly created website found at www.sgiCivicClub.com. The new website offers many advantages over the older website www.stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org. Please add this new website link to your BookMarks so that you can stay informed.

The “URL” leading to this new website is far shorter, making it easier to type and less likely to contain a spelling error. This new format can be edited with a “plain text editor,” making editing of articles far less complicated. The new logo now has brighter colors, bringing a distinctive new appearance to the iconic lighthouse image, which is used by so many entities on the island. The web hosting company provides 24-7, 365 days a year support—a service never available previously. The greatest value of the rebuilt website is the functionality, which provides unlimited email addresses that permit added confidentiality for officers and others who receive communication from membership. The website has much better security generally than previous versions.

With these improvements, the Civic Club is transferring its member communications to “MailChimp,” a no-cost electronic service that enables automated tracking of recipients and errors in transmittal. Such efforts will replace the former system of sending the same message multiple times to avoid over-burdening a regular email service.

The new website will contain most of the information formerly held on the original, including newsletters dating to 2012. Eventually, members can renew or make donations through the website. The website will improve the renewal process by targeting only those members who have not renewed for that year. In recent years, the Club has relied on purchasing mailing lists from SGI Water System, an expensive and not-always-accurate method of soliciting renewals.

From the President: A special thanks goes to Myra Harper and Treasurer Carol McCormick for creating a comprehensive list of members for use with the new system. Also, the Club appreciates the work of Pat O’Connell, who creates many of the written products for the Club, including articles for the Islander newsletter and website. Finally, the Club owes all its communication success to Buena Brown, who has created all the graphics, the website, and the Golf Tournament pages, and formatted the newsletter every month. Finally, all their work could not have happened without the

pioneering work of Eric Roberts, who moved the SGI Civic Club into the electronic era, and Sherri Roberts and all former Treasurers who managed the paper lists of membership for years. The Communications Committee hopes you will enjoy the new website. If you are interested in volunteering to assist in any and all communications, please contact Buena.Brown@sgicivicclub.com

Apalachicola Airport Supporters Announce New Organization

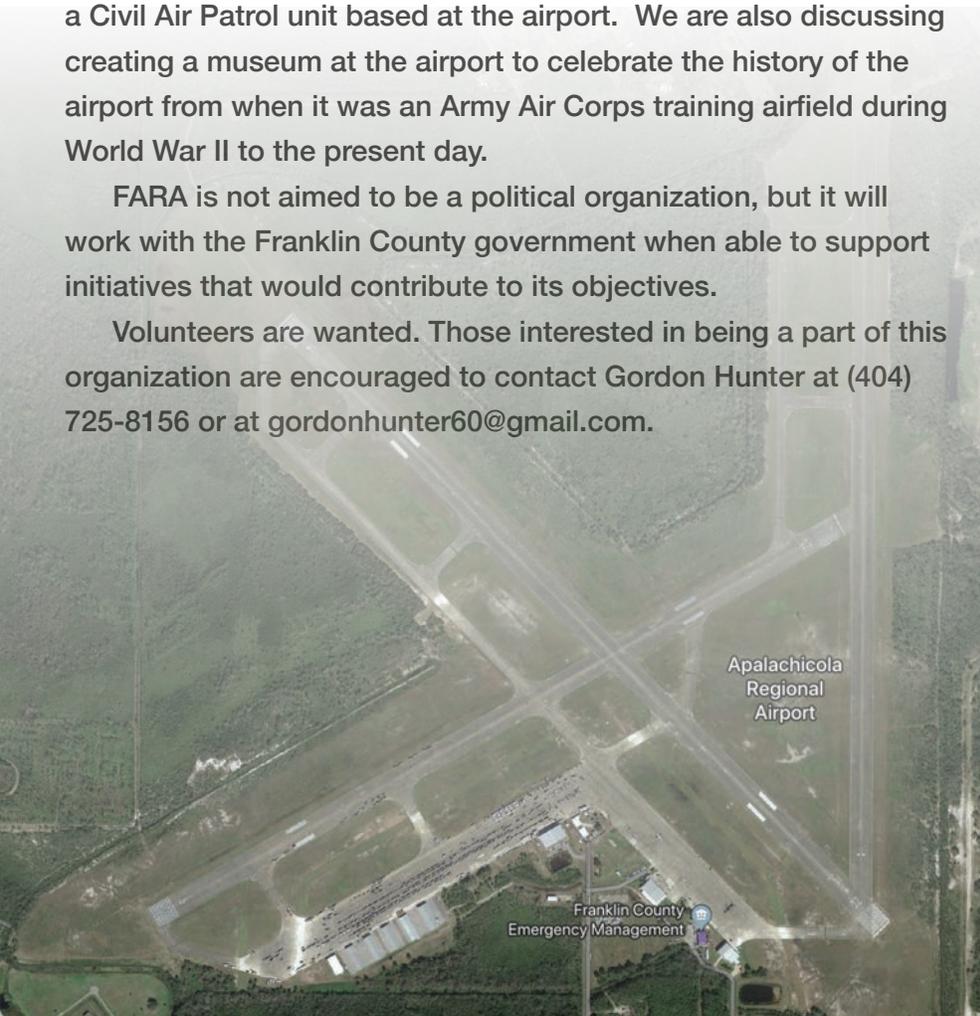
Report by Gordon Hunter

A “Friends of the Apalachicola Regional Airport” (FARA) organization is in the process of being formed, designed to bring together aviation and airport enthusiasts to encourage volunteer support for such activities as future air shows and fly-ins and to promote the Apalachicola Regional Airport as a prime resource for economic development for Franklin County.

An interest shared by the “Friends” is to stimulate awareness of aviation in the youth of Franklin County through a “Young Eagles” flight program and through the possibility of establishing a Civil Air Patrol unit based at the airport. We are also discussing creating a museum at the airport to celebrate the history of the airport from when it was an Army Air Corps training airfield during World War II to the present day.

FARA is not aimed to be a political organization, but it will work with the Franklin County government when able to support initiatives that would contribute to its objectives.

Volunteers are wanted. Those interested in being a part of this organization are encouraged to contact Gordon Hunter at (404) 725-8156 or at gordonhunter60@gmail.com.



Franklin Regional Airport, formerly called Franklin Municipal Airport is believed to be a prime source for economic development in the county.

Trash Patrol Continues to Collect Volunteers

Ada Long, local Trash Czarina, announced that four additional volunteers have made a commitment to do weekly cleanups in the Commercial Area of SGI.

Andrea Fortunatas, Betsy Nofziger, Erin Hale and Karen Redic joined Bob Pruitt, Pete Rich, Anna Carmichael, Terry & Skip Kemp and the many residential volunteers who can't take a walk without picking up litter. These volunteers receive the added benefit of fresh air, sunshine, exercise, self-satisfaction, and our undying appreciation.

Many businesses have signed up with Ada to clean their lots at least once a week, but with some making the effort every day. We hope you'll show them some "attaboys" by telling them how much their efforts mean to the islanders and visitors alike. Those businesses include (as of publication date): The Beach Pit; Jolly Roger; Prudential Berkshire Hathaway; Journeys of SGI; SGI United Methodist Church; Collins Realty/Century 21; Jeff Galloway Real Estate; Sometimes It's Hotter; Berkshire Hathaway Home Service Beach Properties; Doc Myers' Grill; Paddy's Oyster Bar; St George Cantina and many more informal unsung trasher heroes.

Special thanks to three businesses that share their dumpsters for the ease of the volunteers: BJs Pizza; St George Cantina; and Berkshire Hathaway Home Service Beach Properties.

If you are a litter-minded business or individual, please contact Ada Long at adalong@uab.edu so that you can be added to her St George Island Trasher Hall of Fame.



Island Veterans Continue to Honor our Nation

Report by James Donald, "Army Vet"

Plan to join us **Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m.** for Memorial Day Observance at the Veterans Memorial Plaza, the site of the Three Soldiers Detail Statue. The event is hosted by the Willoughby Marks American Legion Post #106. Guest speaker will be Major General (Retired) James Donald. Join us as we pay tribute to the many Great Americans who gave their all and/or answered the call "...here am I, send me."

Also, save the date **Friday, June 7 at 3 p.m.** for our next Veteran's Reveille at Doc Myers Sports Bar & Island Pub. We welcome back our host and fellow vet Doc Myers who has been under the weather. We will have a short D-Day presentation. As always, Veterans Resource Officer Charles Elliott returns to update us on latest veterans' issues.

Reminder! All events are opened to the public. Whether you are veteran or a supporter, come celebrate the veterans' legacy in our community!

County Extension Office Wraps Up 4-year Sea Turtle Lighting Project

Report by Erik Lovstrand

Marine turtles face many hurdles in their quest to survive and reproduce. Along developed coastlines, seawalls and other structures may render historic nesting beaches unsuitable. Human activity on the beach at night also discourages females from coming ashore and artificial lighting can disorient nesting mothers as well as hatching babies. When funding became available in 2014 to mitigate "harm" to sea turtles as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and associated cleanup activities, the County Extension office became involved in a grant-funded effort to improve nesting beach habitat by reducing the amount of artificial lighting on Franklin County beaches. This project led to another grant that began in 2016 which took place over a three-county region of Franklin, Gulf and Bay Counties.

During the term of this work, around 2,700 point-sources of light were retrofitted with "turtle-friendly" amber LED bulbs in fixtures that blocked direct visibility of the bulbs from the beach. This will result in a significant reduction in the number of discarded bulbs ending up at the landfill since one LED bulb can outlast 4: 13-watt compact fluorescents, 18: 90-watt halogens, or 30: 60-watt incandescent bulbs. Electricity and replacement cost savings for owners over the 10-year lifespan of the LEDs, for the whole project, is estimated around \$466,000.

A preliminary look at the proportion of sea turtle nest disorientations since the work began in 2014 on St. George Island is also looking promising at this time. Let's keep up the good work and please be aware of nesting/hatching season (May-October) so you can keep window coverings in place, along with turning off unneeded outdoor lighting.

Sorry if you did not get in on the free fixtures and bulbs while they lasted but the Extension office is happy to assist with information on suppliers and the types of fixtures and bulbs that are appropriate for various applications. Franklin County's marine turtle lighting ordinance can be found in Chapter V, Article IV of its Code of Ordinances. https://library.municode.com/fl/franklin_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COLAOR_CH5BODOWABE_ARTIV-MATUPR_S5-61PUIN

For more information contact Erik Lovstrand, UF/IFAS Franklin County Extension Director and Regional Sea Grant Agent II at elovstrand@ufl.edu.

Tip from ANERR for Night Beach Walks During Sea Turtle Nesting Season

Sea turtles are one of the oldest creatures on earth. They live their whole life in the sea and only come on shore to lay their eggs. We love sea turtles and are excited that they have chosen our beaches to nest from May through October! Here are some simple tips for making your night beach walk fun and safe for you and the nesting and hatchling sea turtles:

- When on the beach at night, let your eyes adjust to the ambient light. You will be amazed at how much you can see without man-made lights. If you take a flashlight, make sure it has infrared amber LED bulbs that emit long wavelengths (590-750nm) which are less likely to disturb the sea turtles. These flashlights can be purchased locally.

- If you see a nesting female, give her plenty of room to find a place to nest. Do not shine a light at her or take photos with a flash. Remain quiet, behind her, and out of her sight. If she is disturbed, she may abandon her nest and return to the sea. Also, do not disturb the tracks. Our volunteers use the tracks to locate the nest so that it can be protected. They also collect important data that can help us better understand the species.



Loggerhead turtles like this one above are found on St. George Island

Turtles are the Real “Old Florida”

Report by Erik Lovstrand, UF/IFAS Franklin County Extension Director

Florida has the distinction of being home to five species of marine turtles that inhabit its coastal waters from the Atlantic to the Florida Keys and around the Gulf of Mexico (Green, Loggerhead, Kemp’s Ridley, Hawksbill, and Leatherback).

Three species come ashore on our sandy Atlantic and Gulf beaches for their critical life stage of egg-laying (Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback). All five are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered by state and federal authorities.

Historically, sea turtles provided sustenance for many indigenous peoples who inhabited the shores where they occurred. Meat and eggs were utilized in the local diet while bones and shells provided tools and decorative cultural items. However, when marine turtles began to be harvested commercially to supply outside demands, their populations eventually reached a point where they could no longer sustain themselves and numbers began to fall. Today, even with strict protections on harvest, many species struggle to recover.

TURTLES OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

Graphic by Peppermint Narwhal Creative

LEATHERBACK
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)
VULNERABLE

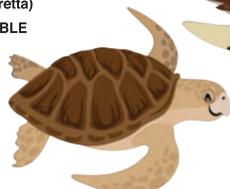


KEMP'S RIDLEY
(*Lepidochelys kempi*)
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

LOGGERHEAD
(*Caretta caretta*)
VULNERABLE

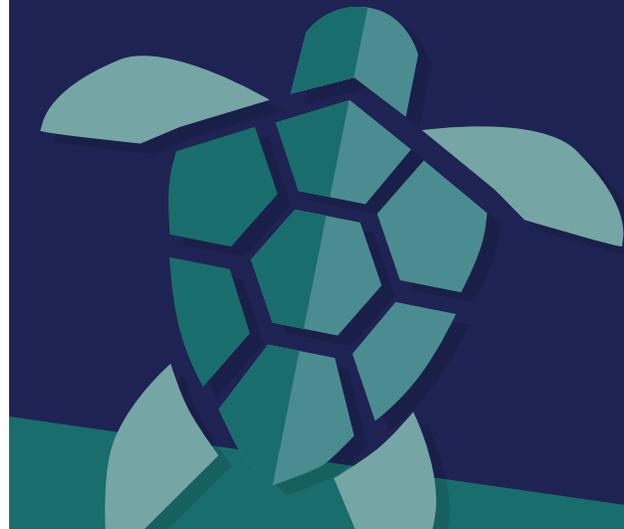


GREEN
(*Chelonia mydas*)
ENDANGERED



HAWKSBILL
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

LIGHTS OUT.



MAY THROUGH OCTOBER



Betsy Notzinger, is one of the many who help provide critical needs to the senior at ECCC including healthy food show below.



ECCC Provides Opportunities for Networking and Service

Report by Betsy Nofzinger, Secretary/Treasurer ECCC

Critical Local Need:

The ECCC Summer Breeze FAN...raiser has been very popular but we still need your help. We have over 60 home-bound seniors in Franklin County, and we would love to give each of them a fan to help keep them cool this summer. We have collected and distributed about 20; the recipients are very grateful. Help us meet this goal of getting fans to all 60. Your donation can be dropped off at Holy Family Senior Center between 10 and 2pm, Monday through Friday, or cash/checks can be mailed to ECCC, PO Box 335, Eastpoint, Florida 32328.

ELDER CARE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ECCC)
**Summer Breeze
FANRAISER**

Donate Fans to keep our Seniors
"COOL" this SUMMER season

Donations can be dropped off
Mon - Fri
10 am - 2 pm

Holy Family Senior Center
203 Dr. Frederick Humphries Blvd.
Apalachicola, Florida
850.653.3134

Monetary donations can be made to the
ECCC are tax deductible and will go
towards the purchase of fans.

Other ECCC Events:

The month of May has been busy for ECCC with a variety of interesting and engaging programs that benefit both seniors and their caregivers. ECCC welcomes all visitors. Upcoming events include May 23 "Love your Brain Seminar" with Vicky Rose at 11am, and May 29 "Beginning Drawing: Opening the Door to Creativity with Beth Appleton." Do not miss this amazing opportunity to learn basic drawing from such a talented artist from SGI. Beginners and experienced artists are welcome. Ongoing weekly and monthly events are 1) Chair Yoga with Wendy every Monday at 10am; 2) Tending the Garden every second and fourth Monday at 9am; and 3) ECCC Senior Networking Meeting every third Tuesday at 1pm.

Upcoming Major Volunteer Activity:

Mark your calendar for the ECCC SGI Sizzler 5K Race and One Mile Fun Run the first Saturday in August. We need your volunteer help to support this fundraiser, so we can keep the doors open at Holy Family Senior Center and continue to fill the gaps in services to

seniors in need in the entire county. You can help by sponsoring the Sizzler, running or walking in the race, or volunteering the day of the event. Please call 850-509-5009 to let us know how you can help. Sponsor and race/walk registration forms will be available soon!

Bird Stewarding: Easy, Rewarding and Fun

Report by Bonnie Samuelsen, Shorebird Program Manager, Audubon Florida

I'm just checking in to see if you might be able to help at St George Island State Park sometime soon on a weekend or Memorial Weekend. Even 3-4 hours on a single weekend of volunteering can help. We are in the height of beach-nesting bird season for the next 8 weeks. Any help you can provide is appreciated. I know your time is valuable, but having volunteers at beach-nesting bird sites makes the difference for their survival. Studies have shown people are 9x more likely to respect our posted areas when volunteers are present.

The stewarding can consist of sitting at the kayak launch showing people a map of the oysterbars where American Oystercatchers are nesting. Bird Stewards also point out Great Blue Heron and Osprey nests that are best viewed from the water. It is important to encourage people to give those oysterbar nesting areas a wide berth at this time of year. Often kayaks are available at the state park for the steward to get on the water.

Stewarding can also include just sitting on the beach with an "Ask Me About the Birds" sign and a Spotting Scope for use by beachgoers who want to experience a brief lesson and close-up look at bird families. The dunes in the state park were sheared away by Hurricane Michael's surf and winds. This area is now wide open habitat with quite a bit of visible nesting. In the past, these areas were protected by the dunes from the beachgoers. Now, it's wide open, creating an opportunity for interested bird lovers but potential threat for nests.

If it is windy, stewards can stroll along the beach, reminding beachgoers to secure the umbrellas, rafts, balls so they don't tumble into the nesting areas.

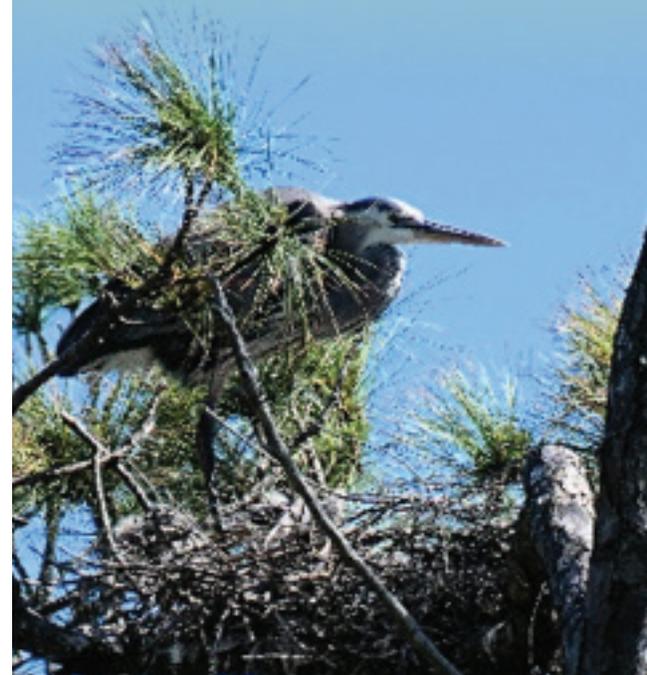
There is a volunteer activity perfectly suited to your desired level of activity. The Nesting areas are typically a short walk from Parking areas and beach access. Beach-goers seem remarkably glad to help protect the nesting areas once they are aware of their existence. You can make a difference in the life of both humans and birds. Please join us.



Royal Terns and gulls face a windy April beach. The gull in foreground is showing off his courting skills, head bobbing, vocalizing. Photo by Bonnie Samuelsen, Audubon Florida, SGI April 2019.

**Bonnie Samuelsen
at 850-866-7152
bsamuelsen@audubon.org.**

One of four Great Blue Heron nests in the Plantation which have chicks. Photo by Bonnie Samuelsen, Audubon Florida, April 2019.





SGI Brewfest Supports the Franklin County Humane Society

By Barbara Iman

Over the last four years the SGI Brewfest has raised enough money to donate an amazing \$115,500 to the Franklin County Humane Society (FCHS) toward their programs supporting our County's homeless dogs and cats! A major portion of that four-year total came this year, when a check for \$40,000 for the 2019 donation was presented to Karen Martin, director of the FCHS shelter, in early May.

This has been a challenging couple of years for the FCHS, beginning with housing and treating 56 cats and 18 dogs rescued from one home in Carrabelle, all of which had extensive medical needs. Most made a full recovery and found their forever homes. Then the Eastpoint Fire occurred, when we were needed to help by housing 18 animals that were displaced due to the fire. Almost all were reclaimed, and the few unclaimed were placed in welcoming homes. Finally came the devastation of Hurricane Michael in October. We took in every pet that needed shelter after the storm, including those with injuries. The Humane Society has provided medical care to all and is continuing to find homes for all the survivors.

This year's donation will go toward some dramatic improvements to the shelter property. A wonderful donor is providing several manufactured buildings to the shelter so the property can be completely renovated. The FCHS intends to survey the land to determine the cost of fencing the entire property to improve protection for the animals. So future Brewfest donations will go a long way toward helping with these major projects.

Originally the SGI Brewfest was the brainchild of Susan and Steve Kearney, former SGI residents. At the time Susan had been president of the FCHS for a number of years. The ongoing Brewfest has been the result of the efforts of many current SGI residents, spearheaded by super organizer Amy Hodson, chairman of the committee. Committee members also include Bob Landiss, vp; Barbara Iman, sec/treas; Cutler Edwards, marketing; Larry McIntosh, brewery liaison; Sheryl Clouse, sponsor liaison; and Pat Kelly, Pete Ritch, Jessica & Pat Sparks and Bud Hayes, directors.

Critical to the success of the SGI Brewfest has been the support of the community through sponsorships and attendance. The Brewfest attracts a large number of out-of-town visitors to the Island and is a big plus in encouraging tourism in the area. Next year will be the FIFTH Anniversary of the SGI Brewfest, now in the planning stages. The goal is to have an even bigger and better Brewfest. Save the date for Saturday, April 25, 2020.

**SGI Brewfest
has raised over
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