

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

March 2010

Vol 19, Number 3

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly Business Meeting

March 3, 2010, noon  
Monthly Business Luncheon  
The Owl Café  
15 Avenue D  
Apalachicola

March 11, 2010  
Business After Hours  
Eddy Teach's  
St George Island  
5:30-7:00 pm

Monthly Business Luncheon  
April 7, 2010 noon  
TBA

## Visitor Statistics

January 2001	1,204
January 2002	917
January 2003	868
January 2004	890
January 2005	1,268
January 2006	1,325
January 2007	1,863
January 2008	2,318
January 2009	1,286
January 2010	1,920

## Website stats December

Visits	16,873
Page Views	87,777
Average Page Views	5.20
Time on Site (mins)	4:36
Bounce Rate	24.32%
New Visits	71.46%

## New Members

### Bluemanta Technology Group

Welcome Bluemanta Technology Group, a professional information technology consulting and support services company. Headquartered in Port St. Joe, Bluemanta provides full-spectrum technology services including technology research and planning, information security, systems and network engineering and administration, and onsite and remote help desk support operations. Bluemanta's services are focused on meeting the distinct technology needs of local governments, healthcare providers, education providers, and others located in the counties of Gulf, Franklin, Calhoun, and Liberty. In addition to creating a new level of professional, local technology workers, Bluemanta's mission is to assist our rural communities and organizations, improve levels of service through modernization and implementation of new technological capabilities. They are located in Port St Joe at 190 Williams Avenue. For more information, please contact Chuck Edwards or Brett Lowry at (850) 229-2555 or visit [www.bluemantagroup.com](http://www.bluemantagroup.com).

### Apalach Outfitters

Welcome Tom Morgan and Sharon Baggett owners of Apalach Outfitters opening in Apalachicola in mid March. Apalach Outfitters will be a full service outfitter for fishing, birding, hiking and stand-up paddle boards. They will carry men and women's outdoor and lifestyle clothing and gear including Patagonia, North Face, Mountain Hardware, Prana and Lole women's performance and yoga wear, sunglasses by Costa Del Mar and Kaenon,

## Directors Column

The 14th Annual Forgotten Coast Chef Sampler was a great success. We'd like to thank all of the talented chefs, and their staff, who participated. They really out did themselves this year: Apalachicola Seafood Grill, Boss Oyster, Blue Parrot Oceanfront Café, Café con Leche, Cafe Momi, Caroline's Dining on the River, Chef Eddies Magnolia Café, Crooked River Grill, Cypress Diner, Great Southern School of Fish, Gulf Coast Community College Culinary School, Lulu's Sweet Expectations, Owl Café, Sunset Coastal Grill, Tamara's Café Floridita, That Place Off 98, Up The Creek, Verandas Wine Bar & Bistro, Charlie & Vanessa Ryan with Southern Wine & Spirits, National Republic Distributing Company, and the Lewis Bear Company.

We would also like to thank Andrea Duval for coordinating the event décor and the very talented table designers who designed and set up 17 stunning guest tables: Apalachicola Marina-Pam Mahr, Apalachicola Municipal Library-Susan Clementson and Caty Greene, Bayside Gallery & Florist-Amy Price, City Square Community Garden-Karla Ambos, Dixie Theatre-Dixie Partington, Garden's Inc-Amanda Kollar & Shirley Pace, The Green Door-Amy Friedman Franklin County Food Pantry, Gulf

## Chamber Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Mark Friedman 670-1253

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Shuler 653-9226

### TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

### SECRETARY

Kristin Anderson 653-2249

### BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bassett 323-0092

Andrea Duval 653-9522

Ginny Griner 653-8853

Bud Hayes 927-3305

Beverly Hewitt 653-9510

Richard Langford 899-0030

Paul Marxsen 697-2542

Ted Ruffner 670-8870

Diana Prickett 927-2322

Joe Taylor 653-1411

R. Wayne Thomas 670-4404

Shimano fishing reels, Crowder and Sage rods, Tibor fly reels plus Rainbow Sandals, jewelry and art. Tom and Sharon moved here in January from Walton/Bay County area. They both worked in real estate development and decided they were ready to pursue something closer to their passion, tarpon fishing. They are in love with the Forgotten Coast and have been coming here for years to tarpon fish or just get away. Apalach Outfitters is located at 29 Avenue E, Suite C, next to the Dixie Theatre. Tom and Sharon can be reached by calling (850) 653-3474.

### g3 Real Estate Group LLC & Property Rental Group

Glenda McLemore, owner and broker of g3 Real Estate Group LLC & Property Rental Group joined the Chamber. g3's mission is to provide their clients with superior service and honest direction for those looking to sell, buy, and invest in the area real estate market. They pride themselves in being a positive, progressive, and professional real estate firm. g3 also has a property management division, g3 Property Rental Group, LLC. They provide quality rental homes with modern amenities and attention to detail from freshest linens to locating the perfect dining experience. Originally from Marianna, Glenda has lived here for 13 years. Her husband Will owns the Dixie Dandy in Wewa. Glenda got her real estate license in 1998 and in May of last year open she opened her own office. She also has a residential contractor's license and hands on experience in new construction and remodeling projects and keeps up with the latest codes relating to the construction industry. g3 staff includes Perry McFarland, Sheileta Fisher, Rosa Feltrop, Kathy Collins, and Leigh Ann Mayo, Michelle Hanlon and their office is located in downtown Port St Joe at 420 Reid Avenue. They can be reached by calling (850) 227-3333 or (850) 227-5675 cell or by email [glenda@g3realtygroup.com](mailto:glenda@g3realtygroup.com). Visit their website at [www.g3realtygroup.com](http://www.g3realtygroup.com).

## Member News

### Member News

Keith Gartin and Perry Ann Williams will open Mother Earth Studio, a "lifestyle inspired by

Coast Community College-Denise Butler, Oystercatcher-Katherine Neill, Party Rental Company-Shelly James, Lazy Daisy-Melissa Rapack, Panache Tent & Event-Elizabeth & Rich Wynn and Andrea's Nails-Andrea Duval.

Thanks also to our dedicated, hardworking volunteers who helped us stage the event: P J Trowell, Pamela & Tony Erario, Jim Bachrach, Wayne Thomas, Sandra Smith, Donnie Gay, Debbie Flowers, Vince Bishop, Kristin Anderson, Mark Friedman, Marc Grove, Lois Swoboda, Beverly Hewitt, Laura Baney, Christina Collins Jerry Hall, Amanda and Bill Kollar.

A very special thanks to Cheryl Creek and students Lakota Humble, Joel Williams, Lacey McAnally, Samantha Turner, Eric Hicks, and Amber Finely from the Franklin County High School Culinary program. Cheryl, your students did an awesome job!

Last but not least, we'd like to thank James Marsh with Forgotten Coast Cleaners who pressed all of those table cloths!

Anita Grove, Executive Director



nature” shop in mid March at 123 Commerce Street at High Cotton Marketplace. They will offer various artistic items including wood items turned in studio by Keith Gartin, and one day lessons in The Basics of Wood Turning. They will also feature several folk and landscape artists, jewelry designers, rustic furniture, art classes, a variety of natural personal harmony products and other fun lifestyle items inspired by nature.

Apalachicola Sponge Company & Smokehouse Antiques relocated to the Hays House on Avenue D and 4th Street. Dolores’ Sweet Shop also moved into the location.

Gulf Coast Community College Alumni Association is hosting the Gulf Coast Market this spring on April 23-24 at the GCCC Cafeteria/Breezeway. Proceeds will go to the GCCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. They are seeking sponsors, merchants, and of course – lots of shoppers.

The annual St George Island Regional Chili Cook off will take place Thursday, March 4th – Saturday, March 6th. The weekend begins a golf tournament at 8:00 AM Thursday at St. James Golf Course. Then on Friday, the Auction Art Preview is in the evening from 5 - 7 at the island's firehouse (324 E. Pine Ave.). Saturday includes the 5K Red Pepper Run (8:00 AM), Crock Pot Judging (10-11:00), the Auction beginning at 11:00, booth showmanship judging (11:30 - 12:15), Miss Chili Pepper and Miss Hot Sauce judging (starting at 12:15), taste awards (3:30) (850) 653-6735 [www.sgiChiliCookOff.com](http://www.sgiChiliCookOff.com).

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association and the CGJ WWII Museum would like to invite everyone to come to Carrabelle on March 12th and 13th for the 15th annual CGJ Days reunion. The U.S. Army band from Ft. Rucker AL will lead a parade on Saturday the 13th featuring vintage Military vehicles, active duty troops and community organizations. Bring the kids to this colorful parade. Also, the City of Carrabelle will provide a free “fish Fry” afterwards at the Fire Station. The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum will be open all weekend [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com).

March 13th the Supporters of St Vincent will sponsor their annual open house providing a



### Exposure

Laura Cameron with [www.FirstDogBarking.com](http://www.FirstDogBarking.com) was sent information and photos on the area for their new webzine for travelers and their traveling pets.

Mary Billingsley with the National Trust for Historic Preservation was sent information on the H'COLA celebration and info on our fresh local seafood for their travel website.

Outside magazine fact checkers called for information on an article written by Ryan Krogh. The article is slated to appear in the May issue

### Volunteers Needed

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber Visitor Center seeks volunteers to help at the visitors' center and with special projects. Duties include giving our visitor information, answering questions about places to stay, restaurants and things to do. If you would like to help, we'd love to have you. It can be a fun and rewarding. Contact us for details (850) 653-9419 or email us at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

day of easy access to Franklin County's St Vincent Island for people to enjoy a free full day of nature-related activities. \$10 per person (children under 8 free) transport to/from the island will be provided hourly. Guided tours and exhibits will allow people to learn about the island's protected wildlife, diverse ecosystems, and history as well as enjoy the unspoiled beauty of this unique pristine uninhabited refuge. These services including educational talks/discussions will be provided by numerous volunteers from the Supporters and various community organizations. The guided tours will be both walking and vehicular. Light snacks and bottled water will be available (rain date April 10). <http://www.stvincentfriends.com>

The 8th annual Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department Charity Rib Cook Off will take place on Saturday, March 20th, at the fire house in Eastpoint on the corner of CC Land Road and 6th Street. Contestants will be cooking up all kinds of BBQ including pork, chicken, beef, plus there will be other goodies like apple dumplings and fresh pork rinds. Prizes will be awarded for rib cook-off and car show contestants. For more information call George Pruett at (850) 670-9000.

#### Shimmering Sands Realty

Five sales associates of Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty's St. George Island office have been named to receive Prudential Real Estate and Relocation Services' prestigious top production awards for 2009 during a special awards ceremonies at Prudential Real Estate's Sales Convention to be held in Austin, Texas from March 7 - 9. Jerry Thompson will be awarded the Chairman's Circle-Platinum, which is awarded to the top one percent of the Network's approximately 62,000 sales professionals based on gross commission income or closed units. Helen Spohrer and Pandora Schlitt will each be awarded the President's Circle, which is awarded to the top three percent of sales professionals. Kara Landiss will be named to the Leading Edge Society, for the top seven percent of sales professionals, and Steve Harris will be named to the Honor Society, for the top twelve percent of sales professionals.

Sacred Heart Health System host a special preview and open house for Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf on Saturday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The new 25-bed hospital is located at 3801 East Highway 98 in Port St. Joe. Opening March 15, Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf will provide access to high quality, compassionate healthcare to residents and visitors of Gulf, Franklin and Bay counties. The new \$38 million hospital will feature a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient services, surgical services, a full complement of diagnostic and laboratory services, and a helipad to be used by Sacred Heart's regional air ambulance service to provide rapid transport for trauma or critically ill patients. A Medical Office Building is scheduled to open in the summer of 2010 adjacent to the hospital and will provide convenient access to primary care



and specialty physicians, dialysis services, women's diagnostic and imaging services, and Sacred Heart Rehabilitation. For more information about the new hospital, please visit [www.sacredheartonthegulf.org](http://www.sacredheartonthegulf.org)