

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

January 2012

Vol 21, Number 1

## Meeting Notices

### Monthly Business Luncheon

January 4, 2012 noon  
First United Methodist Church  
5th Street  
Apalachicola

### Business After Hours

January 12, 2012  
Gulf Coast Angler Magazine  
RiverCrest Lodge

501 Bay City Road  
5:30-7:00 pm

### Monthly Business Luncheon

February 1, 2012  
Location TBA

### Visitor Statistics

Nov 2001	720
Nov 2002	825
Nov 2003	842
Nov 2004	986
Nov 2005	789
Nov 2006	1,752
Nov 2007	2,384
Nov 2008	1,790
Nov 2009	1,986
Nov 2010	1,925
Nov 2011	2,356

### Website Statistics November

13,607 Visits  
10,861 Unique Visitors  
53,471 Pageviews

## Membership Profile

Each year we do a brief profile of our membership to let you know who your fellow members are, where they are located and what type of businesses they are engaged in. As of December 28th, 2011 we had a total of 346 members. Geographically the membership is located mostly in Apalachicola, St. George Island, and Eastpoint, but we do get many members from Gulf County, Panama City and Tallahassee:

Alligator Point/Carrabelle	15
Apalachicola	147
Cape San Blas/Indian Pass	9
Crawfordville/Panacea/Sopchoppy	7
Eastpoint	47
Mexico Beach/Port St. Joe	33
Panama City	7
St. George Island	48
Tallahassee	15

We have ninety-six different membership categories. The largest category is Associations & Organizations with thirty-six. Thirty-two are in the Accommodations category, thirteen Beach Home Rentals, twenty-two are Real Estate Firms, Brokers and Agents, and twenty are in the Clothing, Boutique, and Gift category and nine Art Galleries. Twenty are in the Building Trades or Building Supply business, twelve are Associate Members, and twenty-four are Fishing Guides or Tour Providers. Seventeen are in the Restaurants category, nine are in the Financial and Mortgage categories, and nine are in the wedding services category.

### Events

#### 16th Annual Forgotten Coast Chefs Sampler

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce will host the 16th Annual Forgotten Coast Chef Sampler

## Directors Column

Happy New Year! The start of a new year brings hope and excitement. Spring Break is just ten weeks away. For your reference we have posted the break dates for many of the schools, colleges and universities on our [website](#)

As we reinvent ourselves and our businesses on a seemingly on a daily basis, we are learning that today's economy requires us to be flexible, creative, cost conscious and at same time risk takers. A delicate balance to be sure. All indications are that the economy is continuing to move forward albeit at a slower pace than any of us would like. Take time during the slow times to use your creative muscles rather than being consumed with worry and doubt. Make decisions and move forward. You will feel better about your business and your life!

### Got Ideas? Suggestions?

How can the Apalachicola Bay Chamber better serve you? Is there something that we can do better to help your business? Is there something you would like to see us add or change on the website, at the visitor's center or in the visitors' guide? Ideas are always welcome. Feel free to call or email us with your ideas at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

3.93 Pages/Visit  
00:03:43 Avg. Time on Site  
35.47% Bounce Rate  
71.59% % New Visits

## Chamber Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Mark Friedman  
670-1253

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Ginny Griner  
653-8853

### TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

### SECRETARY

Kristin Anderson  
653-2249

### BOARD MEMBERS

Brenda Ash 653-8805  
Kristy Branch Banks  
670-1255  
Donna Duncan  
653-8976  
Bonnie Gomes  
670-8450  
Bud Hayes 927-3305  
Beverly Hewitt  
653-9510  
Mike Koun 653-2191  
Michael Shuler  
653-1757  
Candy Varnes  
927-2322  
Kevin Ward 899-0669

on Sunday, February 12, 2012, from 6:00-9:00 pm. Chefs from all over the Forgotten Coast area will display their most creative dishes at the historic Fort Coombs Armory located on 4th Street and Avenue D in Apalachicola. Area designers and store owners give the event an elegant and creative flair by decorating each table individually with artful settings. If you are interested in decorating or sponsoring a table or want to purchase tickets call us at (850) 653-9419 or email us at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org). Tickets are \$45-\$50 and they are going fast.

### Dixie Theatre Kicks Off 15th Season

The Dixie Theatre kicks off its 2012 Professional Season with an exciting lineup of performances that will run from January 6, through March. Performances will include plays, the ballet, and a wide variety of musical performances. For more information on performance times and ticket information, visit [www.dixietheatre.com](http://www.dixietheatre.com).

January 6, 7, 8 Florida Girls In the tradition of Lily Tomlin, Nancy Hasty brings her one-woman show with 15 hilarious true-to-life characters to the Forgotten Coast of Florida.....you'll laugh yourself silly.

January 13-15 Margo Anderson's Tribute to Patsy Cline

January 20-22, Pas de Vie Ballet Tallahassee's premiere ballet company returns to the Dixie after a fabulous standing ovation performance in 2011, it will take your breath away. January 27 -29 it's ELVIS and Friends Do The DIXIE, spectacular tribute artist Todd Alan Herenden & his Follow That Dream Band have become one of the Dixie Theatre's most popular shows.

### Sea Oats Gallery

Sea Oats Gallery will feature their popular 2012 Winter Workshops serise January 12 through March 15th. Classes include drawing, silk painting, painting classes in watercolors, oil, Plein air and more. For details call (850) 927-2303 on email Jean at [info@forgottencoastart.com](mailto:info@forgottencoastart.com)

### Second Annual Oyster Cook Off January 14th

Do you have a fabulous oyster recipe? Do you receive rave reviews whenever you serve it? Support the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department and show off your best oyster dish. Trophies and bragging rights will be awarded to the top three finalists. There will also be an auction with great



### 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)

oyster related stuff. A preview of the auction items happens on January 13th. Come out enjoy the world's best oysters from 11:00 am -5:00 pm, good fun, great music and fun kids activities. Go to [www.oystercookoff.com](http://www.oystercookoff.com) for details.

### **Member News**

That's A Moray, Too, at the Gibson Inn- the pub and restaurant- will be closed for two weeks starting January 1. That's A Moray will still be open.

### **Press**

Christine LaPlaca, a freelance fact checker for Visit Florida was assisted on several articles she was fact checking for Visit Florida.

Gary McKechnie, the Visit Florida Off-The-Beaten-Path writer, was sent information and photographs on the Oyster Cook Off and for the Forgotten Coast Chef Sampler for his blog.

Michael Morris was in town conducting research on an article. He has also written two books, Wiregrass and Slow Way Home. Both inspired by Apalachicola.

Freelance Toronto writer Cece Scott was sent information on Apalachicola, the Gorrie Museum, ANERR and photos for some articles she is working on.

Lonely Planet magazine included Apalachicola and the Forgotten Coast in its December 2011 issue.

### **Spring Break 2012**

Click here to see the [2012 Spring break dates](#) for the regional k-12 schools and a link to the Panama City Chamber college spring break date schedule.