



# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

February 2014 Vol 23, No 2

## Monthly Meetings

### Meeting Notices

#### Monthly Luncheon

February 6, 2013, noon  
[AJ's Neighborhood Bar & Grill](#)

120 Martin Luther King  
Jr Blvd Apalachicola

#### Business After Hours

February 13th  
Go Fish  
23 Avenue D  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Apalachicola

#### Monthly Luncheon

March 5, 2013 noon  
TBA

### Visitor Statistics

Dec 2001	523
Dec 2002	432
Dec 2003	858
Dec 2004	946
Dec 2005	1,288
Dec 2006	1,189
Dec 2007	1,660
Dec 2008	1,135
Dec 2009	1,258
Dec 2010	1,310
Dec 2011	1,209

## Director's Column

The 18th Annual Forgotten Coast Chefs Sampler will be on Sunday, February 9th, from 6:00-9:00 pm. This is the chamber's main fundraiser and we could use your help. We are almost sold out of tickets (we still have 25 in the back room) but could use some auction items and volunteers. Call us at (850) 653-9419 or email us [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

## SBDC Business Counseling

Keith Bowers from the Small Business Development Center at FAMU will be coming to the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce on February 18th. He will be available by appointment for one-on-one business counseling from noon-4:00 pm. Keith is very knowledgeable and can help you with your business in a variety of areas. Call us at (850) 653-9419 if you would like to set up an appointment.

## New Members

### La Lutra, LLC

Welcome Serge Latour and Debi Clifford with their guide service La Lutra, LLC. La Lutra specializes in backwater adventures, exploring Tate's Hell and its surrounding waters. They have canoes with electric motors perfectly suited for bird watching or anyone who has physical challenges.

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## Press

-Tom Austin was hosted by the Apalachicola Bay Chamber back in August. His article appears in the Dec issue of *Travel & Leisure* magazine [Travel & Leisure's Ultimate Guide to Florida](#). Travel & Leisure has a circulation of 973,922 for print and the article

Dec 2012 1,071

Dec 2013 963

### Website stats

December 2013

Visits 10,258

Unique Visitors 8,187

Pageviews 36,166

Pages / Visit 3.53

Avg time 3:36

Bounce Rate 43.42%

% New Visits

72.93%

### Board of Directors

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Michael Shuler 653-1757

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Jean Ulrich 653-2900

Kevin Ward 899-0669

Debi also conducts guided beach walks. Debi and Serge are certified green guides. They live on the border of Tate's Hell State Forest. They moved here from Thomasville in 2010. Serge worked in aquatic sciences and technology business in the area of desalinization. Debi works at the Gulf Specimen in Panacea. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.lalutra.com>. They offer half and full day tours. Call (850) 661-2461 or by email [LaLutra@hotmail.com](mailto:LaLutra@hotmail.com)

### Points To View

Barbara Stewart joined the chamber with her beach home rental Points To View. This two bedroom, two bath beach home sits just 100 steps from the Gulf on Alligator Point. It is pet friendly and has a fully fenced in back yard and a car port. It also has a fully equipped kitchen, wi-fi, a washer and dryer, and a charcoal grill. Barbara has a 360 video of the house on her website at <http://www.pointstoview.com>. It can be booked by calling Sydney Allen (850) 778-2277 or email her at [sydney@pointstoview.com](mailto:sydney@pointstoview.com)

### Events

The Dixie Theatre has booked an exciting lineup of performances that will run from January through the end of March. For more information on performance times and tickets visit [www.dixietheatre.com](http://www.dixietheatre.com).

Most shows are Friday 8 pm, Saturday 3 pm & 8 pm

-Tribute to Patsy Cline & The Honky Tonk Angels Jan 31-Feb 1st.

-Bob Milne Ragtime Piano February 7- 8

-Mrs.Mannerly Feb 12- March 8

-Almost, Maine February 14, to March 3

### Beach Home Tour of St. George Island

Seven distinctive and beautiful homes will be featured during the third annual St. George Island Tour of Homes from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday,

appeared on their website.

-*The Week* magazine plucked a quote from Tom's article that appeared in the Week's Dec 27th edition under the title "**Ideal Florida Town**".....so eerily perfect it almost feels Photoshopped said Tom Austin Driving into Apalachicola, the streets unfurl like."one big charm bracelet of antique stores & quaint B&B's.".. is just real enough-the ideal Florida town-not surprising a clerk grimaces when I confess to being from Miami, "Oh, I'm so sorry for you." See the article at [theweek.com/article/index/254341/Getting-the-flavor-of](http://theweek.com/article/index/254341/Getting-the-flavor-of) article The Week has a circulation of 542,000 and the article appeared on their website.

-*AAA* magazine included the Oyster Cook-off in their January issue.

-*Life on the Water* magazine features the Apalachicola Antique & Classic Boat Show in their 2014 Winter edition under Vacation Planning 101.

-Information on the Antique & Classic Boat Show was sent to the *Rudder* magazine, *Sheerline* magazine, *Wooden Boat* magazine, *Soundings*, and *Classic Boating*.

### Sacred Heart News

Kathy Chastain has accepted the position as chief nursing officer at Sacred Heart Hospital. Chastain has more than 29 years of experience in the healthcare industry with a diverse background including critical care nursing, healthcare management, wound care, home health, and quality improvement. Also, Dr. James Oenbrink, a board certified ear, nose and throat surgeon, has joined the Sacred Heart physicians' group. Dr. Oenbrink started seeing patients December 8th. He will be will be providing services including tube placement, tonsillectomy and nasal surgery. Dr. Oenbrink earned his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine.

### Got Ideas? Suggestions?

How can the Apalachicola Bay Chamber better serve you? Is there something that we can do better

February 8th, benefitting the St. George Lighthouse Association. Friday there will be presentation by author James L. Hargrove who will talk about the early development of St. George Island. The talk is free and will be held at the St. George Island Fire Station. For tickets, call (850) 927-7745. Tickets will be available on Tour Day at Lighthouse Park and at the St. George Plantation Clubhouse.

**Panhandle Players** presents Kitchen Witches. Don't miss this hilarious show about cooking show hostesses who have hated each other for 30 years. The show becomes a smash and tops both Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer! February 7-9, at the Port St Joe First United Methodist Church and again February 14-16th at the St George Island Firehouse For more info email [info@panhandleplayers.com](mailto:info@panhandleplayers.com)

**Bridges from the Ivory Tower:  
Merging Science and  
Management In Tropical Forests,  
Oyster Reefs, and the Gulf of  
Mexico** February 13, 2014 7:00  
pm FSU Marine Lab Auditorium

**11th Annual African-American  
History Festival**  
The 11th Annual African-American History Festival will take place February 14th - 16th. Come experience live entertainment, vendor exhibits, food booths, inspirational speakers, arts, crafts, music, and dance. The festival opens Friday at 4:00 pm and kicks off with The 70's Throwback Costume Party and continues with Saturday's main day activities beginning with the festival parade at 10:00 am, live entertainment all day and concludes Sunday with outdoor worship at noon. For more information, visit our website <http://www.hcola.org>

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 visitor's guide? Ideas are always welcome. Feel free to call or email us with your ideas at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

### **Volunteers Always Welcome**

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)

### **Souper Book & Bread Sale**

Friends of the Franklin County Public Library will hold their annual Souper Book and Bread sale on Sunday, February 16th, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm, at the Sea Oats Gallery, 128 E. Pine Ave on St. George Island. Delicious homemade soups and breads plus great used books of all kinds! Enjoy a bowl while you browse, or buy a quart for lunch or dinner. All proceeds benefit the county libraries in Eastpoint and Carrabelle. Want to donate books, soups or breads? Questions? Call Anna Carmichael at 850.273.1174

### **Isle Newell Concert Series**

Pianist Ivan Moshchuk on February 9th, 4:00 pm at Trinity Church and on February 23, at 4:00 pm Trio Solis, Piano, Cello and Violin.

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