

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast BUSINESS REPORT

May 2014 Vol 23, No 5

## Monthly Meetings

### Monthly Business Luncheon

May 7, 2014 noon  
[Blue Parrot](#)  
68 West Gorrie Drive  
St George Island

### \*\*\*Special Joint\*\*\*

#### Franklin & Gulf Chambers

### Business After Hours

Monday, May 19  
5:30-7:00 pm at the  
Indian Pass Raw Bar

### Monthly Business Luncheon

June 4, 2014 noon  
First United Methodist  
Church  
US 98 & 5th Street  
Apalachicola

## Visitor Statistics

March 2001	1,474
March 2002	1,223
March 2008	820
March 2004	1,540
March 2005	1,607
March 2006	1,687
March 2007	2,857
March 2008	3,189
March 2009	2,082
March 2010	3,406
March 2011	3,389
March 2012	2,907
March 2013	2,645
March 2013	2,135

## Director's Column

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce's new year begins at the end of June, and it is time to elect board members and officers for the 2014-2015 year. As per our bylaws, President Donna Duncan has named Brenda Ash, Ouida Tarrt, Mike Koun, Bud Hayes and Kristin Anderson to the nominating committee and tasked them with developing a slate of candidates for our election on June 4th. If you would be interested in serving on the board or have questions about serving, please email us by May 14th at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org) or call (850) 653-9419. Our board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 5:00 pm.

## Special Joint Business After Hours with Gulf County

Join us May 19th at 5:30 pm for a joint Business After Hours at the Indian Pass Raw Bar with the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce. Come network with fellow business owners in Gulf and Franklin Counties while enjoy food, beverages and live music by the Curry Brothers.

## New Members

### Indian Pas Raw Bar

The Indian Pass Raw Bar has rejoined the chamber and is under the management of Ralph Roberson and Ralph Rish. The Raw Bar has been in business since 1929, first serving as a trading post then later Gypsy McNeill served up seafood and other food. It became a raw bar in 1986. Jimmie McNeill, Gator and the regulars are still working their serving up fresh local seafood, baked and steamed, craft and draft beer, wine and other delights. The Indian Pass Raw Bar is open Tuesday-Saturday 12:00 noon-9:00pm, Sunday 1:00-9:00pm (through the summer).

## SBDC Business Counselor

Keith Bowers from the Small Business Development Center at FAMU will be coming to the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce on May 13th. He is available by appointment for one business counseling from 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 schedule an appointment.

## Our Sponsors



## Website Statistics

### March 2014

Sessions 18,636  
Users 14,780  
Pageviews 64,969  
Pages /Session 3.49  
Time 3:20  
Bounce Rate 44.52%  
% New Sessions 72.30%

## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Donna Duncan 653-8976

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Bud Hayes 927-3305

### TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

### SECRETARY

Kristin Anderson 653-2249

### BOARD MEMBERS

Brenda Ash 653-8805

Ginny Griner 653-8853

Beverly Hewitt 653-9510

Mike Koun 653-2191

Lynn Martina 670-8796

Michael Shuler 653-1757

John Solomon 323-1330

Ouida Tartt 653-4687

Jean Ulrich 653-2900

They have entertainment almost nightly and on Sunday afternoon. To reach them, call (850) 227-1670 or visit their website (soon to be revamped) at <http://www.indianpassrawbar.com>.

## Johnson Bail Bonds

Welcome John Johnson, Jr and John Johnson Sr. to the chamber with their business, Johnson Bail Bonds, LLC. Locate in Eastpoint Johnson Bail Bonds is a licensed bail bonds company that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A father and son team, John Johnson Sr. worked in law enforcement in both Leon and Wakulla Counties before retiring. John Johnson, Jr. started the business last year. Johnson Bail Bonds is located at 374 US Highway 98 in the old Napa location. They can be reached by calling (850) 670-6767 or (850) 210-8049.

## Apalachicola Riverwood Suites

Welcome Monica and William Poloronis with their new business, Apalachicola Riverwood Suites at the Baltimore House. The Apalachicola Riverwood Suites is located in the newly restored Baltimore House built in 1908. While leaving the original rustic look on the outside, the inside is a mixture of rustic and romantic chic. Each room has a unique headboards made from reclaimed wood, old metal ceiling tiles, corrugated metal and old reclaimed barn door. All rooms have California King Beds and sleeper sofa, separate kitchenette area with Keurig coffee pot. The Baltimore House provided lodging for husband and wife teams with sixteen small rooms upstairs and more downstairs. Tiny rooms, no insulation, community bathrooms. Very little improvements were made to the structure for the next 100 years. Now, after two years of extensive restoration, the Baltimore House has come back to life with four large suites. William and Monica carefully maintained the flavor of the building and change just enough to make it a pleasurable place to stay in downtown Apalachicola, but retained the original metal, restored windows to their original size and locations and added a surrounding porch so guest can enjoy the unique downtown view. The Apalachicola Riverwood Suites at the Baltimore House is located at 29 Avenue F, just north of the chamber office. Check out their rooms at <http://www.apalachicolariverwoodsuites.com> or contact Monica for details at (850) 653-3848.



## Events

### Historic Home & Garden Tour

The 22nd Annual Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour will take place on May 3rd. Many of Apalachicola's homes and buildings can only be seen from the exterior except for this day. Take a guided tour through Apalachicola's most architecturally significant homes, gardens and commercial buildings. Featured house for the 2014 tour is the home of Briana Wheatley. It was owned by George H. Whiteside in the Gothic Revival Style, circa 1872. The Whitesides owned and operated the Apalachicola Canning Company in Apalachicola. Their affluence was reflected in the home's distinctive features: built-in closets per bedroom, heart pine floors, beautiful crown molding, push-button summoning servants, a built-in room sideboard, and fireplace built into two parlors.

There are twelve homes and gardens on the tour this year. Friday, there will be an Evensong service at Trinity Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m. This service will be the traditional opening for the tour. It will be followed by a reception where all are invited. Homes will be open on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets will be available until the day of the event. On Monday, ticket sales will begin at 9:30 a.m. for \$10 per ticket. In addition, a sealed-bid auction, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. will follow Saturday's festivities. Tickets are available at Trinity Church at (850) 9550, or visit the [website](#)

## **Member News**

Jack and Ann Rudloe

The Environmental Law Institute recognized Jack and the late, Anne Rudloe, Ph.D. of Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories, Inc., as recipients of the prestigious National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach. They will be honored at a ceremony on May 8th at U.S. Botanic Gardens in Washington, D.C. for their 50 years of service preserving north Florida wetlands and promoting the importance of estuarine ecosystems. From Panacea, Florida, the activist couple led the push for legislative protections throughout Florida when none existed and contributed to the preservation of more than 35,000 acres of marine habitat. Through their nationally-recognized education center and aquarium, the Rudloes have engaged more than a quarter of a million people including thousands of school-age children on the importance of wetlands. The program is co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## **Thank you!**

The 16th annual Apalachicola Antique and Classic Boat Show was our best show yet! There were 50+ boats and antique cars on display. We had four magnificent in water sailboats- the 1877 Governor Stone, Apalachicola Maritime Museum's 58 foot Heritage and a 1924 42 foot Carib II designed by noted Florida pioneer Ralph Monroe. Entries ranged from some beautifully restored Chris Crafts, two fully varnished two steam powered launches, a 19' 1959 Italian Sebino, skillfully crafted dories, sailboats and skiffs, to the 12' foot mini tug boat. Steve Maloney and his father Ray brought their massive collection of outboard engines that span the twentieth century. Boat collectors, owners and builders came from as far away as Louisiana, Colorado, Fairhope, Alabama, Jacksonville, Mount Dora, Pensacola, and Tallahassee, Florida.

Bill Hancock of Jacksonville, FL, brought his 1959 19 foot Sebino. A fine craft from Italy, and it is the only one of its kind in the US. Bill is the current president of the Sunnyland Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, a national organization of

## **Florida's Forgotten Coast Plein Invitational**

More than 20 nationally acclaimed will gather on Florida's Forgotten Coast May 1st -11th to participate in the annual Florida's Forgotten Coast Plein Invitational, America's Great Plein Air Painters will set up their easels and paint out their brushes to document the landscape and culture of "Plein Air Florida" - the coastal stretch of North Florida between Mexico and Alligator Point. "Plein Air", a French simply translated means "open roots of plein air painting are from 19th-century Europe. An English John Constable, believed that one should forget "formulas" and trust their own vision in finding truth in nature. The event includes five exhibits across the coast, daily artist demonstration workshops, art sales and a series of receptions. Art enthusiasts visit the exhibits and attend the many free events that occur throughout the event. The Grand Patrons Party held in May 10th, 6:30-10:00pm at the Apalachicola Center for History and Art. The event will feature the debut of Artists' Choice painting tickets \$40.00.

For the latest details go to <http://www.pleinairfl.com>.

## **Butts & Clucks Cook-Off**

Saturday, May 11th, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm the Weems Memorial Foundation hosts their annual fundraiser, Butts & Clucks Cook-Off By the Bay in Battery Park Apalachicola. Participants welcome to enter the cook-off or just come and purchase the results. Pulled pork and sandwiches will be available plus there will be a live auction and judging for the cook-off at 2:00 pm. Awards will be given out at 3:00 pm. For details on how to enter contact at (850) 670-8261.

## **Gulf Specimen Sharks and Chablis**

Sharks and Chablis wine-tasting fundraiser will take place on Sunday, May 18th, from 2:00-7:00 pm at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. There will be new exhibits for the event and guides to the aquarium, live music from Seamus Tedder, Irish folk dancing and a

antique and classic boat owners.

Girl Scouts provided treats and manned the kid's activity booth where kids could build their own model boats. At 5:00pm the Back Porch String Band from Sebring played to a devoted audience. One of the best string bands on Florida, the Back Porch String band gave an awesome performance.

Thanks to ANERR's Lisa Bailey, Harry Denard, Bill Hamilton and Carol with the Governor Stone, Jeff and Norma Hewell, Donnie Gay, Donna Duncan, Joe Gander, Diane Duncan, Chyler Duncan, Kendall WhiteEagle, Heather Friedman and Girl Scout Troop 200, Mark Wool with the National Weather Service, George Floyd, Ron, Chris, Gary and staff and with Apalachicola Maritime Museum, Jeanne with the DEP's Clean Marina program, Roger Pinholster and the Big Bend Maritime Boat building crew for the many hours they contributed to the show. Thanks to our volunteer judges, Ron Deirolf and Randy Mimms, to Helen Escobar and Donna Strickland use of the Grady Market for the use of their parking lot and the Florida Seafood Festival for they tents and stage. Thanks also to Oyster City Brewing Company and the Tap Room and 13 Miles Seafood.

### **Microsoft Workshop**

Interested in Microsoft 365 or Windows 8.1? The chamber is hosting a workshop on the latest Microsoft products on May 15, from 4:00-5:00pm at the chamber conference room. Email us or call (850) 653-9419 to reserve your seat.

### **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 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

dancing, plus a seafood dinner at the Seine Yard restaurant. GulfSpecimen.com is also looking for donations for silent auction- jewelry, artwork, certificates, or any other items. All donations are tax-deductible and help to continue our mission of maritime environmental education. For details call (850) 984-5297 or visit <http://www.gulfspecimen.com>

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)

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