Director's Column

The 18th Annual Forgotten Coast Chef Sampler was a fabulous success. We'd like their staff, who participated. They really out did themselves this year:

Apalachicola Seafood Grill, Blue Parrot Oceanfront Café, The Bridge at Bay St Joe, the River, Crooked River Grill, Eddy Teach's Raw Bar, Ira's at the Gibson Inn, ' Company, Tamara's Café, Sunset Coastal Grill, and Tamara's Tapas Bar, Up T Republic National Distributing Company, and the Lewis Bear Company.

We would also like to thank Andrea Duval for her help in coordinating the event décor who designed and set up 19 stunning guest tables: Apalachicola Municipal Library- Huff, Mandy Andrews, Bayside Gallery & Florist-Amy Price, Bonnie Fulmer, Cent Partington, Butch Rowell, Butler Insurance-Denise Butler, Franklin County Schools-Shelly James, Panache Tent & Event-Elizabeth & Rich Wynn, Back Street Tra Stokowski, Florida Seafood Festival- FSF Board, Sacred Heart Hospital- Paulina Pei Hauser & Dot Wilcox

Thanks also to our dedicated, hardworking volunteers who helped us stage the event: Donnie Gay, Debbie Flowers, Carolyn White, Bud Hayes, Roxanne, Marc Grove, K Richardson, Denise Callahan, James Marsh Forgotten Coast Cleaners, Susan Richa and David Butler. A very special thanks to Debbie Fletcher her students Sierra Sha least, we'd like to thank James Marsh with Forgotten Coast Cleaners who pressed all

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Tom Morgan 653-3474
Michael Shuler 653-1757
Ouida Tartt 653-4687
Jean Ulrich 653-2900
Kevin Ward 899-0669

Florida Green Guide Association
The Florida Green Guide Association (FGGA) is a statewide non-profit trade association created Environmental Institute. Certified Green Guides are eligible to join after graduation in order to a their businesses. Members must adhere to a code of ethics and the "Leave No Trace" principle professional integrity standards in activities related to ecotourism. The Green Guide Associates standards as set forth by members. FGGA also provides continuing education opportunities as and information among the membership. Lesley Cox is the current president, Serge Latour is the Secretary, and Robin Rickel Vroegop is their treasurer. For more details see their website at www.floridagreenguide.org

Gordon Adkins
Welcome Gordon Adkins a real estate agent with Suncoast Realty. Gordon retired from Cargill, He is married to Sandra Adkins and they jointly have 5 children. Gordon began buying property great love for the area. He started selling real estate in 2004, and has been with Suncoast since gordonadkins.com. Gordon can be reached by calling (850) 899-1456.

Rep Halsey Beshears
Florida Representative Halsey Beshears joined the chamber last month. Rep Beshears is from Florida State University with a BS and has an MS in Entrepreneurship from the University of Florida. He Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and part of Lee House of Representatives in 2012, and serves on the Agriculture & Natural Resources Approp Natural Resources Subcommittee, the Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, the Finance & Tax Sub Committee. Rep Beshears also runs Simpson Nurseries and Total Landscape Supply, a contain servicing the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions. To reach Rep Beshears call (850) 251-1929, website. Rep Beshears also has an office in Apalachicola, 78 11th Street, (850) 653-1213

Kim Davis, CPA
Welcome Kim Davis to the chamber. She is a Certified Public Accountant and over has twenty years ago. Kim has broad experience in many areas of tax preparation, accounting and bookkeeping, and by appointment. Her office is on 11th Street and U S Highway 98, in the Realtors Association Building and she also travels to client's offices. Kim can be reached by calling (850) 653-6875 or by email at kim32328@gmail.com

Melissa Bloodworth Chandler
Welcome Melissa Bloodworth Chandler to the chamber. Melissa is a real estate agent with Suncoast Realty in Franklin County. She is actually one of the few children who grew up on the Island! She living there. Melissa has many fond members. She also remembers there was not even telephones. She lived for a while in northeast Georgia and work in insurance. She has a daughter and a son County again. She can be reached by calling (850) 653-7893 or by email melissachandler68@gmail.com

Bowery Station
Matt & Lisa Gardi opened the Bowery Station recently in Apalachicola. It is an eclectic beer and wine bar in the Bowery district of Apalachicola. They are located in a section of the old Wefing's Marine store on Avenue F. The Bowery Station is open Monday- Saturday from noon until 8:00 pm, and closed on Sundays. Matt is an excellent guitar player an Matt's music. Lisa and Matt can be reached at (850) 653-2211 or bs@bowerystation.us or visit Matt's music.

New Members

Hauser & Dot Wilcox
Thanks also to our dedicated, hardworking volunteers who helped us stage the event: Donnie Gay, Debbie Flowers, Carolyn White, Bud Hayes, Roxanne, Marc Grove, K Richardson, Denise Callahan, James Marsh Forgotten Coast Cleaners, Susan Rich and David Butler. A very special thanks to Debbie Fletcher her students Sierra Sha least, we'd like to thank James Marsh with Forgotten Coast Cleaners who pressed all
Gulf Coast Extreme Adventures
Doug Scarabin with Gulf Coast Extreme Adventures joined the chamber. Gulf Coast Extreme Adventures offers unique, family-friendly adventures that include bay fishing, offshore fishing, sightseeing, floundering, Scuba diving, and frog gigging from Apalachicola to Panama City. Doug and his brother Richard have fished all over the bays, rivers and the Gulf and PADI certified Dive master and a CPR/First Aid emergency responder and has 18 years of experience. Their dad is Richard Scarabin from Apalachicola, who is our local barber. They can be reached by calling (850) 227-6551, email doug.scarabin@gmail.com, or visit www.gulfcoastextremeadventures.com.

Member News
Mark Freidman is pleased to announce that Maegen Jones Conners has joined Friedman Financial Advisors as a Financial Advisor. After working at Cadence Bank in Port St. Joe for six years and completing her Bachelor's degree in Finance, Maegen decided that helping people achieve a secure financial future is what she wanted as her career. To achieve this goal, she left banking and worked hard over the past several months to pass her Series 7 and 66 securities exams, as well as the life, health, and variable annuity licensing. Maegen is a lifelong resident of Franklin and Gulf counties and looks forward to working with citizens of her community to achieve their financial goals. She will be working out of our office in Eastpoint in the areas of investments, retirement planning and wealth management. I am very excited about the opportunity to assist her with her new career. If you would like to contact Maegen, she can be reached at (850) 670-1253, (850) 653-5989 or Maegen@Friedman-Financial.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.
- Mrs. Mannerly Feb 12- March 8
- Almost, Maine February 14, to March 3
- Elvis & Friends Do The Dixie
March 8, 2014 8:00 - 10:00 pm

32nd Annual Chili Cook off March 1st
The St George Island Regional Chili Cook off will take place Saturday, March 1st. Friday, Feb 28th, the Auction Art Preview is in the evening from 5pm - 7pm at the island's firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue. Pepper Run at 8:00 am, Crock Pot Judging 10:00-11:00 am, the auction begins at 11:00-11:30am - 12:15pm Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce judging at 12:15pm, taste a special raffle item @ $100 per ticket (with only 250 tickets to be sold) 1995 Glacier Bay boat with twin 2005 90hp Johnson Motors and trailer. There is a $5 entry fee. Proceeds benefit the St. George Island Fire and First Responders (850) 927-2753.

18th Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Days March 7-9th
The Camp Gordon Johnston Association and the CGJ WWII Museum invites everyone for the 18th annual CGJ Days reunion. Attendees will have the opportunity to get up close with Army vehicles that have seen combat. Audiences will also get the privilege of touring LCU 2034) and the United States Coast Guard Cutter, "Seahawk" if these vessels are conducted by vessel crew members. The Camp Gordon Johnston Association, The CGJ days, and the citizens of Franklin County, Florida are proud to show our gratitude and support of our veterans. For a full schedule go to www.campgordonjohnston.com or call 850-697-8575.

ANERR Exhibit
Photographs by preeminent Florida photographer Clyde Butcher, will be on exhibit from February through July at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve's nature center, 108 Island Drive. March 7th, from 5:00-8:00 pm, will showcase the exhibit, an accompanying documentary classroom and boardwalk at the Reserve headquarters. Call (850) 670-7700 for information.
13th Annual Eastpoint Fire Dept Charity Rib Cookoff
Come on out and support your local fire department on Saturday March 15th, at the fire house in Eastpoint, Florida in Vroom Park... This years’ event promises to be the biggest ever with our competitors cooking more ribs than ever. There will be a carnival for kids and adults. The carnival will start Friday and go through Saturday. There will be lots of great ribs and pulled pork with all the trimmings, and Oma's Apple Dumplings will be served from 11:00 am till it's all gone. The event is located at the corner of 6th St and north of US Hwy 98.

Authors In Apalach
March 15, 2014 10:00 am - 6:30 pm
Authors in Apalach, in its third year, will gather authors, photographers, historians and represent this wonderful "Forgotten Coast" area. As a uniquely historical "Old Florida" surrounding natural environs, inspires many creative people, and those attending will be inspired too. The event will honor the works of two retired professors whose writings about Apalachicola's history are the basis of much that we know about our history. Numerous other authors will represent fictional and non-fictional works. Fort Coombs Armory will be open with authors and booksellers from 10:00 am-5:00pm on history, writing and publishing, children's books and environment writing will occur. The event is free to the public. For more information call Catherine Greene at (850) 653-8436.

Southeast Regional Pigfest
The Southeast Regional Pigfest will be held on March 15th, at the North Florida Fair for the Capital Area Community Action Agency. They are actively seeking cook teams for the $6,000 in cash prizes and qualifying to cook in the and the Kansas City American Royal. There are opportunities for marketplace vendors to sell their wares all day long, midway rides and games for the kids, shopping at the Marketplace, and a car and bike show. For more information contact Diane Haggerty at (850) 222-2043 x101.

Apalachicola ArtWalk
Fine art in all forms will be woven in and around picturesque downtown Apalachicola and demonstrating their talents from 11:00-6:00 pm. Festivities continue into the afternoon with a progressive wine tasting and hors d'oeuvre from 3:00-5:00 pm. Later in the evening local chefs will prepare special dishes at their restaurants highlighting our fresh local ingredients. At 8:00 pm head on over to the Dixie for Saltwater music of Del Suggs and Friends. For more information call (850) 653-9419 www.apalachicolabay.org.

St Vincent Island Open House
Saturday, March 22, the Supporters of St Vincent Island will once again host the Open House for people to enjoy a full day of nature-related activities. Free transport to/from the Island will be provided depot ramp. Guided tours and exhibits will allow people to learn about the Island's protected history as well as enjoy the unspoiled beauty of this unique, pristine, uninhabited refuge. Educational talks/discussions, will be provided by numerous volunteers from the Supporter organizations. The guided tours will be both walking and vehicular. Go to for full details.
http://www.stvincentfriends.com/index.cfm/pageid/5/fuseaction/calendar.includedListEventDetail/dsn/ssicmt178/eventId/76

Apalachicola Bay Chamber | | anita@apal
122 Commerce Street
Apalachicola,