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 Tartt, 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@apalachiocolabay.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 Pass 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). They have entertainment almost nightly and on

Visitor Statistics
March 2001 1,474
March 2002 1,223
March 2003 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 2014 2,135

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 will be available by appointment for one on 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 653-9419 if you would like to set up 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

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 a California King Beds and a 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.

Member News
Sunday afternoon. To reach them, call (850) 227-1670 or visit their website (soon to be revamped) at http://www.indianpassrawbar.com.

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

There are twelve homes and gardens on the tour this year. Friday, there is an Evensong service at Trinity Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m. This service provides the traditional opening for the tour. It will be followed by a reception all are invited. Homes will be open on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets will be available until the day of the event. On May 3, ticket sales will begin at 9:30 a.m. per ticket. In addition, a sealed-bid auction, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday's festivities. Tickets available at Trinity Church at 850-670-1253.
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 Rudloe’s 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 antique and classic boat owners.

Florida's Forgotten Coast Plein Invitational
More than 20 nationally acclaimed artists will gather on Florida's Forgotten Coast May 1st -11th to participate in the annual Florida's Forgotten Coast Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out. Painters will set up their easels and brush to document the landscape and culture of author Florida" - the coastal stretch of North Florida between Mexico City and Alligator Point. "Plein Air", a French word, simply translated means "open air". The roots of plein air painting are found in 19th-century Europe. An Englishman, John Constable, believed that artists should forget "formulas" and trust their own vision in finding truth in nature. The event includes five exhibits along 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 will be held in May 10th, 6:30-10:00pm at the Apalachicola Center for History and Art. The event will feature art sales and debut of Artists' Choice paintings, tickets $40.00. For the latest details go to http://www pleinairfl.com.

Butts & Clucks Cook-Off
Saturday, May 11th, from 12:00 -4:00pm the Weems Memorial Foundation will host their annual fundraiser, Butts & Clucks By the Bay in Battery Park in Apalachicola. Participants welcome to enter the cook-off or just come down and purchase the results. Pulled pork dinner and sandwiches will be available at noon, plus there will be a live auction at 1:00 pm, judging for the cook-off at 2:00pm and awards will be given out at 3:00 pm. For details on how to enter contact Liz Sising 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 Lab. There will new exhibits for the event and guide visitors...
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 White Eagle, 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

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 the aquarium, live music from St. Tedder, Irish folk dancing and Flamenco dancing, plus a seafood dinner served by the Seine Yard restaurant. Gulf Specimen is also looking for donations for the silent auction—jewelry, artwork, gift certificates, or any other items. Donations are tax-deductible and help us continue our mission of marine environmental education. For details call (850) 984-5297 or visit http://www.gulfspecimen.org. 
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

Apalachicola Bay Chamber | anita@apalachicolabay.org | http://www.apalachicolabay.org
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Apalachicola, FL 32320

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