



September 2016

Vol 25, No 9

Florida's Oldest Chamber of Commerce (circa 1836)

Meetings

Monthly Business Luncheon

Wednesday, September 7th
The Owl Café
15 Ave D
Apalachicola
Noon

Business After Hours

Thursday, September 29th
Paddy's Raw Bar
240 East 3rd St.
St. George Island
5:30-7:00

October Monthly Business Luncheon

Wednesday, October 5th
Family Coastal Restaurant
500 US Hwy 98
Eastpoint
Noon

Visitor Statistics

July 2002 1,185
July 2003 1,196

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Downtown Oyster Roast



Tickets are on sale now at the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce for the Apalachicola Downtown Oyster Roast on November 4th 2016. Limited number of tickets are available so get yours now. Call us at 850-653-9419 to purchase your tickets today. \$60.00 per person

Chamber News

New Website Launched

Sponsors



Events

Franklin Needs Inc. , 2017 Forgotten Coast Classics Calendar Release

July 2004 1,245
 July 2005 1,198
 July 2006 1,913
 July 2007 2,814
 July 2008 2,690
 July 2009 2,923
 July 2010 1,292
 July 2011 3,055
 July 2012 2,709
 July 2013 2,712
 July 2014 2,196
 July 2015 1,368
 July 2016 1,444

Website Stats July 2016

Sessions
 20,250

Users
 16,380

Pageviews
 55,636

Pages / Session
 2.75

Avg. Session Duration
 00:02:29

Bounce Rate
 55.36%

% New Sessions
 75.67%



On Thursday morning, Aug. 18 the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce launched its completely upgraded new website. The site is now mobile friendly with a bold new look and some new additions as well as some upgraded ones. Among the new features are the ability to view the online schedule of events in a map or list view, and to download can now download the monthly calendar into your Google calendar. One other feature of the new Events page is that event organizers can now use the new "submit your event" link on that page. Also new to the site is the "Online Interactive Walking Tour" (Designed by Chris and Cindy Clark of Bay Media) which now features 56 different locations. The home page has all the brochures and guides that the Chamber produces, listed for ease of access as well as buttons that make it easier for visitors to the site to search for members, request visitor information, or become a member of the Chamber. Among other upgrades are that all category and business listings now have a map on the pages, and listings to help patrons locate Chamber members much easier. The map can be viewed in regular map view or Google Earth view.

Any social media site that an individual or business member uses can now be added a listing on the website. Some of the many examples are Twitter, Trip Advisor, Urban Spoon, YouTube and many others. The staff at the Chamber has already added all the members' Facebook pages into each listing. The site was also designed to allow Chamber staff to have a quicker response time in completing changes to members' business listings and event listings.

All of the additions and upgrades were based on ways to better serve our members and the visitors to the Chamber website. We think we have accomplished that task with the great effort that was put into making the new site a reality from Sterling and Tana Kendrick of 2K Webgroup. "So please

Party



The Girls Have Arrived! Pick Up Your 2017 Forgotten Coast Classics

September 1 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00pm

Oyster City Brewing Company, Apalachicola, Florida 32320
 Franklin Needs Inc. , 2017 Forgotten Coast Classics Calendar Release Party Thursday, September 1st 5:00pm - 8:00pm at Oyster City Brewing Company Be the first to get your Calendar!

3rd annual Franklin County Locals Rib Cook-Off



September 5 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Regatta Park, St. George Island

A food and fun fundraiser to benefit Franklin Needs and raise money for their 2016 PINK OUT event. Enjoy free kayak and paddleboard demos by Journey's of SGI. \$10 BBQ plates on sale at 11 am. Event will be held on St. George Island at Regatta Park (9th Street and West Bay Shore Drive).

Chamber Business Luncheon

September 7 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
 The Owl Cafe, 15 Ave D
 Apalachicola, Florida 32320

Seagrass Exploration Class

Friday, September 9, 2016
 3915 State Road 30-A, Port St Joe, FL 32456
 The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer a Seagrass Ecology Class on Friday, September 9th, from 12:00-4:00 pm. The class will feature an overview of the delicate seagrass ecosystem, basics of life in a seagrass bed, as well as the intricate ties between

Board of Directors

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Sara Ward 653-1399
Debbie Flowers 670-4000
Andrea Duval 653-2512

Executive Director

John C. Solomon
execdirector@apalachicolabay.org
850-370-6602

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?
Would like to be a volunteer with the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce.
Ideas and volunteers are always welcome. Feel free to call or email us with your ideas at execdirector@apalachicolabay.org.

Business Luncheons and Business After Hours

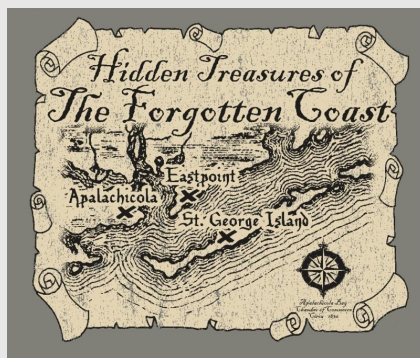
If you or your business is interested in hosting a Business Luncheon or a Business After Hours in 2015, please feel free to call the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce at 850-653-9419 or email John C. Solomon at execdirector@apalachicolabay.org

go to www.ApalachicolaBay.org and take it out for a test drive.

New Chamber Shirt Design

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce has added a new shirt to it's inventory and it is now available at the Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center in Apalachicola.

Hidden Treasures of the Forgotten Coast



New Members

Tide Life Charters

Captain LD Hatfield will get you on the best fishing hot spots in the Apalachicola Bay and Gulf of Mexico, providing you with the greatest opportunity to catch dinner or land the fish of a lifetime. Captain LD is a Franklin County native, raised on the Apalachicola Bay with over 25 years of experience as a tournament angler, winning two Florida federation titles. Growing up he accompanied his father on commercial fishing trips, learning the best fishing spots, oyster bars and reefs the Apalachicola Bay has to offer. He is a proud veteran, serving his country in the U.S. Army. Captain LD is dedicated to showing you the best time. His outgoing personality will be sure to entertain. Tide Life Charters is dedicated to providing you with vacation memories to last a lifetime!

The Seahorse Too

organisms, and the importance of conservation and protection efforts in our area. Be prepared to get wet! Participants will put their knowledge to the test in a guided snorkeling tour of the crystal clear seagrass beds in St Joseph Bay. Class fee is \$25 per person, registration is required, please visit gulfalliancetraining.com to register or call (850) 670-7743. Attendees must know how to swim and bring their own snorkeling gear.

Apalachicola Farmers Market



Saturday, September 10th 9am-1pm
Saturday, September 24th 9am-1pm
Located at the Mill Pond Pavilion at 479 Market St. in Apalachicola come out to get Local seafood, produce, honey, homemade breads, pies, jewelry, art and other regional specialties offered every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9 AM until 1 PM. If you or someone you know offers home grown or hand made products, and is interested in becoming a vendor, please email apalachicolafarmersmarket@gmail.com

Invasive Exotic Species ID and Control Workshop

Thursday, September 15, 2016
108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Florida 32328
Many exotic plants are invasive weeds that spread quickly. The rapid and effective dispersal characteristics of these invaders make them extremely difficult to eliminate or manage. This workshop will focus on some of the more common and troublesome invasive exotic plants and animals in this region and current strategies to control them. A \$10 fee covers lunch and materials. Please register online at <http://www.gulfalliancetraining.org/detail.aspx?Id=118>. You can also reserve a space by contacting Anita Grove at the Reserve at (850) 670-7708, Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us. Pesticide Applicator and Forestry Continuing Education Credits are approved. The workshop will be held at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Florida 32328.

Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse

The Seahorse Too owned and operated by Quida Sacks. It is a unique shop with a little bit of everything: Bridal and Baby Gifts, Jewelry, Home Décor, Silk Arrangements, Antiques Egyptian Crystal, Christmas Ornaments and Live Plants.

Hannon Insurance Agency

Hannon Insurance Agency was established in 1942 to service the needs of the residents of Port St. Joe and surrounding areas including Cape San Blas, Apalachicola, Mexico Beach and St. George Island. Although the Insurance industry has changed since 1942, the goals of our agency remained unchanged - To provide quality insurance products at an affordable price while offering service that is second to none. We pride ourselves on the character and quality of our team with experienced insurance professionals ready to serve your homeowner, auto, flood, boat renters and life insurance needs. Our team has also been voted the best of the Forgotten Coast (Insurance Agency) for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee

The goal of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee is to support the election of Democratic Candidates in Franklin County.

Seahawk Boosters

The Seahawk Boosters are a non-profit organization made up of parents and community volunteers. They support athletic programs at Franklin County School including Football, soccer, weightlifting and track and field.

Two Bit Stable Horseback Riding on the Beach

Cape San Blas is one of the only remaining beaches in the Country where visitors can



Friday September 16th, 2016
2 East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328
www.stgeorgelight.org/
Climb to the top of the lighthouse to see spectacular views of the sunset and full moon. Light refreshments are served. Admission charge. Contact Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 for reservations.

Franklin County Coastal Cleanup



Saturday, September 17, 2016

adalong@uab.edu

Franklin County Coastal Clean-up. Volunteers meet at locations throughout the county. 8:30 - 11:30 am.

Art Workshop: Michael Harrell

September 19, 2016 to September 21, 2016 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET) Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art, 86 Water Street ? Bringing Michael Harrell back to the School of Art by popular demand. This watercolor workshop is informal and motivational and the class is structured for all levels.

Michael will begin the class with a meet and greet the artist. A demonstration of his unique techniques and style of painting will follow. There will be informal lectures and discussions with questions and answers on the different aspects of watercolor painting; from design and composition to technique. The students will do step by step painting with one on one instruction and critiques.

Cost, \$350 per student, \$175 deposit due with registration. Paypal or check payable to Apalachicola School of Art. Please mail your check to: Apalachicola School of Art, PO Box 86, Apalachicola, Florida 32329

Rock By The Sea LITE

rides horses ON THE BEACH! Experience the area atop one of our beginner friendly horses. We offer happy horses who love their job, love people, and really love showing off for the camera! Guaranteed to have the kids smiling and everyone walking away with a lifetime memory! "Creating wonderful memories has been our specialty since the summer of 2000"

Associate Members

Ricky Jones

Ricky is a lifetime Franklin County resident and also is a current Candidate for County Commissioner for District 1.

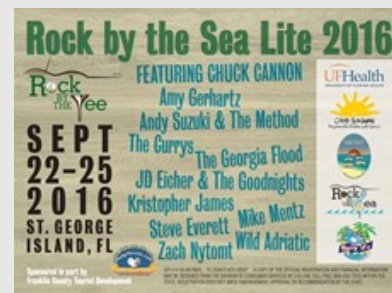
Member News

St. George Island Art & Wine Splash

The St. George Island Art & Wine Splash organizers are looking for interested artist who would like to display/sell their art during this event. If you are interested please send an email to: Sadiesseahorse@gmail.com



Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings



Thursday, September 22, 2016 through Sunday, September 25, 2016

28 W. Bayshore Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328

ROCK BY THE SEA Lite is 3-night charity music event. It is an intimate showcase of music held at Harry A's Restaurant and Bar on St. George Island, Florida, that includes a Golf Tournament at St. James Bay Golf Resort. Rock by the Sea, Inc is dedicated to organizing music festivals and events where we raise money to assist deserving charities who provide direct services to those in need. Every Rock by the Sea event is an intimate showcase of music designed to bring people together for the love of music and the common goal of helping these charities

Estuaries Day 2016

Friday, September 23, 2016

108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Florida 32328, 850-670-7700

apalachicolareserve.com,

Kennedy.Hanson@dep.state.fl.us

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) will celebrate National Estuaries Day on Friday, September 23, from 1:30-6:00 p.m., in Eastpoint, Florida. Activities will include dozens of free, fun and educational activities for kids and adults including marine animal touch tanks, lessons on casting a fishing rod, and estuary-themed games.

During Estuaries Day, visitors will be able to interact with researchers and volunteers from the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, the Environmental Cooperative Science Center (FAMU), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, and Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab. Attendees can also tour the ANERR's impressive 5,400 square foot Nature Center with its three large, clear sided aquariums filled with local sea life, an 80-foot long mural depicting the area ecosystems, and a hands on Bay Discovery Room.

A temporary interactive exhibit entitled Seagrass is My Home invites participants to assume the role of a young estuarine animal and step through life in an estuary, learning about the benefits that seagrass provides and the dangers that threaten seagrass habitat.

The first 600 people to arrive will get a free National Estuaries Day T-shirt, and there will be door prizes for adults to win at the end of the day. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact the Apalachicola National Research Reserve at 850-670-7700.

Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta

The Seahorse Too



Smithsonian National Museum Day Saturday, September 24th

This marks the tenth consecutive year that the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum has been asked to participate in the Smithsonian Magazine's Annual National Museum Day.

The museum is located in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex, at 1001 Gray Ave., Carrabelle, Florida. We will be welcoming visitors from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Come view our ever-growing exhibits. Our gift shop will be open all day. Hear live music and enjoy free refreshments! As always, admission is by donation. For further information on National Museum Day, please visit

Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday
Comment

The Butler Agency

Do you know what to do when a storm causes damage to your home or property? Here's a link from Denise Butler at The Butler Agency that has some useful tips!

<http://www.thebutleragency.com/storm-claims.php>



Saturday, September 24, 2016
3618 Coastal Highway 98, St. Teresa, FL 32358
850-697-4120
www.marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach/regatta/
fsucml@fsu.edu

It's time once again for you to challenge your friends, your family, and your colleagues to build boats out of stuff that any normal person would take to the dump and enter them in the Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory. Boats can be as artistic or as whacky as you want to make them. Just build 'em and they will float . . . more or less.

You landlubbers will be busy ashore cheering on the captains and crews of these outrageously constructed vessels as they sail, row, or scull around the course, topple over, or slowly sink into Apalachee Bay. Watch the Regatta from various shoreline vantage points around the lab on either side of the boat basin. Enjoy good food, have loads of fun, all while learning about recycling and how to reduce the impact of plastics in our marine environments.

Visit the website to see more details and register.

Paddling Trip

Join the Apalachicola Riverkeepers on their monthly paddling trip on Saturday, September 24 in and around the Apalachicola River and Bay. The trips are free to members and \$30 for non-members. In addition to their monthly paddling trips, the Apalachicola Riverkeepers are also hosting longer paddling excursions (10+) miles which are best suited for paddlers with experience.

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- CDC

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770.880.5937

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is a Certified Travel Information Center



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Apalachicola, FL 32320

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