

The Soundings

November/December 2023

SGPOA President's Message, Jeff Flowers



Dear Residents of The Plantation,

As we approach the end of this year, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege to serve as the President of the SGPOA and to be a part of this incredible community. Each of us has chosen to invest in this haven, seeking not just a place to live but a sanctuary where relationships flourish, where tranquility thrives, and where dreams of lasting legacies and financial security take root in varying degrees.

Undoubtedly, we confront formidable environmental challenges and pressures that test our collective vision. However, my fervent hope and vision for this year revolve around our unity in tackling these issues head-on, steering clear of merely postponing solutions. Let us bind ourselves together as a Community and bring forth our diverse talents, creativity, and a legacy of triumphs to overcome these hurdles.

We possess not only a wealth of skills but also a reservoir of profound passions and life experiences that enable us to solve problems through empathy, attentive listening, and the capacity to find middle ground. By harnessing these strengths, we can deepen existing bonds, forge new connections, confront challenges, cater to pertinent needs, and, by the end of the coming year, rekindle our enthusiasm and confidence for the future of the Plantation.

May this year be a time where each of us basks in the warmth of divine love, experiences robust health, and achieves personal as well as financial prosperity. I extend my warmest wishes to every one of you for a safe and joyous holiday season. Let us raise our glasses in a New Year's toast, celebrating our collective efforts to lay the groundwork for a more successful future in the Plantation.

With warm regards as we welcome 2024.



*~ We wish you and yours a joyous holiday season
and a safe and healthy New Year ~*

The Admin, Security, and Maintenance Staff @ St. George Plantation



Board of Directors Meetings

BOD Will Not Meet in DEC

2024

January 18
February 15
March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15

***September 19 Owners Budget Workshop**

***October 11 FRI @ 1 PM Owners' Annual Meeting**

November 21
December 19

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM unless otherwise stated



BOARD BRIEFS

The Board Briefs are a brief overview of the BOD meeting. Click here to refer to the board packet and committee reports for more complete information. Board meeting recording is now available click here .

FINCON - 2024 Assessments Approved

At the November meeting, the Board of Directors approved a 2024 budget comprising \$2,189,195 in operating expenses (a 5% increase over the 2023 budget) and \$1,222,269 in reserve fund expenses (a 260% increase from that approved for 2023). The reserve expense increase is driven by a 45% increase in the fully funded reserve balance calculation provided by the independent reserve report and unexpected reserve replacement items in 2023, while intended roadworks were deferred to 2024. Regular owner assessments would otherwise, as a result, be \$3,870 per developed lot. However, the BOD elected

to move \$575,000 of surplus unallocated operating cash and \$250,000 capital improvement funds into the reserve account to mitigate the assessment increase for at least 2024. These surplus funds moved into reserves come from past years' over-assessments.

As a result, the net 2024 regular owner assessments due Jan 31-2024 will be \$2,676 per developed lot and \$1,216 per undeveloped lot, similar to 2023. The special assessment of \$350 per lot to pay the RV loan also continues and applies equally to all lots.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE-

There are a limited number of sand fence rolls available for free to beach front owners, 2 rolls per household. Call the office to reserve and they will be tagged and set aside for pickup at the over flow parking area at the airport. The association is awaiting word from the DEP regarding a blanket permit for sand fence installation.

INFRASTRUCTURE - The BOD approved the recommendation from INFRA to proceed with resurfacing the tennis and pickle ball courts. The contract has been submitted and is being finalized. Watch the eNews for an estimated start date. Weather permitting , the work could be completed in approximately two weeks.

An RFP to explore options for utilizing the RV clubhouse as a fitness center was approved .



OPEN FIRES PROHIBITED

With cooler temperatures during the winter season it is tempting to want an outdoor fire however, per the Covenants, open fires and fireworks are prohibited in the Plantation, including the beach.

Wood burning fire pits or cauldrons are not allowed, only gas or propane (Design Guide pg 27).



WEATHER UPDATES

Did you know you can access a weather station at the Plantation airport? The first link will connect you there, the second link shows other stations on the island that you can click on.

<https://tempestwx.com/station/64753/>

<https://tempestwx.com/map/64753/29.6443/-84.9154/15>



SHORT TERM BEACH CHANGES TO THE COASTAL LANDSCAPE

Beachgoers visit the beach mainly in the summer when the conditions are excellent—mild breezes, warm water, high temperatures! However, residents and people who visit year-round notice that the beach often looks very different between winter and summer, particularly following strong east-northeast winds after a weather front goes through.

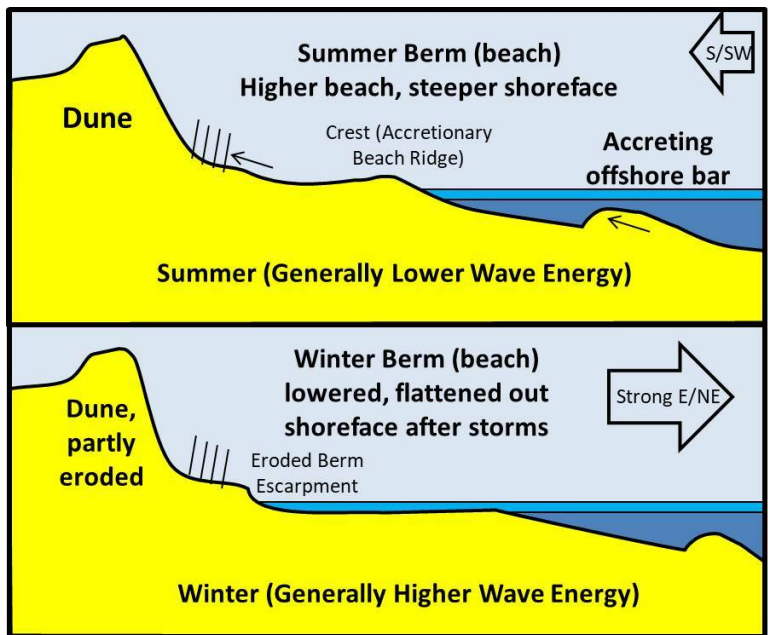
Scientists refer to beach profiles (a cross-shore measure of elevation from the dune to the water across the beach), and there are both joint summer and winter profiles for each beach due to variations in wind and wave energy between seasons. The equilibrium beach profile changes quickly with wave energy and direction changes.

In general, seasonal variation in the prevailing wind direction and wind speeds results in larger waves in the winter months (here, where stronger E/NE winter winds blow). Prevailing winds are primarily from the south/southwest in summer versus the east/northeast in winter. Gentler summer waves deposit sand from offshore bars onto the beach, ultimately widening it and increasing its elevation. Conversely, stronger winter waves with more energy pick up the sand otherwise deposited in the summer and carry it back offshore, thus lowering the beach. The more expansive beach and its offshore bars help buffer

the beach from further erosion as they cause waves to break farther offshore—thus, a new equilibrium profile is formed.

Beaches thus can change drastically in winter, sometimes in merely a few days. Still, all or most of the sand is usually returned to the beach as calmer conditions prevail throughout spring and summer, barring some significant damaging hurricane events.

Partly abbreviated /modified from an online article by Bianca Charbonneau



WORTH NOTING



Office Administrator, Jaylynn Boone, resigned recently after nearly three years with the SGPOA. She was a vital team member; reliable, dependable, and efficient. We will miss her and wish her much success in her future endeavors.

eNews

If you would like something posted in the weekly Enews, please submit to office@sgpoa.com by noon on Wednesday in order to be included in the Friday post.

WE NEED YOU!

Please consider volunteering on an association committee. It is a wonderful way to get involved and meet other homeowners. The Communications Committee is currently seeking members and welcomes those with experience in newsletters, editing, creative ideas, and an interest in community outreach.

Contact office@sgpoa.com and staff will connect you with a BOD contact.

AUDUBON EAGLEWATCH PROGRAM



Did you know Florida has the largest breeding eagle population outside of Alaska? Did you know that the Audubon EagleWatch program is a growing community science program started in Central

Florida with just 22 volunteers and is now statewide with volunteers collecting and documenting Bald Eagle nesting information, which in turn is used to help in the conservation of the species? Volunteers must complete online training, offered in September, before starting with EagleWatch. It is an October through possibly May commitment, dependent on when eagles fledge (take free flight).

Trained EagleWatch volunteer Patti McMullen monitors six nests (two in the Plantation) this season. About every two weeks, you may notice volunteers



monitoring nests and recording notes for perhaps 1/2 hour at each nest and more frequently when the juveniles are almost ready to fledge. The eagles will initially

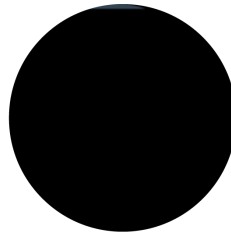
branch or flap over to nearby branches. The goal is to record the successful fledge numbers. Details about the nest locations are kept quiet so no tourists or visitors harass the eagles, trespass on private property, or disturb the peaceful surroundings.

Patti may be reached at pattim00@comcast.net if you have questions or would like to accompany her to understand better the responsibilities of volunteering with this program. Those owners aware of an eagle nest on or visible from their property and willing to allow Audubon EagleWatch volunteers to monitor the nest can contact Patti to arrange a visit.

Additional information may be found here:

<https://cbop.audubon.org/conservation/about-eaglewatch-program>

<https://eaglewatch-audubon.hub.arcgis.com/>



The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve is planning a **prescribed fire** at the Nick's Hole state property area this winter. The target window for the burn is between December 2023 – February 2024. Prescribed

fire is the controlled application of fire by a team of fire experts under specific weather conditions. It is used to promote the health of natural, fire-adapted ecosystems as well as reduce fuel load and wildfire risk. This area was previously burned in February 2021. Any questions can be directed to Megan Lamb at Megan.Lamb@FloridaDEP.gov

Duck Hunting Season Underway

After a brief Thanksgiving open week, duck shooting season commences DEC 9 through JAN 28. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Hunters may shoot from any state land or waters but may not shoot on or across any private property unless the owner grants permission. The Plantation prohibits the discharge of firearms.

Most often, the hunters will float into a shoreline by boat very early, set up and hide in a palmetto blind located on the end of a bay side peninsula or canal, place decoys, and wait for the ducks to land. Kayakers should be wary when paddling out from canals or along the bay shore.

Ideally, wearing bright red or orange or even perhaps mounting a flag on their kayaks will let the hunters know where they are.



WILDLIFE RESCUE INFORMATION



If you see wildlife in distress please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at the **Wildlife Alert Hotline 1-888-404-3922 anytime 24/7.**
Direct SGI Contact Volunteer - Jon Johnson - (850) 510-4568
Please don't attempt to intervene yourself...avoid possible injury to yourself or further injury to already distressed wildlife.

WEDNESDAY WONDERS RETURNS IN 2024

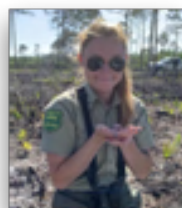
The Recreation Committee is pleased to announce the 2024 schedule for **Wednesday Wonders in the Plantation**. The committee will be sponsoring monthly activities about the beautiful, natural world inside the association. These events are designed to share information with Plantation residents about the unique area we live in, whether it be the amazing flora and fauna or the abundance of wildlife that surrounds us. Please mark your calendars and join us for these unique events. Preregistration is appreciated, see below.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH - FLORIDA'S PRESCRIBED BURNS - BENEFITS TO THE PLANTATION AND BEYOND



Join Meg Lamb (l), Stewardship Coordinator at Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) and

Emily Martin (r), Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service.



Their presentation will dive into the history of fire in Florida, the adaptation of pines with frequent fire, why prescribed fire takes place, the benefits from prescribed fire, public access, habitats and inhabitants, mangroves, and more! We are hopeful that this presentation will be close to the scheduled prescribed burn at Nicks Hole in the Plantation.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST - WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHAB IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

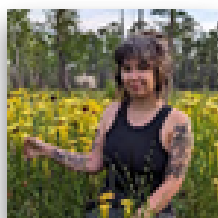
Local wildlife rehabilitation specialist, Jon Johnson, will be sharing his experiences with rescues in the area and may bring a special amphibian! Some of you may remember the eagle at Nicks Hole Jon was instrumental in rescuing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 - AUDUBON - SHOREBIRD LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

It's that time of year when love is in the air! Nesting season is right around the corner and birds are getting ready to put on a show! From courtship displays to territorial standoffs, please join us for an Audubon presentation by Brian Cammarano, Florida Audubon's Shorebird Stewardship Coordinator for the panhandle. Brian works with volunteers to help protect imperiled shorebirds and seabirds through stewardship, education, and on-the-ground wildlife and habitat management.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH - APALACHICOLA RIVER KEEPERS - THE BEAUTY OF THE RIVER



For 25 years the River Keepers have been standing up for Florida's Apalachicola River, its vast floodplain and Bay. Dani Davis, Director of Outreach, and her team will be sharing the wonders of the river, and the efforts to keep it clean and safe for all.

Future events will include an evening of "Gazing at the Stars" and identifying the galaxies with the Escambia Amateur Astronomy Association, a trip to Little St George with ANERR (weather dependent), and an updated CPR class.



Register Now

To sign up for these events, please email Kathleen Delohery at KMDelohery@aol.com

Subject Line - Wednesday Wonders

You're Invited

2024

New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance

Dec 31, 2023

Social Hour: 6-7pm

Dinner: 7pm

Music and Dancing til 10pm

Catered by The Beach Pit

SGPOA Owners — Complimentary

Owner's Guests (limit 2) — \$60 per person

Seating limited to 100

Dressy Attire

The Evening Details

New Year's Eve Dinner
Magnolia Clubhouse

Social Hour

Wine, Prosecco, beer,
soft drinks, and coffee

Dinner

Blackened Grouper
Chef Carved Pork Tenderloin

Mixed green salad
Rosemary and
garlic-roasted potatoes
Asparagus

Dinner rolls and honey butter

Dessert

Bananas Foster

Reservations Required

RSVP to: office@sgpoa.com
850-927-2312

Cancellations by 12/19,
so others on waiting list
may attend.

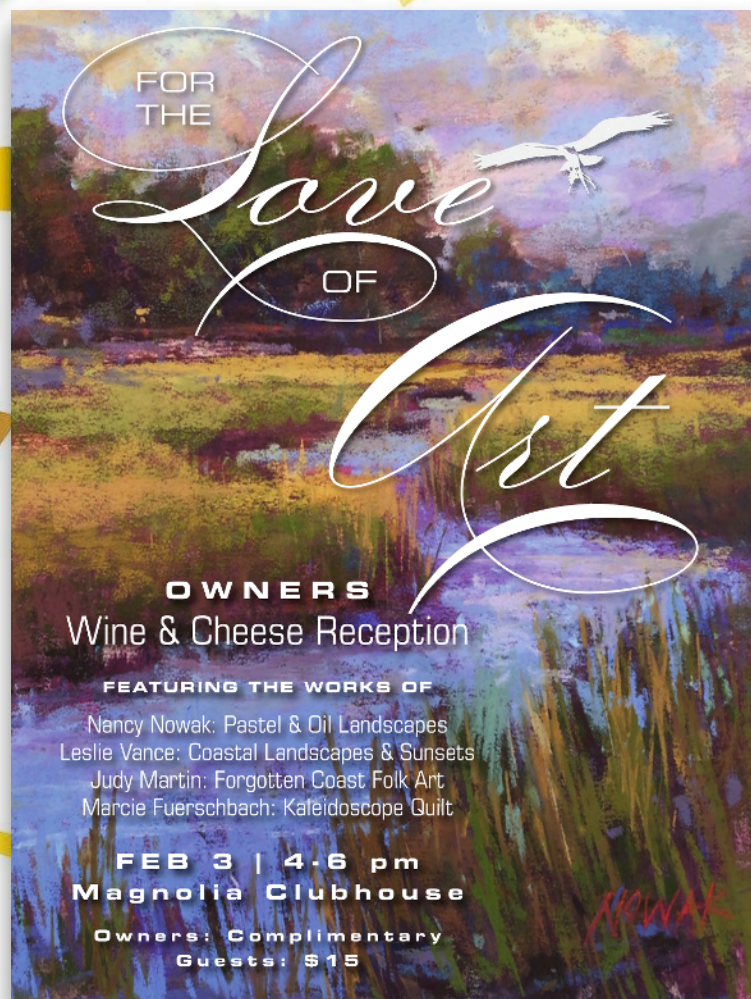
Admin Office Holiday Hours

*The Admin office will be closed
Dec. 25 and Dec. 26*

*The office will also be closed on
Jan. 1 for the
New Year's Holiday*

*Regular Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm*

Save the Dates
for these
special
events ~



FOR THE
Love
OF
Coast

OWNERS
Wine & Cheese Reception

FEATURING THE WORKS OF

Nancy Nowak: Pastel & Oil Landscapes
Leslie Vance: Coastal Landscapes & Sunsets
Judy Martin: Forgotten Coast Folk Art
Marcie Fuerschbach: Kaleidoscope Quilt

FEB 3 | 4-6 pm
Magnolia Clubhouse

Owners: Complimentary
Guests: \$15

NOWAK



Peace on Earth

Toys for Tots Project

The ArtSocial Committee invites you to join them in donating a new unwrapped toy for the Franklin County Toys for Tots Project. New unwrapped toys will be accepted at the Administration office MON - FRI 8 am - 4 pm. The deadline for drop-off is Wednesday, December 13th. Thank you for contributing to this worthy cause.

Online donations accepted [HERE](#).



MARINE CORPS RESERVE



SPECIAL NOTES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit ideas, articles, photos, etc. for consideration to *The Soundings* or Plantation website, contact:

newsandevents@sgpoa.com

Deadline for submission to *The Soundings* newsletter is the 1st day of the publication month.

When searching for vendors and service people, refer to the **Registered Vendor List** on the website. After sign-in, click OWNER on top menu bar, then click REGISTERED VENDOR

[Click here to view list.](#)

MULTIPLE WAYS TO ACCESS SGPOA MEETINGS AND STAY INFORMED

All SGPOA owners are welcome to attend Board meetings, ARC meetings, or committee meetings in person, via a "listen only" phone, or streaming live on your Smart phone or computer.

AUDIO ONLY: The "listen only" phone number and pass code ID (which changes with every meeting) is available prior to the meeting on the committee agenda; this agenda can be found on the weekly email blast and website. You may call in up to 5 minutes prior to the meeting start time or anytime during the meeting. All meetings are EASTERN TIME.

VIDEO & AUDIO: To watch the meeting live, you may also download the Zoom app to your computer, Smart phone, or I-pad and enter the pass code ID provided on the agenda.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android - <https://zoom.us/>

On menu bar, click JOIN A MEETING, then enter pass code ID located on the agenda.

Minutes of committee meetings available at www.stgeorgeplantation.com. Click on Owners >Resource Center >Advisory Committees and choose the specific committee.



1712 Magnolia Rd.
St. George Island, FL 32328

OFFICE: 850 927 2312
OFFICE FAX : 850 927 3039
SECURITY: 850 927 2362

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

General Manager

gmanager@sgpoa.com

Director of Security

security@sgpoa.com

Operations & ARC

Administrator

arc@sgpoa.com

Administrative Assistant

admin@sgpoa.com

Office Assistant

office@sgpoa.com

Direct correspondence to: board@sgpoa.com

The Board of Directors meetings begin at 1:00 pm in the Plantation Room located on the second floor of the Clubhouse on Magnolia Rd. Budget, Assessments, and Citations may be on the agenda of each meeting. Agendas are posted on the website and bulletin boards located at the Clubhouse and in the mail room (west side of the pool house). Meeting dates are posted on the front page of *The Soundings*.

SGPOA COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Airport - airport@sgpoa.com

ARC - arc@sgpoa.com

ArtSocial - ArtSocial@sgpoa.com

Audit - audit@sgpoa.com

Landscape - landscape@sgpoa.com

Communications - communications@sgpoa.com

Compliance - compliance@sgpoa.com

Finance - finance@sgpoa.com

Infrastructure - infrastructure@sgpoa.com

Long Range Planning - longrangeplanning@sgpoa.com

Personnel - personnel@sgpoa.com

Recreation - recreation@sgpoa.com



Board of Directors

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Meets the 2nd Thursday
of each month
at 1:00 pm
Magnolia Clubhouse

2024

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 17

November 14

December 12

**All submittals must
be made at least 10
business days prior
to the next
scheduled monthly
meeting**