



SOUNDINGS



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Buck Bolden

Friends, neighbors, and visitors,

Memorial Day is almost here, and that means the start of our summer season on St. George Island! Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning for your annual getaway, welcome—we're glad you are here!

Sea turtle nesting season is also here, and these wonderful creatures need our help. Be sure to read this month's article by Steve Reidich. It has some interesting statistics and reminders on how we can better accommodate these amazing animals with which we share the island.

Have a safe, enjoyable spring and summer in our slice of paradise and safe travels to everyone making a journey, whether near or far.



Buck Bolden, SGPOA President

WEDNESDAY WONDERS 2025

The St. George Plantation has come alive with curiosity and community during a special series known as Wednesday Wonders. Drawing around 40 guests each week, these engaging events have offered a unique blend of social connection and environmental education. Guests have gathered to enjoy appetizers and an inviting atmosphere, all while learning from a lineup of expert speakers passionate about the natural world that surrounds Franklin County.

The series has featured presentations from respected organizations such as the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, Audubon, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, each shedding light on the region's unique ecosystems and wildlife.



Wednesday Wonders Kick-Off Event on January 31

St. George PLANTATION Presented by the St. George Plantation Recreation Committee

WEDNESDAY WONDERS 2025

For more info or to RSVP: WWW.STGEORGEPLANTATION.COM/WW

LAST event of the season!

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve presents

MAY 7 3:00 PM

Bear Beauty in Franklin County
The ANERR Team, led by Anita Grove, will share information about the successful 2024 nesting season and share volunteer involvement.

The final installment of Wednesday Wonders will take place on May 7th, and it promises to be especially captivating.

Cheryl Spencer, North Regional Bear Coordinator with the Florida Wildlife Commission's Bear Management Program, will present "Bear Beauty in Franklin County," a talk focused on the lives and conservation of Florida's black bears.

It's sure to be a memorable conclusion to a season of discovery and shared appreciation for the wonders of nature.

The Wednesday Wonders program is currently looking for additional volunteers. If you are interested, please email WWonders@sgpoa.com

To learn more about this program or to register for the May 7 event, please go to www.stgeorgeplantation.com/ww

Special thanks to the SGPOA Recreation Committee for coordinating these events. And of course, thank you to our amazing community partners:



Photos and article provided by Janie Henderson

THE SEA TURTLES ARE COMING!

By: Steven Reidich,
SGPOA Board of Directors



TURTLE SEASON

May 1 - October 31

LIGHTS OUT:

Turn off all outdoor lights
Use turtle-friendly flashlights
Turn off indoor lights or close curtains

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Fill in holes
Remove all belongings
Pick up trash

DON'T MESS WITH NESTS:

Never touch a nest
Dogs must be leashed

LEARN MORE

www.apalachicolareserve.com

We will soon, once again, be privileged to observe one of nature's truly remarkable events – turtles who hatched on our beaches decades ago, returning to leave eggs that will produce hatchlings, some of which will return here to do the same years later. For thousands of years, turtles have been visiting our shores to leave amongst us their next generations. If you walk along the shore from May to November, you may see the tracks they leave behind on their journey to lay a clutch of about 100 eggs. But please don't disturb the tracks. Our turtle patrols use them to identify the turtle species and location of the nests.

Last year our island (excluding the park) had 316 nests, which had over 25,000 eggs, of which about 18,500 hatched. But from all these hatchlings, only about 10 will survive to maturity and themselves return to produce eggs. Every one of them is important, and you can help make sure they survive by following (and advising any renters to follow) these few important rules:

From May to November, NO light visible from the beach from sunset to sunrise. This includes flashlights on the beach. Both adult female turtles and hatchlings follow the light reflected from the sea to find their way to the water. If there is any light from land visible from the beach, that's where the turtles will go. Turtle-safe lights and flashlights are permitted, but zero light is best. Every year we find dead baby turtles who went towards lights from our homes.

Remove all items from the beach every evening. Turtles can't back up. If they encounter any beach furniture, they can become trapped. Debris from old dune fencing and low hanging rope can also trap turtles. Please remove them.

Fill in all holes and flatten sand castles. Hatchlings race to the water in their attempt to avoid predators. Here, those include both crabs and birds. Falling into holes or encountering sand castles slows down their race to survive and gives the crabs and birds an advantage.

By following these few important rules, you can help ensure the survival of our turtles. If you want to help even more, you can adopt a nest at <https://www.apalachicolareserve.com/adopt-a-nest/>

Magnolia Poolside Party

March 29, 2025



On March 29th, 90 SGPOA Owners and their guests gathered poolside at Magnolia Clubhouse for another wonderful time under palms and clear blue skies.

Tables were decorated with a beach theme, including shells, starfish and twinkle lights. There was plenty of seating on the porches and around the pool. Party goers were greeted by the ArtSocial's very own Mary Grey James and Betsy Prince, plus our excellent bartenders who were ready to serve.

Those in attendance were rewarded with perfect weather conditions, plus delicious food and libations. Tamara's food truck (a local favorite) provided yummy food choices including Fish Tacos, Jalapeño Smash Burgers, Mediterranean salad topped with salmon, and a Fried Chicken Sandwich. Chocolate chip cookies and brownies were on the menu for dessert.

Music was provided by a newly formed local band, the Waterbirds. They were a perfect accompaniment to the gathering and lots of us had great fun dancing to tunes we have come to love. The Waterbirds were such a success, they have been invited back for our next event.

Corn Hole was available this time and was a hit with the younger and older folks alike. This may be a regular addition to our events for those with the more competitive spirit. After the rainy weather we have experienced, folks seem really happy to "come out and play!" So many comments such as "It has been so long since I have seen you," and "This is such a wonderful event," as well as "Love having the food truck - we should do this more often", were expressed.



ArtSocial is listening, and we are working to provide more options for this type of event. Unfortunately, there were 24 no-shows. ArtSocial plans seating, libations and food based on RSVPs. We know plans change and things come up, but please help us by calling to cancel your reservations when you are unable to attend.

All said, if you missed this event, don't miss the next. It was that perfect. We ended the evening with dancing and laughing and waving to Tamara's Food Truck on their way out, happy we did not have to worry about food clean up.

Thank you to all who joined us, and we look forward to seeing you at the next ArtSocial event!

Photos and article provided by Karen Curry and Claire Rice

MAKEOVER AT MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia Tennis Court is resurfaced and ready for action!
Don't forget: Pelican Court resurfacing starts on May 5th.



FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Our team has been hard at work completing important maintenance projects to ensure our community amenities remain safe, functional, and enjoyable for all residents.

Recently Completed Projects:

- Magnolia Tennis Court has been resurfaced, offering a smooth and improved playing experience.
- Magnolia Clubhouse Pool was replastered as part of warranty work, enhancing both appearance and comfort just in time for the warmer months.
- The Resort Village Clubhouse Roof was replaced to ensure long-term durability and protection from the elements.
- The Resort Village Clubhouse Septic Drain Field was repaired, improving system performance.
- Guava Court was re-graveled to improve road conditions and maintain safe, accessible travel for residents.



RV Clubhouse: New Roof!

Upcoming Projects:

- Pelican Point Tennis Court will be resurfaced. This project will begin on May 5
- Magnolia Clubhouse Driveway repairs are scheduled to begin later in May.

We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to maintain and enhance our shared community spaces! All relevant updates will be shared in our weekly e-newsletters.

ACTIVITIES

MON

MAH JONG: Every Monday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Magnolia Clubhouse

VIDEO FITNESS: Every Monday, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Plantation Room

WATER AEROBICS: Every Monday, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Magnolia Pool

TUE

PICKLEBALL: Advanced Open Play, 9am - 12pm, Sea Pines Court, Courts 3 & 4

TENNIS: Scheduled Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Magnolia Tennis Court

YOGA: Every Tuesday, 10:00 am, Plantation Room at Magnolia Clubhouse

BRIDGE: 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Magnolia Clubhouse

WED

PICKLEBALL: Open Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sea Pines Courts, All 4 Courts

VIDEO FITNESS: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Plantation Room

WATER AEROBICS: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Magnolia Pool

BUNCO: First Wednesday of the Month, 6:00 pm at Magnolia Clubhouse

THUR

PICKLEBALL: Advanced Open Play, 9am - 12:pm, Sea Pines Courts, Courts 3 & 4

TENNIS: Scheduled Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Magnolia Tennis Court

FRI

PICKLEBALL: Open Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sea Pines Courts, All 4 Courts

VIDEO FITNESS: Every Friday, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Plantation Room

WATER AEROBICS: Every Friday, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Magnolia Pool

SAT

TENNIS: Open Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Magnolia Court

SUN

PICKLEBALL: Open Play, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, at all 4 Courts

CONTACTS:

PICKLEBALL: Pickleball@sgpoa.com

TENNIS: Tennis@sgpoa.com

AEROBICS: Exercise@sgpoa.com

BRIDGE: Bridge@sgpoa.com

BUNCO: Bunco@sgpoa.com

MAHJONG: Mahjong@sgpoa.com

RECIPES

It's warming up out there! Cool off with one of these delicious recipes.

Recipes provided by: Amanda James at the Admin Office



Dirty Coconut Coke

Ingredients

8 oz. Coca-Cola
1/2 oz. cream of coconut
(such as Coco Real)
1/4 oz. fresh lime juice
Medium ice cubes
2 oz. unsweetened coconut milk
1 lime wedge

Step 1:

In a highball glass, combine Coca-Cola, cream of coconut, and lime juice. Top off with ice, then gently stir until combined, about 5 seconds.

Step 2:

Slowly add coconut milk to achieve the gradient color. Garnish with lime wedge.



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Ingredients:

6 mint sprigs, divided
Ice
6 oz. Ginger Ale
1 oz. fresh lime juice
1/2 oz. pure maple syrup
Lime wedges, for garnish

Step 1:

Gently brush 1 mint sprig against top of a tall glass to release aromatics.

Step 2:

Place remaining 5 mint sprigs in bottom of prepared glass. Fill glass with ice. Add ginger ale, lime juice, and syrup. Gently stir until combined.

Step 3:

Top off with ice, mint sprigs and lime wedges.

Remaining 2025 BOD Meetings

Board meetings are held every
3rd Thursday at 1:00 PM EST
unless otherwise stated:

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

*September 11

(Thursday, Budget Workshop)

*October 18

(Saturday, Owners' Meeting)

November 20

December 17

All owners are encouraged to
attend in-person or via Zoom.

OWNER COMMENTS

Submit your Owner
Comments by emailing
Office@sgpoa.com.

Please specify that your
email message is intended
to be submitted as an
Owner Comment at the
next BOD Meeting.

Coming Soon: SGPOA Beach Etiquette Brochure

We are excited to announce the upcoming release of a new Beach Etiquette Brochure, designed to help protect and preserve our beautiful shoreline for all to enjoy.

This brochure offers important guidelines for beachgoers, including reminders to fill in any holes in the sand, remove all personal belongings, stay off the dunes, and more.

The brochure is currently in the final stages of editing and will be available for pick-up at the Admin office in the coming weeks.

Thank you for helping us preserve one of our community's most treasured natural assets!





TURTLE SEASON

- beach
- eggs
- hatchlings
- survival
- sand
- crawl
- predators
- environment
- ocean
- panhandle
- florida
- water
- dig
- turtles
- patrol
- habitat
- protect
- loggerhead
- nesting
- season
- volunteers
- lights
- clean
- dark
- flat

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WORD SEARCH



Franklin County: Local Interest

The Franklin Education Foundation (FEF) supports our local school district by providing financial and volunteer support. In addition to raising hundreds of thousands of dollars, this organization has secured competitive grants, and funded dozens of critical programs for Franklin County schools.

In 2025-26, FEF will help launch a new Career & Technical Education Aviation Program, where students will build an airplane in partnership with Tango Flight. The startup costs of this 2-year, hands-on program total \$125,000. With district funding covering instruction, the Foundation is leading the fundraising effort for tools, materials and expert supervision.

If you would like to contribute to this program, please visit their website!
Together, we can build a brighter future - one student at a time.

<https://franklineducationfoundationfl.org/>



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Thank you for reading!

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