

THE SOUNDINGS

Owners' Weekend

Perfect fall weather set the stage for a successful Annual Owners' Meeting weekend, with owners turning out in great numbers to participate. Friday evening's Cocktail Reception at the Plantation Clubhouse Pool drew an impressive crowd of 160 attendees, while another 140 owners and staff took part in Saturday's business meeting.

Board members Buck Bolden, Ed Gassman, and Robin Cooper were re-elected to the Board of Directors. At the organizational meeting that followed, Bolden, Danielle Dzurik, and Cooper were elected to continue serving as President, Vice President and Treasurer, respectively, and Sue Foster was elected Secretary. BOD meetings will move to 5 p.m. in 2026.



Dear Valued Owners,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying our seasonal weather change as we get closer to the holidays with thanks for our health, happiness, and the joy of living in this amazing community.

I would like to share that my leadership journey here at St. George Plantation continues to grow with my passion, positivity, and persistence - with an unwavering commitment to support and elevate this beautiful living destination.

I am grateful with everyone's warm support and confidence as we continue to focus on "HOW TO" instead of "WHY WE CAN'T" with vision and commitment on increasing the quality and integrity of this world class community. Thank you again for your continued Trust and Support.

A great leader once said - "The transition from an ordinary life to an extraordinary success is often described as a journey built on continuous effort, a shift in mindset, and the courage to keep moving forward."

Kind Regards,
Michael

GM's Corner

Michael
Allen



Photo Contest Winners Named

More than a dozen individuals submitted 34 photos for this year's ArtSocial Photo Contest.

Congratulations to the three winners, whose photos are displayed here. Judges selected 15 photos as finalists; all 15 are on display in the main lobby of the Magnolia Clubhouse.

See page 9 for the People's Choice Winner.



1st
PLACE

JENNIFER HERRON
"Coastal Fury"

St. George
PLANTATION



2nd
PLACE

CHARLIE BALFOUR
"Don't Feed the Birds"

St. George
PLANTATION



3rd
PLACE

JENNIFER RHODES
"Where the Land Whispers
to the Sea"

St. George
PLANTATION

BINGO

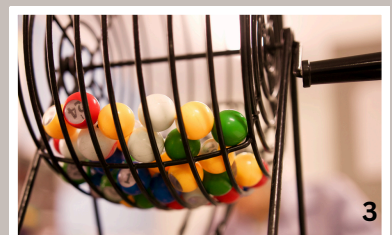
ArtSocial has hosted two **Bingo Night Out** events this Fall, one in September and one held as part of the recent Owners' Weekend event. Both games were well attended by renters and owners.

Bingo Night Out is a BYOB and food event. The ArtSocial Committee does serve popcorn from our Old Time Popcorn Popper (when they can locate their popcorn stash).

Committee Co-Chairs Karen Curry and Claire Rice said they continue to explore ways to better communicate events happening in the Plantation. "Please continue to read your *Soundings* and the communication bulletins from FRONTSTEPS and follow the St. George Plantation Facebook and Instagram pages to learn what events are being offered in the Plantation," Karen said.

Look for **Bingo Night Out** the second Thursday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Magnolia Clubhouse Plantation Room. The doors open at 6 p.m. Please keep in mind, players must be 18 years old or older to play. Bingo cards are \$1 each.

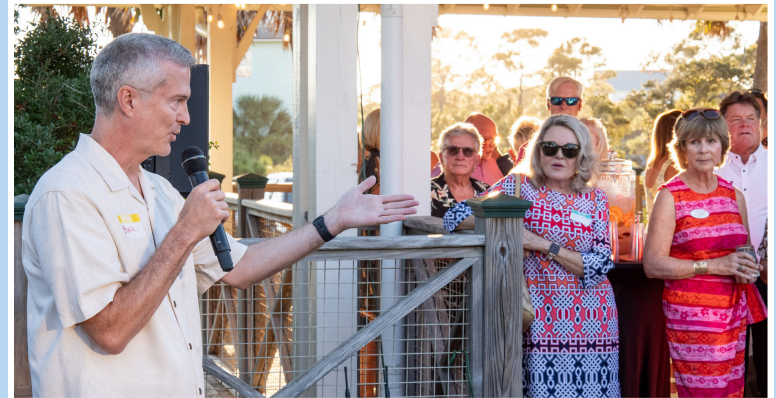
Bingo is a fun way to visit with friends and make new ones. If lady luck smiles on you, you may win or share a pot of money. The next bingo event is **Thursday, November 13**. We hope to see you there!



Owners' Weekend Cocktail Reception

ArtSocial was pleased with the great turnout for the annual Owners' Weekend get together. This year's event was a Friday evening cocktail reception with 160 owners in attendance.

The event was held poolside at the Magnolia Clubhouse. The setting and weather could not have been better. Tables were set with festive fall centerpieces, and fairy lights. The food, catered by the Beach Pit on SGI, included shrimp & bacon skewers, caprese skewers, cheese and alligator balls and baklava for dessert. Wine, beer, soft drinks and water were served. ArtSocial honored owners' past requests and provided non-alcoholic beer and wine choices.



ArtSocial members took this opportunity to try out the Plantation's Bluetooth speakers and owners seem to enjoy the play list of music from the '70s and '80s.

General Manager Michael Allen was in attendance and introduced all staff, including new Communications Director Debbie Ingram. SGPOA Board of Directors President Buck Bolden also addressed the crowd.



On this evening, there was a sense of camaraderie and spirit of friendship all around. Many owners had not seen each other for months, and it was a pleasure for many to meet new owners and neighbors. ArtSocial received many compliments and requests to host more of this type of event.



"We are so happy everyone enjoyed this evening with other owners, celebrating fall and cooler weather," said ArtSocial Cochair Karen Curry. "We look forward to sharing more good times ahead."





We are beyond grateful for the incredible dedication and tireless efforts of the members of the ArtSocial and Recreation Committees, whose passion and hard work brought the Annual Owners' Weekend to life with a dazzling array of unforgettable activities! From planning to execution, your commitment made every moment sparkle with joy, connection, and community spirit.

Thank you

You can relive the fun as dozens of photos capturing the events are included in this edition of *The Soundings*. More than 50 photos from the Cocktail Reception are showcased on the [St. George Plantation Facebook](#) page. We encourage you to download your favorites and print them as keepsakes from this special event. And don't forget, follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

THE SOUNDINGS

The Soundings has kept our SGPOA owners in the loop for years — recapping events, welcoming new team members, sharing board updates, and spotlighting ways to get involved. It's time for a fresh start.

Effective immediately, we are now a monthly newsletter, publishing the first Friday of the month. And to kick off this relaunch, we need your help naming it — something that truly captures life in The Plantation. Submit your ideas to [Communications Director Debbie Ingram](#) by Nov. 10. We'll poll owners via FrontSteps and unveil the winning name in the December edition.

The winner gets a St. George Plantation retail item of their choice. Let those creative juices flow—can't wait to see what you come up with!

SGI Cat Allies offers feral cat services to Plantation owners

Attention St. George Island, including the Plantation! If you are feeding or if you observe community cats on the island we can help! SGI Cat Allies, Inc. is a fully qualified Florida 501(c)(3) nonprofit, that has trapped/neutered/vaccinated/returned 2,524 Franklin County felines in the last 11 years, at no cost to the caregivers. We operate on donations alone, and appreciate your support.

We will be trapping on St. George Island and surrounding areas November 15 and 16. If you need help with cats in your area, please TEXT the information to our scheduling number ASAP! (850) 888-0499. Include your name, approximate number of cats needing help, and location of cat or colony.



After trapping the cats, and following a very strict humane protocol designed by Operation Catnip, Gainesville, we will shelter them and transport them to and from Operation Spay Bay in Panama City for surgery. All cats will be returned to their trapped location 24 hours after surgery.

Whether you love cats or not we can all agree that we don't need any more litters. Please let us help, and thank you for caring!

2025 Turtle Report

This year's turtle nesting season saw a hatch success rate of just under 72%, with 70% of loggerheads hatching and 89% of all green sea turtles.

In total, 27,288 eggs hatched this year on St. George Island – 22,552 loggerheads and 4,736 greens. The average incubation time was 52 days, slightly longer for the greens. An average nest had 79 eggs.

The last turtle nest, which was within the Plantation, was dug October 26. It yielded 133 unhatched eggs. The nest had been washed over many times.

Sea turtles are a keystone species vital for a healthy marine ecosystem and coastal environments. They maintain healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs,



VS



Loggerhead

Green Sea Turtle

Both loggerheads and green sea turtles are native to our waters. How to tell the difference? Loggerheads have a teardrop shaped shell. The green's shell is more oval. Loggerheads will have the larger, stockier heads.

bring nutrients to beaches through their eggs and shells, and help with nutrient cycling and coastal erosion control. Protecting them also safeguards other marine life and supports ecotourism.

Owners have a recycling option with Florida 27 Recycle

Plantation owners now have a recycling option. Florida 27 Recycle serves St. George Island, Apalachicola, Eastpoint, Carrabelle and Port St. Joe. There is a monthly fee for weekly pick-up service. Users may choose an 18-gallon tote or a 48-gallon bin. Bear locks can be installed on the large bins, which are also less likely to have contents scattered during high winds. Collection is single-stream, with all recyclables placed in the same bin.



Accepted Materials: (All should be emptied and rinsed.)

- Plastic shopping bags.
- Cartons: Milk, juice and soups.
- Metal Cans: Soda, beer and canned foods.
- Glass Bottles and Jars: Beverages, sauces, and preserves. Lids should be removed.
- Paper and Cardboard: Newspapers, magazines and shipping boxes. Items should be clean and free of food residue.
- Plastic Bottles and Containers: Such as those for beverages, shampoos and detergents. Caps should be removed.

Recycle bins are located at the Plantation Clubhouse.

Contact:

www.FL27Recycle.com | Email: Hello@FL27Recycle.com | Call: (850) 774-5908

Red Pepper Pasta with Roasted Cauliflower

Source:
Pinch of Yum

Ingredients:

- 2 heads of cauliflower, cut into florets
- 2 T. olive oil & pinch of salt

For Sauce & Pasta:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cashews
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- 1 t. salt
- 1 jar (25 oz) pasta sauce
- 1 jar (16 oz) roasted red peppers, drained
- 1 lb. whole wheat penne pasta
- greens for garnishing



Instructions:

- **Cauliflower:** Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Toss the cauliflower florets with olive oil and salt and spread on a baking sheet. Bake/roast for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until nice and brown.
- **Creamy Tomato Sauce:** Blend the cashews, water, salt, pasta sauce, and red peppers together until very smooth and creamy.
- **Pasta:** Cook pasta according to package directions. Toss cooked pasta with some of the sauce (however much you want – you'll have some left over) and most of the roasted cauliflower. (You can reserve a little to make a fancy topping.)

FUN FACT!

The Plantation was legally born in September 1977 with Franklin County's approval of the St. George Island Development Order. The schooner was part of the original Plantation logo and was used on advertising, letterhead, and clothing. Originally called St. George's Plantation, the "s" was later dropped to simplify the name.

– From *The History of St. George Plantation*.



Rick Abbott received a fond farewell from the office staff after faithfully serving The Plantation for 13 years. We wish Rick all the best in his retirement!

Upcoming BOD Meetings

*Held on the 3rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated.***

*Location: Plantation Room
NOTE: Meeting time is moving to 5 p.m. in 2026.*

November 20, 1 p.m.

December 18, 1 p.m.

January 15, 5 p.m.

February 19, 5 p.m.

March 19, 5 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

ARC

Nov. 13, 1 p.m., Plantation Room

FinCom

Nov. 13, 10 a.m., Cypress Room

Natural Dune Restoration

Dec. 2, Noon, Cypress Room

ArtSocial

Dec. 4, 1 p.m., Cypress Room

Recreation

Jan. 8, 11 a.m., Cypress Room

ARC

Dec. 11, 1 p.m., Cypress Room

Infrastructure

Jan. 7, 10 a.m., Cypress Room

***All owners are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.
We will transition to Teams before Jan. 1.***

Submit an Owner Comment

by using owner form located under **Owner Tools** in the footer of our website.

**Special meetings may be called with notification sent out via FRONTSTEPS.



New Year's Eve Gala

Wednesday, Dec. 31

6-10 p.m.

Plantation Room,
Magnolia Clubhouse

Free to owners; \$60 per guest

MUST RSVP.

HAPPY

NEW YEAR

Ring in the new year at this black-tie event hosted by the ArtSocial Committee.



- Live Band
- Champagne Toast
- Beach Ball Drop
- Three Prize Basket Give Aways (Must be present to win.)
- Open Bar
- 3-Course Meal

The first e-invite for the New Year's Eve Gala will arrive in your inbox via FRONTSTEPS on Nov. 14! ✨ Don't miss your chance to celebrate — **RSVP by Dec. 17.** Seating is limited, so be sure to secure your spot early and get ready for a fun night to remember!

2026



DIANNE MACUT
"GODSPEED, BABY"

St. George
PLANTATION

**People's
Choice**

People's Choice Photo 2025

WEDNESDAY WONDERS

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2026

St. George
PLANTATION

The SGPOA Recreation Committee will again sponsor this popular educational series, **Wednesday Wonders**, on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. More events to be announced!

MAR 19
WED

Historic Shipwrecks

Melanie Damour, maritime archeologist
Historic shipwrecks off Dog Island/St. George Sound shipwrecks

APR 16
WED

ANERR River Boat Trip

A field trip guided boat trip through the bay, up the Apalachicola River and into the swamp areas, highlighting the ecosystem & wildlife

TBA
WED

Turtle Talk

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
All about turtle nests & how to volunteer

Dune Planting Recommendations

From the Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Coastal Construction Control Line Program

“Beach-dune plant” refers to sea oats, bitter panic grass, railroad vine, beach morning glory, beach elder, sea-purslane, and other native grasses and groundcovers growing in the pioneer and frontal dune zones of the beach and dune system. These native dune plants stabilize dunes by anchoring the sand with root systems that resist erosion. They are adapted to the beach’s inhospitable growing conditions, salt spray and periodic saltwater flooding, sand blasting and burial, nutrient poor and droughty sands, and recovery after storms.

Beach-Dune Planting Guidelines

Sea oats are an ideal choice for about any beach or dune site. They establish easily and start trapping windblown sand and building up elevation relatively quickly. Sea oats tend to grow vertically with the dune. Research shows that sea oats sourced from local stock perform the best. (see www.fann.org). Plant bare root or boxed and shipped sea oats within 3 days of purchase.

Plant as far landward on the beach and dune system as possible, no farther out on the beach than the existing line of dune vegetation in the area.



Planting deeply and making sure that the roots are in moist soil is key to the oats’ survival, as the top layer of sand heats up and oven dries under direct sunlight and wind. Wind erosion can lower the sand surface, exposing rootballs to drying sun and air.

Dry sand is difficult to plant into as the sand slides back into the hole. Make a test hole to know how deep the sand is that is more cohesive and feels damp and cooler to the touch. Plants are most easily installed in damp sand; the area can be moistened before planting. Using hydrating gels increases the survival rate.

Plant, backfill and tamp the soil around the plug. Bury the top of the planting unit rootball deep enough to be in damp sand, 6-inches or more below the soil surface. Install smaller plants so that at least 3-inches of leaves and stem remain above the sand. More info can be found [here](#).



Instagram:
[@stgeorgeplantation](https://www.instagram.com/stgeorgeplantation)



[Facebook.com/
StGeorgePlantation](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgePlantation)



[LinkedIn.com/
StGeorgePlantation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/StGeorgePlantation)

Thank you for reading!

ST. GEORGE PLANTATION	(850) 927-2312
www.stgeorgeplantation.com	1712 Magnolia Road St. George Island, FL 32328

The Plantation is our Special Place.