

THE PLANTATION POST

The garden that grows the oyster population

Oysters in Apalachicola Bay are making a comeback — one dock at a time – through the installation of Verticle Oyster Gardens (VOGs).

While a VOG does not produce a harvest, these simple strings of recycled shells hung from docks encourage the renourishment of our Bay. Baby oysters settle on them, grow, and each one can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. Cleaner water, more habitat, healthier bay.

Ale Rios, restoration coordinator with the Apalachicola National Esuarine Research Reserve, leads the program and said there are five gardens in Apalachicola Bay. The goal is 30.

John and Barbara Overstreet have the only one in the Plantation. “After coming to St. George for 35 years, I have a deep appreciation for the beauty of the island and the surrounding waters,” John says. “I thought it was an incredible tragedy when the oyster population in the Bay collapsed. This program is an easy way to do something good for the bay, and I encourage all my Plantation neighbors to hopefully join in.”

Rios said even one string of shells on one dock, is a start of a real chance to help the bay recover. The oysters are not for harvest or human consumption.

“This is a a simple, low-cost tool,” Rios said, “that encourages spat (the first stage of an oyster).”

Bayside owners, to sign up, fill out the application form here. You must be onsite for the installation.



John and Barbara Overstreet with Ale Rios

DO GOOD WORK. MEASURE IT. Talk about it.



Educational signage

Maintenance worker **Steven Tucker** installs one of 32 new metal signs near our boardwalks. These durable signs replace the laminated sheets put up earlier this year and provide owners and guests with current beach conditions. Scanning the QR code directs users through the Plantation's website to the Franklin County site for up-to-date flag conditions. Routing users through our website allows us to know how many folks are using this helpful tool.

Staff preparing for 2027 Assessments: Finance Director Brenda Ash is working with the Finance Committee to prepare for the mailing of the 2027 annual assessments.

While we do not have exact dates, here's an expected timeline:

Nov. 18: The Finance Committee meets to set the assessment amount, based on the 2027 budget.
November: The Board of Directors will call a special meeting to discuss and take action on FinCom's assessment recommendation.
December: The assessment files will be sent to SmartStreet for processing and the assessment notifications will go out before the end of the year.
Jan. 31: All owner assessments are due. A 5% late fee will be added to all assessments received after this date.



Workers from Cox Pools in Panama City Beach are on site at the Resort Village Pool repairing the main expansion joint. The pool will be closed until mid-November for the repairs.

Owners' Weekend well attended

Another great Annual Owners' Weekend is in the books and what a weekend!

The annual meeting brought owners in for a wonderful mix of community business, lively events and island fun. From the Friday morning Fun Run to Sunday's Pickleball Play, there were plenty of opportunities to catch up with neighbors, make new friends and enjoy all that St. George Plantation has to offer.

An estimated 150 owners and staff attended the Annual Owners' Meeting, where 386 properties participated in the annual election. Congratulations to Sheryl Clouse and Brian Lockwood, who were elected to the Board of Directors! (See page 5 for a fun profile on the two of them.) Meeting meets can be found here.



More than a dozen runners participated in the Fun Run. Winners were: Scott Downing, 1st place; Wally Curran, 2nd place; and Terri Allen, 3rd place.



On hand for the Fitness Center ribbon cutting were (from left): Board Director Sheryl Clouse, Board President Buck Bolden, Infrastructure Committee Member Greg Ohl, Recreation Committee Chair Deb Robertson, Infrastructure Chair Jim Wojcik, and Infrastructure Committee member Will Jones.

Both covenant amendments passed, which restrict the use of drones and all motorized and non-motorized vehicles on the beach. These are being added to the official covenant documents.

Of course, the weekend was about much more than business! More than 180 owners joined the ArtSocial Committee for its annual Cocktail Party, enjoying an evening of good company, delicious bites and festive island-inspired fun.



There was standing room only at the Annual Owners' Meeting.

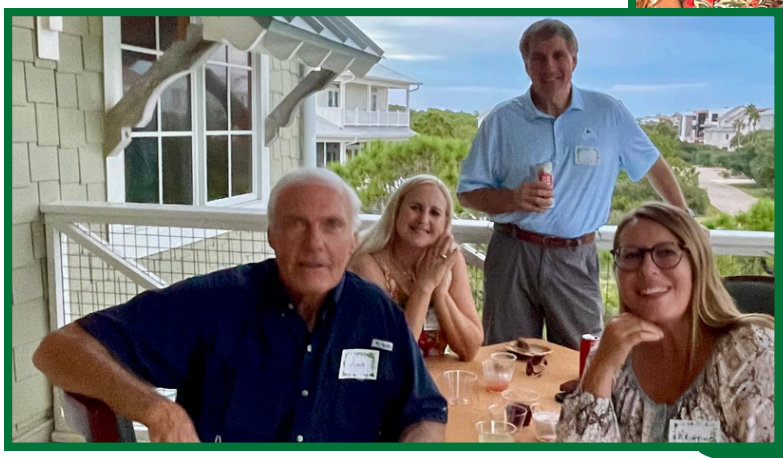


SGPOA staff were recognized at the Owners' Meeting for their service to the association. GM Michael Allen presented plaques to, from left: Director of Security Bob Shiver; Director of Facilities Philip Square; Director of Communications Debbie Ingram; and Administrative Specialist Tara Fracaro.

More photos from the weekend















General Manager
BY MICHAEL ALLEN



A Season of Gratitude, Kindness & Understanding

Dear St. George Plantation Owners,

As November arrives and Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself reflecting on how fortunate we are to call St. George Plantation home.

This is a truly special place. Between our beautiful natural surroundings and the friendships that make this community unique, we have a great deal to be thankful for.

At the same time, the world around us can feel increasingly stressful. Each of us carries challenges and pressures of our own, and sometimes those pressures find their way into our everyday interactions with neighbors, employees, volunteers, and one another.

That is why, this Thanksgiving season, I would like to encourage all of us to focus on three simple things: **being thankful, being kind, and being understanding.**

A little patience can make a difficult day easier.
A kind word can mean more than we realize.
And taking a moment to understand another point of view can keep a disagreement from becoming something more.

We will not always agree with one another, but we can always choose respect, courtesy, and kindness. **We are, after all, one community.**

As your General Manager, I am deeply grateful to everyone who works to make St. George Plantation what it is: our administrative, security, and maintenance teams, our committees and Board members, our volunteers, and our homeowners. Each of you plays a part in this community's success.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, let us carry that same spirit with us here at home. Let us appreciate what we have, recognize the efforts of those around us, and offer a little extra grace when things get difficult.

Thank you for all you do to make this such a special place. I am grateful to be part of this community and look forward to continuing to work together to protect and preserve it. Wishing you and your families a happy, peaceful, and meaningful Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,

Michael D. Allen
General Manager, St. George Plantation Owners Association

Welcome, board directors!





Sheryl Clouse and Brian Lockwood were elected to the Board of Directors for the next three years. Sheryl was first appointed in April to fill Steve Reidich's term and Brian is a newcomer. Sheryl is the BOD Treasurer; Brian is Board Secretary. We read their candidate profiles, but here's some fun facts about them.

Where did you grow up?
S: *I was born in Aberdeen, SD but lived in France, Iowa, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida and Georgia.*
B*: I grew up so far south it wasn't "the South": Wilton Manors, Fla., five miles west of Ft. Lauderdale beaches.*
How would others describe you?
S: *My husband says I'm a force of nature when determined and a sloth when I'm not!*
B: *My younger sister would say I am protective. If you get the Star Trek-Next Generation reference, I am a little Worf while aspiring to Jean-Luc Picard.*

Where did you do to college?
S: *University of Iowa and graduate studies at UNC, Duke and UNC-G.*
B: *Stetson University undergrad and University of Florida School of Law.*
Pastimes:
S: *I love my fur babies, theatre, food, a good wine, and giving back to the community. I'm a ferocious game player and love competitive bridge and all board games.*
B: *I'm a Formula 1 fan and a car buff. I love to cook. And I try to keep up on developments in business and tech.*

What's something a lot of people don't know about you?
S: *I worked with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford Upon Avon. I got to hold (life highlight) an original Folio and I went to small lunches and chatted with some of my favorite actors like Patrick Stewart and Ian McClellan.*
B: *My parents serially adopted me and my two sisters while we were each infants. Also, I raised oysters in the estuarial waters off Spring Creek, Wakulla County, during the trial and error era of 2017 through 2022.*

Plantation owner pens children's book about SGI



Kristie's Island Adventure is part of an existing children's book series called *Kristie's Excellent Adventures* (available on Amazon) by Plantation owner Geri (Schultz) Stark, Treasure Beach Village. It is based on a true story of Geri's sons' hamster, Kristie, who kept getting out of her cage and into precarious situations. She actually ended up in the washer and dryer one day and lived to tell about it.

The idea to write *Kristie's Island Adventure*, the 5th book in the series, came about from a conversation Stark was having with the owner of Island Espresso and a local realtor friend who thought it would be a cute idea to have Kristie introduce young readers to all the things that make St. George Island so special. "Since there wasn't already a children's book about St. George Island, I thought it was a great idea, and I got to work on it," said Stark. "I think it's a great book for anyone who has spent time on the island."



Appreciation lunch

Plantation staff were treated recently to a traditional turkey and ham lunch, in appreciation for their work during and after Hurricane Isaias. Staff also received accolades for their long hours and extra effort around the Annual Owners' Meeting. As a token, each employee also received a $15 Piggly Wiggly gift card.





Pickleball Play

A dozen owners and guests turned out October 18 for a pickleball social as part of the Annual Owners' Weekend activities. Thank you to the Recreation Committee for hosting this fun event! Adult open play pickleball is played every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Cranberry Walnut Cheese Log

Source: delish.com



Easy make-ahead dish to share with family and friends.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup raw walnuts
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 4 oz. (about 1 cup) sharp white cheddar, shredded
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp. finely grated Parmesan
- 1 1/2 tsp. honey
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 cup finely chopped dried sweetened cranberries, divided
- 3/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 1 tsp. finely chopped fresh thyme leaves
- Assorted crackers, for serving

Directions:

1. In a small skillet over medium heat, toast walnuts, stirring occasionally until fragrant, about 5 minutes. Let cool. Finely chop.
2. In a medium bowl, stir cream cheese, cheddar, and butter. Add Parmesan, honey, salt, 1/4 cup cranberries, 1/2 tsp. pepper, and 1/4 cup toasted walnuts and mix with a spatula until well combined.
3. Transfer cheese mixture to a large piece of plastic wrap; form into an 8" log. Tightly wrap and refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
4. On a plate, combine thyme and remaining 1/4 cup cranberries, 1/4 cup toasted walnuts, and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Unwrap log and roll in cranberry mixture, gently pressing to adhere and making sure ends of log are coated too.
5. Transfer cheese log to a platter. Let sit at room temperature at least 30 minutes to soften, or loosely cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate up to 1 week. Serve with crackers.

Servings: 8 Calories per serving: 285

Upcoming BOD Meetings

Regular BOD meetings are now Zoom only except the Oct. and April meetings.

November 12, 5 p.m.

December 17, 5 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Architectural Review
Fri., Nov. 13, 1 p.m.
Plantation Room

Infrastructure
Wed., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.
Cypress Room

Recreation
Thur., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.
Cypress Room

ArtSocial
Thur., Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.
Cypress Room

Finance
Thur., Nov. 18, 1 p.m.
Cypress Room

Owners are encouraged to attend.

Zoom links are located atop agendas on FrontSteps under Documents.

Special BOD meetings may be called with notification sent via FrontSteps.

ASK AI

By Debbie Ingram

Yesterday's Google is today's AI and it seems to know no limits on the amount of information it can pull in a matter of seconds. When traveling, I often ask AI what an upcoming town is known for, to get a feel for the area. Mostly accurate and it is kinda fun. **So I asked for interesting trivia on SGI.**

Here's a few answers:

1. Dr. Beach ranked SGI State Park as the #1 beach in the U.S. in 2023.
2. The island is only about a mile wide at its widest point, so you can watch the sunrise on the Gulf and the sunset on the Bay from the same location.
3. Nearly 300 species of birds have been recorded on the island.
4. About 1,000 people live on the island year-round.
5. There is very little light pollution, making SGI one of the best places in the state for star-gazing.
6. It is one of the last true "Old Florida" barrier islands that has managed to stay relatively undeveloped and low-key.

Not bad, Grok! And pretty cool stats.

The Currys to perform Nov. 13 at Holy Family Auditorium



The needs in our community are great. Franklin County has a poverty rate of 16%. This performance by the Currys is a fundraiser for the Elder Care Community Council (ECCC), which provides meals for low-income seniors in the county. Please consider purchasing a table for eight for $1,000 or sponsoring a family for $200 per month.

Panhandle-born brothers Tommy and Jimmy, and cousin Galen Curry, are an acoustic folk trio that appeal to country, bluegrass, blues and rock fans alike. Their show includes humor and life observations to keep the audience engaged.

Please email ecccfranklin@gmail.com for tickets or call (850) 370-0116. Mail checks to ECCC, P.O. Box 335, Eastpoint, FL 32328. The event is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Auditorium at 203 7th St., Apalachicola.



Instagram: @stgeorgeplantation

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

Our offices will be closed Nov. 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving.