

Corrections: Updated Earth Day Event link; Updated Living Shorelines Monitoring Report link

Estuary Exchange

April 2025



**ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM**
at FSU PANAMA CITY

Together for the Bays



Happy April!

Spring is in full swing, bringing many ways to engage with our community and coastal environment! This month, we're excited to take part in local events and festivals, connect with the community, and share resources that help keep our waterways healthy. Join us for Tides and Talks, where we'll explore Coastal Bird Conservation, and check out the Science Corner for essential water quality and safety tips as we gear up for the summer season. Plus, don't miss upcoming volunteer opportunities giving you even more chances to make an impact in protecting our bays!

Earth Day



JOIN US FOR

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP of HISTORIC ST. ANDREWS!

APRIL 19TH, 2025 - OAKS BY THE BAY PARK



ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOSEPH BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM

Celebrate Earth Day with Us!

Every year on April 22, people around the world come together for Earth Day, a time to reflect and take action to better our planet. We're excited to join the Earth Day celebration at Oaks by the Bay Park in St. Andrews, where environmental organizations and vendors will come together alongside live music, art, and tree giveaways to bring awareness to the day!

Our Teen Outreach Committee will also lead a cleanup of the park and surrounding area, helping to keep litter out of our waterways and protect local wildlife. Whether you want to learn, volunteer, or just enjoy the day, join us in celebrating!

[Event Information](#)

Living Shorelines Monitoring



CSTARS

1 Year of Monitoring Living Shorelines!

Last winter, we completed our 1 year milestone for our Living Shorelines Monitoring project.

Check out this report for details on what we've discovered so far!

[See The Report](#)

Tides and Talks: Coastal Bird Conservation

ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOSEPH BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM
PRESENTS



ST. ANDREW &
ST. JOSEPH BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM
at FSU PANAMA CITY

Tides & Talks

WHERE CONVERSATION STARTS

AND STEWARDSHIP FLOWS



April Topic: Coastal Bird Conservation

When: Thursday, April 10th, 3:00PM CDT

Where: Destination Panama City, 101 West Beach Dr.

For more info go to:

sasjbep.org/events/tidesandtalks

Join us this month for Tides and Talks: Coastal Bird Conservation!

We will be joined by Collette Lauzau of Florida Audubon as she discusses the challenges that migratory and residential shorebirds face and what we can do to help.

The Bay County Audubon Society will also provide tips on how to be a “better birder,” highlighting birding stewardship opportunities, and ways to get involved in our local Audubon chapter.

We'll be *plover*-joyed to see you there!

When: Thursday, April 10th at 3pm

Where: Destination Panama City, 101 W Beach Dr.

Learn More about Tides and Talks at the links below:

[Facebook Event](#)

[Meeting Recordings](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

Science Corner



Panama City Beach, Visit Florida

One-Stop Guidance for Water Quality and Safety

It's that time of year when the water has warmed up and water based activities are becoming more popular! We've received many questions about where to find water quality information. Here is a quick rundown of where to find that information:

Water Quality:

- Looking for information about fecal indicator bacteria at popular swimming beaches? Be sure to check out Florida Healthy Beaches for the latest information.
 - <https://www.floridahealth.gov/...>
- Interested in receiving pollution notices? Sign up here:
<https://floridadep.gov/sec/sec...>
- Have questions about red tide events? Stay up to date here:
 - [Red Tide Current Status](#)
- Looking for more general water quality information? Check out our State of the Watershed Dashboard and find annual [water quality report cards for the Bays here.](#)

Safety:

- Want to know if the Gulf is open for swimming?
 - For Bay County: <https://www.visitpanamacitybea...>
 - For Gulf County: <https://www.facebook.com/sgcfl...>

Recent Relevant Research

Click the images to view articles.



Living in a material world: Support for the use of natural and alternative materials in coastal restoration and living shorelines.

Connectivity of Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Waterbird Populations," Florida Field Naturalist: Vol. 52 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

ST. ANDREW &
ST. JOSEPH BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM
of FSB PANAMA CITY

Ask A Scientist!

Ask a Scientist

Have a question about our bays, local wildlife, or want to know more about the estuary program? We've got answers! Submit your questions, and our scientists will answer them in next month's newsletter! Let's explore the science of our watershed together!

Community Events

Click the images to explore upcoming events throughout the St. Andrew Bay Watershed!



Events in Panama City



Events in Panama City Beach



Events in South Walton County



Events in Gulf County

Events in Mexico Beach

Gulf County Chamber of



April 12th, 2025

2nd Annual Sandhills Celebration

Our 2nd Annual Sandhills Celebration! Two days of fun, education, and all things Florida native. Stay tuned for schedule updates, vendor announcements, and more.

When: April 12th - 13th 9am-5pm CDT

Where: Sandhills Native Nursery

[Learn More](#)



April 12th, 2025

Plant Hop

Check out other local plant sales happening on April 12th at the link below!



April 12th, 2025

Bay County Master Gardeners Volunteer Plant Sale

Join the Bay County Master Gardener Volunteers for our annual plant sale on April 12th! Shop hard to find native plants, spring veggie starts, and more—all selected to thrive in our area. The plant sale will be held at the Bay County Extension Office (2728 E 14th St, Panama City). We can't wait to see you there.

When: April 12th 9am CDT

Where: Bay County Extension Office

[Learn More](#)



April 19th, 2025

2025 Earth Day

Join us at the St. Andrew's Farmer's Market on April 19 for the annual Earth Day celebration! Featured performers include the Parvana Dance Troop and Gulf Tones Chorus. The Earth Day Proclamation reading will begin at

11:30 and activities for the whole family include a tree giveaway by Florida Forest Service, free kids' crafts and educational opportunities with environmental organizations from throughout the community.

When: April 19th, 9am-1pm CDT

Where: Oaks by the Bay Park

[Learn More](#)

[Learn More](#)



April 19th, 2025

City of Springfield Storm Drain Clean Up Day

Help keep Springfield clean and free of debris! Join the clean up on Saturday, April 12th.

When: Saturday, April 12th 8:00am CDT

Where: Douglas Rd. & Orman Ave.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting

+

April 23rd 2025

Join Zoom

Management Council Meeting

+

April 11th, 2025

10am-12pm CST; Room A301, Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building Join Via Zoom: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99362305989> Meeting ID: 993 6230 5989

Join Zoom

Science and Technical Committee Meeting

+

April 17th, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM CDT; FSU PC Administrative Building Conference Room 108; Zoom Meeting ID: 951 2894 7956

Join Zoom

Stormwater Working Group

+

April 9th, 2025

10am-11am CDT; Virtual only. Join on Teams: Meeting ID: 935 2145 7426

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting

+

April 19th, 2025

The Teen Outreach Committee will be conducting a clean up of Historic St. Andrews and Oaks by the Bay Park in conjunction with Earth Day.

Join the TOC

April 10th, 2025 3:00pm CST

April Topic: Coastal Bird Conservation

[Learn More](#)

To access all past meeting materials, notes, and presentations, visit our Library of Resources page on our website. Link directly by clicking below!

[Library of Resources](#)

[Florida State University Panama City Campus Map](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

[Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance - Volunteers Needed for Grasses in Classes!](#)

[Panhandle Terrapin Project Seeking Volunteers](#)

[Become a Vertical Oyster Gardener!](#)

[Bay County Conservancy Mini Work Day](#)

[Springfield Storm Drain Clean Up Day](#)

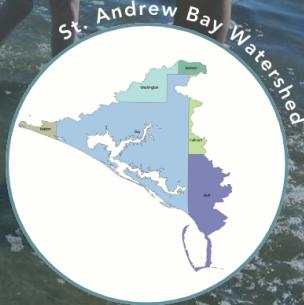
JOIN THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK!

Interested in getting involved in protection and restoration efforts within the St. Andrew Bay Watershed?

Join Our Email List!

SASJ Bays Volunteer Network connects organizations across the watershed with citizens looking for an opportunity to get involved.

- **Organizations:** Connect with volunteers for your events
- **Volunteers:** Learn about volunteer opportunities from our partners all across the watershed



JOIN NOW



[HTTPS://LISTS.FSU.EDU/MAILMAN/LISTINFO/
VOLUNTEER-SASJBEP](https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/volunteer-sasjbep)

St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program

The SASJ Bays Volunteer Network connects organizations with passionate members of the community that are interested getting involved. Join the email list to receive updates on upcoming volunteer opportunities from across the partners across the watershed and share organized events with others!

[Join the Email List](#)



Stormwater Survey

Help us inform future stormwater outreach and education by completing this short, anonymous survey!

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

Thank you for your participation!

Follow us on Facebook!



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program 

2025-03-21



Our watershed is home to a variety of lakes, each with unique characteristics and ecological importance. From coastal dune lakes to the Sandhill Lakes and Deer Point Lake, our freshwater reservoir, these water bodies support diverse wildlife, provide drinking water, and play a key role in our local hydrology. Swipe through to explore some of the lakes within the St. Andrew Bay Watershed! [#watershed](#) [#sasjbep](#) [#standrewbaywatershed](#) [#standrewbay](#) [#stjosephbay](#) [#lakes](#)



 Like

 Comment

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Job Opportunities

- [Education and Outreach Specialist](#)

City of Panama City

- [Environmental Compliance Inspector](#)

FSU Coastal Marine Lab

- [Multiple Positions](#)

Emerald and Forgotten Coast Adventures

- [Marine Science Camp Instructor](#)

Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary
Program

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