

Estuary Exchange

March 2025



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

Together for the Bays



Happy Seagrass Awareness Month!

March is Seagrass Awareness Month, a time to highlight the role seagrasses play in our bays! These underwater meadows provide homes and food for marine life, improve water quality, and help stabilize the seafloor. This month, we're sharing ways you can help protect seagrass, from spreading awareness of its importance, sharing ongoing efforts to protect and restore seagrass beds and sharing ways on how you can be a seagrass safe boater. To learn more, follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) and attend this month's [Tides and Talks: Seagrass Spotlight!](#)

Science Corner



Turtle Grass sways in the water column in St. Joe Bay, Jon Brucker

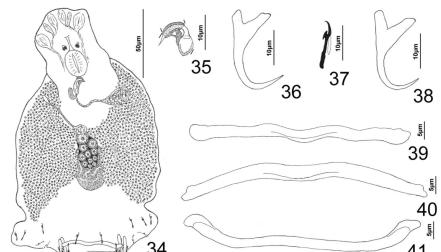
All About Seagrass

Did you know?

There are 5 seagrass species found within St. Andrew Bay and St. Joseph Bay including turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*), manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*), star grass (*Halophila engelmannii*), and widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*). In both bays, turtle grass is the most common. There are several efforts underway to monitor and restore seagrass in both bays that include activities such as seagrass surveys, experiments to investigate impacts of grazing and prop scars, seagrass genetics, prop scar restoration, and the collection and growth of turtle grass seeds in greenhouses for future use in restoration. Be sure to attend this month's Tides and Talks to learn more!

Recent Relevant Research

Click the images to view articles.



Performance Assessment of Three Living Shorelines in Cedar Key, Florida, USA.

Species of *Hemirhamphiculus* Bychowsky and Nagibina, 1969 (Monogenoidea: Dactyloyridae) Infecting the Gill Lamellae of Some Beloniform Fishes in Waters of the Gulf of Mexico Off Florida, with Descriptions of Five New Species and Comments on the Dactylogyrid Genera Having Species Infecting Beloniform Fishes.



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!

[Ask a Scientist](#)

Tides and Talks: Seagrass Spotlight

ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOSEPH BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM PRESENTS

The logo for Tides & Talks, featuring the text "Tides & Talks" in a large, stylized, white font. Below the text, a curved banner reads "WHERE CONVERSATION STARTS". To the right of the text is the St. Andrew & St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program logo, which includes a stylized sunburst or wave icon and the text "ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM at FSU PANAMA CITY".

February Topic: Seagrass Spotlight
When: Thursday, March 13th, 3:00PM CDT
Where: Destination Panama City, 101 West Beach Dr.
AND STEWARDSHIP FLOWS

For more info go to: sasjbep.org/events/tidesandtalks

A QR code located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

We're celebrating Seagrass Awareness Month with a Tides and Talks spotlight on seagrass! Learn about the seagrasses in our watershed, restoration projects, and the importance of seagrass in our bays.

When: Thursday, March 13th 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](#)

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](#)



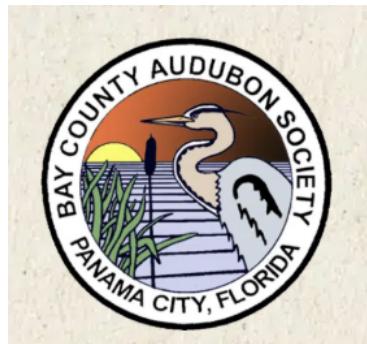
[Events in Gulf County](#)



[Events in Mexico Beach](#)



[Gulf County Chamber of Commerce - Events](#)



March 8th, 2025

[Audubon Nature Photo Exhibit and Movie Night](#)



April 5th, 2025

[Mermaid Bay Festival 2025](#)

Join us for a celebration of local art, live

Bay County Audubon and The Light Room invite you to the 2025 Nature Photo Exhibit at the FSU Panama City Holley Center on March 8 at 5:00 p.m. Celebrate nature through photography by viewing photographers' photo entries on display on the big screen. The evening kicks off with wildlife photographer Scott Harris, author of Raptor Quest. Then, enjoy "Nature Photos Movie Night", followed by audience discussion and door prizes.

When: Saturday, March 8th, 5pm-7pm CST

Where: FSU Panama City Holley Center

music, vendor shopping, and fun activities for the entire family on April 5, 2025 at George Core Park (Lighthouse Park). This event is free to the public.

When: Saturday, April 5th 10am-4pm EDT

Where: George Core Park, Port St. Joe

[Learn More](#)

[Learn More](#)



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

Bay County Master Gardener 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](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting

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April 23rd 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm CST; Room A301 Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99362305989> o Meeting ID: **994 7324 3671** o Passcode: 342269

[Join Zoom](#)

Management Council Meeting

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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

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February 20th, 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

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April 9th, 2025

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

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting

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March 22nd, 2025

The Teen Outreach Committee will be assembling vertical oyster gardens at FSU Panama City.

Join the TOC

Tides and Talks

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March 13th, 2025 3:00pm CST

March Topic: Seagrass Spotlight

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



SASJ BAYS
VOLUNTEER NETWORK

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](#)

Panhandle Terrapin Project Seeking Volunteers

Become a Vertical Oyster Gardener!



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 

2025-02-28



Become a Vertical Oyster Gardener! Now is the time to deploy new oyster gardens for the spring spat season! By joining our Vertical Oyster Gardening (VOG) program, you'll play a hands-on role in citizen science, helping us better understand oyster success in our bays. These small hanging gardens provide habitat for oysters and other marine life while filtering the water—making them a great way to support a healthier estuary. Ready to get involved? Complete the application form here: <https://sasjbep.org/vogsor> or pick up from our booth at the Emerald Coast Boat and Lifestyle Show!



Like Comment Share

Job Opportunities

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

- [Education and Outreach Specialist](#)

City of Panama City

- [Environmental Compliance Inspector](#)

FSU Coastal Marine Lab

- [Multiple Positions](#)

Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary

Program

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estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

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