

Correction: Ask A Scientist link added!

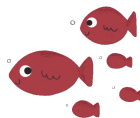
Estuary Exchange

February 2025



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

Together for the Bays



Share the love for our bays!

This month, celebrate Valentine's day with our downloadable estuary-inspired cards, learn about the upcoming Tides and Talks: State of the Watershed meeting, and provide your input through our stormwater survey! Plus, check out upcoming community and partner events and volunteer opportunities.

New this month! Check out the "ask a scientist" section, where you can drop your curiosities for our scientists to address in next month's Estuary Exchange!



Downloadable Valentines Cards!

Download these free Valentines Cards from the Estuary Program to to print or share with your loved one!

Valentine's Day Cards

Science Corner



Male tern offers a meal to a female tern in a mating ritual.

Love is in the Air

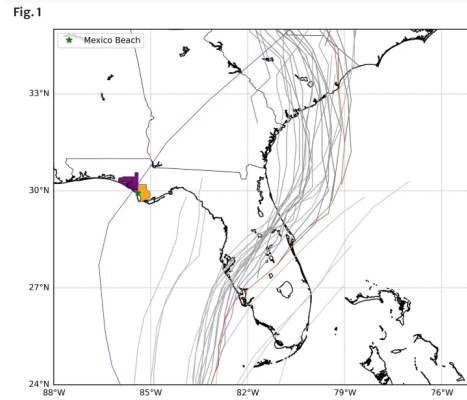
Did you know that humans aren't the only species with courtship rituals? While they may not go out for dinner and a movie, some species show their affection in other ways!

- *Big Claw Snapping Shrimp* are monogamous and guard their mate and shared shelter. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1439-0310.2003.00885.x>
- *Anhingas* display a courtship aerial show including flying high and gliding followed by nest site selection.
- Fish species such as *grouper* and *drum* make thrumming calls during spawning to attract mates. <https://dosits.org/galleries/audio-gallery/fishes/red-drum/>
- Male *Least Terns* offer meals to their female counterparts in hopes of winning them over. <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/birds/shorebirdsseabirds/least-tern/>
- Male *White-tailed Deer*, called bucks, battle it out with antlers and hooves to establish dominance over territory and available females.

Click the images to view articles.



Environmental Stress and Resource Availability Affect the Maintenance of Genetic Variation in a Dominant Marsh Plant (*Spartina alterniflora*).



Deterministic, dynamic model forecasts of storm-driven coastal erosion. Nat Hazards (2024).



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

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: State of the Watershed



Tides & Talks

WHERE CONVERSATION STARTS



February Topic: State of the Watershed
When: Thursday, February 13th, 3:00PM CDT
Where: Destination Panama City, 101 West Beach Dr.

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

AND STEWARDSHIP FLOWS

This month, join us as our very own SASJBEP scientists take a deep dive into the health of our watershed! Dr. Ryann Rossi and Rose Horn will present findings from our recently completed *State of the Watershed Report*, offering insights into the latest data on Indicators such as water quality and ecosystem health. They'll also guide us through the online data viewer, where you can explore the results firsthand. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the state of our watershed and what it means for our community!

When: Thursday, February 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



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!

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



February 8th, 2025

Lovebirds and Shorebirds

Shorebird nesting season begins in just a few weeks! To celebrate our feathered friends, the Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center will be hosting their annual Lovebirds & Shorebirds event on Saturday, February 8th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET at the Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center in Port St. Joe.

When: Saturday, February 8th

Where: Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center

[Learn More](#)



Beautiful Bromeliads

Saturday, February 15
at 10:30 a.m. ET

Corinne Costin Gibson
Memorial Public Library
in Port St. Joe



February 15th, 2025

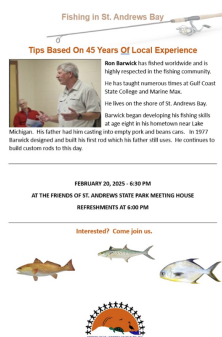
Beautiful Bromeliads with UF/IFAS Master Gardeners

Learn about various types of bromeliads, growing conditions, care, disease prevention and more. Presented by the UF/IFAS Master Gardener Volunteers.

When: Saturday, February 15th

Where: Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial
Public Library

[Learn More](#)



February 20th, 2025

Fishing in St. Andrews Bay

Join the Friends of St. Andrews State Park to hear from Ron Barwick on his 45 years of local and worldwide fishing experience.

When: February 20th at 6:30pm CST

Where: Friends of St. Andrews State Park Meeting House

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting



February 26th 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm CST; Room A301 Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building

[Join Zoom](#)

Management Council Meeting



February 14th, 2025

10am-12pm CST; Room A301, Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building

[Join Zoom](#)

Science and Technical Committee Meeting



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



February 12th, 2025

10am-11am CDT; Virtual only. Join on Teams: Meeting ID: [282 949 018 873](#) Passcode: PuMb83

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting



TBD

The Teen Outreach Committee is planning an educational outing for their February meeting. Date is TBD.

[Join the TOC](#)

Tides and Talks



February 13th, 2025 3:00pm CST

January Topic: State of the Watershed

[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](#)

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

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

Job Opportunities

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

- [Education and Outreach Specialist](#)

City of Panama City

- [Environmental Compliance Inspector](#)

FSU Coastal Marine Lab

- [Multiple Positions](#)

Follow us on Facebook!



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program ✓



2025-01-31

We're thrilled to announce the completion of our first State of the Watershed Report! This report provides a baseline of condition that can be used to measure progress in ecosystem health and function in response to management actions. The SOWR evaluates 11 indicators and 31 metrics, offering a comprehensive snapshot of our watershed's health by highlighting current conditions, trends, and maps to illustrate the results. Click below to explore the interactive dashboard and learn more! SOWR Interactive Dashboard: <https://buff.ly/4hnN2ay>



Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program

4750 Collegiate Drive

estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

Panama City, FL 32405

pc.fsu.edu/sasjbep

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