

FORT MORGAN NEWS

March 2018~Issue 133



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

Hard to believe it is March already. Hope you are enjoying this spring-like weather after our bout of frigid temps. Hope to see you at the Spaghetti Dinner Saturday and at our meeting on March 12.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

Membership Renewal ~ Do You Still Support the Civic Association?

Delinquent Dues are Now 60 Days Overdue

IF you have not yet paid your dues, please send your check with the attached member form to the FMCA post office box on the form.

Questions? Contact Chan West, Treasurer. chan@goefish.com or 251-979-4325

Baldwin County Clean Sweep ~ Saturday, March 3, 2018 ~ 7 AM - 3 PM

Fees will be waived for customers who bring waste to the Magnolia Landfill on March 3rd including fees for hazardous waste such as paint, solvents, old boat gas, tires, pesticides, herbicides. Check Baldwin County website for materials they do *not* accept; e.g., motor oil. For more information call the landfill at 251-972-6878.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens

Your Fire Department responded to 26 calls in January:

- 1 structure fire
- 1 elevator entrapment
- 2 brush fires
- 1 public assist
- 13 medical calls
- 1 car accident
- 6 false alarms



Preparation for Spring Break and our summer vacation season is underway. Maintenance work on our beach vehicles and watercraft is very important since these vehicles are constantly exposed to our harsh salt air/salt water environment. We have just ordered a new 4x4 beach rescue pickup truck, which we hope to receive by June.

Our recruitment drive continues as we are always looking for new members. Come join us at our training meetings held at Station 1, at 6:30 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month. [Note *Firedog Ashes* catching a snooze at a recent training meeting.]

Efforts are being made to make our waters safer by advising the public to monitor surf advisories before going into the Gulf and to obey the flag warnings posted mainly at our larger condominium complexes.

[Please post reminders in your home of the dangers of rip tides and storm currents, for the benefit of family, visitors and/or tenants.]

Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, March 3, 11AM-2PM

Join us at Fire Station #1. Famous baked goods go early! Get a Raffle ticket and buy a cookbook, too. Dine in or take out, still \$8.

KEEP FORT MORGAN BEAUTIFUL ~ HELP WANTED.....Chan West

- 1. Several members of our *Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful* team are ready to pass their mile on. The following sections are open, beginning at the listed mile sign up to the next: 1., 2., 5., 8., 9., 10., 13., 14. (to Gulf Shores city limits). Meanwhile, it would be doing our community a great service, if you have a few minutes, to stop and collect a bit of trash. One day I found a \$20 bill!
- 2. We have a chronic problem with folks dumping trash/bulky goods too far off the road for the county Solid Waste truck to reach with the scoop arm. The truck will not get off the pavement. I would like to have a work day to move the junk from these problem areas closer to the pavement, where they will be picked up.

If you are willing to help with either of these chores, call Chan at 251-979-4325 or email her at chan@goefish.com.

Recently there was an equipment failure at the EMC Sub-station at Mobile St. A contractor moved in emergency equipment and found it necessary to move a chronic trash pile to make the turn. The dozer simply pushed it into the woods. **Special thanks go to Tami and Russ Woerner** who moved the mess out to the road.

Turtle Tracks 2018~~~~~Debbie Harbin, Fort Morgan Team Leader

Share The Beach annual kick off is April 5th at 6pm at Erie Myer Civic Center. Anyone interested in the sea turtle program is encouraged to attend. There is a \$10 commitment fee to help pay for supplies. This is a great way to help an endangered species, see our beautiful beaches and make new friends.

Excerpt from the November 2017 NEWS: "With a record-breaking 84 nests on Fort Morgan peninsula, at least 4,991 babies were assisted to the Gulf water this season!!! With no UTV, our non-Refuge nine-mile beach was **walked** this year for the first time. All this was accomplished with about 25 truly active volunteers."

Share the Beach sea turtle conservation program is now under the auspices of the Alabama Coastal Foundation, a non-profit entity dedicated to saving our coastal wild lands from habitat destruction. Last year, the Fort Morgan Turtle Team lost the use of the all-terrain vehicle so critical in monitoring and protecting turtle nests on the Peninsula's nine miles of non-Refuge beach. Share the Beach Fort Morgan Team and the Foundation are requesting donations to help with funding a beach vehicle for our team. Please see the attached letter for details.

Community History ~ Indian Canal Archaeological Dig.....Harry King

We will continue our excavations next Sunday, March 4th. Meet at Fort Morgan Road and Norman Lane at 9:30 AM. Bring a shovel in addition to water and sun protection. Following is a summary of the February progress from the archaeologist directing the excavation, Dr. Greg Wasalkov:

We made lots of progress and are now nearly a meter down from the ground surface in our two test units. We'll plan on at least one more day on site. Let's aim for March 4 (Sunday).

The unit profiles are revealing two small intersecting heaps of shells and fish bones, with sandy deposits above and below. There are plenty of artifacts in all of these soil zones, so my best guess is that the Middle Woodland occupants of this site lived on sandy surfaces (maybe the hilly surfaces of an old sand dune). As they processed shellfish and fish, opening the shellfish with heat and possibly drying and smoking both shellfish and fish meats for consumption elsewhere, they piled up food debris to form the dense shell layers. At least that's how I'm reading this site so far. Our limited view into what's clearly a complicated little site may not answer all of our questions, but we're definitely making progress... So maybe two more days in the field (trying to be a realist here!).....Greg Wasalkov



[To volunteer, contact Harry King: harryking1525@gmail.com]

Community History ~ Did You Know?.....Bonnie Lowry

ORIGINAL FORT CONSTRUCTION, SLAVES LEASED, BRICK MATERIAL ORIGIN

Before Fort Morgan was built, Fort Bowyer was there due to an order of April 20, 1813. Colonel John Bowyer and troops had forcibly ejected the Spanish from Mobile Point. Basically Fort Bowyer was a sand battery on the beach. The first substantial fort was built of wood and sand. It burned when the British captured the area in the War of 1812. Then a tropical storm destroyed Fort Bowyer in 1819. In 1819 (the same year Alabama became a state) Congress realized the need for a permanent fort to protect the Gulf. Napoleon Bonaparte's aide, Simone Bernard, was to be the

chief planner of a strong Mobile Point fort. The five-pointed brick fortress erected by the US government began in 1833 and was completed in 1834. The tapered bricks used to form the arches were hand made by slaves. The mortar was of ground seashells. There are approximately 7-8 million bricks coming from Fish River at a place called "Devil's Hole." Some three thousand slaves were leased from plantation owners for \$200 per male slave and 1/3 that for the female slaves.

Records show that the citadel was built first, then the five points or star shaped outside walls. Fort Morgan is named for General David Morgan, a hero of the American Revolution. Most of the fort was still standing by 1936, having defended Mobile Point through battles including the 1864 "Battle of Mobile Bay" and the Spanish-American War.

Having been abandoned several times between wars, the old fort was restored in 1936. During a restoration a stage object was discovered with the inscription "32-P Clyde-1805". This would be prior to Fort Bowyer. It is yet to be proven if the object was from a defender of the fort or a foreign entity.

In 1927 the 25-acre fort was purchased by the state of Alabama for \$8000 and then designated a state park.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site.....Heather Tassin, Director

Spring Bird Banding Returns to Fort Morgan April 17-21, 2018. Detailed information for the bird banding can be found at the link below. The event begins at noon the first day and 8 AM the following days . Regular admission rates will apply for people attending one day, or a wrist band can be purchased for the week for \$12. Parking will be by Battery Dearborn, which is across the street from the event. <https://birminghamaudubon.org/birdbanding/>

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

If you have questions, need information or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following board members.

Officers

President	Paul Barefield	540-7727	csbarefield@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu
Standing Committee Chairs			
District 25 Planning & Zoning	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Future Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Membership	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
NEWS & Website Editor	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	
39sunnisands@gmail.com			
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

FMCA 2018 MEETINGS

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church

March 12 ~ April 9 ~ May 14 ~ June 11 ~ July 9 ~ August 13

Fort Morgan Civic Association
P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547
www.fortmorgancivic.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Pruet
President

Tom Ward
Vice-President

Rebecca Bryant
Secretary

Mark Eiland
Treasurer

Pam Ramos Brown

John Dindo

Gary Ellis

Brett Gaar

Bart Greer

Neil Johnston

Brenda Litchfield

Sue Mattson

Katherine Pitman

Amber Ramsay

Sam St. John

Lee Walters

ALABAMA COASTAL FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 246
Fairhope, AL 36533
(251) 990-6002

Hello friends,

Last season, our Fort Morgan Share the Beach (Sea Turtle Conservation Program) volunteers lost the use of a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV). As you know, our volunteers are responsible for locating, marking, and protecting new turtle nests and turtle nesting attempts (false crawls).

For years, Share the Beach was associated with the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and had use of a UTV. However, due to government cut backs, we were no longer able to use that resource. The Alabama Coastal Foundation is now the home for the Share the Beach program and is helping us raise funds to cover the costs associated with using a UTV this season. If you are interested in making a difference for wildlife and your community, this is your opportunity.

The UTV is used for daily morning monitoring patrols of 9 miles of beach along the Fort Morgan peninsula and to move nest protection and processing equipment to isolated nests. Some days we have multiple nests and multiple false crawls. A UTV will help us complete the processing of nests to save them in time.

The Fort Morgan team averages over 60 nests, 5,100 eggs, and 3,300 newly hatched sea turtles to the water each season. This effort takes thousands of volunteer hours. We follow protocols mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under our federal endangered species recovery permit. This effort is supported entirely with your donations.

Please send your tax-deductible donation, made out to "Alabama Coastal Foundation", and noted "For Fort Morgan UTV" to:

Fort Morgan Share the Beach
C/O Debbie Harbin
1929 Highway 180
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Thank you for your interest and support of the Fort Morgan Share the Beach Team. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact team leader, Debbie Harbin, at 251-391-8333 or Ken Lee, at 410-610-3690.

Thank you.
Your Fort Morgan Share the Beach Team



Fort Morgan Civic Association
P.O. Box 5313 • Gulf Shores, AL 36547

www.fortmorgancivic.org

2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Cell Ph _____

Fort Morgan Address _____ Phone _____

This property is west of mile 14.7: _____yes _____no -- See Article III, Section 1 below Associate Member? _____ yes

Registered Voter? Yes ___ No ___ Fort Morgan District 25 ___ Alabama-Other district/city ___ State ___

Email (please provide for special alerts) _____

[Save trees, stamps, time, get your NEWS in color by e-mail] Send newsletter by email _____ by U.S. Postal _____

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Referred to FMCA by _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

NOTICE: We need volunteers to help the Association in the following areas. Where can you assist? (circle)

Program Planning: Identify & Arrange Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests

Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/other Groups Write Brief Reports

Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Greeter at Meetings Help with Pot-Lucks

Communications: Postal Mailings E-mail Writing for Newspaper, Publicity Releases, etc.

Newsletter: Desktop Graphics/Layout Gather/Submit News Items Write Brief Articles Photography

Computer: Set Up/Maintain Data Base Spreadsheets Excel Access Word PowerPoint

Financial: Bookkeeping Annual Audit

What other skills, experience or talents could you volunteer? _____

From the By-laws Adopted April 11, 2005

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Regular (voting) Membership in this association shall be open only to property owners and/or residents in the unincorporated area west of mile 14.7 of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 2 Associate (non-voting) Membership shall be open to residents of areas outside the Fort Morgan Peninsula whose interests coincide with those of the Association including the preservation of the environment and quality of life of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 3 Membership application shall be made by completion of a form provided by the Association and payment of the required dues. Dues for the following year shall be determined at the October general meeting and shall be for the following calendar year January 1st through December 31st.

Section 4 Payment of Regular (voting) Membership dues entitles a member household to one (1) vote. A member household is comprised of Association members living at one physical address. Past year member households paying dues after January 31st and new members joining the Association will have no voting rights until thirty (30) days after payment of dues.

Section 5 Payment of Associate (non-voting) Membership dues entitles the member to attend all member meetings and receive the monthly newsletter.

Make checks payable to: **Fort Morgan Civic Association or FMCA**

I would like to make a donation to the Legal Fund in the amount of \$ _____

2018 dues @ \$15/household _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Your donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association is not tax deductible as we do not qualify because of our political activity attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.