

FORT MORGAN NEWS

February 2018~Issue 132



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,
Hope all fared well throughout the ice age with no broken pipes and avoided the various "bugs" that were prevalent. Lots of people with flu so be careful. **Plan to attend our Feb. 12 meeting.** Thanks to Chan for editing this month. We hope Sonja is feeling better soon.

Paul
Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

Membership Renewal for 2018 – We have 250 2017 members who have not renewed
Please return your dues now with the attached member form
To the FMCA post office box on the form.
Contact Chan (chan@goefish.com) if you have any questions.
Thank you for your continued support.

January 8th Election of FMCA Officers ~ There were no nominations from the floor. The 2017 officers were re-elected by acclamation. No other business because of the big game!

Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens

The Fire Department's Annual Meeting was held on January 9, and the Board of Directors went unchanged due to no opposing candidates being nominated by the public. Hopefully, that is a sign that everyone is pleased with our operations.

Highlights at the Annual Meeting included the 2017 summary:

- A record of 350 calls.
- Recipient of a \$5000 Forestry Grant used to purchase a wildfire unit for our high-water rescue truck.
- Replacement of our 15-year-old SCBA air cylinders.
- Purchase of new radios.

Also announced were plans for 2018:

- Introduction of our community fire safety education program.
- Improved equipment for our Beach Rescue Program and our Basic Life Support Program.
- Continued training to certify members as EMTs and Structure & Wildland Firefighters.
- 911 is upgrading its system so that first responders will receive more information on tablets, which we will need to purchase.

Last month, the Department responded to only 9 calls: 3 medical, 3 public assists, 2 false alarms, and 1 vehicle fire. Our current roster has 24 firefighters, compared to 19 at this time last year. We appreciate the addition of the 5 new members.

Our meetings are still held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at Station 1. Our goal is to match our 2017 recruitment success and add 5 more members in 2018. Come join us at one of our meetings to see how you can help your community.

Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee.....Chan West, chair

Our committee will be meeting at 9:00 am on January 31 at Shell Bank Baptist Church to consider Variance Request V-180003, which involves building a house on pilings over a wetland. Notice of meetings of this committee are posted on our website.

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.....Brittany Petersen, Assistant Refuge Manager

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge's Winter Walks and Talks will begin the second week in February and continue in to the end of March. This year's Walks and Talks will cover a variety of topics including; dynamic dues, birds, medicinal & edible plant, sharks & sea turtles, and marine ecosystems. For the most up-to-date schedule the walks and talks please check out Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge's website at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bon_Secour/ and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonSecour-NWR/>. You can also call the Refuge's office at 251-540-7720 for more information and reservations.

Turtle Tracks 2018.....Chan West

New Management of Share the Beach

The Friends of Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (FBSNWR) and the Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) are delighted to announce a new arrangement for Share the Beach, Alabama's sea turtle conservation program. Last year, the Friends group approached the Alabama Coastal Foundation asking if that organization would be interested in being the new home for Share the Beach. As of this month, Share the Beach is now an ACF program which continues being led by Mike Reynolds.

The main reason for the program transfer was that the geographic scope of Share the Beach grew much broader than the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Starting in 2018, Share the Beach volunteers will monitor Alabama's nearly 50 miles of coastline and the Alabama Coastal Foundation is starting to raise the funds to conduct that work. The nesting/hatching season typically takes place from May 1st to October 31st each year.

A celebration will be held later this spring both 1) to thank the Friends of Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and past Share the Beach volunteers and 2) to educate the public about the 2018 nesting season. Anyone interested in learning more about that event should send an email to info@joinACF.org

Over 400 volunteers participate in STB each year to monitor the nests. That program follows protocols set forth by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the federal endangered species recovery permit. To learn more, visit: <http://www.alabamaseaturtles.com/>.

A Must-Have Book for Our Residents

Share the Beach will also benefit from a book, *Finding Home: The Life of Stella Sea Turtle* recently written by one of our volunteers, Simone Lipscomb, and illustrated by Linda-Bell Schorer. This is a children's book which, through a story about a young girl who comes to visit her grandmother at the beach and assists her with monitoring nesting sea turtles, can educate all of us about ways to avoid interfering with nesting and hatching. A great gift for visiting grandkids! Simone and Linda are contributing a portion of their profit to Share the Beach. This delightful book is on sale at the refuge office or from Simone on her website: www.simonelipscomb.com.

Indian Ditch Archaeological Dig.....Harry King

We completed an expansive dig on the 21st of January with six test holes dug - Two on the mound slope South under the power lines and four east under the power lines (Not on the mound). Porter Phase pottery shards and shells were found in each.

The main 4'x12' excavation was deepened yielding a copious amount of shell, fish bones, deer bones and pottery shards. Come and participate on next dig 4 February 2018, corner of Norman Lane and Fort Morgan Road.

Fort Morgan Historical Site.....Heather Tassin, Director

Listed below are all the events that we have planned for the next month. If we add any events that information will be listed on our website www.fort-morgan.org. If any events are canceled, for any reason, it will be posted on our Facebook page.

- January 30, 2018 2:00pm Civil War Tour Series "Overview of the Civil War at Mobile Point"
- February 6, 2018 2:00pm Civil War Tour Series "Fort Bowyer"
- February 13, 2018 2:00pm Civil War Tour Series " Early Civil War"

- February 17 & 18, 2018 All Day Event British Navy Living History
- February 20, 2018 2:00pm Civil War Tour Series "Battle of Mobile Bay"
- February 27, 2018 2:00pm Civil War Tour Series "Siege of Fort Morgan"

Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ November 2017.....Donnie Payne, BCSO

Nathan Lusk has been promoted and he has been replaced by Donnie Payne. Donnie continues to urge: **Don't become a victim, lock your vehicles!** Also call to report any suspicious persons or vehicles: BCSO Dispatch 937-0202, Option 1.

12-30-2017	Suspicious person and B&E to a Vehicle on Ponce De Leon Ct.
1-6-2018	Misdemeanor theft on Hwy 180.
1-18-2018	Residential burglaries on Breezetime Circle and Gulfwind Ct. Televisions taken

Obituaries: We regret having to report the passing of two longtime resident members and that of a former resident who moved away in his old age.

Emily Steiner: Emily Ann Mitchell Steiner, 72, a native of Washington, NC and a lifelong resident of Fort Morgan, AL passed away surrounded by her family and friends on December 8, 2017 following a lengthy illness. She was a dedicated nurse throughout her life and spent the final years of her career giving loving care to children as the first school nurse for Baldwin County Schools. She was a founding member and an active volunteer of Gulf Shores United Methodist Church. She is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth J. Steiner, and her father, Earl H. Mitchell. She is survived by two children, Lee Steiner (Alison) and grandson, Brock, of Foley, daughter, Kemily Steiner Wilson, and granddaughters, Kahle and Kyndal, of Fairhope, her mother Sophie Mitchell, stepson John Steiner of Gulf Shores, brother Herb Mitchell (Pat) of Pensacola and sister Lilly Mitchell Dudley (Stuart) of NC and sister-in-law Carol Ann Steiner (Stroud) Curran of Tampa and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church on December 11 with Reverend Glenn Butler presiding. The family would appreciate contributions be made to the church in her memory.

Sam St. Clair: Age 72, left this earth on Sunday, December 31, 2017. Samera was a loving mom, and friend to all who knew her and will be missed dearly. Sam loved the beach, the sun, riding in her golf cart, spending time with her friends, and of course Sunday Funday! Sam is survived by her daughter, Kim and her husband George Navarre, and her faithful companion, her dog Cheyenne, and her friends. Preceding Samera in death were her parents, William and Vera Nall, her son, Christian St Claire, her grandson Eric Navarre. Friends were invited to a mass at Our Lady of the Gulf in Gulf Shores on Saturday January 13, 2018. Make a donation to the charity of your choice; local animal shelter, St Jude, Shriners Hospital, are just a few.

Henry Smith: Henry Wilson Smith was born June 27, 1917 in Cherokee County, AL. He was the eldest son of Hollis Washington Smith and Edna Lee Faulkner Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and by a wonderful wife of 70 years, Cammie "Sallie" McAdams Smith. His survivors include one son, Donald Keith (Galia) Smith of Boston, MA; one daughter, Patricia Lynne Smith (Gary) Meaut of Mobile, AL and one granddaughter, Sarah Rose Smith of New York; other relatives and friends. Henry spent most of his life in Mobile, AL. He was a US Army veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, and was honorably discharged from the Signal Corps with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He was a longtime member of Howard Masonic Lodge #69 and a 32nd degree member of The Scottish Rite. Central Baptist Church was his home for many years. In recent years he was a member of Airport Boulevard Baptist Church. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM from the chapel of Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Interment was in Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Please do inform the editor of the death of a member and we will publish a link to the obituary.

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
February 12 ~ March 12 ~ April 9 ~ May 14 ~ June 11

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

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.