

*Friends of Franklin County State Parks  
(FOFCSP)*

**Who are the Friends of Franklin County State Parks?**

Our organization is made up of park volunteers and people like you who have a love of our State parks and a desire to support their recreational, environmental and economic value to the community. As a member of our organization you will be promoting the mission of the Park Service to preserve and protect our parks' natural and cultural resources and to provide recreational opportunities to area visitors and residents. FOFCSP is the official Citizen Support Organization of the State parks in Franklin County. Membership dues and other funds raised by this organization are for the exclusive use of the State Parks in Franklin County.

**WE NEED YOU!**

Friends of Franklin County State Parks members realize the importance of the State Parks of Franklin County. Our organization supports St. George Island State Park, The Orman House Historic State Park, The John Gorrie State Park Museum, Chapman



Botanical Garden, and The Three Servicemen Plaza. Your support will enhance, improve and preserve our parks for future generations. We invite you to design your own membership. Some members choose to express their support through annual membership dues or donations. Others devote many volunteer hours doing a variety of tasks such as building boardwalks, gardening, giving guided tours, and assisting with special events. They find time for socializing, relaxing and enjoying the result of their labors while building new friendships. The amount of involvement is up to you.

**GOALS**

Since its inception The Friends of Franklin County State Parks, formerly named Friends of St. George Island State Park, has been instrumental in raising funds to support needed park projects. Our organization is responsible for the building of boardwalks and shelters and organizing events that benefit our parks and support the area economy. Our organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Friends mission is to generate support for state parks through work projects, community relations, exhibits, fund raising activities, special events, and educational activities. We seek additional funds to augment the parks' existing funding in order to enhance and expand the parks' services to the public.

**BECOMING A MEMBER**

Membership in the Friends of Franklin County State Parks is rewarding. As a member you will receive a membership card giving you 12 days free entry into the state parks in the FOFCSP family. You can take pleasure in knowing you are helping to preserve and protect a part of the Real Florida. Join today and become a part of our family.

*We invite you to join the  
Friends of Franklin County  
State Parks*

**Annual Membership dues**

Individual.....	\$20
Family.....	\$30
Business.....	\$50
Lifetime.....	\$500

If you wish to make a donation only, please indicate the amount and check the area you would like to support.

50% of the membership dues go to general operating funds, which benefit all parks. You can designate where the remaining 50% will go.

**Check One:**

- General Operating Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- Apalachicola State Parks \_\_\_\_\_
- St. George Island State Park \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

All funds are used to help support programs, events, and improvements at the Florida State Parks located in Franklin County

**Our mailing address is:**  
**FOFCSP**  
**P.O. Box 144**  
**Eastpoint, FL. 32328**  
[www.FOFCSP.org](http://www.FOFCSP.org)

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## St. George Island State Park

The Gulf of Mexico and the Apalachicola Bay provide the perfect setting for this picturesque state park located on one of Florida's Gulf Coast barrier islands. To get to the park, follow the signs on Highway 98 in Eastpoint across the bridge to the island, and then turn left.

With 1,962 acres of undeveloped beaches and dunes at the end of a long, narrow barrier island, St. George Island State Park is a combination of sandy coves, salt marshes, shady pines and oak forests. On its gulf side, ten miles of pristine beach are popular for swimming and sunbathing on the white shores. The shallow bay is a haven for canoeing and kayaking. Fishing opportunities are plentiful on both the gulf and bay sides.

Recreation facilities include two boat ramps, hiking trails, boardwalks and observation platforms. At the two main beach access areas there are three large picnic shelters, restrooms, and cold showers. A beach concession at the first access area offers food, snacks, beach supplies, camping and fishing gear. The family campground has 60 campsites in a shady pine forest.



St. George Island State Park is open from 8:00 a.m. until sundown, 365 days a year. Reservations for camping may be made through Reserve America, 1-800-326-3521. For more information, contact 850-927-2111.

## The Orman House

Built in 1838 by Thomas Orman, this antebellum home overlooks the Apalachicola River and was used for both business and social gatherings. The wood for this two-story home was cut to measure near Syracuse, New York and shipped to Apalachicola. It was then assembled on the bluff overlooking the broad estuary and bay of the Apalachicola River. Today the house still resonates with a genteel aura and warmth of the past.

Orman was a cotton merchant and businessman in Apalachicola from 1834 to 1880. He helped the tiny town become one of the gulf coast's most important cotton exporting ports during the mid-19th century. The two-



story house features details of both federal and Greek revival styles with wooden mantelpieces, molded plaster cornices, and wide heart-pine floorboards.

The Historic Orman House is located in Apalachicola, off U.S. 98 at 177 5th St., in the downtown historical section. Follow the signs from the stoplight in the middle of town.

The house is open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and closed 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Tours are offered hourly, except at 12:00 p.m. For more information, call 850-653-1209.

## Chapman Botanical Garden

Dr. Alvan Chapman practiced medicine in Apalachicola from 1847 until his death in 1899. He also became a world famous botanist, having cataloged many plant species in the Apalachicola area. His most notable accomplishment was *Flora of the Southern United States*, a guide describing plant species occurring outside of the northeastern U.S.

Dr. Chapman, a northern sympathizer from Southampton Massachusetts, married a southern woman from North Carolina. He and his wife's political views varied so greatly over the Civil War she left him and went to live with family in Marianna Florida. Chapman stayed in Apalachicola and was given credit in aiding in the escape of union prisoners from confederate prisons in the south. After the war he and his wife reunited and had a good life in Apalachicola. The Chapman house still stands today. Both Chapman and his wife are buried in the Chestnut Street Cemetery located just behind the house.

The Chapman Botanical Garden is located across from the Historic Orman House in Apalachicola. It provides a great open



space to have a picnic, family gathering, or social event. The landscaped grounds and large front porch of the Orman house are available for special occasions and events. For more information call (850) 653-1209

## John Gorrie Museum

A young physician named John Gorrie arrived by steamboat in 1833, and helped lead Apalachicola to prominence as a port of trade and commerce. He served as postmaster, city treasurer, town councilman, and bank director. His most significant work however, was in medicine. To ease the suffering of his yellow fever patients, Gorrie invented a machine to cool his patients' rooms. He became a pioneer in the field of air conditioning and refrigeration and would later invent an ice machine, receiving the first U.S. Patent for mechanical refrigeration in 1851. His invention laid the groundwork



for modern refrigeration and air-conditioning. A replica of his ice-making machine is on display at the museum.

The museum highlights the remarkable and compassionate nature of John Gorrie and chronicles the colorful history of Apalachicola, which played an important role in Florida's economic development.

The museum is located on Sixth Street in Apalachicola, off U.S. 98. It is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Thursday through Monday except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, contact the John Gorrie State Park Museum / P.O. Box 267 / Apalachicola, FL 32320. (850) 653-9347

[www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org)

