

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
OUR  
PREMIER MEMBERS



Tallahassee~Leon  
Federal Credit Union



# Shop Local Wakulla

*Proudly Supported by the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce*



## President's Message

Dear Valued Members:

Spring is just around the corner... A time for renewing, refreshing and rejuvenating! A time to take a fresh look at opportunities to grow your business! One of the many benefits of being a Chamber member is tapping into the educational resources available to your business and your employees.

Due to contributions of local businesses to the Burt Poole Scholarship fund, the Chamber offers Ed2Go online classes to its membership. These online classes range from *Computer Skills for the Workplace* to *Effective Business Writing*. You can access a list of current classes at the home page of the Chamber web site at [www.wakullacountychamber.com](http://www.wakullacountychamber.com). Registration forms and enrollment instructions can be obtain through the Chamber office.

Another great educational resource is available through our strong partnership with Career Source Capital Region. You and your employees have access to workshops as well as power hours, job fairs business employer solutions, applicant screenings and much more. Look for a workshop to be offered later this year. Visit their website at [www.careersourcecapitalregion.com](http://www.careersourcecapitalregion.com) for additional information.

TCC Wakulla Center has a multitude of classes for our community. Through Workforce Development, you can find help with increasing profitability, training new employees, and training potential leaders in your business, just to name a few. Visit their web site at <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/workforce-development/> to take full advantage of these great classes.

Whether you have owned your business for a long time or if you're newly employed, the Chamber offers a variety of resources to our members. We encourage you to take a look and take advantage of the opportunities right at your fingertips!

If you have other ideas for seminars, workshops, or classes, - reach out to the Chamber office to let us know!

In Service,

*Mary Wallace*

Mary Wallace

## 2016 Business Excellence Awards Winner Spotlights

*By JoAnn Palmer*

### ***Sponsored by***



Over this year, the chamber articles will be dedicated to the winners of our business excellence awards. We're taking advantage of showcasing these businesses and organizations to honor their incredible dedication and commitment to our community. It's difficult for me to condense the outstanding work, accomplishments and information in a way to truly express the dedication and commitment by these winners that I read in their application responses. I hope I have done them justice in these upcoming articles and if any of you want to learn about them, go talk to them. I know I always learn so much and especially appreciate this opportunity – it is amazing what we may take for granted about some of these outstanding businesses and they are all truly deserving of these awards.

Currently there are over 1.5 million registered non-profits in the united states. Organizations such as churches, school, civic groups, relief agencies, public charities, and private foundation encompass this category. This year the nominees are an impressive group of organizations committed to our community. I will say the winner represents the true eponymy of sacrifice and doing what you do for the love of it.

The 2016 winner for non-profit organization was incorporated in 1994 and came to Wakulla county in 1995. The Florida Wild Mammal Association was founded by the Beatty family as a place to bring sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in need of treatment and care until recovery and subsequently released back into their natural habitat. During the first year of operation they provided wildlife rehabilitation for 73 animals. Their patient caseload exceeded 900 animals last year and is expected to surpass that number in 2017. Chris, Jess and their staff of volunteers work tireless hours to make sure that every animal is treated humanely and given their very best chance to survive. FWMA also works to educate the public on local wildlife issues.

They have over 50 adult volunteers who give of their time to fundraise, pick up supplies, rescuing animals and help with maintenance and repairs just to name a few things. They have a youth education program for which they partner with Wakulla High School, local colleges and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. They offer youth ages 16-25 the unique opportunity to work with wild animals in a hands-on capacity. The skills they earn through this opportunity will stay with them throughout their life. It also gives those participants a respect for wildlife, job skills and compassion for life. FWMA is looking to expand their facility in 2017 and is looking for a new place to call home - a place that will house more animals to meet their growing demand.

**Congratulations! Our 2016 Non-profit organization – Florida Wild Mammal Association.**

## Networking Luncheon Hosted by WEI Catered by Hamaknockers

It's hard to beat the world of seafood around here but the barbeque feast at our February networking luncheon hosted by Wakulla Environmental Institute, and catered by Aaron



and Christina Baker of Hamaknockers, is definitely not to be missed. The plates were buckling under the load of juicy chicken, fall off the bone ribs, and tender pulled pork accompanied by all the fixings that go with a traditional BBQ.



Members that joined after our last luncheon introduced were Allegiant Consulting and Management Services, LLC, (owner William Darrell introduced his assistant manager David Donovan and shared that he is contributing a 2 TB memory stick), and Greg James, along with Panacea Oyster Co-op employee Pam Portwood.

New members for February were McDonald's, and Backbone IT Solutions.

Several of our members introduced their guests. Carolyn Langston – Debra Lewis, owner of Lewiswood Farms; Kathie Brown introduced Pam Chichester with Body Tek 24 Hour Fitness Center, Debbie Kirkley, Tallahassee Leon Federal CU introduced coworkers Katrina Alexander and Dee Casseaux; and Walt Dickson introduced Greg Diehl.

Events shared included the fundraiser, "Las Vegas Revue", for Florida Wild Mammal Association, and the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade and festivities hosted by the Crawfordville Lions Club. Mary Wallace announced that Wakulla Springs Baptist Church will be holding their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Special Needs Prom, put on for students in Middle School, High School and Adult Education. Mary is seeking donations to help pay for the event to make this a special day for these students. To pledge your support please get in touch with Mary at 926.6612. Mary also shared that tickets sales for the chamber's annual low country boil have been phenomenal, and only a few tickets are left.

This month's Chamber Luncheon featured Fran Pybus, Community Resources Coordinator for Big Bend Hospice, as our speaker. The topic was, of course, Hospice, but with a different way in how Hospice can be perceived. She stressed how the term Hospice can be an uncomfortable thought and just plain scary to an individual or family. Instead of being frightened by the thought of Hospice, look at Hospice as the light of "Hope". Hope that a cure can be discovered, Hope that one can begin to regain quality of life and "graduate" from services received, Hope that all details and arrangements can be worked out in advance with assistance from Hospice and Hope, if end of life is eminent, all of these processes are completed the way YOU want them completed.

Fran shared the different services provided by individuals from Physicians, Nurses, Home Health Aides, Counselors, Chaplains, Music Therapists, and Volunteers.....helping to control pain, providing personal care, light housekeeping and cooking, companionship, spiritual support, grief counseling, family support and respite care. Fran emphasized the fact that Big Bend Hospice is a non-profit organization. If specified, donations sent to Hospice from Wakulla County are placed in a "Patient Special Needs Fund" used only for our Wakulla residents.

Fran concluded by asking all of us, the next time we heard the term Hospice, not to be frightened but to think of the word "Hope".

Fran can be reached in Wakulla County at Big Bend Hospice, 2889 Crawfordville Hwy., Suite C, 850-926-9308. The March spotlight will be presented by Dorothy White with Ouzts Too. The lucky winner of our cash drawing of \$89 was Quincee Messersmith.

Ending the luncheon with our popular drawing of 42 great items, and we thank our members and guests for their contributions: Cook Insurance, Olympus Insurance, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, Allegiant Consulting and management Services, WCSO Emergency Management, Wakulla Insurance, Costco, Revell Electric, Shepard Accounting, Wakulla Medical Center, Capital City Bank, Fairy Tales Weddings and Events Services, Wakulla Senior Center, Barn's Spirits, Smith Thompson, Shaw, and Minacci & Colón, P.A., Talquin Electric, The Wakulla News, Superlube, Petra Shuff, Magnuson Hotel, and Palaver Tree Theatre.

**Welcome New Chamber Members**

**2016**

**Business Excellence  
Award Winners**

*Sponsored by*



**Retail**

The Little Black Dress

•

**Professional Service**

Hydra Engineering &  
Construction LLC

•

**Service Business**

Talquin Electric Cooperative

•

**Hospitality & Tourism**

Shields Marina, Inc.

•

**Non - Profit**

Florida Wild Mammal Assoc.

•

**Green Business**

Bay Leaf Market

•

**Government & Schools**

City of St. Marks

•

**President's Choice**

Walter (Wally) Dodson  
Presented Posthumously

•

**Volunteer**

Sherrie Miller

•

**Wakulla Area Business**

Kent's  
Property Preservation, LLC

**Welcome Beth Yankosky - JV & Sons Inc., Mc Donald's** specializing in fast food

2605 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327

**Welcome Paul Williams - Backbone IT Solutions,** specializing in Internet Technology

3215 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327 850.745.5440

[www.bbittsfl.com](http://www.bbittsfl.com)



**Medical and Healthcare Hiring Fair**

CareerSource Capital Region invites you to connect with local employers in the medical and health care industries who are hiring!

Bring your resume and dress for success!  
All attendees must create a job seeker profile on [www.employflorida.com](http://www.employflorida.com).

For more information or to sign up for email reminders visit [www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/job-seekers](http://www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/job-seekers) or call 850-922-0023

A special thank you to our event sponsor Dynamic Workforce Solutions and our media sponsor Cumulus Tallahassee.

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by person using TTY/TTD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center network. Learn more about our upcoming hiring fair at [www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/job-seekers](http://www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/job-seekers) or call (850) 922-0023.

**How to Run an Effective Job Campaign**

Overwhelmed by your job search? Join us to learn about new strategies to revitalize your job search!

For more information about this workshop go to [www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/calendars](http://www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/calendars) or contact your local library.

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by person using TTY/TTD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center network.