

This Month at the Museum

May 2026

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends:

April is a wrap—and what a month it was! From watching kids harvest the biggest carrots you've ever seen at Springing the Blooms, to celebrating a city's centennial, and wrapping it up dancing the night away with Fletcher fans, there was truly something for everyone.

While May is only *slightly* less busy, we are hard at work behind the scenes preparing for the transformation of our permanent exhibit. The Tidal Shift campaign continues to gain strong momentum, and the design of the new exhibit is coming together beautifully. We plan to close the exhibit space at the end of the month and begin preparing for installation. This is a significant undertaking that will involve our archives volunteers carefully removing and storing collection items, our facilities volunteers beginning demolition, and our partners installing new flooring, lighting, and fresh paint. From there, we'll be ready to install the new exhibit later this summer.



We remain committed to keeping the Museum open and welcoming visitors throughout this process. In addition to the Atlantic Beach history exhibit, we're excited to host a traveling exhibit on right whales in our lobby. Opening Saturday, May 16, it will be on display throughout the summer, offering a meaningful opportunity for learning and engagement. Our thanks to the Amelia Island Right Whale Ambassadors and the sponsors who made this exhibit possible—we are honored to be the first stop on its journey.

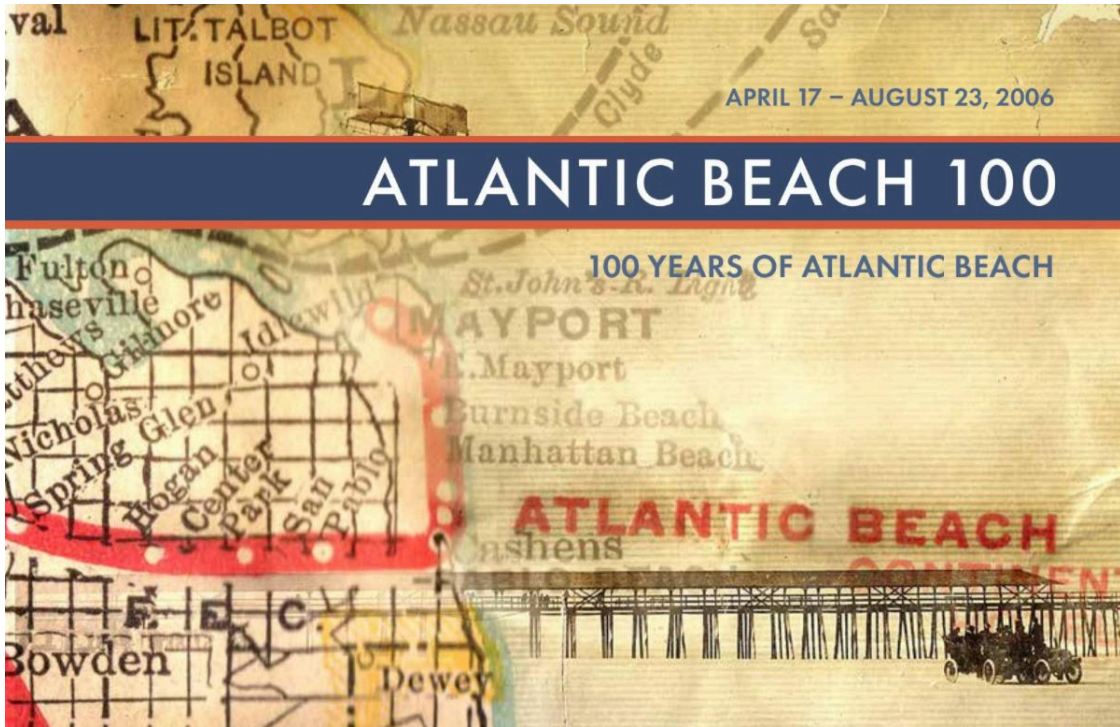
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Beaches Museum.

Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Hoffman
Executive Director

Current Exhibit - *Atlantic Beach 100*
April 17, 2026 - August 23, 2026



From its beginnings as a bustling center of beachfront activity for vacationers in the early 1900s to the vibrant coastal community it is today, this exhibit highlights the photos, artifacts, stories, and people that shaped the city.

Discover its role in national golf tournaments, the preservation of its cherished parks, and the rich history behind the familiar names that still appear in the community today.



Member Moment: **NARM Highlights!**

MEMBER
MOMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

A Beaches Museum
Family Membership is your
ticket to these museums...



The Ringling Museum,
Sarasota FL

The Dali Museum,
St. Petersburg FL



Davenport House,
Savannah GA

Atlanta History Center
Atlanta GA



...and **more!**

Family members and above get **free or reduced admissions at over 1,400 participating museums nationwide** through NARM and SERM!

Above are just a few participating locations we've chosen to spotlight this month. You don't need to travel far to use your membership benefits! This summer, take a day trip to Sarasota, St. Pete, or our neighboring state to check out these picks and enjoy free or reduced admission costs as well as **other Museum membership benefits** like gift shop and event discounts!

To learn about other participating locations, visit the [NARM](#) and [SERM](#) websites.

Not a member? Join today and enjoy the benefits of NARM and SERM!

[START OR RENEW A MEMBERSHIP](#)

Member Deal of the Month: Native Flora of Coastal Northeast Florida
By Edward A. Merritt, PhD

MUSEUM MEMBER DEAL PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

**NATIVE FLORA OF COASTAL NORTHEAST FLORIDA:
FROM THE DUNES TO THE MARITIME FOREST**
BY EDWARD A. MERRITT, PHD

15%
OFF



Written by Dr. Edward A. "Ed" Merritt, this book takes you on a journey from the water's edge to the sheltered canopy of the maritime forest. It is not merely a list of plants but a narrative of survival, revealing how native flora withstands the relentless forces of salt spray, storm surges, and shifting sands to build the dunes that protect our communities.

For this month only, **our members** get an exclusive 15% off discount on this brand new book! Simply show your membership card at checkout.

MEMBERSHIP

Upcycle Fashion Show
Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m.

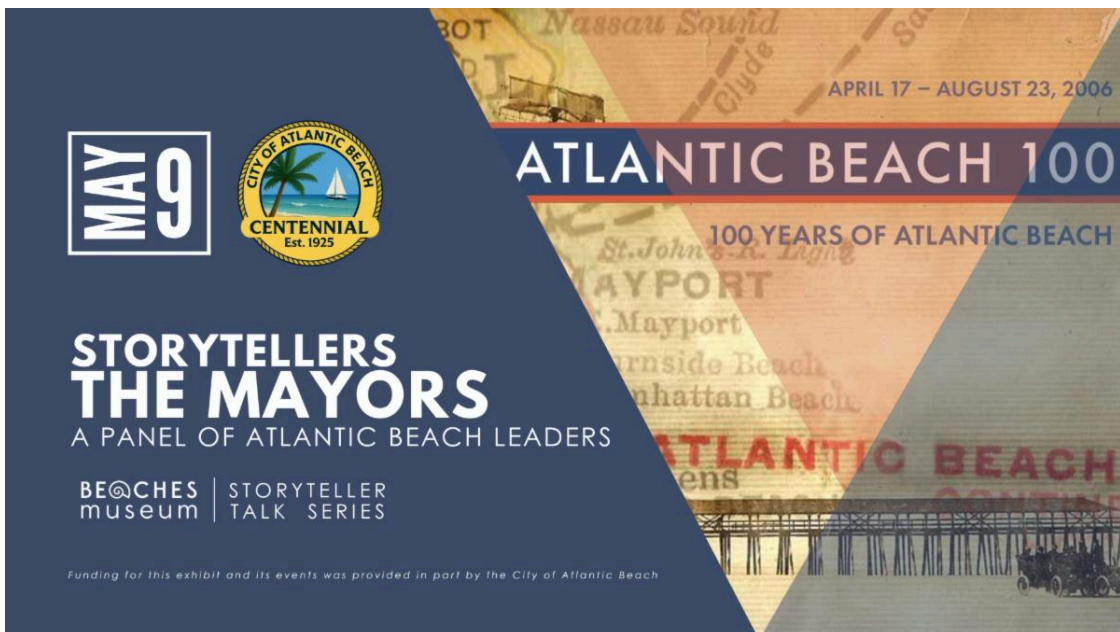


The GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club and New Age Hippy present an Upcycle Fashion Show featuring thrifted styles brought to life by local models, plus a few familiar faces from the Beaches Museum team. Proceeds support the Museum!

This is a third-party event benefitting the Beaches Museum.

TICKETS

Storytellers: The Mayors of Atlantic Beach
Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m.



Join former Mayors of Atlantic Beach for a Storytellers event honoring Atlantic Beach's centennial. The dynamic panel representing leadership from the 1980s to today will share the personal stories, pivotal decisions, and behind-the-scenes

challenges that helped shape the city. Experience a rare, firsthand look at how Atlantic Beach became the community it is today.

Events are free to Museum members with a \$5 donation suggested for non-members. Because seating space is limited, registration is required. **Use the code MEMBER at checkout for free access.**

Funding for this event was supported by the City of Atlantic Beach.

REGISTER

Traveling Exhibit: Right Whales of Amelia Island
Saturday, May 16 at 11:00 a.m.



Looking out from Amelia Island's beaches, the coastal waters of SE Georgia and NE Florida host the only calving grounds for the endangered North Atlantic right whale. This exhibition explores their hunted history and fragile future. Fewer than 400 remain. This traveling exhibit, "Right Whales of Amelia Island," was created by the Amelia Island Right Whale Ambassadors, whose mission is to protect North Atlantic right whales through education and awareness.

To open the exhibit and as the first in a series of events associated with the exhibit, representatives of Defenders of Wildlife and Amelia Island Whale Ambassadors will present on the right whales and rh

Events are free to Museum members with a \$5 donation suggested for non-members. Because seating space is limited, registration is required. **Use the code MEMBER at checkout for free access.**

This exhibit was made possible by Dan and Krissi Barr and Defenders of Wildlife.

REGISTER

Chapel Concert: Jim Bickerstaff and the White Knuckle Flyers
Thursday, May 19 - 7:00 p.m.



Jim Bickerstaff and the White Knuckle Flyers bring decades of deep Southern roots and musical craftsmanship to the stage. Guitarist, Singer, Songwriter and engineer with famed Johnny Sandlin at this Muscle Shoals studio, Jim has worked with many giants of music in country and rock. The White Knuckle Flyers showcases Jim's songwriting presented in a landscape including Americana, rock, country, and bluegrass.

The Chapel Concert series, now in its 11th year, has featured a wide variety of musical genres, nationally and internationally known artists, and award-winning music. The Chapel Concerts benefit the Beaches Museum.

Check-in and refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:00 p.m. No physical tickets will be issued but your name will be on the list at check-in. Thank you for your support!

TICKETS

Edgewater Walk-A-Thon
Saturday, May 30 - 10:00 a.m.



A one-mile walk through Jacksonville Beach to raise funds for the Beaches Museum. The walk starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp and the first 50 registrants receive a

free smoothie, compliments of Tropical Smoothie Cafe.

Organized by Steve Williams, the event ties into three generations of local family history. Donations are welcome and 100% of proceeds support the museum. RSVP required—registration includes access to all post-walk activities.

This is a third-party event benefitting the Beaches Museum.

REGISTER

Florida Chamber Music Concert Sunday, May 31 - 3:00 p.m.



FLORIDA
CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT



BEACHES
museum
Culture • History • Community

SEASON FINALE
CONCERT
SEASON 13 - BEACHES MUSEUM CHAPEL
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026 AT 3:00 P.M.

Sponsored by Jane and Rex

PROGRAM:
Voodoo Dolls • Jessie Montgomery
Source Code • Jessie Montgomery
String Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3 • Ludwig van Beethoven



Music Among Friends
Meet the musicians at a reception after the concert.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT:
FLCHAMBERMUSIC.ORG
STUDENT TICKETS AT DOOR: \$10.00
FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE OFF PABLO AVE.

BEACHES MUSEUM CHAPEL:
505 BEACH BLVD.
JAX BEACH.

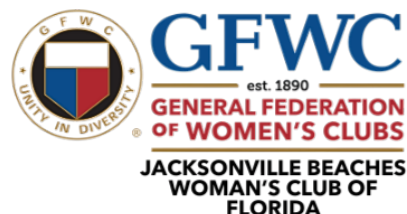


<https://flchambermusic.org>  flchambermusic  flchambermusic  Scan the QR to go to our website

Partner Spotlight: GFWC Woman's Club

The Beaches Museum is proud to partner with the GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club. Their ongoing support makes a meaningful impact on our work.

From providing an annual grant that helps sustain our programming to actively preserving their



organization's history within our archives and collections.

This month, they went a step further by organizing a benefit fashion show featuring our staff. We hope to see you there!

Leave Your Mark! Buy a Brick!

Show your Beaches Museum pride, memorialize a loved one, or celebrate something special by having your message displayed on a commemorative brick to be installed inside our Train Enclosure.



Engraved on your brick could be a name, a message, a business, or something else entirely! Whatever you decide, your brick will serve as a visible reminder of your commitment to the Museum and the Beaches area.

Every brick has a story. Write yours and make your mark as a part of the Beaches Museum. History is in the making, and this is your chance to memorialize the things that matter most to you. Your brick will be a place where the past meets the future in a perfectly preserved moment as a permanent part of Beaches history.

The 4"x 8"x 2 ¼" bricks are engraved using state-of-the-art laser technology and they are all guaranteed for life. Each brick is \$100, and each purchase supports the Museum in our mission to preserve and share Beaches history.

Buy-A-Brick

Support the Museum through Membership!

Membership at the Beaches Museum is a great way to show your support!



Join us in preserving, understanding, and celebrating the history of the Beaches – become a member of the Beaches Museum. Join now, and you receive all the benefits of membership, including access to historic buildings, the Beaches Museum, and rotating exhibits showcasing the colorful heritage of our Beaches communities.

You can become a member of Beaches Museum on our [website](#). You can also [donate](#) directly to the Museum. When you choose to donate, you can select a project that most interests you, including the Chapel Preservation Fund, the Jean McCormick Founders Fund, or the Museum's General Fund.

Join or Renew!

Beaches Museum Legacy Circle

Help ensure a future for our past by making a planned gift or a gift to our endowment!

To learn more about remembering the Museum in your will or contributing to the future sustainability of our organization, please contact Chris at 904-241-5657 x 113 or director@beachmuseum.org.



Save the Date!



June 11
Boardwalk Talk:
Amazing Architecture of
Atlantic Beach
with Wayne Wood



July 16
Boardwalk Talk:
Behind the Names of
Atlantic Beach
with Johnny Woodhouse



July 16
Boardwalk Talk: Picturing
Paradise – From John James
Audubon to the Florida
Highwaymen with Keri
Watson

[View Full Calendar](#)

About the Beaches Museum

The Beaches Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission "to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area."

A thriving creative economy enhances the quality of life for us all. Supported in part by the Merit-Based Cultural Service Grant Program, administered by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville with funding from the City of Jacksonville and our elected officials, we extend our gratitude to all partners who make this possible.



Beaches Museum
381 Beach Boulevard
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
(904)241-5657

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