



# Putnam County Scoop

FLORIDA'S  
Putnam County  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February - March 2016

## BASS Elite Anglers Return -- Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament set for March 17th-20th.

BASS returns to Palatka and your Chamber is busy coordinating the activities surrounding the tournament! This event is part of the Bassmaster Elite Series, a televised tournament leading up to the "super bowl" of fishing tournaments, the Bassmaster Classic. Once again, this year's top 100 anglers include local favorites Terry "the Big Show" Scroggins, and Cliff Prince who made his debut as an "Elite" in Palatka on March 15, 2012. Fans are sure to go crazy with two local entries!

The excitement kicks off Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with the official first weigh-in at 3:30pm at the beautiful Riverfront Park just south of the bridge. Daily launch time Thursday – Sunday is 7:15 and weigh-ins are all scheduled for 3:30 pm.

## Upcoming Events

### February 17 - 21

✓ River City Players present "Eat Your Heart Out" by Nick Hall @ Larimer Arts Center, Palatka

### February 18

✓ Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening @ Vintage Care Senior Living Center, Palatka

### February 18 - 20

✓ Palatka Bluegrass Festival @ Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, Palatka

### February 18 - April 1

✓ Sculpture & Drawings by Robert Coon @ FL School of the Arts, Palatka

### February 19

✓ 3rd Friday Dance @ American Legion Post #293, Interlachen

✓ 3rd Friday Art Show & Sale @ Tilghman House, Palatka

✓ 3rd Friday Downtown Street Party @ St Johns Ave, Downtown Palatka

✓ Community Farmer's Market @ Heritage Park, Melrose

### February 20

✓ 3rd Saturday Open House @ Historic Union Station, Palatka

✓ Saturday Night Live! @ Larimer Arts Center, Palatka

✓ Wagon Tours @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

### February 25 - 28

✓ The Addams Family, a Musical Comedy @ FL School of the Arts, Palatka

### February 26

✓ 4th Friday Barn Dance @ Interlachen Hall

✓ Live at the Larimer @ Larimer Arts Center, Palatka

✓ Community Farmer's Market @ Heritage Park, Melrose

### February 27

✓ 4th Saturday Cruise-In @ St Johns Ave, Downtown Palatka

✓ 4th Saturday Breakfast @ American Legion Post #293, Interlachen

✓ 4th Saturday Cook-Off & Chinese Auction @ Palatka Lion's Club, Palatka

✓ Wagon Tours @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

✓ Swamp Stomp @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

✓ Open House @ FL School of the Arts, Palatka

**Want more exposure for your upcoming events? List them on the Chamber website at: [www.putnamcountychamber.com](http://www.putnamcountychamber.com)**

### March 4

✓ 1st Friday Open House @ St Johns Ave/ Downtown Palatka

✓ 1st Friday Art Walk @ Gallery 26, Melrose

### March 5

✓ 1st Saturday Community Market @ Pomona Park

✓ Rodeheaver Boy's Ranch Benefit Bass Tournament @ Crystal Cove Resort & Marina, Palatka

✓ Webster University Open House & Information Session @ Ocala Campus

### March 5 - 6

✓ Annual Azalea Festival @ St Johns Ave/ Downtown Palatka

✓ Annual Azalea Days @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

✓ GNCC Moose Racing 2016 Wild Boar ATV & Motorcycle Racing @ Rodman Plantation, Palatka

✓ Nature Hikes @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

✓ Wagon Tours @ Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka

### March 17 - 20

✓ Bassmaster Elite Series Fishing Tournament @ Riverfront Park/Downtown Palatka

### March 18 - 26

✓ Putnam County Fair @ County Fairgrounds, East Palatka

### March 19

✓ Putnam Family Fitness Center St Patrick's Day Benefit Golf Tournament @ The Oaks Golf Club, Crescent City

The festival surrounding the tournament, sponsored by Georgia-Pacific, is free and open to the public Saturday, March 19th from 11am – 7pm and Sunday, March 20th from 12 noon until 6pm. New this year is Ozone Adventures – a 200 foot Zip Line along the St. Johns River! Other activities include the Kidz Zone with Zoo to You, Splash into Science, plush animal racers, and more – all FREE! More details will available soon.

How can you participate? There are many ways we need you to be involved and they include the following:

1. Get ready for our visitors! This televised tournament airs on ESPN at least 4 times and regional TV coverage usually is onsite, as well. Palatka, and all of Putnam County needs to shine! Clean up around your businesses, help pick up litter, remove old signs from your property, etc.
2. If you have a hospitality-related business or retail store, please consider expanding your hours and prepare your employees so all visitors receive excellent customer experiences.
3. We need thousands to show up for Saturday's festival and the weigh-in ceremony. Mark your calendar now, encourage your employees, friends, and bring your family to Palatka's Riverfront, especially Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## New Members

**ADT Security Services**  
Security Alarms

**Best Western Inn of Palatka**  
Lodge / Motel / Hotel

**Country Feed & General Store**  
Livestock Products & Supplies

**FL Medical Hearing Centers**  
Hearing Aids

**Hawg Wash BBQ Joint**  
Restaurants

**Lake View Motel**  
Lodge / Motel / Hotel

## Congratulations to...

◆ The 2015 Chamber Award recipients: **Taylor Douglas**, *Roland Pacetti Realty*, Chamber Good Guy Award; **Sandra Fortner**, *First Coast Technical College*, Chamber Good Gal Award; **Terry Turner**, *Armstrong Roofing*, Board Member of the Year; and, **Bill Pickens**, *Peninsular Auto Parts*, Bob Hudson Small Business Person of the Year Award.

◆ The Putnam Chamber Education Foundation (PCEF) 2015 Scholarship recipient, **Paige Watts**.

◆ The **Azalea Festival** celebrating their 70th Anniversary, March 4th - 6th.

## Other Great News...

◆ Georgia-Pacific introduced the new 6-roll Sparkle Minis -- Made here in Palatka, FL!

◆ Putnam County Unemployment rate is at 6.4% — the lowest rate since April 2008 (5.6%).



**2016 BAH Calendar - 3 Months Available.** Now is the perfect time to schedule your business to sponsor BUSINESS AFTER HOURS (BAH). Only 3 months are available for 2016 (April, June & July). BAH is held the third Thursday of each month, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm, and each month it's hosted by a Chamber member business or group of member businesses. Hosting BAH is an affordable way for your business to generate traffic and offers the opportunity to introduce your business, its products and services to other business professionals and consumers. It also offers members the opportunity to network with you and others in a comfortable environment, and it allows you to discuss your business face-to-face with other members all at once. Don't miss an opportunity to showcase your business, its products and services. For questions or to reserve the date for hosting your BAH event, call your Chamber today at 386-328-1503.

**Visitors Guide & 2016 Chamber Directory.** The Official 2016 Chamber Membership Directory is now available. Produced in partnership with Palatka Daily News, the "official membership directory" is included in the annual publication, *Destination Putnam*, which promotes Putnam County's many tourism assets. It is available at the Chamber and various local business. Get your copy today and remember to shop a Chamber member business first!



**February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sponsored by:

**Vintage Care Senior Living**

See Your There!

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce  
1100 Reid St, Palatka, FL 32177  
(386) 328-1503  
[www.putnamcountychamber.com](http://www.putnamcountychamber.com)