



# OSSABAW ISLAND

Foundation & Education Alliance

## 2018 Summary & Accomplishments

### Overview

The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) provided coordination and facilitation on Ossabaw Island to 1,300 learners, comprising 2,880 individual visits (day trips, camp nights, or bed nights) in FY 2018. TOIF hosted 181 program days and 137 nights on Ossabaw Island. Of the 63 total groups who visited, 24 groups were first-timers. Groups included 31 cultural study trips, 11 student/teacher trips (totaling 175 student/teachers), and 10 science related trips.

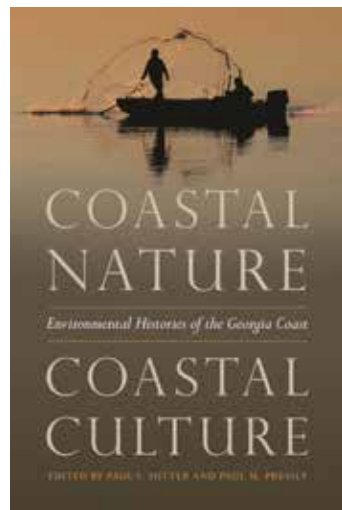
### 40 Years of State Protection

Ossabaw Island became part of Georgia's publicly protected lands on June 15, 1978, when Governor George Busbee designated Ossabaw as Georgia's first State Heritage Preserve. Those protections remain today, setting aside this 26,000-acre barrier island only "for natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education, and environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the Island's ecosystem..." Construction of a bridge or a causeway connecting Ossabaw to the mainland or to other barrier islands was also barred by Busbee's orders.

### 20 Years of TOIF Stewardship

In 1998, the Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) and the State of Georgia signed a Use Agreement giving TOIF the responsibility to manage programming and facilities on Ossabaw Island in accordance with Heritage Preserve guidelines. Since then, TOIF has shared Ossabaw Island with thousands of historians, scientists, artists and more, hosting exceptional natural, scientific and cultural programming; and has restored or stabilized ten historic buildings on Ossabaw Island.

### Education



*Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture: Environmental Histories of the Georgia Coast*, (UGA Press) a book based on the 2016 symposium hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation and Education Alliance, was published in July 2018. This book is co-edited by **Dr. Paul S. Sutter, University of Colorado Boulder** and **Dr. Paul M. Pressly, Director Emeritus, Ossabaw Island Education Alliance**. Contributors include William Boyd, S. Max Edelson, Edda L. Fields-Black, Christopher J. Manganiello, Tiya Miles, Janisse Ray, Mart A. Stewart, Drew A. Swanson, David Hurst Thomas, and Albert G. Way.



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

### Science

#### UGA Archaeological Field School:

**The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and University of Georgia's (UGA) Department of Anthropology** hosted the fifth year of an archaeological excavation and field school on Ossabaw Island. Work took place at the South End site which contains archaeological midden deposits dating from the Archaic (4,500 years ago) into the 19th century plantation period. Objectives were to fully delineate the boundaries of the site and to record features that are actively eroding into Newell Creek, a tidal creek located between a high bluff at South End and the marsh that stretches to the mainland. An archaeological day trip for the public was offered by TOIF, DNR and UGA. Participants had the opportunity to dig, sift, wash, and sort artifacts alongside university students and archaeological students. In 2019 the field school will work in Athens, Georgia to process and catalog the artifacts discovered so far on Ossabaw Island.

#### Sea Turtle Nesting

TOIF hosted two turtle-hatching weekend trips, with participants assisting the **Georgia DNR's Sea Turtle Conservation Program** interns in documenting some of the 199 turtle nests occurring on Ossabaw Island's beaches in 2018. Nearly 7,300 turtle eggs hatched from Ossabaw's nests.

*Revealing the Voices & Mystery of Ossabaw Island*



Photo by Heather Powers

## History and Culture

### The Art of Indigo Dyeing

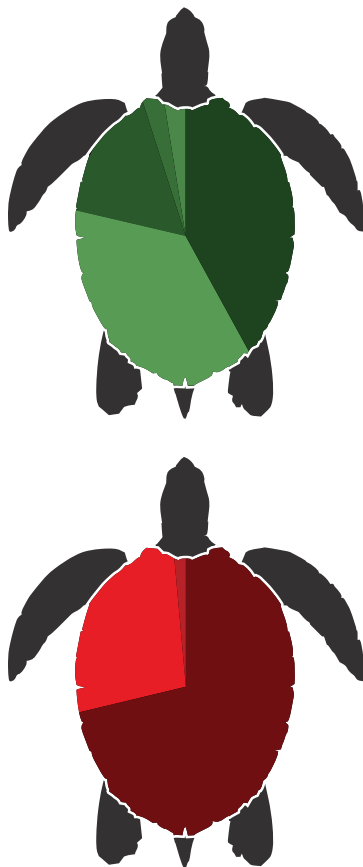
During two fall indigo workshops taught by Donna Hardy of Sea Island Indigo, participants created fresh-leaf indigo dye using the naturalized indigo plants growing on Ossabaw's North End for the past 270 years. Participants dyed natural fiber items in the just-created Ossabaw Indigo blue dye.

### Fee-Free Trips

Ossabaw Island hosted two Fee-Free trips in collaboration with other historic sites: Georgia History Festival's **Super Museum Sunday** in February, and **Lift Every Voice: Savannah's African American Historic Sites Free Day**, in August.

## Stewardship

### 2017/2018 Financial Report



## REVENUE

- **\$127,500 On-Island Revenue**
- **\$119,500 Pig Roast**
- **\$50,000 Donations**
- **\$10,000 Grants**
- **\$10,000 Books & Swag Sales**

**\$317,000 TOTAL**

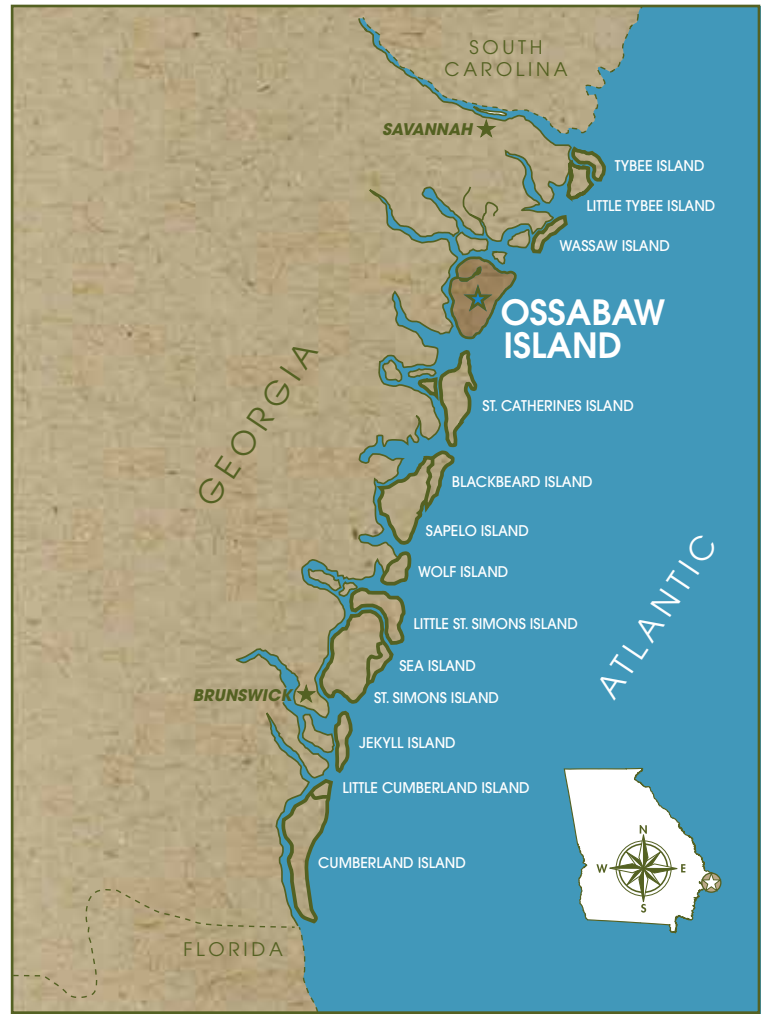
## EXPENSES

- **\$216,000 On-Island Expenses**
  - cleaning, maintenance & repairs of buildings & equipment
  - transportation to/from Ossabaw
  - on-island staffing
  - Pig Roast expenses
- **\$77,000 General & Administration**
  - staffing
  - printing & postage
  - Annual Meeting expenses
  - audit fees
- **\$5,000 Use Agreement Fee** paid to the State of Georgia

**\$298,000 TOTAL**

## NET REVENUE

**\$19,000 Little House Roof & Septic System Rebuild**



## Partnerships

Collaboration and support throughout the year is provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia, and Savannah State University's Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. Other partnerships in 2018 included: Savannah State's Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Moon River District, Pin Point Heritage Museum, Coastal Museums Association, Historic Savannah Foundation, Georgia Southern University, Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Historical Society, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Georgia DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program, Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat, UGA's Center for Archaeological Sciences, UGA's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, UGA's Marine Extension Center & Aquarium, The Landings Association, and Wesley Gardens Retreat Center.

Ossabaw Island is a 26,000-acre barrier island owned by the State of Georgia. The state's first Heritage Preserve is undeveloped and set aside by an Executive Order for natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education; and for environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the island's ecosystem.

The Ossabaw Island Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3. Through a partnership with the State of Georgia, TOIF inspires, promotes, and manages exceptional educational, cultural, and scientific programs that are designed to maximize the experience of Ossabaw Island.