



Ossabaw Oracle

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A publication of the Ossabaw Island Foundation

Education Alliance Hosts Roundtables

In an effort to define goals, the Education Alliance led by Paul Pressly hosted two roundtable discussions of people vitally interested in the future of Ossabaw.

On August 22, 2005, twelve historians, archeologists and specialists in the culture of the coast met in the Clubhouse on Ossabaw to consider how best to tell the story of the island in its many forms and how to use that story to energize research along the coast.

Among the participants were representatives of Georgia Southern, University of Georgia, Armstrong Atlantic, Emory, Georgia Historical Society, New Georgia Encyclopedia, the Library of Congress, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Lamar Institute, and the Savannah Morning News.

On August 27, eighteen scientists, educators and wildlife specialists met in Sa-

vannah to consider how the Heritage Preserve designation of Ossabaw might offer unique opportunities for scientific research. Designated as Georgia's first Heritage Preserve in 1978, the Island enjoys a protected status that ensures it a minimum of change due to direct human activities. Participating were individuals from Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic State, University of Georgia, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Gray's Reef, NOAA, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the University System.

The two groups issued reports that will guide the process of using the island for "study, research and education" as designated in the Heritage Preserve. On October 3, there will be an additional roundtable devoted to science education.



History roundtable: Paul Pressly (TOIF), Jeff Young (Emory), Jonathan Bryant (GSU), Stan Deaton (Georgia Historical)

GYSTC—Teaching the Teachers on Ossabaw

Founded in 1989, Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers, Inc. (GYSTC) is a private, non-profit educational organization designed to increase interest and enthusiasm in science, mathematics and the technologies, particularly among elementary and middle school teachers and students. GYSTC is headquartered at Chattahoochee Technical College.

GYSTC has thirteen re-

gional centers across the state that provide staff development workshops and programs for teachers as well as assemblies, activities and camps for students. The programs of each regional center are defined by local school system needs.

Kathy Gunn, Regional Coordinator of the Magnolia Midlands GYSTC, has developed a series of professional learning courses on Ossabaw Island. They

include Ecology of Sea Turtles, Biostudy of Birds, and Exploring the Ecosystems of Barrier Islands.

Ossabaw provides teachers with the opportunity to study science in a hands-on outdoor lab. They also learn about the geography, culture, and history of the island.

Teachers who participate in the courses leave Ossabaw Island enriched and eager to share their ex-

Save the Date

Pig Roast, Picnic & Art Sale
Saturday October 22, 2005.

From New York City, The Wiyos return to entertain us again this year.

Art Show to benefit Ossabaw Island Foundation

Artist Tim Coy's one-man show at Gallery 440 has been extended until October 16. Proceeds from the show are being generously donated to the Boarding House Challenge Fund. The show is at Gallery 440, 440 Bull Street in Savannah.

The Ossabaw Island Foundation's Mission Statement

The Ossabaw Island Foundation encourages natural, scientific, and cultural study, research and education on Ossabaw Island and conserves and protects Ossabaw Island's unique resources, in partnership with the State of Georgia for the benefit of present and future generations.

perience and knowledge with their students.

For more information about GYSTC, you may visit their website at www.gystc.org.

For more information about GYSTC educational programs offered on Ossabaw, contact Kathy Gunn at (478) 289-2094.

Roundtable Discussions



From August 27th Science Roundtable at the Coastal Georgia Center:

L to R: Jim Simmons (DNR), David Frost (GA Tech), Herb Windom (TOIF Board), Reed Bohne (Gray's Reef/NOAA)



L to R: Chris Miller (TOIF Board), Paul Pressly (TOIF), Dionne Hoskins (SSU), Matt Gilligan (SSU).

Poems

The beauty of Ossabaw, the talents of TOIF On-Island Coordinator Jim Bitler, and a terrifying encounter with an alligator caused several teachers visiting the island with GYSTC in July to burst into poem.



Ode to Jim

To our trusty tour guide, Jim
Full of vigor, and full of vim!

Spouting knowledge and island lore,
Selling tee-shirts from the island store.

Woodstorks nesting in the lagoon
Adding beauty to the island's tune.

Identifying birds like the peewee's "tweet",
Extolling its virtues in your rope-sandaled feet.

Kathy is your compadre on the island tour -
Both of you entranced by the island's lure.

Steering the pick-up along the road,
A darkened shape did forebode.

The attacking gator, your valor did test
Protecting us teachers, you did your best.

Baskets and brooms are among your talents.
Guiding tourists adds to the balance.

To our trusty tour guide, Jim,
Full of vigor, and full of vim!

Mary Hulsey July, 2005

Correction:

In the last issue of the Ossabaw Oracle, the historic pictures were misidentified.

It was the Gatehouse (not Oswalt) family that served as superintendent of the island from 1921—1937. The pictures were shared by the Gatehouse/Alderidge family. They lived at Middle Place.



Pig Roast, Picnic & Art Sale—October 22

This year's Pig Roast, Picnic and Art Sale to benefit the Furniture Fund is shaping up to be our best one yet! The Ossabaw Island Foundation currently owns a one-half interest (shared with the heirs of Bill Torrey) of most of the original furnishings in the Torrey-West house. TOIF is now working on purchasing a share of the original art, china and garden furnishings.

The Host Committee looks forward to serving a delicious picnic on the lawn overlooking the Ossabaw Sound, featuring delicious roast Ossabaw pig prepared by Roger Parker, and fabulous fixings prepared by caterer Lee Epting of Athens, Ga.

Savannah's Jamie Keena Trio and New York City's The Wiyos return to entertain us with their unique sounds during the event.

In addition to the silent auction the day of the pig roast, you may preview the art at the Jack Leigh Gallery, 132 Oglethorpe Avenue in Savannah, October 11-16.

Lunch is served noon to 2:00 p.m., the Silent Auction is 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., guided house tours will be available throughout the day, and the first boat back to the mainland will be leaving at 3:00, the last boat at 5:00 p.m.

Host Committee

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Shirts! Posters! Books! Notecards!

Order Now at the Ossabaw Gift Shop

Check out our newly designed t-shirts, using Craig Rubadoux's Ossabaw animals on the front (the ones you see running across the Ossabaw Oracle) and a map of the Georgia Coast on back. Short or long sleeved, dark green shirt/beige printing.

In addition to the award-winning *Evocations of an Island* hardcover books, we also have boxed note cards featuring two different images from the book (10 cards total, with 5 cards each image).

We're also pleased to offer prints of William Armstrong's painting of Bradley Beach.

Please send ___ copy(ies) of *Evocations* @ \$29.95 _____

Please send ___ box(es) of *Evocations* Notecards @ \$12 _____

Please send ___ copy(ies) of Bradley Beach poster @ \$20 _____

Please send ___ Short-sleeved T-shirt, S M L XL @ \$15 _____

Please send ___ Long-sleeved T-shirt, S M L XL @ 20 _____

Enclose \$5 for US postage and handling. \$ 5.00 _____

Total Order:

My check/money order is enclosed _____

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o MasterCard o VISA
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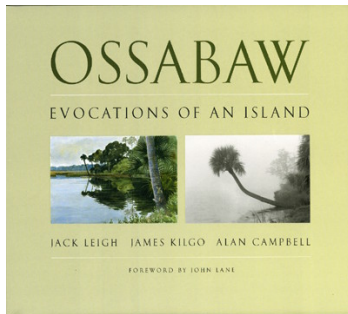
Name: _____

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Send completed form to:

The Ossabaw Island Foundation
145 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Congratulations



Congratulations to the 41st **Georgia Author of Year** Award Winner, Specialty Books Division, Alan Campbell, James Kilgo and Jack Leigh for *Ossabaw: Evocations of an Island*.

Order this award-winning book, or note cards featuring images from the book, through the Ossabaw Island Foundation, using the order form above.



Friends of Ossabaw June - September, 2005

Friends (\$20-\$99)

Andrew Deveraux

Lucky The Ossabaw Pig (\$100-\$499)

Dr. & Mrs. Keith A. Dimond

Kathy Ledvina

Susan & Bill Lovett

Sam & Kim Murray

Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Stanton

Mary Thrower Wickham

In addition:

A gift in honor of Eleanor West from Josephine Llapp Osbun.

A gift in honor of James and Susan Noyes who actively work for the Ossabaw Island Foundation from Wayne and Janet Kuhn.

Contributions to the Ossabaw Island Foundation, a 501-c-3 not-for-profit corporation, are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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BRINGING THE BOARDING HOUSE BACK TO LIFE

“We’re moving forward on the project to rehabilitate the Boarding House, the 1916 bungalow originally constructed to house the Ossabaw Island superintendent,” comments Patricia Barmeyer, Chair of the Ossabaw Island Foundation Board of Trustees.

“Once rehabilitated, the Boarding House will provide supplemental housing for artists, scientists, teachers and others visiting Ossabaw,” continues Ms. Barmeyer. “In addition - and critically important - TOIF will construct an apartment on the second floor for its on-island coordinator. This will allow Jim Bitler to move out of the dilapidated trailer that has been his island dwelling.”

In response to a challenge grant from the Raymond M. Cash Foundation in the amount of \$125,000, TOIF has raised \$65,000 to date from the Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation, the Board of Regents, the Bill and Leslie Hodges Fund, and artist Tim Coy. Savannah architects Dawson & Wissmach have generously agreed to donate their services to the Boarding House project.

“The board is actively fundraising for this important project, and we need donors to help match the challenge grant from the Cash Foundation,” states Ms. Barmeyer. Donors may contact Elizabeth DuBose at the Ossabaw Island Foundation office for more information, at (912) 233-5104.



Boarding House rendering courtesy of Poticny Deering Felder

The Ossabaw Island Foundation
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Savannah, GA 31401

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