

# The Ossabaw Oracle

Vol. VIII, No. 1 A publication of the Ossabaw Island Foundation Spring 2005

## GA State University's Heritage Preservation

On October 24, 2004 a group of eleven students from Georgia State University's Heritage Preservation Program visited Ossabaw Island to help with the preservation of the three tabby dwellings along Cane Patch Road.

The group of students spent seven days on the island, and while there, were involved in several projects at the site. These included sorting, cleaning and crushing oyster shells for experimental tabby, removing Portland cement on the exteriors of each structure to reveal original tabby, and removing plaster to expose the original lime wash on the interior walls.

In addition to working hard, the students were also able to tour the island. Each day, Jim Bitler took the students around the island, allowing them the opportunity to experience the vast history of the island beyond the 150 year period the three

tabby dwellings represented. The students were taken to Middle Place, Buckhead and South End, as well as given permission to visit Mrs. West's home.

By the end of the trip, the students' experience on Ossabaw had become more than merely educational. The students left with a sense of gratitude to all those involved over the years who allowed Ossabaw to remain untouched, giving them the true sense of a barrier island.

Bonnie K. Garvin



Bottom Row (L to R): Janet Barrickman, Vicki Toranzo, Rissa Miller, Bethany Seraphine. Top Row: Bonnie Garvin, Laurie Sedicino, Mike Reynolds, Laura Drummond, Professor Richard Laub, Terri Gillett, Andy Reisinger, Andy Garner

*The preservation, conservation and restoration of the North End Plantation tabbies is being supported in part by a Save America's Treasures grant administered by the National Park*

*Service, Department of Interior.*

*The project is coordinated by the Ossabaw Island Foundation and generously funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, The Charles Evans Hughes Memorial Foundation, Sandra Bullock and the State of Georgia*

## The Ossabaw Bug

I have what is commonly referred to as the Ossabaw bug. I caught it while serving as chair of the Ossabaw Island Foundation, and it is a unique affliction. I noticed that educators, scientists and artists who return to the island year after year had it; I thought I had avoided being stricken.

The symptoms of the Ossabaw bug are:

- Feeling a connection to the spirit of the island (only those who have the bug understand the meaning of this)
- Talking about Ossabaw as though she is very alive
- Finding yourself wanting to return to continue learning from the island.

The bug attached to me when I was on the island watching new life spring forth undisturbed by man interfering with this natural process. I was the intruder, not the plants or birds. It came to me during inspiration found from the natural resources on the island, in talks with educators and researchers on what the island means in understanding our natural world and in talks with Sandy West on what the island means to mankind.

The bug really bit me on a visit to the island after the death of my friend Jack Leigh. I went to see the places

reflected in his book, *Evocations of an Island*. By sitting near the trees he photographed, I could feel the spirit of the island as he captured it, and in those moments, sense the importance of a place like Ossabaw.

For me, the cure is to continue to work towards the goals set forth by DNR and The Ossabaw Island Foundation.

There are so few places left on Earth like Ossabaw. It is a place where scientists will research the unanswered questions, artists will be inspired to create, people will write stories of life, and educators and teachers will take students to learn.

Thank you, Ossabaw supporters, for listening and believing in the work of The Ossabaw Island Foundation. As past chair of TOIF, I have complete confidence that Patricia Barmeyer, the new Chair of the Board of Trustees and Noel Holcomb, the new Commissioner of DNR, will lead the way to a long and continued partnership as stewards of Ossabaw. The Board and staff of both organizations and you, the friends and supporters, have ensured that Ossabaw will continue to be available as a resource for research, education and cultural efforts. Just watch out for that bug!



Roger Parker, Zelda Tenenbaum

Zelda Tenenbaum

# Thank you to the corporate and private sponsors of the Pig Roast 2004.

---

Longwater Advertising Co. Inc.  
Holland, Henry & Bromley, LLP  
Raymond M. Cash Foundation, Inc.  
Savannah Electric and Power Company  
Spanish Moss Printing Company

SunTrust Bank  
Savannah Bank  
Wachovia  
Sea Island Company  
King & Spalding, LLP

Rec Arts  
Bill and Carol Fox  
Kaye and Don Kole  
Kenneth L. Johnson  
Thorlo Sock Company

---

## Friends (\$20-\$99):

Bruce & Janet Barrickman  
Jeanne Burr  
Margaret & Frank DeBolt  
Robert E. DiNardo  
Mrs. James H. Carmel  
Jeannine Cook  
Davis Auto Salvage  
John Earl  
Patrick & Carol Evans  
John R. Giddens  
Clara Guerry  
Robert Haas  
J. Haniel Henry  
Susan & Steve Hoffins  
Betsy & Tom, Alice & Lucy Kohler  
Richard Laub & Denise Messick  
Dr. Diane Lesko  
Diane & Russell Lewis  
Mrs. Malcolm Maclean  
Mary Maughelli  
Alice H. Model  
Karen Nagle  
Henry Nanninga  
Sanford I Philips  
Alice Steyaart  
Joe & Ann Stubbs  
West Fraser Studio  
Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Thorpe Jr.  
Mr. Leo H. Wery  
Kaersten Colvin-Woodruff

## Lucky the Pig (\$100-\$499):

Curtis & Elizabeth Anderson  
John Barrett  
Jim Boyle & Becky Setliff  
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Byck  
Susie Clinard  
Mr. & Mrs. E.C. "Ches" Crow III  
John & Anne Destefanis  
The John and Emma Derst Foundation  
Theodora L. Gongaware  
Robert L. Harrison  
Henry & Sally Herrmann  
William F. Hodges  
Cecil & Sandy Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hungerpiller  
Chris Miller  
Crosby Milne  
Mrs. R.C. Montgomery  
Benjamin G. Philpott  
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Ratterree  
Joseph Sanders  
Willard S. Moore & Virginia Saunders  
Virginia Lancastee Shields  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Williams  
Warsh-Mott Funds  
Dr. & Mrs. L.L. Wilkes

## Fiddler Crab (\$500-\$999)

John S. & Margaret E. Langford

## Woodstork (\$1,000-\$1,999):

Robert & Maria Blanck  
Celia W. Dunn Realty Company  
Cecil & Sandra Hudson,  
support of the Furniture Fund  
Dr. Paul Pressly  
Mike & Debbie Rouzee  
Wachovia Foundation

## Snowy Egret (\$2,000-\$4,900)

The Schley and Lang Knight Foundation  
Arthur & Krista Williams

## Great Blue Heron (\$5,000- and up)

Patricia Thrower Barmeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Thrower

A gift in memory of Helen Vail  
from Kim Dixon.

A gift in memory of Lee A. Gay  
from Wiley and Judith Wasden.

A gift in honor of Zelda Tenenbaum's  
birthday from Dana Braun

A gift in memory of Kirby F. Beam  
from Lynda G. Beam

A gift in honor of Hospice Savannah  
volunteers from Beth Logan

A gift in honor of Jim Noyes  
from Wayne Kuhn

A gift in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sonny  
Seiler from Dr. & Mrs. Thomas W.  
Lawhorne Jr.

A gift in memory of Katherine Pritchard  
Nichols

A gift in honor of Sandy West from Fred  
and Suzanne Williams

A gift in thanks for the dedicated service  
of Zelda Tenenbaum and Lee Eptine  
from John G. Kennedy Foundation and  
Connie & Glen Darbyshire.

A donation made to the Ossabaw  
Education Alliance from Barbara Baker

A gift from The Solomons Fund

A gift from The Nan Award

A donation made in celebration of Sandy's  
92<sup>nd</sup> birthday by Patricia Barmeyer.

A donation in thanks for Zelda  
Tenenbaum's service as Chair of the  
Ossabaw Island Foundation by Patricia  
Barmeyer.

A donation in honor of Lonice Barrett,  
Noel Holcomb, Joe Tanner and Lee  
Adler by Patricia Barmeyer.

Thank you to Thorlo socks who  
provided socks for visitors to try  
out while hiking around Ossabaw.

Thank you to all of the artists  
who visited Ossabaw and were  
inspired to create a work of art  
to be donated to the Pig Roast  
Silent Auction.

Laura Adams, Carmela Aliffi,  
Ben Beasley, Jim Bitler, Carolyn  
Bohn, Sally Brown, Lucinda W.  
Bunnen, Anita Butler, Betsy  
Cain, Mary Cameron, Alan  
Campbell, Tim Coy, Ches Crow,  
Sidney Daniell, Shirley Daniell,  
Harry DeLorme, Harriet Delong,  
Marc DelSantoro, Peggy Everett,  
Gogo Ferguson, Jane Fishman,  
Anne Fraiser, Mark Frissell, Kay  
Godawa, Patti Hansen, Stacia  
Hendricks, Carter Hines, Carla  
House and workshop students,  
Rachel Green, Judy Morris  
Lampert, Susan A. Laney, Ragana  
Howard Lee, Micheal R. Leddy,  
Lynn Linnemeier, Laurie Lovell,  
Donna Meadows, Kathy Miller,  
Kim Miller, Jack Miller, David  
Morgan, Patricia Myers, Carolyn  
Neely, Angela Oliver, Lynda K.  
Potter, Lisa M. Robinson, Grace  
Rohland, Ted Scypinski, George  
B. Sears, Andrea Stark, Dicky  
Stone, Kirt Witte, Kaersten  
Colvin-Woodruff

---

## Ossabaw Celebrities on TV:

Watch for Mrs. West on  
Georgia's Wild Islands aired on  
Turner's Natural South

The Turner South show Lies and  
Legends will feature Mrs. West  
& Roger Parker, stay tuned...

Mrs. West's and Elizabeth Pool's  
book *Rusty, Sandy and the God  
of the Hinge* will be published  
in September 2005. This is their  
second book together.  
Congratulations!

## Jim Bits.... News from the On-Island Coordinator

Ossabaw is home to many animals, most of which never leave the island. One notable exception is that delightful troupe of creatures that dance across our letterhead, business cards and virtually everything; The Ossabaw Island Foundation prints. I have enjoyed them for years and thought they might have a story to tell. It turns out they do and I would like to share that story with you.

In the early 1980's, Craig Rubadoux (pronounced Roo-ba-Doo), a painter from Sarasota, Florida participated in The Ossabaw Island Project at the Main House (twice) and The Genesis Project as well. While walking through the woods one day he met Sandy West for the first time. She asked if he had ever seen "stone mile marker #6". She then led him to this little-known historic site between the Clubhouse and the Main House. What resulted was a friendship that grew for over 20 years and endures to this day.

Craig produced a series of "quick sketches" of an alligator, a sea turtle, a raccoon, a river otter, a dolphin, a deer and, of course, a pig. They were a gift to Sandy to use as she wished for her Ossabaw Foundation. Not since the Ossabaw Foundation evolved into The Ossabaw Island Foundation during the early 1990's has Craig been acknowledged as the creator of these inspiring images and the story been told.

During a recent telephone conversation, Craig shared with me a little about where he is now, what he is doing and the profound impact Ossabaw Island has had on his life. The island's animals made an impact on him, as did the architectural details of the Main House. He said he loves the "vastness" of Ossabaw and went on to share that "some of his best work was created here".

Craig primarily works in watercolors along with pen and ink. For half of the year he works from his studio on Lemon Bay in Florida. When the weather turns hot, he heads to his studio on Rose Bay in Nova Scotia for the remainder of the year.

For over two decades he has donated images of his work which are transformed into posters and note cards to support The Sarasota Music Festival. He continues to visit Ossabaw and I look forward to his annual visits to the island, not only to watch a talented artist at work but also to see the happiness he brings Sandy when he is around.

*Jim Bitler*

## Second Georgia Historical Society Market Dedicated

A second Georgia Historical Society Marker was dedicated on Ossabaw Island. Located on the island's North End at Torrey Landing, the marker was dedicated by the Board of Trustees of Ossabaw Island Foundation and Dr. Paul Pressly, Board member of both the Georgia Historical Society and Ossabaw Island Foundation on January 29, 2005. The marker reads as follows:



### Ossabaw Island

Ossabaw Island was home to Native Americans for four thousand years before the arrival of Europeans in the sixteenth century. Planter John Morel began indigo cultivation and timbering in the 1760s. Four separate tracts were owned by various Morel decedents later in the nineteenth

century. By Reconstruction (1865-1867), the island was occupied by the Freedmen's Bureau. Dr. Henry Torrey and Nell Ford Torrey of Grosse Point, Michigan bought the island in 1924. Their daughter, Eleanor Torrey West, established the Ossabaw Foundation in 1961.

In 1978 the Torrey and West families sold and gift-deeded Ossabaw to Georgia, making it Georgia's first Heritage Preserve.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, the Ossabaw Island Foundation, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.



Board members, guests and staff join Dr. Pressly in viewing the newly-unveiled marker.

## A Working Board.....



Was there second row of slave quarters at the North End Plantation site? The Ossabaw Island Foundation's Board of Trustees take part in a workshop and helps the Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division conduct a shovel test dig at the North End Plantation site in January 2005.

The Ossabaw Island Foundation welcomes Gail Andrus and Stewart Bromley of Savannah, Ga. as new Trustees. The Foundation sincerely

thanks Gwen McKee of Savannah for her commitment to Ossabaw while serving as a Trustee.

**Animal TIFF here**

Shirts! Posters! Books! Notecards!

# Order Now!

We now have newly designed t-shirts, using Craig Rubadoux's Ossabaw animals on the front and a map of the Georgia Coast on back. The shirts feature green printing on a natural colored shirt. In addition to *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 posters of William Armstrong's lovely painting of Bradley Beach.

Please send ___ copy(ies) of <i>Evocations</i> @ \$29.95	<i>Total</i>
Please send ___ box(es) of <i>Evocations</i> Notecards @ \$12	_____
Please send ___ copy(ies) of Bradley Beach poster @ \$20	_____
Please send ___ T-shirt, size S M L XL @ \$15	_____
Enclose \$4 for US postage and handling.	\$ 4.00
<b>Total Order:</b>	_____

My check/money order is enclosed

Please charge to  
 MasterCard    VISA  
 Discover    American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number (required) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Send order to:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed form to:**

The Ossabaw Island Foundation  
 145 Bull Street  
 Savannah, GA 31401

The Ossabaw Island Foundation  
 145 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401  
 912.233-5104, fax 912.233-5145  
[www.ossabawisland.org](http://www.ossabawisland.org)

**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.

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

## Animal TIFF here

The Ossabaw Island Foundation  
 Board of Trustees

<p><i>Chair</i>                  Carlton Brown                  Patricia Barmeyer                  Helen Downing                  William Hailie                  Gordon Matthews                  Chris Miller                  James Noyes                  Justin West                  Herbert Windom</p>	<p><i>Secretary</i>                  Paul Pressly                  James Noyes                  Stewart Bromley</p>
<p><i>Advisors to the Chair</i>                  Teresa Norton                  Alice Richards                  Suzanne Williams</p>	<p><i>Trustee Emeritus</i>                  Lee Adler                  Annie Dillard</p>
<p><i>Chairperson Emeritus</i>                  Maryanne Mott                  Brian Rosborough</p>	<p>Eleanor T. West</p>

The Ossabaw Island Foundation  
 145 Bull Street  
 Savannah, Georgia 31401

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Savannah, GA  
 Permit No. 1113