

The Ossabaw Island Foundation and Education Alliance

Revealing the Voices and Mystery of Ossabaw Island.

2010

Summary & Accomplishments

Education

OssaBEST

Armstrong Atlantic State University completed a three-year campus and on-island program of science and technology for Chatham County public school teachers and middle/high school students. Funded by a \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant.

Professor and Teacher Training Workshops

Training was provided to 133 school and university teachers and professors from across the United States in the fields of ecology, natural history and other sciences, and African American history and culture; through programs offered by the Georgia Historical Society, the University of Georgia Marine Education Center and Aquarium, the University of Tennessee, and the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers.

Day and Overnight Trips

Shared Ossabaw Island with hundreds of adults through day trips and overnight immersion programs organized by The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF), universities, special interest groups, or individuals.



Science

Barrier Island Observatory (BIO)

Installed two 100-foot towers on Ossabaw Island for transmitting scientific data in real time via the internet. Installed solar powered electronic data collection equipment at two new sites on the island and upgraded equipment at two existing sites. Technical support for construction provided by Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung. Technology planning and implementation provided by Seimitsu. BIO funding provided by Georgia Power.

Culture

Torrey West House Interiors Conservation

University of Delaware, Winterthur Museum and Colonial Williamsburg interiors professionals and students conducted an interior furnishings and textiles assessment, and developed a conservation plan and “Best Practices” maintenance guidelines for the Torrey West House.

Visiting Artists Program

Continued and expanded this successful TOIF program that provides visual artists the opportunity to create work on Ossabaw Island. Thirty-five artists participated in FY 2009-2010.

Film on Ossabaw Island

Three film projects were completed in 2010 on Ossabaw Island: *The Four Coursemen*, a Cooking Channel pilot program; the 1970 Genesis Reunion roundtable discussion; and a Savannah College of Art and Design film project.

History & Historic Preservation

Oral Histories

Recorded recollections of members of the 1970 Genesis Project during their 40 year reunion on Ossabaw Island.

African American History Book

Facilitated the publication of *African-Americans and the Georgia Lowcountry: The Atlantic World and the Gullah Geechee* in March 2010 by UGA Press.

Sponsored public lectures by contributor Emory Campbell in Savannah and at the Decatur Book Festival. The book won the 2010 Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History.

Boarding House

In partnership with Savannah College of Art and Design, furnished the 1918-era Boarding House on Ossabaw Island's North End, expanding overnight accommodation on the island to 32 people, with an eye toward longer-term stays. Received the 2010 Historic Preservation Excellence Award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

History

Received a \$40,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to interpret the history and culture of African Americans who lived as enslaved people and freedmen on Ossabaw Island from 1760 to 1890.



Governance

Partnerships

About 85% of island programming is "partners based"; including public and private universities, public and private elementary and secondary schools; state government; and non-profit environmental, research and cultural organizations. Collaboration and support throughout the year provided by the Department of Natural Resources and The Board of Regents of the State of Georgia.

Looking Ahead

Identified key goals for the next five years and completed our second five year strategic plan (2011-2015).

Communication

Launched new website, www.ossabawisland.org, in collaboration with Longwater & Co. Expanded outreach via e-newsletter and Facebook.

Special Events

Record-breaking attendance at the 2010 Annual Meeting and at the 2010 Pig Roast, featuring an auction of artwork contributed by Visiting Artist Program participants, longtime friends of Ossabaw Island, new artist friends, and former Genesis Project members.

Financial Performance

Since becoming a non-profit organization in 1998, TOIF has raised over \$4.1 million for infrastructure improvements and for exceptional educational, cultural and scientific programming. In 2010, we continued our long history of financial stability and diversity of funding sources. For the eighth consecutive year TOIF ended the fiscal year in the black. For the sixth consecutive year we conducted an audit of financial statements. In FY 2009-2010, total revenues were \$373,000, with total expenses of \$335,000.



For more information, visit www.ossabawisland.org