



Photo by D. Leslie Ferst

The Tower House at Genesis: A New Frame

By David Bayne

In the mid-1970's the Genesis Project faced a housing crisis. Most of the residents were living in leftover shacks from the defunct lumber camp at Middle Place. Earlier Genesis members built the A-Frame, the Director's Cabin, the two tree-houses and retrofitted the Tabby House, but the majority of the buildings where participants worked and slept were aging faster than the people they protected. From the bottom up, the island was reclaiming its own; fresh young artists were surrounded with termites and rot. The island environment is tough on man-made things, which I think delighted Mrs. West. Being on an island made maintenance that much harder.

At Genesis, in return for being fed and housed, Genesis participants were expected to cook for the group as well as contribute five hours a week to projects that benefited Genesis as a whole, such as working in the garden and getting firewood.

Instead of just completing their five hour expectation, several Genesis members made the Tower House their *raison d'être*. They gave up working on their art or writing or whatever that they originally had proposed, and became construction workers.

Continued on page 4...



Photo by Robin Gunn

Executive Director's Letter

This time of year always has me reflecting on our annual fundraiser, the Ossabaw Island Pig Roast and Art Auction. We just completed the 21st Pig Roast! Let's raise a toast to the event's coming of age. In last winter's Executive Director's letter I detailed the long history of the event. This October we hosted our third year of the Three Little Pig Roasts, originally designed to provide an alternative to our "one big HOG of a party" during the uncertain times of the pandemic. After three "little" years, the newly-designed Pig Roast has established itself as a permanent adjustment to this Ossabaw Island Foundation tradition. It turns out that three smaller late-afternoon parties, an artists' day trip, and an online auction and gallery exhibition provide a fun, relaxing, and unique Ossabaw Island experience for the event sponsors, guests, and donor artists. We've been surprised and pleased to discover that the smaller events raise more revenue for the Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) while being easier to organize, coordinate and host than a one-day affair for over 300 guests.

We have wonderful memories of the one-day Pig Roasts: the energy of the large crowd, Mrs. West's pithy welcome and the call to be a part of Ossabaw's Army, Roger Parker holding court in front of the house, Daniel Epting's exciting auctions and celebratory cartwheels, artwork on display in the Main House dining room, and the frantic end of the silent auction. What we will not miss is the year-round time-consuming logistics of planning and executing the event and the 40% higher event costs. Since the Pig Roast net revenue provides 26% of TOIF's annual operating revenue, it is our responsibility to keep the fundraising component as an equally important goal of the event.

This year's art auction was our most successful one in 21 years! Thank you to all of the artists who donated their work, and to all of the online bidders. TOIF was pleased to host an exhibition with our Georgia Southern University partners highlighting the generously donated art. It has been 18 years since we mounted a pre-pig roast art show. This year we worked with Dr. Jason Hoelscher, Georgia Southern University's Gallery Director, to hang a show in the Fine Arts Building on the Armstrong Campus, providing a prestigious venue for potential bidders to see the artwork in person. Donated art inspired by Ossabaw Island was displayed for a month in the Fine Arts Gallery and featured in the online silent auction. About 50 people, including artists and art bidders, attended a gallery reception on October 7, rescheduled after the first date was blown away by the threat of Hurricane Ian. The show affords the general public a place to see and enjoy the donated art, and the online bidding allows anyone, anywhere, to bid, instead of limiting the auction solely to Pig Roast attendees.

Change is never easy to accept and the same will be so with the Pig Roasts on Ossabaw Island. While we may continue to tweak our small events, in the end they are still beautiful fall days overlooking Ossabaw Sound at the Torrey-West estate, a time for Ossabaw Lovers to commune and a very successful fundraiser for our organization.

Elizabeth DuBose
Executive Director
Ossabaw Island Foundation

Save the Date!

*Ossabaw Night in Savannah @ Armstrong Center
Honoring the 2022 Sandy West Ossabaw Fellows*

January 19th

*6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. Program
Free & Open to the Public!*

Sandy West Ossabaw Fellowship

The Fellowship was established in 2008 to honor Ossabaw Island's longest resident, preserver and supporter, Eleanor "Sandy" West, by recognizing the creative endeavors of a person working in any field whose work relates to, or is inspired by, Ossabaw Island.

2022 Fellows



Amanda D. Roberts Thompson, Ph.D., for her dissertation *People, Place, and Taskscapes of Enslavement: African American Life on the South End Plantation, Ossabaw Island, Georgia, 1849-1861* and related articles.

"I am the Operations Director of the Laboratory of Archaeology and Georgia Archaeological Site File at the University of Georgia. I received my Master's degree in historical archaeology from the University of West Georgia and my Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of York. I specialize in historical archaeology, ethnohistory and preservation with over 20 years of experience in archaeology and collections management.

"My interest in Ossabaw Island began in 2014 when the University of Georgia began conducting archaeological fieldwork on the island. That year we worked on the cultural site, the South End, doing some preliminary mitigation research for Georgia DNR. In my background research, I realized that there were extensive documentary records for the South End plantation, which operated as a cotton plantation under George Jones Kollock from 1849-1861 and was home to a community of enslaved individuals. It soon became clear that the vast amount of historical records could provide a glimpse into the everyday lives of the enslaved individuals who lived those 12 years on the island and combined with the archaeology could reconstruct the layout of the plantation, from the ditches that were dug to the homes that were lived in. Those who were enslaved are often left out of the academic narrative, but the combination of resources available for the South End plantation have provided an opportunity to place these individuals back on the landscape of Ossabaw Island and give them a voice."



Max Ramming of Atlanta, Georgia, for his documentary *Island Vision*, about Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West and Ossabaw Island. Including original footage of interviews with Mrs. West.

"*Island Vision* began after running aground in front of Ossabaw Island with my friend, Trey Coursey. He suggested we say hello to Sandy West. Trey knew her through what became a lifetime of unique encounters. Sandy put our wet clothes in her dryer, gave us yellow raincoats and we made a taco kit dinner. Who wouldn't fall in love?

"Sandy West had her own island and more animals than Old MacDonald, not to mention the endless cast of larger-than-life characters. She lived "alone" in a large pink mansion with crumbling plaster but packed with art and endless hospitality. Every conversation seemed important.

"Around 1997, I bought a new digital video camera and began recording my new favorite person. I documented Sandy West in residence on Ossabaw Island so there would be a record of some glimmer of her magical influence. Anyone who got to know her, knew they would always want just a little more of her profound twinkle. *Island Vision* is an attempt to share that.

"*Island Vision* became a thesis project submitted for fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Communication in the College of the Arts, Georgia State University in 2019."

Past recipients on page 6...

The Tower House at Genesis: A New Frame

continued from cover...

For the Tower House we (including Mrs. West) wanted to use the oaks that had fallen during the 1979 Hurricane David. Many of these trees were not entirely down and were considerably larger, heavier and harder than the pines. Limbing and processing large oaks with axes and hand saws was intimidating and the thought of hewing them made even my 24-year-old body shudder. We were devotees of Co-Evolution Quarterly and The Whole Earth Catalogue, which preached the gospel of the back-to-the-landers we aspired to be. They advertised a chain saw to not only cut down and buck up the trees, but to also adapt the saw for milling the logs into beams or planks.

We persuaded Mrs. West to buy us the largest chainsaw Stihl made and a Foley "Alaska" mill that bolted to the bar. We were in the logging business! You gotta wonder at this woman who would have such faith in a bunch of wanna-be-hippies. Imagine the damage we could have done to ourselves on her island with this set-up and the trouble she would have to go to fixing things.

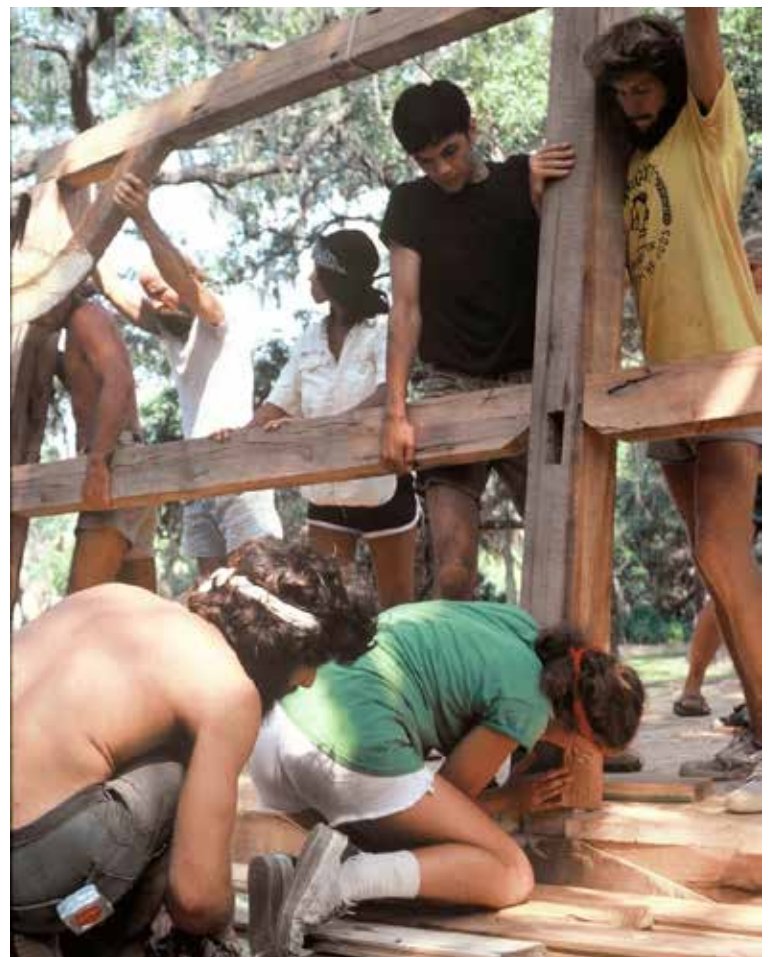
Mark Bromley was the man who made this work. Mark was an architect who had built a timber frame house in Oregon for himself and his wife Jackie. He hitch-hiked cross country to join me at Genesis. We became sawmill buddies. Mark's Genesis project was to saw up oak logs, cut some joints and build a frame.

Wini Wood and Michael Billa became the Genesis co-directors. They worked with me on a design. The concept was to create two more living spaces/bedrooms and two more studio spaces. Since the site was the location of the old demolished barn, a barn-like outline was chosen. We wanted something that had two stories with a view over the marsh. To top it off there were two porches separated by a two-story bay window/tower.

Mark Bromley and I would cruise the island and find fallen or near toppled water oaks, bring them all the way down, limb them, use peaveys to rotate the log into position, then set up the Alaskan mill for the crucial first cut. One of the fascinating things about taking a tree and making it into something you can build with, is to study nature's irregularity and make it parallel, and add your own right angles. You start with chaos as the tree twists and grows and adapts to years of seasons, and you end up with



Pictured: Michael Billa



Cartesian coordinates. When we hewed the beams for an earlier building, we used winding sticks and plumb bobs to discover the straight and true.

The most crucial step was bolting an expanding box to the top of the log. The top of the box was the guiding surface for the rollers on the Alaska mill to follow, and it had to be straight and flat. Once the log was cut flat from end-to-end then the rollers could be put on the new surface to guide a parallel cut. All the while the Stihl saw would roar and the chips and dust would mound like sand around us. It could be a slow process and it might take a day to get two 6"x 6" beams out of a tree. Often the trees were only big enough for one beam or post. Hundreds of pieces needed to be cut for this frame.

There were three mysteries to discover in building the Tower House. The first was how to take a gnarly log, perhaps one of Ossabaw's finest, and make it into a carpenter's dream. Then to take those squared-up chunks and sculpt them into the joints that would hold together the frame. It wasn't possible to trial fit a joint. We had to imagine and then trust that the tenon we cut today would fit the mortise in the right place with all the others. What's more, the tenon may be intended for a mortise cut by others. We wanted to get it right.

Finally, on the hallowed "Raisin' Day," the whole frame would come together, everybody in one burst. Milling the logs into beams was gritty and dirty work, whereas the joinery was refined and cerebral. The day we assembled the frame took muscles, but really was about community and working together. It was a culmination and an affirmation.

The process, though, was becoming destructive. The building energy was too dominant and distracting. People were once again getting pulled away from their other creative projects. It was time to reset priorities. It was also becoming harder and harder for me. Once Mark finally left to return to Oregon, I was lonely. I loved working with Wini and Michael on the joinery but I kept having this nagging notion that the rest of my life was slipping away. What was going on in the world beyond timber framing on a private island? What was to be my "career"? How to build and climb to the next step? It was time to leave Ossabaw again.

I decided to leave after the frame was complete. Wini and Michael as co-directors would have to continue the project. They found Tony Tucker to take on cladding the frame and installing windows and doors. I hope that one day Tony will tell his story of how the hard oak frame was transformed into quarters for future Genesis residents.



Editor's note: David Bayne was a Genesis member in 1976, and later became a co-director. During his tenure at Genesis, the iconic Tower House construction began, overlooking Buckhead Creek.

From 1970 – 1983, Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West operated Genesis at historic Middle Place on Ossabaw Island. This cooperative, semi-sustainable community hosted young people, mostly college students, for a week, a month, or more. Residents were selected from a variety of disciplines, ranging from the creative and liberal arts to the sciences to agriculture and forestry.

Genesis Project operated "close to the land," with no running water or electricity.

A typical day involved scientific research or creative efforts as well as activities contributing to community life. Chores included: prepping firewood for cooking; milling wood and constructing buildings for sleeping or group activities; and, food harvesting—milking the cow, gathering eggs from the flock of chickens, and collecting honey from community bee hives.

Stories by Genesis members from different times reveal the variety of experiences Genesis offered.

Genesis co-directors Helen Hamada, Wini Wood, and Mike Billa contributed to this article.



Completed Tower House, circa 2012, Photo by Helen Hamada

Past Sandy West Ossabaw Fellowship Recipients

The first to receive the Sandy West Ossabaw Fellow in 2009 was Allison Dorsey, Ph.D., Professor of History at Swarthmore College. Dorsey was honored for her work researching the lives of Black freedmen and women on Ossabaw Island in the decades after emancipation. “The great cry of our people is Land!: Black Settlement and Community Development on Ossabaw Island, 1865-1900,” is a chapter in *African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry*, published in 2010 from papers presented during the 2008 symposium by the same name.

In 2010, Dr. Steven Darsey, Artistic Director for the Meridian Herald, was awarded the Sandy West Ossabaw Fellow for his composition of *The Marshes of Glynn*,

an oratorio for symphonic orchestra, soloists and large chorus, based on the seminal poem by 19th century Georgia poet Sidney Lanier. Darsey largely composed this work while on Ossabaw Island in 2007 and 2009.

Armstrong Atlantic State University History professor Dr. Mark A. Finlay was posthumously named an Ossabaw Fellow in 2014. At the time of his death in October 2013, Finlay was completing research for a book on the environmental history of coastal Georgia, with emphasis on Ossabaw Island. Finlay’s work served as inspiration and centerpiece for the 2016 Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture symposium organized by the Ossabaw Island Foundation and Education Alliance.

Ossabaw Fund Contributors

Thank you to the following donors to the Ossabaw Fund who contributed in June - October 2022. Due to an unfortunate computer glitch, some of our donor records for this period have disappeared. We are working to correct the problem and restore the data. Thank you to all donors who gave but whose names are not included here.

Eileen Baker in memory of Jane Fishman. Jane's contributions to our collective conscience was a valuable gift.

John Berger

Mary Kay Clyburn

Malcolm H. Cole Jr.

Dawn Cordo

Christine Dattilo

Elizabeth DuBose

Lawrence Earl

Susan Earl

Mary A. Elfner

Michele Folta

Helen Hamada

James F. Harris Jr.

Randall Hill

Leamon Holliday

Cathie Hudson

Lisa Garriss

Leigh Lambert Goff

Daniel Greenwald

Elio Iannacci in memory of the legendary Jane Fishman. Her incredible writing has inspired me for years. Some of the happiest days of my life were spending time with Jane and Carmela in Savannah.

Janice and Michael Johnson in memory of Michael E. Johnson Jr.

Karen Karp

Lee Kolb

Richard Laub

Diane Lewis

Stephen and Mindy Maloon

Allan Gordon Mathis in honor of Robin Gunn

Julie McCormick

Linda Piserelle

Margaret Russell

John Saillant

Barbara A. Sayer

Kathryn Seybert

Sheldon Smith

Janet Stone

Stribling Stuber in honor and in memory of an incredible human Jane Fishman. We are proud members of her fan club, and will especially miss Jane's storytelling, mischievous joy, and wit.

Peter and Gail Swiderek

Barbara Vaughn

Ben and Stacey Wells

Gilbert and Jane Wells

Darrell Whatley

Photo by Diane Kirkland

South End Bench Project

Elizabeth Morris traveled to Ossabaw Island accompanying her father, Scoutmaster Jim Morris, and his Boy Scout Troop 34 of Rome, Georgia. For several June trips they camped at the South End Pavillion. Elizabeth was born in Rome, Georgia on December 14, 1994, daughter of Maryrose "Missy" Rymanowski and James David "Jim" Morris. She died unexpectedly in September of 2021. One of the ways Jim Morris honored his daughter's life was to raise funds for four outdoor benches to be placed at the South End campsite on Ossabaw Island. Missy and Jim Morris (pictured) came this summer on the Creative Retreat weekend; their creative project was assembly of the benches and assisting TOIF staff with their transport and installation at the South End site. Thank you to the Morris family and to the many donors to this project.



Photo by Mark Frissell

Visit Ossabaw Island in 2023!

Photo by Stacey Wells

How to Register: The following trips are open to the public. Fees vary. To register for all Ossabaw Island Foundation-sponsored events, visit ossabawisland.org OR call 912-344-3900 OR scan the QR codes below. Pre-registration required.



Photo by Stacey Wells

Tintype Photography Workshop and/or Creative Retreat four day, three nights.

Fri., January 13 – Mon., January 16

Learn about and create wet-plate collodion photographs. Or enjoy a “no agenda” time for creativity, writing, drawing, painting, image making time on Ossabaw Island.



Get Creative on Ossabaw: Winter Day Trip

Sat. February 4

Paint, sketch, write, or take photos on Ossabaw Island. Let the island be your muse. After a brief history presentation, you'll have several hours to wander the North End on your own and make art.



Super Museum Sunday on Ossabaw Island

Sun. February 5

Visit Ossabaw Island as part of Georgia History Festival's statewide Super Museum Sunday event. This afternoon walking tour of Ossabaw's North End is free-of-charge for island admission, with only a \$50 boat fee.



Creative four day, three night retreat

Fri. February 17 – Mon. February 20

Spend three nights on Ossabaw Island creating. This is a “no agenda” time for creativity, writing, drawing, painting, image making time on Ossabaw Island.



Day Trip Tour of Ossabaw Island's North End

Sat. April 1

Travel by pontoon boat with Bull River Cruises to the island's North End for an interpretive tour that includes ecology and history.



Photo by Stacey Wells



Photo by Stacey Wells

Ossabaw Island Descendants Heritage Day

Sat. May 13

Did your parents, grandparents or other ancestors live, work or own land on Ossabaw Island from 1760 - 1980? Were you an Ossabaw Island Project member or a Genesis member?

This springtime gathering brings Ossabaw's people together for a day of food, friendship, history, and remembrance.



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose

A Hands-On Indigo Dyeing Experience: Ossabaw Island Indigo Day Trips

Fri. September 22, Sun. September 24

Elizabeth DuBose and Mark Frissell share the history of Ossabaw indigo and provide instruction on creating fresh leaf indigo dye vats and guide participants through the dyeing process.



Get Creative on Ossabaw: Day Trip

Sat. June 3

Paint, sketch, write, or take photos on Ossabaw Island. Let the island be your muse. After a brief history presentation, you'll have several hours to wander the North End on your own and make art.



Lift Every Voice: Ossabaw Island and Pin Point Fee-Free Day Trip

Sat. August 12

This morning walking tour of the North End Plantation site provides an overview of Ossabaw's African-American and Gullah-Geechee culture and history; followed by an afternoon visit to the Pin Point Heritage Museum in the community established by formerly enslaved people from Ossabaw Island.



Turtle Hatching Day Trips

Fri. August 25, Sun August 27 Day Trips

Accompany Georgia DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program interns as they inventory loggerhead turtle nests for eggs and live hatchlings on Ossabaw Island's South Beach. In 2022, 723 sea turtle nests were documented on Ossabaw.



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose



OSSABAW ISLAND

Foundation & Education Alliance

2022 by the Numbers



723 turtle nests recorded. A tribute to 50 years of turtle conservation along the Georgia coast.



268 program days, a 90% increase over 2021. 25 were open-to-the-public trips.

2,900

hosted visits, a 28% increase over 2021 — 11 months of on-island events.



1,495

butterflies counted by 26 citizen scientist volunteers over 9 weeks.

- 1,196 Gulf Fritillary
- 286 Cloudless Sulphur
- 13 Monarch

*data collected over 9 weeks of a 10 week survey.



49 U.S. States are home to Ossabaw friends — all states except South Dakota



Ossabaw Island Foundation & Education Alliance Partners

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Sea Turtle Conservation Program
 State Parks and Historic Sites Division
 Wildlife Resources Division

Board of Regents of the State of Georgia

Georgia Southern University

Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art
 College of Education
 Georgia Southern Research and Service Foundation
 The Armstrong Center

University of Georgia

Center for Archaeological Sciences
 Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
 UGA Press

Coalition to Save Butler Island

Coastal Museums Association

Georgia Conservancy

Giving Kitchen

Moon River District

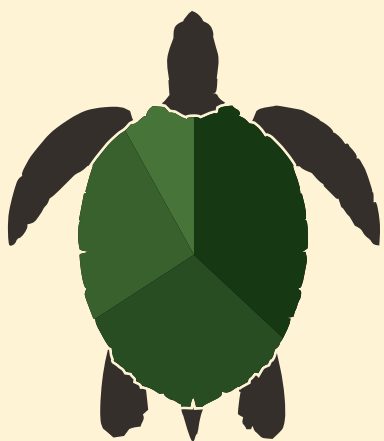
National Center for Preservation Technology & Training

One Hundred Miles

Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat

Pin Point Heritage Museum

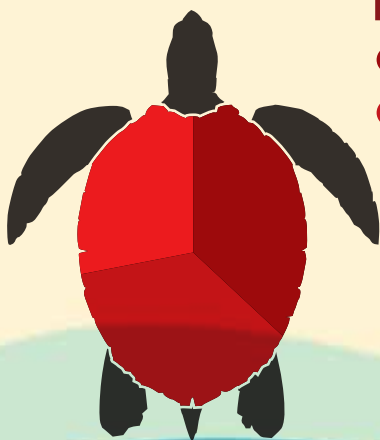
The Landings Association



2021/2022 Financial Report (July 31-August 1)

REVENUE • \$512,800

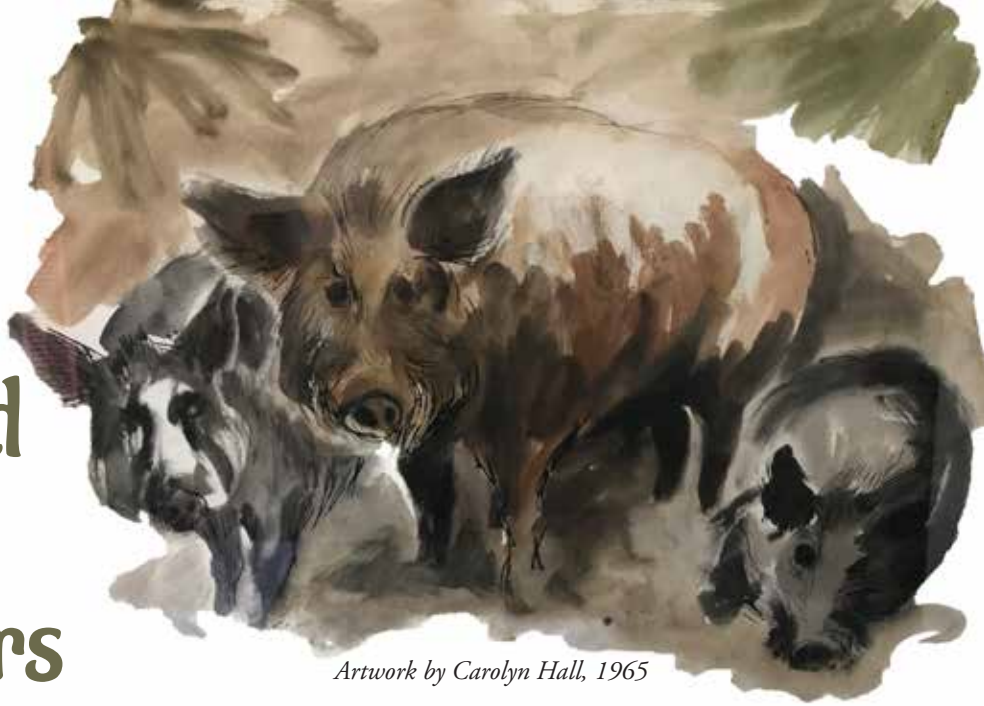
- On Island Revenue: 37%
- Pig Roast: 26%
- Donations: 29%
- Grants: 8%



EXPENSES • \$512,800

- Reserves 37%
- General & Administration 28%
 - staffing
 - printing & postage
 - OssabawNightinSavannahexpenses
 - Pig Roast expenses
 - audit fees
- On Island Expenses: 35%
 - cleaning, maintenance & repairs of buildings & equipment
 - transportation to/from Ossabaw
 - on-island staffing

Thank You To Our 2022 Ossabaw Island Three Little Pig Roasts Sponsors



Artwork by Carolyn Hall, 1965

Ecology Wildlife Foundation Fund

Patricia Barmeyer • Georgia Power

Jenny Lynn Bradley • Mario Castro and Todd Eaton
Chatham Orthopaedic Associates • Metalquarters

Bernard Williams Insurance • Karen A Clark CPA • Patricia and Todd Deveau
The Folta Family • Georgia Southern Research and Service Foundation • Helen Hamada
Peter Kastner • Megan and John Manly • Martha Nix, in memory of Ed Nix
Queensborough National Bank and Trust Co. • Savannah Distributing • Service Brewing Co.
Team Callahan at Keller Williams Realty • Truist Wealth • Christiana and Bart Turner
Scott and Kathy Warden • Lisa and Mason White

Abshire Public Relations • Clark and Debbie Alexander • Brighter Day Natural Foods Market
Bull River Cruises • M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Celebrities • John “Crawfish” Crawford • Helen Downing
Clayton Doherty and Pamela Brandt • Kyle and Sabrina Dwyer • Stefan and Pam Eling
Footprints of Savannah Walking Tours • Leigh Goff • Ruth Knox • Bryan and Lauren Leskosky
Longwater & Company • Steve and Mindy Maloon • Mermaid Cottages LLC • Brent and Christine Midwood
Paul and Jane Pressly • Capt. Rock Reed • Savannah Coastal Ecotours • South State Bank
Alice Steyaart • Aimee and Chad Yarber

Thank you to all of our Pig Roast volunteers: Betsy Cain, Robert Cooper, Beryl Gilothwest, Leigh Goff, Cam Mathis,
Sarah Morrison, Ben Wells, Charlie Wells, Stacey Wells, Lisa White, and Diane Whitehurst.

Special thanks to our caterers Lesley Varnadore and Erica Davis Lowcountry.

Photos by Stacey Wells Photography.

Save the date!

Ossabaw Island Three Little Pig Roasts October 20-22, 2023.



Ossabaw Island Art Auction 2022

The Ossabaw Island Art Auction was online September 20 – October 25, featuring 60 works of art and three program trips to Ossabaw Island. Thank you to all of the bidders and congratulations to the winning high bidders.

This year we partnered with Georgia Southern University's Gallery in Fine Arts Hall on the Armstrong Campus for a one-month exhibition of the auction artwork. Thank you to Gallery Director Dr. Jason Hoelscher for his enthusiasm for our cause and his gifted eye for hanging the artwork.

Each year, Ossabaw Island-inspired artwork is donated to TOIF for the auction by artists from across Georgia and the United States. As a thank you from us, TOIF hosted a Donor Artists Creative Day Trip on October 24, featuring a pig roast lunch and a full day on the island to make art and explore Ossabaw's North End and Middle Place.

Thank you to the following visual artists who created and donated Ossabaw Island-inspired art to the 2022 auction:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Stacie Jean Albano | Don Howe |
| Carmela Aliffi | Eldred Hudson |
| Anne Ambrose | Peter Kastner |
| Jamie Anderson | Kathryn Kolb |
| Andre Bertolino | Kathleen Kollock |
| Cindy Bigras | Fran Lapolla |
| Sharon Brooks | Dottie Leatherwood |
| Glenn Brown | Barbara Mann |
| Betsy Cain | Rebecca Marcussen |
| Susie Clinard | Nancy Marshall |
| Laurie Cordavo | Diana McGaw |
| Judy Crisp | John McWilliams |
| Ekron "Ches" Crow | REM Milano |
| Janet Csadenyi | Kelley Milburn |
| Karen Dale | Cora Ennis Morris |
| Lynne Daley | Gwen Pacella |
| Harry Delorme | Tessa Parker |
| Joy Dunigan | David Peterson |
| Codey Elrod | Beth Lattimore Reiter |
| Paula Eubanks | Beth Richardson |
| Morey Gers | Peter E. Roberts |
| Siv Gilbertson | Debra Shea |
| Marc Hanson | Sheryl St. Germain |
| Vicki Hardy | Parker Stewart |
| William Harrell | Barbara Vaughn |
| Carol Hartley | Raven Waters |
| Regina Holderness | Ben Wells |
| Henry Hoover | Melissa Wells |
| Julia Hoskins | Teake Zuidema |



Photo by Stacey Wells



Photo by Stacey Wells



Photo by Stacey Wells

Photo by Stacey Wells



Lesley's Apple Cake

If you have attended any of the Three Little Pig Roasts these past three years you may have enjoyed a slice of a delicious apple pound cake. So many people have requested this recipe from Lesley Varnadore (pictured), the caterer for the Three Little Pig Roasts, that she has agreed to share it with all of the Ossabaw family. Lesley catered the 2016 Hurricane History Tours, the rescheduled events after our 2016 Pig Roast was canceled by Hurricane Matthew. She has catered all of the TOIF overnight events since 2017. Thank you Lesley for sharing this popular recipe.

Apple Pound Cake

- ½ cup of butter
- 2 cups of sugar
- 2 eggs beaten
- 3 cups of apples chopped (Lesley uses Granny Smiths)
- ½ cup to 1 cup of golden raisins
- 1 cup of chopped pecans
- 2 cups of flour
- 2 tsps of baking soda
- 1 Tbsp of salt
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 Tbsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp of vanilla
- 1 to 2 cups of shredded coconut

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, apples, raisins, nuts and coconut shreds. Blend in dry ingredients. Don't worry if the mix is dry because the apples will provide the needed moisture. Pour into a greased and floured 10" bundt pan. Bake at 300-325 for about 1 hour, depending on the oven. Test after one hour. Depending on the oven, it may require an additional 30 minutes. The cake will keep for 2-3 weeks.



"Adopt" an Ossabaw Island Donkey for \$25 or \$50

Tuesday, November 29, support the Ossabaw Island Foundation as part of **#GivingTuesday** and **GAgives**.

A donkey adoption makes a great gift.

Adopt as many donkeys as you like at GAGives.org/story/Donkey



For your \$25 adoption, you or your gift recipient will receive an adoption certificate, and donkey sticker. **A \$50 adoption adds a plush braying donkey.**

Thank you for supporting the Ossabaw Island Foundation on

GIVINGTUESDAY



Effingham Co. Superintendent, Yancy Ford, receives a copy of the book from students.

New Ossabaw book available: Ossabaw Island Photos, Facts and Lore

South Effingham Middle School's (SEMS) seventh grade Media Arts and eighth grade Science Enrichment classes journeyed to Ossabaw Island on December 2, 2021. The goal was to capture the essence and beauty of the island in photographs using smartphones, and to learn about the history of Ossabaw Island. The students shared the photos with the eighth grade Language Arts classes and asked them to write about what they learned.

The trip to the island was made possible by school principal Christy Brown, Georgia Southern University's College of Education, and the Ossabaw Island Foundation. This is a captivating book with stories, history, and photographs that capture the island and her spirit. Proceeds from the sale of this book benefit South Effingham Middle School and will be used to create more books in the future. TOIF thanks Mike Gadomski (pictured right), Art Educator at SEMS, for his leadership of the book project.



Photo by Stacey Wells

**Purchase your copy of Ossabaw
Island Photos, Facts and Lore here:**



A Champion of Ossabaw: Jane Fishman, 1944-2022



Scan for Obituary



Photo by Stacey Wells

Jane Fishman, “a part of Sandy’s Army to keep Ossabaw Island set aside for art, science and education,” died at her Savannah home on October 16.

Legions of Savannahians knew Jane as a longtime columnist for the *Savannah Morning News* and the author of six books. *The Woman Who Saved An Island: The Story of Sandy West and Ossabaw Island* is Jane’s 2014 book that chronicles Mrs. West, Ossabaw Island, and Jane’s love for them both.

Jane Fishman was introduced to Sandy West and Ossabaw Island in 2002 by the late Jim Bitler. Jane became a frequent

visitor to the island as a friend and caregiver to Mrs. West, as a writer, as an artist, as an indigo dyer, as a butterfly-counter...as Jane.

We at TOIF are already missing our friend and one of Ossabaw’s most recognized champions. She wrote many columns about Ossabaw and Mrs. West in addition to her book. Many words have been written about Jane Fishman since her death, but no one says it quite like Jane, so in her memory we offer to you the following columns she wrote, and we send our love and condolences to her wife Carmela Aliffi.



'It's the joint': Roosevelt Brownlee feels at home on Ossabaw, filled with tales of food and jazz
Jane Fishman for Savannah Morning News, May 18, 2022



I am a citizen scientist
Jane Fishman for Savannah Morning News, Nov. 9, 2019



The magic of Sandy West, Ossabaw Island and the number 108
Jane Fishman for Savannah Morning News, Jan. 20, 2021



Fishman: Ossabaw indigo is my true blue
Jane Fishman for Savannah Morning News, Nov. 14, 2015



Keeping Sandy West's Ossabaw donkey line alive
Jane Fishman for Savannah Morning News, Sept. 19, 2020



The Woman Who Saved An Island: The Story of Sandy West and Ossabaw Island by Jane Fishman



The Ossabaw Collection at Georgia Historical Society

By Beryl Gilothwest

For six hours over the course of two days this October, I spent time with the Ossabaw Island and Torrey family papers at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah. The expansive collection contains more than 100 boxes of material donated by my grandmother, Sandy West, and fleshed out by my father, Justin West, in recent years. The Historical Society's beautifully restored building on Forsyth Park reopened earlier this year, making this material available to the public once again.

I came in with a targeted aim to explore material related to the Ossabaw Island Project. With assistance from the Historical Society's dedicated reference team, I flipped through massive scrapbooks that my grandmother and the directors of the Project kept throughout its twenty one years. They photographed nearly every participant somewhere on the island—most of them beaming on the beach or laid out on a Barwa chair on the patio of the Main House—and pasted them in the book. I loved seeing the author Ralph Ellison and sculptor Berthold "Tex" Schiwetz on the beach together in March 1971. Schiwetz—who Ossabaw enthusiasts may know from his marvelous bronze shark that holds court on the Main House's front lawn—was a close friend of my grandparents





and an advisor to the Project. Schiwetz met Ellison when they were both fellows at the American Academy in Rome in the mid-1950s. After the Project launched in 1961, he urged the writer to come to Ossabaw. It is those kinds of connections that can be revealed in an archive like this.

I was most excited to peruse the 1980 application of photographer Francesca Woodman. While the Project closed before she was able to participate, the archive includes her handwritten information form, two letters of recommendation from previous Project members, and her curriculum vitae. This material was particularly special to examine because Woodman's mysterious, captivating self-portraits were the subject of my undergraduate thesis more than a decade ago at Vassar College. It wasn't until I looked through the Georgia Historical Society's finding aid for

the collection a few years ago that I discovered she had a connection to Ossabaw.

The materials in the collection go far beyond the Ossabaw Island Project. They include a land grant issued by King George II in 1760, lists of enslaved island inhabitants from 1812 and 1817, Henrik Wallin's architectural drawings of the Main House, extensive research materials related to the behavior of the island's sea turtles, and much more. If the opportunity arises, I urge you to visit the Georgia Historical Society and delve deeper into Ossabaw's countless histories.

Beryl Gilothwest (pictured) is a grandson of Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West and the son of Justin West. Beryl is a member of TOIF's Board of Trustees. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

If you or a family member participated in the Ossabaw Island Project or the Genesis Project please consider donating your journals, letters, photos, sketchbooks or other materials from the era to the Ossabaw Collection at the Georgia Historical Society. For information on how to contribute your Ossabaw items, contact Elizabeth DuBose, elizabeth@ossabawisland.org to begin the donation process.



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ABOUT OSSABAW ISLAND:

Ossabaw Island is a 26,000-acre undeveloped barrier island on the Atlantic Ocean, owned by the State of Georgia and located in Chatham County. Georgia's first Heritage Preserve, accessible only by boat, 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 (TOIF) 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, while minimizing the impact on the island's resources.

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