

# ELEANOR "SANDY" TORREY WEST

## LIFE RETROSPECTIVE



Photo by Robert S. Cooper

## Georgia is A Better Place Because of Sandy West

### Honoring the life of Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West (1913 – 2021)

Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West, preserver and champion of Ossabaw Island, died on January 17, 2021 at her residence in Garden City, Georgia. Mrs. West died on her 108th birthday.

Mrs. West embodied the spirit of Ossabaw Island. She was always eager to share that spirit, and her island, so that people could reconnect with the natural world, and with each other, in important and powerful ways. Her enthusiasm, joyful spirit, and her love of the experience of Ossabaw, inspired thousands of people over her long and fruitful life.

"It is hard to imagine that the death of someone at age 108 is surprising, but we are in shock over the loss of our visionary and friend," said Elizabeth DuBose, Executive Director of the

Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF). "Ossabaw Island, as we know it, exists because of Mrs. West, and Georgia is a better place because of her life's work."

"I am truly distressed and saddened to learn of Mrs. West's death," said TOIF Board Chair M. Tyus Butler, Jr. "It was Mrs. West's vision, determination, sensitivity, and generosity that made the island's preservation possible, all to the benefit of the State of Georgia, the public, the arts and sciences, the environment--all of us. God speed, Sandy. What a wonderful life! You are already sorely missed."

The Ossabaw Island Foundation extends our deepest condolences to Mrs. West's children, grandchildren, many other relatives, and legions of close friends.



## Executive Director's Letter

### Sandy West's Love Affair with Ossabaw Island

Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West's love affair with Ossabaw Island did not begin when her parents purchased the 26,000-acre barrier island in 1924 as their winter retreat. As an 11-year-old future heiress from Michigan, who was used to spending winters at Greenwich Plantation near Thunderbolt, she was unimpressed with island life and missed being in town close to her Savannah friends.

The flame of Sandy's Ossabaw passion was first lit when she and her brother Bill would sneak out the back door, escaping their tutor to explore the island. Bill and "Sis" (her childhood nickname) were often on horseback--the best way to really see Ossabaw Island, according to Sandy West. Ossabaw's 26,000 acres of forest, marshes, and lagoons, and its thousands of wild creatures (hogs, deer, alligators, birds, snakes, racoons) transformed Eleanor "Sis" Torrey into Sandy West--from a Grosse Pointe, Michigan debutante to a fierce conservationist for coastal Georgia.

Sandy's love for Ossabaw Island bloomed in 1959 after she and her brother's young heirs inherited the island together. She wanted to share her special place with others. Sandy wanted Ossabaw's visitors to be transformed by the island instead of vice-versa.

She believed that Ossabaw Island could inspire new thought and creativity. She often said that by quieting ourselves, away from people and cities and civilization, ideas as fundamental and transformational as the invention of the wheel could be ignited.

As leader of the family, in 1961 Sandy and her filmmaker husband Clifford West established the Ossabaw Island Project, followed by the Genesis Project, and programs for Public Use, Education and Research. The interdisciplinary focus of her programs, the no agenda style of the Ossabaw Island Project, and the self-sustaining "back to the land" approach of Genesis were all revolutionary concepts in their day.

She funded and managed those programs until 1983, five years after she and her family sold Ossabaw to the State of Georgia with the condition that the island remain protected. Sandy retained life estate ownership in the family home on Ossabaw and lived there from 1987-2016.

With her death on January 17th, on her 108th birthday, Sandy West has passed the Ossabaw flame to "Ossabaw's Army"—her name for the thousands of people who have been transformed by the island over the decades.

As part of Ossabaw's Army, The Ossabaw Island Foundation is committed to carrying forward the legacy of Sandy's love affair with the island. Our vision is "to reveal the voices and mystery of Ossabaw Island." Sandy did not always agree with the way our organization reveals those voices or shares them; the use of technology, leading history tours, or offering structured programs. Nor was she satisfied with the State of Georgia's ownership--especially the DNR's hunts that keep the wild hog population under control. But she was gratified by our preservation of Ossabaw's historic buildings, and was especially fond of the artists and ecologists and college students that came to the island under our watch. She loved our late island coordinator Jim Bitler. From time to time, she dropped in on our programs--always candid and gracious with visitors, always sharing her love of Ossabaw and her concern for its future. And, she knew that we are determined to protect Ossabaw from falling into private hands, and to preserve its unspoiled and natural state.

Thank you Sandy West for entrusting to all of us in Ossabaw's Army the protection of your magnificent place. May we always hear your voice in the island's quiet.

Elizabeth DuBose  
Executive Director  
Ossabaw Island Foundation

*This essay originally appeared in the print edition of Savannah Morning News (SMN) on January 25, 2021.*

Listen to Elizabeth DuBose's interview with  
SMN Opinion Editor Adam Van Brimmer:







Photo by Jim Bitler





Photo by Lucinda Bunnan

## Sandy West, Matriarch of Ossabaw Island, Dies on Her 108th Birthday

by Mary Landers, *Savannah Morning News*

Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West, once owner and always champion of Ossabaw Island, died Sunday, January 17, 2021 in the early hours of her 108th birthday.

Her grandson and a member of the Ossabaw Island Foundation board, Beryl Gilothwest, confirmed her death Sunday as did Elizabeth DuBose, executive director of the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

"It is hard to imagine that the death of someone at age 108 is surprising, but we are in shock over the loss of our visionary and friend," DuBose wrote in a prepared statement. "Ossabaw Island as we know it exists because of Mrs. West, and Georgia is a better place because of her life's work."

"We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs. West's children, grandchildren, many other relatives, and legions of close friends."

Born Jan. 17, 1913, West was 11 when her father and mother, the latter an heir to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass fortune, bought

Ossabaw. At 26,000 acres of beach, marsh and maritime forest, it's the third largest of Georgia's barrier islands, located just south of Skidaway Island in Chatham County.

The island's wilderness captivated West from childhood when her Michigan-based family used the island and the Spanish Colonial Revival mansion they built as a winter retreat.

"She felt so extraordinarily lucky to have Ossabaw in her life," Gilothwest said Sunday. "It completely changed her life from the moment she stepped foot on it when her parents bought it in 1924."

West made Ossabaw into an intellectual and artistic haven after inheriting it in 1960, spending much of her wealth underwriting retreats for artists, writers and scientists. Her guests there included writers Ralph Ellison, Annie Dillard, Olive Ann Burns, Margaret Atwood, T.C. Boyle, and Alice Walker; poets Edwin Honig and David Hamilton; composers Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber; ecologist Eugene Odum; and art historian H. W. Janson.

Property taxes jeopardized her long-term ownership, but she rebuffed wealthy developers. Instead, when West was 65 she and her family sold the island to the state for \$8 million, half its assessed value. The sale ensured the island would be a heritage preserve used only for "natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education and environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the island's ecosystem."

West retained a life estate on the island, which is accessible only by boat, living there fulltime from age 74 to 103.

"You know, it was a relationship with the island that was the great love affair of her life," Gilothwest said. "She dedicated her life to saving it and preserving it, but in a way that she thought would protect it. And she wanted to share all of the incredibly unique components of that with others."

Gilothwest said his grandmother should also be remembered for her empathy.

"She always found things to love and people that you know, that others didn't," he said. "She was very observant and could make people feel like they were the only person in that room."

Her empathy extended to animals, too, which seemed drawn to her, and she to them.

"She had this menagerie around her and when I was little, when we would go out in the morning, they would all just follow her around the house, outside the house but sometimes inside," Gilothwest said. "And one of my favorite things that she always said to me as a kid was the fence around the main house keeps the people in, it doesn't keep

the animals out. The island really belongs to them. And they're just letting me stay here."

News of her death spread quickly through her wide circle of friends and admirers in Savannah.

"Sandy was a complex marvel at the same time she marveled at the world and its complexities," said Savannah artist Betsy Cain. "Always curious and wanting to know what you thought and what you saw on Ossabaw she would say: tell me in detail what you saw today and what you did. I want to know it all."

Cain helped care for West, sometimes painting with the centenarian.

"She had a painter's eye and a penchant for great humor and tease," Cain said. "I think she was an artist in the broadest sense...an artist of spirit. She wielded a mean brush when she did paint and we had extraordinary sessions painting in her bed!"

In 2016 West moved from Ossabaw to an assisted living facility in Savannah. She was staying with a friend and caregiver in Garden City when she died.

Her children are the late Michael Torrey Shallcross, Gilian Ford Shallcross, John Post Shallcross, and Justin Paynter West. She leaves her grandchildren, Melanie Shallcross, Angela Ladson, Patrick Shallcross, Benjamin Wohlauer, Katherine Wohlauer, Torrey Shallcross, John Shallcross, Jr., and Beryl Gilothwest.

*This article first appeared in the Savannah Morning News print edition on Monday, January 18, 2021. Reprinted with permission.*



Photo by Betsy Cain



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose



# The Magic of Sandy West, Ossabaw Island and the Number 108

By Jane Fishman

I never heard Sandy West say she wanted to live to 95 or 100 or 105. If you mentioned any of those numbers she'd turn her head and shrug. She'd wave her graceful hand, her long, tapered fingers, nails frequently painted blue, and say, "Ridiculous" or "Don't tell anyone." Sandy, whose parents passed away much younger than she, lived for the moment. She lived in the moment.

And yet you have to wonder: how was it that two hours into her 108th birthday in the wee hours of the morning this woman who loved to keep people guessing, who appreciated symmetry and the unknown, quietly chose this number at which to peacefully die. No muss, no fuss, her earthly "thinking tours" (the term she used for planning her next shenanigan, her next crusade) put to rest. If she were alive, she would say something else was going on for that to happen. She'd point to Hermes, that trickster of a god who showed up at the oddest of times in Sandy's life.

She had it made, you might think. Why bother fighting with the state, confronting the Department of Natural Resources, squabbling with people who wanted her to leave the island before she was ready, standing up to people who preferred she sell the island for big bucks. Relax, lighten up, kick back. Can't you just pretend to be interested, pleaded her lawyer who had been contacted by Aristotle Onassis, an interested buyer, "so I can meet Jackie Kennedy?"

How many people at age 65 have the wherewithal, the gumption, to negotiate their way to a bargain sale with

the bureaucrats of the state of Georgia for the future of Ossabaw Island? This after Chatham County hiked her taxes up to a prohibitive amount on an island with no police services, no highway maintenance, no fire department, no school taxes.

This is when it helps to be friends with former governor Jimmy Carter. Carter understood Sandy unlike the state's actuaries who talked right in front of her – "as if I were so old I couldn't hear them" – figuring out how long she might live and what they could do to gobble up the island for themselves. Well, she fooled them. Carter, that beautiful iconoclast of a man, a nonconformist, like Sandy, understood the importance of keeping something wild and untamed. Governor George Busbee, in office at the time of the sale, played a big role as well--creating and signing the Executive Order that established Ossabaw as the state's first Heritage Preserve.

In her way she was wild and untamed, as well. I'm sure her mother did not bring her up to make Ossabaw her home for so long. From the oil painting of Sandy and her brother and all the accoutrements of the rich, I'm not sure she would have approved of Sandy's frayed jeans, her scruffy Keds (a style preferred by our new vice-president, Kamala Harris), her occasionally salty language or one of her favorite T-shirts that read, "Life is a Hoax," although maybe she would. Sandy was fond of quoting her mother. "If someone called and she didn't want to speak to them she'd say, 'Tell them I have a bone in my leg.'"



Photo by Betsy Cain



Photo by Jeff Carmel



Photo Courtesy of Sandy West

I would not put it past Sandy, who paid attention to numbers and what they meant, to know that 108 has long been considered a sacred number in Hinduism and yoga. Mathematicians view 108 as a number that connects the sun, the moon and the earth. Mystics claim the number represents a key to our own intuition and high aspects of our being. Pranayama – or yoga breathing – are often repeated cycles in sequences of 108. The same with sun salutations, which are completed in nine rounds of the 12 postures. When multiplied they add up to 108.

Leonardo Fibonacci, who taught us about the golden ratio, or the spiral arrangement of leaves of petals, said the number 108 represents the wholeness of existence. Once a month the distance between the earth and the sun is 108 times the diameter of the sun. The Yoga Institute says when the number 108 appears in our life it may mean that we are about to attain a long-desired goal or achievement.

Did Sandy know there are 108 hand-stitched stitches in a Major League Baseball? Maybe. There was no second-

guessing Eleanor “Sandy” Torrey West. You never knew what she’d say. We thought she’d live forever.

But now is when things get real. In the spring of 2020 with the near passage of HB 906, we barely escaped legislation that would privatize historic structures and allow the state to sell up to and including 15 acres of Heritage Preserve property, such as Ossabaw – just the thing Sandy warned us about. The bill is going to come up again; count on it.

As Sandy exhorted us time and again, we have to be in her army. We have to be her army. Now it’s our time to step up to protect Ossabaw and other coastal islands. She did her part. Now it’s our turn.

*A version of this column originally appeared in the print edition of Savannah Morning News. Columnist Jane Fishman was the author of The Woman Who Saved an Island, the Story of Sandy West and Ossabaw Island.*

To purchase book, visit [OssabawIsland.org/shop](http://OssabawIsland.org/shop)  
Reprinted with permission.





# Remembering the life of Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West

Pictured: Clairview Estate, Grosse Pointe, MI



No one in the last 125 years had as much influence on Ossabaw Island as Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West, the matriarch and muse of Ossabaw Island. Mrs. West lived on Ossabaw Island full-time from 1987 until May of 2016, when, at age 103, she moved to Savannah. She first visited Ossabaw in 1924 at age 11 when her parents, Dr. Harry Norton Torrey and Nell Ford Torrey of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, purchased Ossabaw Island as their winter residence.

In 1978, Mrs. West led her family's negotiations with the State of Georgia during their sale of Ossabaw Island to the state.

The Torrey-West family agreed to sell the island to the state for \$8 million, half its appraised value, and gift-deeded the remaining half-value to the state.

As a condition of the sale agreement, Ossabaw Island was designated Georgia's first Heritage Preserve by executive order of Governor George Busbee. Mrs. West was given a life estate of 23 acres on the island, including the Torrey-West House.

Mrs. West moved off the island in 2016. Her life estate "ownership" of the Torrey West Estate continued until her death at her home in Garden City, Georgia on January 17, 2021 (her 108th birthday).

Many people are familiar with Mrs. West's Ossabaw Island history and legacy but are curious about lesser-known chapters of her life story. This timeline, originally published in the July 2019 edition of *The Oracle*, provides a wider look at her long and active life.





**January 17, 1913** Eleanor Ford Torrey is born in Detroit to Dr. Harry Norton Torrey and Nell Ford Torrey of Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Eleanor is the second of two children; her brother William Ford Torrey was born in 1911.

**1916** The Torrey family moves to their new estate, Clairview, located on Grosse Pointe Shores.

**1917** The Torreys purchase Greenwich Plantation, Thunderbolt, Georgia, for a winter residence.

**1923** The main house of Greenwich Plantation burns. Ten-year-old Eleanor and her nurse escape from the second floor of the burning house. No one is injured but the house is destroyed.

**1924** Nell and Harry Torrey purchase Ossabaw Island for a reported \$150,000 for use as their new winter getaway. A house is designed by architect Henrik Wallin and construction begins by Farquhar McRae, contractor. Eleanor Torrey's first visit to Ossabaw occurs this year.

**1926** Ossabaw Island Main House is completed. Henry Ford (no relation) is the first guest of the Torreys at their new "retreat in the woods" on Ossabaw.

**1928** Eleanor graduates from Grosse Pointe Country Day School (now University Liggett School), a private, independent day school serving students from kindergarten through 9th grade.

**1929 - 1931** Eleanor attends The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York, graduating in 1931. She was a member of Phoenix, the honorary drama society.



PHOENIX  
BOTTOM ROW: Kathleen Evans, Marion Gibbons, Evelyn Parker. MIDDLE ROW: Eleanor Torrey (*Property Manager*), Anne Sims (*President*), Miss de Banke (*Faculty Adviser*), Nannette Streit (*Vice-President and Secretary*), Louise Stinson (*Treasurer*). TOP ROW: Neville Buck, Julia Blossom. NOT PRESENT: Barbara Chadwick, Laurita La Cour, Barbara Hunt, Peggy Primrose, Esther Varadine.



ELEANOR FORD TORREY  
Attempt the end and never stand in doubt  
*Horrick*



**1935** Eleanor Torrey meets Elizabeth Pool, the sister of John Shallcross, Eleanor's fiancé. Over the next 70 years the two women make annual travel pilgrimages together. During one of their earliest trips, a stranger gives redheaded Elizabeth and blonde-haired Eleanor their lifelong nicknames—Rusty and Sandy.

**1935** Eleanor Torrey marries John Shallcross. They move briefly to Savannah where John works for Charles Herty at the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory. The couple lives on Washington Avenue in Ardsley Park and occasionally visits Ossabaw Island.

**1937 – 1944** Eleanor and John Shallcross, now living in Detroit, have three children: Michael (1937), Gillian (1940), and John (1944). They visit Ossabaw annually during this period. The marriage ends in divorce.

**1945** Dr. Torrey, Eleanor's father, dies.

**1952** Eleanor "Sandy" Shallcross marries Clifford Bateman West, an artist and film maker affiliated with Cranbrook Institute of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The Wests reside in Bloomfield Hills, making at least one trip to Ossabaw each year.

**1953** Justin West, son of Sandy and Clifford, is born.

**1957** William Torrey, Sandy's brother, dies in Savannah.

**1959** Nell Torrey, Sandy's mother, dies. Sandy and the children of her late brother William inherit Ossabaw Island. Sandy receives a life estate to the Main House (now known as the Torrey-West Estate).







**1961** Sandy and Clifford West launch the Ossabaw Foundation, and its seminal program, the Ossabaw Island Project, an interdisciplinary retreat at the Main House on Ossabaw Island, for established creatives in many artistic, scientific, and cultural disciplines.

**1964 – 1968** Sandy, Clifford and Justin West make frequent trips to Europe to produce 16 films on sculpture and the Italian Renaissance. Clifford is cameraman and producer, and Sandy is the scriptwriter.

**1965** Sandy and Clifford West acquire a herd of eleven donkeys for their son Justin as a Christmas present. The herd eventually grows to over 150 animals.



**1968** Sandy West participates as a panelist at the Conference on the Future of the Marshlands and Islands of Georgia, held at Sea Island. This conference led to the state legislation known as the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, passed in 1970.

**1970** Sandy and Clifford West launch Genesis as another program of their Ossabaw Foundation. This interdisciplinary program for emerging creatives (mostly undergraduate and graduate students) is conducted in a near-wilderness environment at Middle Place on Ossabaw Island.

**1970s** Sandy West pursues her passion for painting scenes of the island.



**Mid 1970s** Sandy West meets with major landholders of Georgia barrier islands, environmental activists, and officials from the State of Georgia (including Governor Jimmy Carter) seeking ways to protect Ossabaw Island from private development. She rejects many offers from developers seeking to purchase Ossabaw Island.



**1976** Beehive Press publishes *Maria Bosomworth and William Rodgers*, a 70-page picture book written by Eleanor Torrey West, with 30 photographs also by West.

**1978** The Torrey-West family, led by Sandy, sells Ossabaw Island to the State of Georgia for \$8 million, which is half the appraised value. Ossabaw is designated as a state heritage preserve, protected from development and limited to use for natural, cultural or scientific education, research or study. These protections are stipulated by Sandy and her family as a condition of the sale. Sandy, now divorced, retains life estate to the Main House and the surrounding 23 acres.

**1978 – 1994** Sandy's private Ossabaw Foundation enters a use agreement with the State of Georgia and continues to operate public use and education programs on Ossabaw Island, and for a time, continues to operate OIP and Genesis. The public use and education programs include yearly visits by Shorter College, trips by the Smithsonian Institution, and educational camping and day trips.

**1983** Sandy suspends operations of the Ossabaw Island Project and Genesis, due to funding deficits.

**1987** Sandy becomes a year-round resident of Ossabaw Island, moving into the Main House.

**1994** Sandy's private foundation, The Ossabaw Foundation, is dissolved. A new public nonprofit, the Ossabaw Island Foundation, is established, to manage programming and facilities on Ossabaw Island and to serve as steward of the heritage preserve. Sandy becomes Chair Emerita.







**2002** The State of Georgia declares March 2 of this year as "Eleanor Torrey West Day" on the occasion of the dedication of the restored Club House on Ossabaw Island.

**2003** The Garden Club of America awards Mrs. West the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life. Other honoraria over the years include the Governor's Award from Georgia Humanities Council and from the Georgia Council of the Arts.

**2006** Eleanor "Sandy" West and Elizabeth "Rusty" Pool write and publish *The God of the Hinge: Sojourns Into Cloud Cuckoo Land*, a memoir of their travels and their friendship.

**2016** Sandy moves to Savannah, where she resided with her dog Toby.

**2021** Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West dies on January 17, her 108th birthday, at the Garden City, Georgia home of her friends, Sherrie Jamison and Bobby Black, with whom she lived since March 2020.

#### Sources and photo credits:

Betsy Cain

Jeff Carmel

Robert S. Cooper

*Detroit Free Press*

Elizabeth DuBose

Georgia Historical Society

*The God of the Hinge: Sojourns Into Cloud Cuckoo Land*, by Elizabeth Pool and Eleanor West (2016)

Helen Hamada

"Keeper of the island" by Dan Chapman, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, March 6, 2016

The Masters School alumni office

*Ossabaw*, by Eleanor West (1973)

*Ossabaw Island*, by Ann Foskey (2001)

Sally Speed

Torrey West Family

University Liggett School website, [uls.org](http://uls.org)

Lisa White

*The Woman Who Saved an Island, the Story of Sandy West and Ossabaw Island*, by Jane Fishman (2014)







## What's next for the Torrey-West House and Ossabaw Island?

A point of confusion has always been Mrs. West's life estate for the Torrey-West House on Ossabaw Island. In 1959, Nell Ford Torrey willed the Torrey West House and its 23 surrounding acres and outbuildings solely to her daughter Eleanor (Sandy) as a life estate. This meant that Mrs. West retained exclusive lifetime use and management of the home that her parents built on Ossabaw in 1924-26, as well as the 23 acres surrounding the Torrey West House.

In the 1978 sale of Ossabaw Island to the State of Georgia, this parcel of Ossabaw Island was purchased along with the rest of the island, and it was agreed that Mrs. West's life estate would continue until her death, unless she chose to relinquish it during her lifetime. All management, maintenance, and access for the house and acreage was solely hers. At her death, management of that parcel would convey immediately to the state. In essence Mrs. West was the controlling tenant until her death.

At Mrs. West's death, the 23 acre Torrey West Estate (house and grounds) immediately became part of the Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve, as mandated by the 1978 sale agreement, and is now under the management

of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Ossabaw Island Foundation. The defined uses in the Heritage Preserve requiring that all activities on Ossabaw Island be for "natural, scientific and cultural education, research and study" now apply to the Torrey West Estate; during Mrs. West's life this property was exempt from those defined uses.

The Torrey West Estate (the house and 23 acres) is now part of the five year renewable use agreement between the Foundation and the State of Georgia, meaning that The Ossabaw Island Foundation is coordinating and leading the management of the property, in the same way that TOIF provides access and use to the northern half of Ossabaw Island.

Both the Georgia DNR and the Ossabaw Island Foundation will continue to work together to honor the legacy left to our state by Mrs. West and her family, as we care for and share the island that so many Georgians have enjoyed visiting over the years, while preserving it for future generations.



Photo by Helen Tapp



Photo by Helen Tapp



# Create an Enduring Legacy

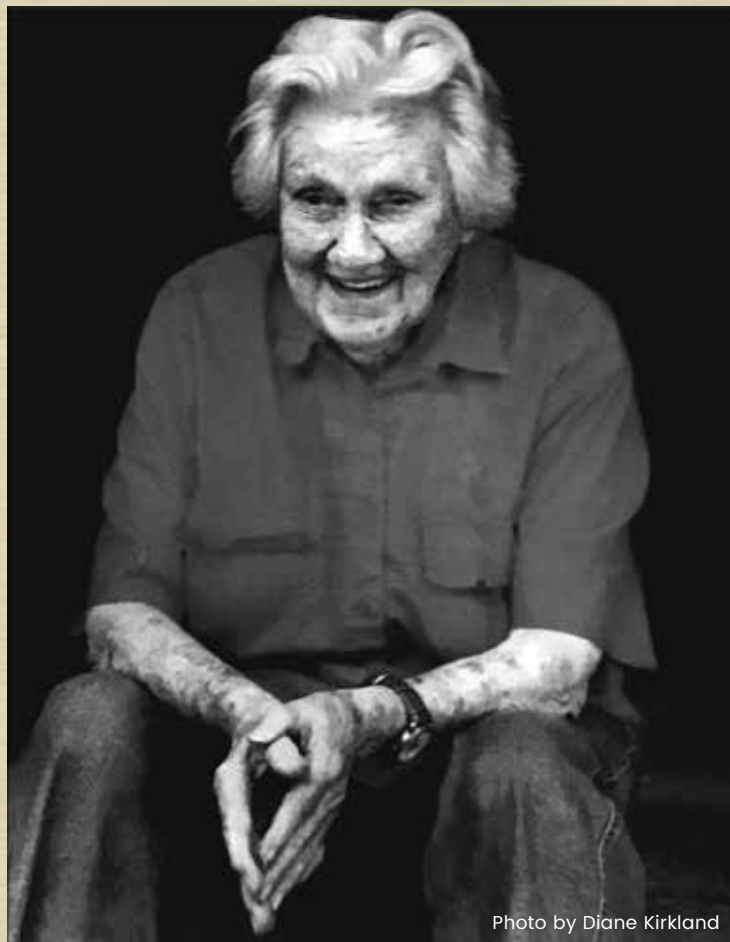


Photo by Diane Kirkland

## Join “Sandy West Ossabaw Champions”

The Sandy West Ossabaw Champions recognizes individuals who have chosen to support our work by including The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) in their estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests, help facilitate ecology, archaeology, historic preservation, and cultural study today and well into the future.

Joining the Ossabaw Champions is easy – include TOIF as a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan, life insurance, trusts, or other estate planning vehicles. Ossabaw Champion members receive special recognition, as well as invitations to donor events and programs.

Eleanor “Sandy” Torrey West dedicated herself to preserving Ossabaw Island for future generations. She was inspired by Archimedes, a famous mathematician and inventor in ancient Greece. “I want this island to be a refuge outside the ‘real’ world, where creative people can stand and find ‘a lever to move the earth,’” she said, quoting Archimedes. “All I wanted to do is give people a place that had no demands on them and where they would be with other interesting people in different fields..... I cared about what the island did to them.”

Be a part of the future of Ossabaw Island and join the Sandy West Ossabaw Champions by making a bequest to the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

For more information scan the QR Code



The Ossabaw Island Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization | Federal Tax Identification number 58-1397054.  
Please note: this is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the financial consequences of their gift.



Designed by Longwater & Company

## 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.

## Contact us:

### Elizabeth DuBose

Executive Director,  
[elizabeth@ossabawisland.org](mailto:elizabeth@ossabawisland.org)

### Paul Pressly

Director Emeritus,  
Ossabaw Island Education Alliance  
[pmprssly@gmail.com](mailto:pmprssly@gmail.com)

### Robin Gunn

Project Coordinator,  
Ossabaw Island Foundation  
[robin@ossabawisland.org](mailto:robin@ossabawisland.org)

### Mark Frissell

Island Facilities Manager,  
Ossabaw Island Foundation  
[mark@ossabawisland.org](mailto:mark@ossabawisland.org)

Join our Facebook group: Ossabaw Island Lovers  
Instagram: @ossabawisland

Twitter: @ossabawisland

VISIT  
OSSABAW:



DONATE  
TODAY:

