



## Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve: 40 years of State Protection Recollections of Noel Holcomb, one of Ossabaw's first state employees

*This year is the 40th anniversary of the State of Georgia's acquisition of Ossabaw Island (May 1978) and the island's designation as the first State Heritage Preserve (June 1978).*

*In that first year, a young Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employee named Noel Holcomb was one of three state staff assigned to manage the newly acquired barrier island. Holcomb worked on Ossabaw from September 1978 through September 1985, as Wildlife Technician and Island Manager, and remained a great friend of the island as he moved on to other DNR roles before retiring in 2009 as DNR Commissioner.*

*In May 2018, Holcomb spoke with the Ossabaw Island Foundation about his years on Ossabaw:*

### **Holcomb's first visit to Ossabaw:**

I went over [to Ossabaw] in June, and met Mrs. West, sitting on the porch in a swing. I was sort of uncertain [about taking the job] until then. She took us on a tour of the island. I had read about Ossabaw at various times growing up; seeing it first hand was what tipped the scales.

### **What Ossabaw was like when he arrived:**

Mrs. West had programs going with Genesis and Ossabaw Island Project (OIP). People were coming and going most of the year [except for] July and August, going to the Main House. Then there were all the contractors doing various things for her. The Green House [now the

turtle intern residence] that Roger Parker was living in was being built. [The activity on the island] slowly changed as her programs reduced, and [the DNR] hunting program expanded. Before 1985 she was scaling lots of things back, her staff and people.

### **Holcomb's first assignments on Ossabaw:**

I lived in the Vernon View house. I commuted over pretty much every day. My first job was stripping barnacles off a boat that I would use to go over. There were lots of things to be done--establish the hunting program, do some sea turtle management stuff, plan for a turtle hatchery, establish our presence on the island, get the [state staff residences] finished, get a check station built. Eventually we took over more operational things, such as maintaining the roads. I was also a law enforcement officer, so I had to go to the police academy. We all had to become boat captains, get inland operator vessel licenses, because we had a boat on order. It was a year after we got on the island before we got our boat, it was 30-something feet.

### **Keeping the generator going:**

There was a regular ferry schedule Monday/Wednesday/Friday that Mrs. West had going over. Barges ran regularly too. That generator, all of its fuel went over in 55 gallon drums. A fuel truck would come over to the [Vernon View] dock. The three state houses each had their own generators, so fuel was hard to get over there. We ran [the main] generator from 5:30am most of the day, and turned it off at 10 o'clock at night. We had a schedule; a different person turned it on and off. We lived around the generator schedule.

Continued on page 4...

# Executive Director's Note



Photo by E-Three Media

At our 2018 annual meeting in January, I was truly surprised to be honored and recognized for my 20 years as Executive Director of the Ossabaw Island Foundation. I watched in awe as my Ossabaw life flashed by in the slide show.

My tenure with TOIF began in May 1998, four months after the first Ossabaw Island

Use Agreement was signed by TOIF and the State of Georgia. TOIF's successes since then are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. I couldn't have asked for a better team of Trustees, staff, and Ossabaw supporters, bringing a diverse breadth of expertise, professionalism and experience to the mission. Since 1998, TOIF has employed three on-island coordinators and seven island hosts who live/lived off the island. We currently have one project coordinator and have employed five interns. In 2005 the creation of the Education Alliance expanded our reach and visibility. A team of support contractors and community partners are part of our Ossabaw family, providing everything from transportation, printing, creative services, and maintenance, to catering on and off the island. Countless volunteers have pitched in to help, for an hour or for years, including on the island, in the office, and especially on our Board of Trustees.

When I started in May, 1998 it was the middle of Ossabaw's spring "busy" season, which soon slowed down for a three-month summer lull. TOIF now hosts group visits on the island year-round, with very few unscheduled weeks. We have grown from sponsoring one TOIF-hosted public day trip a year to hosting seven day trips and six overnight public opportunities. TOIF has hosted sixteen Pig Roast & Art Auctions and eleven Annual Meetings and Sandy West Birthday Celebrations. We've hosted two symposia and produced two books.

TOIF has restored or renovated five island buildings and a single-wide trailer, stabilized five buildings, and lost one — the 1918 barn located

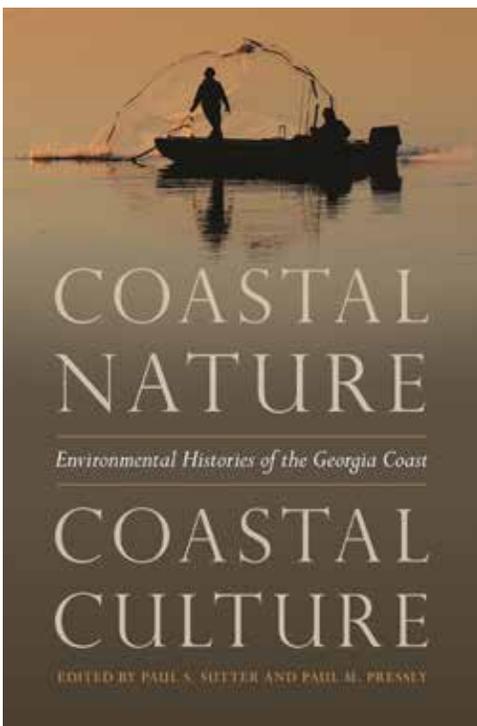
behind the Boarding House. Through the years we have maintained seven island trucks, two boats, and four Polaris/Kawasaki light utility vehicles. These are the many moving parts of working on Ossabaw Island!

My twentieth year with the Foundation coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the Torrey-West family's 1978 sale of Ossabaw Island to the State of Georgia. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with four Department of Natural Resources' Commissioners, two island managers and a variety of enthusiastic DNR island staff. Having just signed our fifth Use Agreement with the State of Georgia, we look forward to our continued partnership of sharing and preserving Ossabaw Island.

Twenty years ago the State employed three Ossabaw staffers who lived on the island with their families. Now there is one State employee living on the island. Sandy West, Ossabaw Island matriarch and visionary, now lives on the mainland, too. In my first Ossabaw years, she lived on the island full time, keeping an eye on the activities of our newly formed organization. While the human side of Ossabaw has changed, the spirit of the island has remained much the same.

Ossabaw has been a part of my family's life since my newlywed days; I was married in mid-April 1998 and began working for TOIF two weeks later. My husband has never wavered in his encouragement of me, nor in his enthusiasm to host island visitors and contribute sweat equity to island projects. Our 17-year-old daughter was raised on the island. On behalf of my family, thanks to all Ossabaw lovers for the opportunity to be a part of what we used to call "The Ossabaw Miracle." As I begin my third decade with the Ossabaw Island Foundation, I look forward to seeing you on Ossabaw Island.

Thank you!  
**Elizabeth DuBose**  
Executive Director  
Ossabaw Island Foundation



## Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture:

### *Environmental Histories of the Georgia Coast*

On Sale July 15

Editors Paul S. Sutter and Paul M. Pressly have brought together work from leading historians as well as environmental writers and activists that explores how nature and culture have coexisted and interacted across five millennia of human history along the Georgia coast, and how those interactions have shaped the coast as we know it today. These original essays were first presented at the *Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture* symposium in 2016, hosted by the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance.

Contributors: William Boyd, S. Max Edelson, Edda L. Fields-Black, Christopher J. Manganiello, Tiya Miles, Janisse Ray, Mart A. Stewart, Drew A. Swanson, David Hurst Thomas, and Albert G. Way.

Published by University of Georgia Press,

Pre-Order now at [www.ugapress.org](http://www.ugapress.org)

Book cover photograph by Sammy Moore, 1951-2018.



# Visit Ossabaw Island in 2018!

**How to Register:** The following trips are open to the public. Fees vary; see relevant websites for details. To sign up for emails on the latest information on Ossabaw events, text OSSABAW to 22828.

To register for all Ossabaw Island Foundation-sponsored events, [ossabawisland.net](http://ossabawisland.net) or (912) 233-5104.

## Be Creative on Ossabaw: Two-night Trip

Tues. July 31 – Thu. August 2

Paint, sketch, write, or take photos on Ossabaw Island. Let the island be your muse. Spend two nights and experience the island's inspiring marsh vistas, maritime forests, wildlife sightings. Bring your own art supplies. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

## Turtle Hatching Two-night Weekend

Fri. August 3 – Sun. August 5

Watch Georgia DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program interns as they inventory loggerhead turtle nests for eggs and live hatchlings. In 2017, 316 sea turtle nests were documented on Ossabaw. Led by coastal ecologist/naturalist John "Crawfish" Crawford and hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

## Lift Every Voice: Savannah's African American History Museums' Fee-Free Day

Sat. August 18

This "fee free" half-day trip to Ossabaw is a morning walking tour of the North End plantation site, including three restored tabby cabins built by enslaved Africans as their housing. Learn about Hercules & Betty in the 1770s, the Bond brothers in the 1850s and 1860s, and their descendants, the founders of Pin Point community in the 1880s. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

## Georgia Conservancy Volunteer Weekend

Fri. September 14 - Sun. September 16

Support the preservation of Ossabaw Island by giving back with some elbow grease. Yard work, marsh clean-up, scrubbing and cleaning island structures. Hosted by the Georgia Conservancy. Visit [georgiaconservancy.org](http://georgiaconservancy.org) or 404-876-2900

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

Sun. September 23

Elizabeth DuBose shares the history of Ossabaw indigo. Indigo expert Donna Hardy provides instruction on creating fresh leaf dye vats and guides participants through the dyeing process. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

## 17th Annual Ossabaw Island Pig Roast & Art Auction

Sat. October 20

The only annual fundraiser hosted by TOIF. Funds raised go to support TOIF's management of programming and facilities on the island. Sponsorships available now. General Admission tickets on sale September 1.

## Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat Fall Weekend

Fri. November 2 – Sun. November 4

Writing workshops, lectures, readings, one-on-one mentoring by nationally recognized writing faculty and ghost stories are the highlights of this Halloween weekend workshop. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat. Directed by poet and writing professor Tony Morris. Visit [ossabawwritersretreat.org](http://ossabawwritersretreat.org) or 912-344-3123.

## Wild Night on Ossabaw: New Year's Eve Overnight Trip

Mon. December 31, 2018 – Tues. January 1, 2019

Spend New Year's Eve on Ossabaw Island on an overnight trip, with tales of Ossabaw Island around the fire pit after dinner. Plus, a midnight champagne toast to welcome 2019. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

One first impression was the [generator] noise. The whole time I worked there that generator ran. If it was quiet, something was wrong. It's a real contrast now how quiet it is. The power line [bringing electricity from the mainland to Ossabaw] was put in while I was commissioner. [2002]

**About those Ossabaw hogs:**

Hogs were everywhere--you've never seen so many hogs in your life, and donkeys and cattle. One thing that struck me when we were [on Ossabaw Island] last year, the population of feral animals [when I worked there] made it more open and visible then, more park-like. It is a stark contrast now, how much the vegetation and undergrowth has come back.

Mrs. West still had control of the hogs. She moved 1500 to 2000 off on barges. We had a series of hog traps around the island. [University of Georgia's] Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in Athens came in, and started manning the hog traps.

**State of Georgia construction projects on Ossabaw:**

[A contractor] came over and lived in tents and built all three of those [state] houses and the shop, and the building to house the generator. Richard Boaen built the back house down at Hunt Camp. The old station that burned down, that was a mine shack built during the phosphate exploratory [period] on the coast. We hooked a bulldozer, and drug that building away from the creek up to where Hunt Camp is now. I think it has since burned down.

It took some time to get [the Hunt Camp] done. The young adult conservation corps hired students in the summer to run the turtle program. They lived in tents. For the first hunt we lived in the tents. It took two or three years to get that built.

**The community of Ossabaw Island:**

Three of us [from DNR] started at the same time. Jerry McCollum was the first onsite. Mike Sellers started in October.

Sandy [West] was on the island all the time except for when Roger [Parker] would drive her to Michigan in June, then fly up and drive her back in late August/early September. [Sandy West's children] Justin and Jill visited, and Mike Shallcross came back and worked on the island for a couple of years. Mike was sort of the business manager, oversaw the house as well.

Liz and Eugene "Uncle Punkin" Graves and their daughter little Sandy worked on the island. He was head mechanic, and ran the generator. She answered the phone; was Mrs. West's confidant. They moved off when little Sandy became old enough to go to school. They lived in the Boarding House. In the first tabby was Stanfield and Mary Parker and their children. The children weren't there all the time; in the summer they were there. Stanfield was boat captain; Mary helped clean at the Main House and cooked. He started working for the state when I was there.

In the middle cabin was Cyrus Martin and his sons Billy and Al. They cut firewood, helped Roger with cattle and the hogs, and loaded the barges. In the last cabin were Brown Lee and Queenie Mae Williams. Roger and Sara [Parker] lived in the Green House on the back side of the stables.

When [Sandy West] shut down the programs, it was sort of a sad time. I had lots of friends working for Genesis, to see them start leaving and not coming back.



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose

*Hurricane Matthew washed out this causeway on Willows Road.*

## Hurricane Update: Georgia DNR Receives \$1.2 Million from FEMA.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will receive \$1,211,823 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Grant program to pay for Ossabaw Island damages from October 2016's Hurricane Matthew. Among other damages, the storm wiped out a Willows Road causeway across the marsh and created a small creek which cut off access to the beaches, restricting access to areas needed for turtle researchers, DNR wildlife personnel, archaeologists and TOIF visitors. "Funds will be used to repair damaged roads, causeways, culverts and embankments on Ossabaw Island" said David Mixon, regional supervisor of game management for DNR Region 7. The total project cost is \$1,615,765 and the remainder will come from non-federal sources.

Source: FEMA Press Release, March 21, 2018

# OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION 20 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

## The Ossabaw Island Foundation 1998-2018

### Two Decades of Sharing and Preserving Ossabaw Island

*The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) was established in 1994 to manage programming and facilities on Ossabaw Island. Our partnership with the State of Georgia was formalized in 1998 with the signing of the Ossabaw Island Use Agreement. This renewable “contract” gives TOIF exclusive right of use of the North End of Ossabaw Island, and shared use, with the State, of the island’s southern portion. TOIF pays an annual use fee to the State of Georgia for this privilege. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for management of Ossabaw’s infrastructure and for “environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the Island’s ecosystem.” As we celebrate two decades of accomplishments, we look ahead to continuing the legacy of Ossabaw Island stewardship established by Eleanor “Sandy” Torrey West from 1961 - 1994.*



*Eleanor “Sandy” Torrey West at the Ossabaw Island historical marker dedication (2003). Photo by Elizabeth DuBose*

## Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve

Ossabaw’s Heritage Preserve designation was negotiated by the Torrey and West families as a condition of their sale of Ossabaw to the State in 1978.

The Heritage Preserve was designated on June 15, 1978 via an Executive Order by Georgia Governor George Busbee, ‘...to protect, conserve, and preserve the natural and cultural resources of this Island for the benefit of present and future generations, and that Ossabaw Island shall only be used for natural, scientific, and cultural study, research, and education, and environmentally sound preservation, conservation, and management of the Island’s ecosystem.’”

## TOIF: Stewards of the Heritage Preserve

TOIF’s first priority and mission is to assure that all who use Ossabaw Island comply with the island’s Heritage Preserve requirements of “natural, scientific or cultural education, research or study.” Empowered by the Use Agreement, TOIF is tasked with sharing Ossabaw Island’s story and resources, while preserving the island for future generations.



*Elizabeth DuBose educates visitors inside a historic tabby cabin. Photo by Julian Buckmaster*

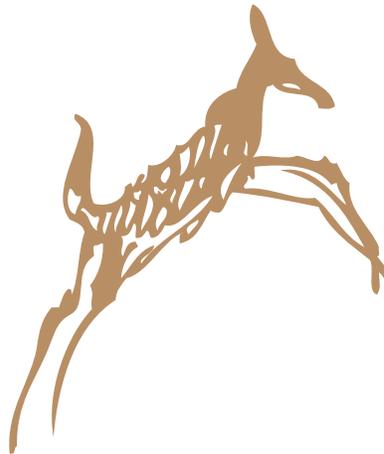
# OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION 20 YEAR TIMELINE



1998

**1998-2001. Ossabaw Island Comprehensive Management Plan.** Eight (8) TOIF representatives served on the steering committee and subcommittees of this DNR-led plan, adopted May 1, 2001, “to provide clear direction...in the management and protection of Ossabaw.”

**1998 & 2014. National Trust for Historic Preservation—National Preservation Conference Field Workshop.** Showcased Ossabaw’s successes since the island’s designation on the 1996 list of “America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.”

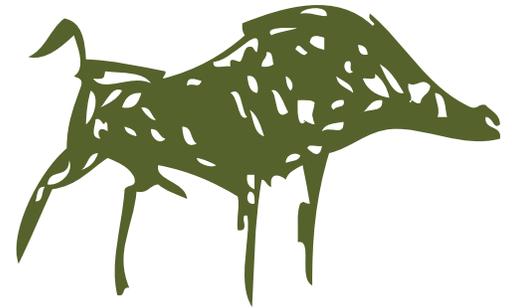


2002

**2002 – 2011. Visiting Artists Program.** Hundreds of artists visited Ossabaw Island at no charge, for overnight stays or day trips. Artists continue to visit Ossabaw with independently-organized overnight groups and with TOIF creative trips.

**2002 – 2011. Torrey-West Furniture Acquisition.** Purchased from the Torrey and West families original 1926 Torrey-West Estate furnishings, to remain in place.

**2002 – 2013. UGA Marine Education and Georgia Youth Science & Technology Center Teacher Training Workshops.** Taught coastal ecology and marine biology.



2005  
2007

**\*2005. Ossabaw Island Education Alliance.** Created as an educational partnership between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Department of Natural Resources, and TOIF.

**2006 – Present. The Art and History of Ossabaw Indigo.** Conducted historical research, identified and geno-typed Ossabaw indigo. Developed hands-on workshops on the history, economics, and craft of this colonial-era plant-based dye.

**\*2007-2010 Barrier Island Observatory.** Installed data collection towers, wireless internet connectivity, and weather station on Ossabaw Island.

\*Denotes Education Alliance projects.

# 2008

**\*2008 – 2010. African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry.** This 2008 symposium featured original research presented by twelve historians on the lives of African Americans from the colonial period through the 20th century. UGA Press published a book from the conference proceedings in 2010.

**\*2008-2010 Ossabest.** Hosted three-day stays on Ossabaw Island for public middle school students and teachers. Science and technology projects focused on the coastal ecosystem. A partnership with Armstrong State University and Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. Funded by a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

**2008 – 2015. Museum Artifact Conservation Course.** Led by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# 2009 2010

**\*2009 – 2013, and 2017. African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry Summer Institutes.** Instructed teachers and professors on daily life for 19<sup>th</sup>-century enslaved workers. Led by Georgia Historical Society, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**\*2009. Genesis & Ossabaw Island Project directors' reunion.** Conducted oral history interviews, and filmed a documentary.

**\*2009 & 2011. Historical Research on African American life.** Interpreted the Ossabaw Island story of enslaved Africans and Freedmen tenant farmers. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**2010. Genesis Project.** Organized first-year participants' 40th reunion and produced *In the Beginning* documentary.



# 2011

**2011 – Present. Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat.** Hosted independently organized spring and fall workshops featuring instruction and critique by writers in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

**2011 – Present. Expanded TOIF-hosted trips.** Led Turtle Hatching Weekends, Stargazing and Storytelling New Year's Eve Trips, Creative Retreats, Birding Trips, "fee free" day trips for Super Museum Sunday and Lift Every Voice African American history day.

**2011 – Present. Archaeology Field Schools.** Excavated sites across Ossabaw Island for research and university-level field instruction. Hosted by University of Tennessee, University of Georgia, TOIF and DNR.



# 2013 2018

**\*2013 – Present. Moon River District.** Created a partnership of six sites (including Ossabaw Island) to increase visitation and awareness, and educate the public about the area's common history and geography.

**\*2016. Textiles Society of America national conference.** Held a field trip/workshop on the history of indigo.

**\*2016 – 2018. Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture: Environmental Histories of the Georgia Coast.** Hosted a symposium featuring original research presented by twelve historians and writers on how 5000 years of people and cultures were influenced by Georgia's 100 mile coastline. UGA Press will publish a book from the conference proceedings in July 2018.



**BEFORE**

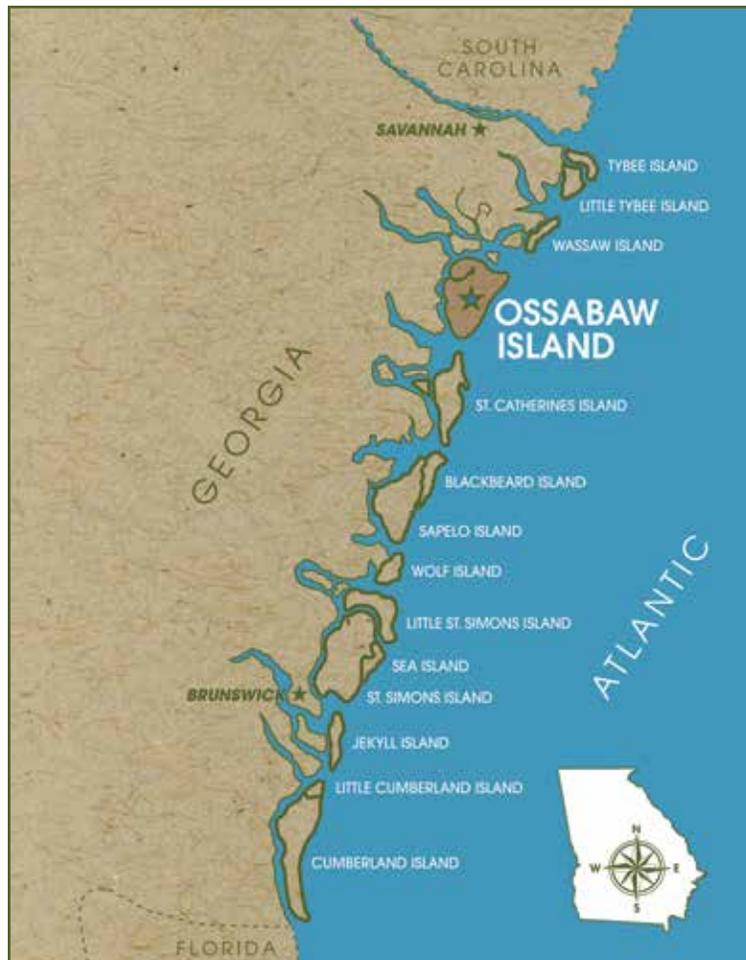


**AFTER**

Photos by Elizabeth DuBose

## Revealing the Voices and Mystery of Ossabaw Island

Since 1998, TOIF has hosted thousands of visitors on Ossabaw Island through programs created by TOIF or in collaboration with our partners. Thousands more have learned about Ossabaw through programming held on the mainland, including history symposia, public lectures, our annual meetings, and lifelong learning courses. Programming themes include Native American life as revealed through archaeology; the history of enslaved people and freedmen on Ossabaw Island; and Ossabaw Island's indigo, loggerhead turtles, coastal ecology, hurricane history, and more.



Tabby-making workshop. Photo by Robert S. Cooper

## Preserving the Built Environment

Since 1998, TOIF has restored or stabilized ten historic buildings on Ossabaw Island. Project funds (\$4.5 million) were raised from private and public foundations, federal grants and individual donations. Buildings are used to further our mission: as housing, teaching, and laboratory spaces; for photography/darkroom processing; and for historic interpretation of 19th and 20th century life on Ossabaw Island and the Georgia coast.

- **Club House - Circa 1886** - (Full rehabilitation. Received regional and state historic preservation awards.)
- **Torrey-West House - 1926** - (Restored terra-cotta roof. Received regional historic preservation award.)
- **Tabbies #1, #2, #3, and the Smoke House - Circa 1820-1840** - (Full restoration on Tabbies 1 and 2; stabilization on Tabby 3 and Smoke House. Received Save America's Treasures national restoration grant)
- **Boarding House - 1918** - (Full rehabilitation. Received regional and state historic preservation awards.)
- **Abattoir - Circa 1960** - (Adaptive reuse to Field Lab and Dark Room.)
- **Tower House - 1979** - (Replaced metal roof.)
- **Torrey-West Shop - Circa 1926** - (Replaced metal roof.)



Photo by Margie DeLoach Love

Mrs. Vicky Nephew at home in Ludowici in 2015.

## Recollections of Ossabaw Island, 1920s and 1930s: Vicky Nephew, 102, Tells Her Story

An excerpt from a 2015 interview with Sarah Victoria “Vicky” Scott Nephew, who worked on Ossabaw Island in the 1930s.

Written by Margie DeLoach Love. Reprinted with permission from Margie DeLoach Love and Vicky Nephew.

Sarah Victoria “Vicky” Scott (now Nephew) was born in Liberty County on May 4, 1913, to Marcus Scott Jr. and Maggie Williams Scott. She was the second of their seven children.

The Scott family lived in Savannah in the late 1920s. Vicky Scott stayed with her family in Savannah while they lived at Montgomery Crossroads. She attended Sandfly School and Montgomery Crossroads. On most days, Vicky went home for lunch and took the rest of the day off as she had to babysit her siblings while her brother, Marcus III, took his turn at school. He watched the siblings in the mornings. Vicky finally finished the sixth grade.

### Mrs. Nephew’s recollections of Ossabaw Island:

“When I was very young, I was sent to Ossabaw Island to babysit for Mr. Strouffer (sic), an Englishman, who raised flowers in a greenhouse and managed crews that maintained the landscape. He was the gardener for Dr. Henry Norton Torrey and his wife Nell Ford Torrey who purchased the island in 1924. I was sitting in the sandy road one day making frog houses with the little boy. I did this by putting my hand down and covering it with the damp sand and then pulling my hand out. One of the overseers came by and saw me sitting there playing and said to me, ‘You should not be sitting there wasting time like that. You ought to be out there in the fields working.’ I just looked at him and said, ‘I have already done all that in my time. I was sent over here to babysit and take care of this little boy and that is what I am going to do.’

“It was while there that I married my first husband, Sandy Jackson, whose mother was from Ossabaw Island and his father was from Liberty County. Sandy was the operator of the boat Eleanor which was used to transport goods from the shore to the island. One day I saw the Tamarack, the large yacht that the Torreys used and I wanted to ride on it one time. They told me that I could not. Sandy [Jackson] talked

to the operator and he said I could ride on the bottom floor. I stepped onto that large yacht and it was carpeted all over the floor. I really enjoyed the ride on the yacht. I recall that however rich the Torreys were, they acted as very common people. They treated all the servants very well and each liked the other.

“It was on Ossabaw Island and while I lived at Montgomery Crossroads that I got my love for oysters. They could be harvested very easily and were plentiful. I like them roasted, made into a stew or rolled in breading and fried. That was my favorite food to cook and eat. I ate my share on them while over there.

“The most beautiful sight that I remember on the island was during one moonlit night. Between the colored quarters and the big house were some large fig trees filled with ripe figs. I watched a whole drove of deer come out of the woods and go together to the fig trees and eat all the figs they could reach. I will never forget that beautiful sight! When I would go in the woods with my husband to get firewood, he would tell me to stay in the truck as the ticks were so bad in all the leaves.

“During World War II, my husband was helping cut timber to build ships for the war use and a tree fell on him and killed him. We did not have any children.”

In the late 1940s, Vicky Scott Jackson married John Nephew. They had four children. Mrs. Nephew, now 105, lives in Ludowici, Georgia with one of her daughters.

## Happy Birthday Sandy West!



Eleanor “Sandy” Torrey West celebrating her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday in January at her Savannah home. Mrs. West and her family were the last private owners of Ossabaw Island. She lived on Ossabaw until 2016.

Photo by Betsy Cain & David Kaminsky

# Ossabaw Fund Contributors - Thank you for your gifts to the Ossabaw Island Foundation's Ossabaw Fund from January - April 2018.

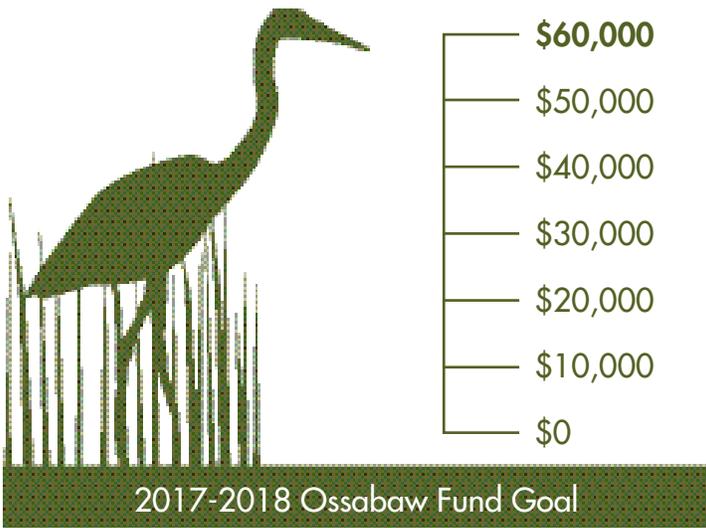
Edward Benton  
 Inge Brasseler  
 Sharon Brooks  
 Dan Burns  
 M. Tyus Butler, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter G. Culin  
 Henry Dean  
 Marie Dent  
 Kimberlee Dixon  
 Don Callahan Real Estate Group  
 A. Blair Dorminey  
 Elizabeth DuBose & Mark Frissell  
 Nancy Furlong  
 Rick Gilsdorf  
 Leigh Goff  
 Robin Wright Gunn  
 Historic Beaufort Foundation

Chris Johnson  
 Andrew Berrien Jones  
 Diane Kirkland  
 Lee Kolb  
 Robert Krupczak  
 Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.  
 Susan Lowery-Flaherty  
 Malcolm & Jane Mackenzie  
 Helen & Murray Marshall  
 Joe & Donna Meadows  
 Carl Miller  
 Joseph Page  
 Connie Polsinelli  
 Caroline Powell  
 Paul Pressly  
 Gibbs Robinson

John Saillant  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schwingle  
 Joanne Sharpe  
 Dean DuBose Smith  
 Eileen Smith  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund T. Sommer  
 Josephine Sutlive  
 Lisa Terrell  
 Willetta Thomson  
 Barbara Vaughn  
 John Vian  
 Paul Vogt  
 Ronald Weller

Join these friends of Ossabaw and make a tax deductible contribution to the Ossabaw Fund, using the enclosed envelope or via [ossabawisland.net](http://ossabawisland.net)

## Support the Ossabaw Fund



Our 2017-2018 Ossabaw Fund goal is \$60,000. Your gift supports our efforts to share Ossabaw Island while preserving her natural and historic resources for future generations. Donate by using the enclosed envelope or at [ossabawisland.net](http://ossabawisland.net).

**Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.**



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose

## What's In YOUR Closet? Genesis Project Tiles Reveal Ossabaw History

In January, a longtime friend of Ossabaw dropped off a box of 20 ceramic tiles, forgotten in a closet on Isle of Hope, Georgia, until they were re-discovered in 2017. In the 1980s the tiles were found under an oak tree at Middle Place on Ossabaw Island, site of Genesis project, and taken to Isle of Hope for safekeeping. The maker of the tiles is unknown. The tile images include a turtle, squirrel, raccoon, snowy egret, a snake, an Ossabaw hog, and the historic Ossabaw Island Volkswagen van. Now these valuable artifacts are stored securely and will be added to the collection of material culture that reveals the Ossabaw story. Genesis alumni are invited to contact us with information on these tiles.

If you are going through your closets and wondering what to do with your long-held Ossabaw Island artifacts, consider donating them to us. Contact Elizabeth DuBose [elizabeth@ossabawisland.org](mailto:elizabeth@ossabawisland.org) or 912-233-5104.

# OSSABAW ISLAND PIG ROAST & ART AUCTION SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2018



## Pig Roast Tickets On Sale September 1

### Pig Roast Sponsorships Available!

The Pig Roast is the sole annual fundraiser for the Ossabaw Island Foundation, held on the grounds of the Torrey-West Estate on Ossabaw Island.

#### Sponsorship Benefits

- Complimentary tickets to the Pig Roast
- First choice on boat departure time traveling to the Pig Roast
- Pre-selection of return-to-mainland boat times
- Listing on the event program, all event publicity, and on TOIF website

## Call for Artists - Pig Roast Art Donations

The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) seeks donations of Ossabaw Island-inspired artwork to be sold in the silent auction at the Pig Roast, our organization's only fundraiser. All types of visual art and fine crafts are welcomed – paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, mixed media, wood turning, etc. Donor artists are eligible for one complimentary ticket to the Pig Roast.

### Artwork Donation Deadline

**Friday September 21, 2018** - For listing in program & complimentary ticket  
**Friday October 12, 2018** - Final artwork deadline

Artist tickets may be claimed when art is received, but no later than Friday, Sept. 21.

**For more information, email [robin@ossabawisland.org](mailto:robin@ossabawisland.org) or call 912-233-5104.**



Photos by Elizabeth DuBose

## Volunteers:

### Second Eagle Scout project upgrades Ossabaw's campsites

Campers at Ossabaw Island's Shorter Shelter and South End will be able to "go" in semi-luxury, thanks to Eagle Scout Gibbs Robinson of Boy Scout Troop 197, Atlanta. Robinson's Eagle project team constructed and installed a new outhouse at each campsite in December 2017. "These are the fanciest out houses I have ever seen. They have solar powered lights and exhaust fans," said Elizabeth DuBose, TOIF Executive Director.

The outhouses were constructed on the mainland, then shipped to the island in panels for final assembly on site. "Each piece was pretty heavy and cumbersome," said Robinson. "Getting them to the island was just the beginning. Then we needed to get them out to the site and reconstruct the houses." Thank you Gibbs Robinson and Troop 197!



Ossabaw Island Foundation  
305 Fahm Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
912-233-5104  
[www.ossabawisland.org](http://www.ossabawisland.org)

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

## 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, Ossabaw Island Foundation  
[elizabeth@ossabawisland.org](mailto:elizabeth@ossabawisland.org)

#### **Robin Gunn**

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

#### **Paul Pressly**

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

Join our Facebook group: Ossabaw Island Lovers

## Ossabaw Island Foundation 2018 Board of Trustees

---

### **Chair**

Lisa White, Savannah

### **Chair-Elect**

John Manly, Savannah

### **Treasurer**

Mike English, Savannah

### **Secretary**

M. Tyus ("Ty") Butler, Jr., Savannah

Clark Alexander, Savannah

Patricia Barmeyer, Atlanta

Jenny Lynn Bradley, Savannah

Archie Davis, Savannah

Patty Deveau, Atlanta

J. Truitt Eavenson, Savannah

Denise Grabowski, Savannah

Leigh Goff, Atlanta

Vaughnette Goode-Walker, Savannah

John C. Helmken II, Savannah

Ruth Knox, Macon

Rose Lane Leavell, Dry Branch

Bryan Schroeder, Atlanta

Zelda Tenenbaum, Savannah

### **Chairperson Emerita**

Eleanor T. "Sandy" West, Savannah