

OSSABAW ORACLE

A Publication of the Ossabaw Island Foundation

December 2017



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

Hurricane Irma Visits Ossabaw Island

On September 11, 2017, Hurricane Irma inundated Ossabaw Island with wind, rain and tidal storm surge. The storm brought an abrupt end to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' sea turtle interns' summer work on the island. The road to Bradley Beach is not passable; the cross-island causeways are further degraded by the second swipe of hurricane-force winds in less than a year; and more trees fell across the island, adding to the major tree loss caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

As a barrier island, Ossabaw Island is designed by nature to take the brunt of major weather events and protect coastal Georgia from the impacts of serious storms like Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Because the island is mostly undeveloped, most damage to the island is to sand dunes, trees, roads and causeways. The 30-foot-high sand dune deposit at Bradley Beach on Ossabaw's northeast point has been washed down to a height of about five feet. A slough appears to be in the creative stages behind the dunes on Bradley's northern point.

Irma's wind and rain penetrated the Boarding House's windows and dormers, soaking floors that were also damaged from Hurricane Matthew. Irma's storm surge (estimated at 13 feet along the Georgia coast) flooded the South End campsite and destroyed the new hot water heater in the refurbished shower house. The State of Georgia dock on Burnside Island, used by The Ossabaw Island Foundation for all non-visitor travel to the island, was reduced to two rows of pilings. Its rebuilding is planned for late 2018.

Ossabaw has many centuries of history of hurricane impact. The 1881 hurricane that made direct landfall on Ossabaw killed over 700 people in Georgia and South Carolina, making it one of the ten most deadly hurricanes in U.S. history. (Reuters, August 2017) We were fortunate to be hurricane-free between 1979 and 2016, but the reality of life on a Georgia barrier island is that hurricanes are a potential threat every year. The two recent storms will help us improve our hurricane preparedness for years to come.

Revealing the Voices & Mystery of Ossabaw Island

Executive Director's Note



Photo by Robert Cooper

I could not believe the news in mid September that another hurricane was heading towards Ossabaw Island. Two hurricanes in less than a year? Remembering the coast's hurricane history, yes it is possible. Friday September 8, our hurricane preparation began as Mark Frissell and I headed to the island to "batten down the hatches."

We emptied and unplugged refrigerators, moved porch furniture inside, turned off water to the buildings, and drove Foundation-owned vehicles to the high ground of Middle Place field. Back on the mainland, the Bigelow, our Foundation-owned boat, was pulled from the water to prevent its damage at the dock. Then we all waited and watched as Irma shifted to the west of Ossabaw Island. Hurricane Irma was not a direct hit like Hurricane Matthew; she was a different kind of storm, bringing tidal storm surge to the area.

Of the damages caused by Irma, one of the most impactful to TOIF was the destruction of the State-owned dock on Burnside Island, used by TOIF for docking the Bigelow and to launch all non-guest related trips, including maintenance and supply runs. We are grateful to Wesley Gardens Retreat Center on Burnside Island for their donation of dock

space for the Bigelow at their facility until a more permanent solution can be found.

Hurricane Irma's visit postponed by four weeks the Georgia Conservancy's annual Service Weekend on Ossabaw Island. For the past six years we have depended on these amazing volunteers to clear and clean the North End for our annual fundraiser, the Ossabaw Island Pig Roast & Art Auction held at the Torrey-West Estate. On Saturday October 14, volunteers, TOIF and DNR island staff worked all day, removing and cutting up debris left by Irma on the lawn and grounds, mowing the grass and cleaning the Main House to prepare for 300 pig roast guests.

TOIF's Board of Trustees, staff and island users are thankful for the generosity our Ossabaw friends demonstrated in 2016 after Hurricane Matthew slammed the island and our bottom line. Our Ossabaw Fund donors allowed us to repair damaged North End buildings and get back on our feet as we continued hosting learners on Ossabaw Island throughout this past year. We all hope we will not be hosting another hurricane in 2018.

Best regards,
Elizabeth DuBose
Executive Director
Ossabaw Island Foundation



Ossabaw Island Foundation Annual Meeting and Sandy West's 105th Birthday Celebration

Thursday, January 18, 2018

6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Annual Meeting

Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, GA 31401

(Free and Open to the Public)

Keynote:
"Discovering the Gullah Geechee:
A Personal Journey"

Dr. Paul Pressly, Director Emeritus,
The Ossabaw Island Education Alliance

Featuring birthday cake and singing in
honor of Eleanor "Sandy" West's 105th
birthday on January 17.



**Annual Meeting Keynote Address:
"Discovering the Gullah Geechee:
A Personal Journey"**

In the 1930s, outsiders "discovered" a people on the coast of Georgia whose African roots could be seen in their dialect, their storytelling, their food, their singing, their craftsmanship, and the way they planted things. These outsiders tended to romanticize the Gullah-Geechee and, in so doing, made them seem exotic, simple, and timeless. From the 1980s onwards, scholars and writers, many of them African American, have rescued the Gullah from these stereotypes and restored a full measure of humanity to this rich culture.

Paul Pressly discusses his own journey into the world of the Gullah-Geechee and uses lessons learned from the people of Pinpoint, academics, and his own research to talk about an evolving culture.

Where have YOU seen Sandy?



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

An Update on Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West

Editor's Note: Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey 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, Henry and Nell Torrey, 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 part 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's life estate "ownership" of the Torrey-West Estate continues, despite her no longer living on Ossabaw Island.



Grace Ford visits her cousin Sandy West.

Photo by Elizabeth DuBose



The Ossabaw Sound serenades Sandy West.

Photo by Robert Cooper

What a surprise and an honor it was in January 2017 when Eleanor "Sandy" West made an appearance at the Ossabaw Island Foundation's Annual Meeting. Although this event has always been held near Mrs. West's birthday and celebrated with cake, the 2017 meeting was the first time that she has attend in person. She spent the reception visiting with old friends and meeting new admirers, including members of Boy Scout Troop 16 who were volunteering as ushers. It was Mrs. West's turn to be surprised when The Ossabaw Sound barbershop quartet serenaded her as the kick-off for the meeting, and led the audience in singing Happy Birthday in honor of her 104th birthday.

The annual meeting is just one of many "Sandy West sightings" in Savannah in 2017. In March, Mrs. West did her part at Whole Foods Market's Community Giving Day benefiting the Ossabaw Island Foundation. She dropped in for happy hour at Whole Foods' Parlor, to toast the island and reminisce. Mrs. West's cousin Grace Ford caught wind of her visit and turned up in time for a hug. (Thanks to everyone who showed up at Whole Foods that day, raising \$2,605 for TOIF.)

Other Savannah-area sightings this year included dancing at a birthday party in June, shopping trips to Twelve Oaks, lunch at Cohen's Retreat, and communing with the animals at Pegasus Riding Academy. We can't wait to run into Mrs. West in Savannah in the months ahead.

Visit Ossabaw Island in 2018!



Photo by Robert Cooper

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 from your phone. To register for all Ossabaw Island Foundation-sponsored events, visit ossabawisland.net or 912-233-5104. Pre-registration required.



Photo by Robert Cooper

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

Sun. December 31, 2017 – Mon. January 1, 2018

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 2017. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

Get Creative on Ossabaw: Two-night Trip

Wed. January 3 – Fri. January 5

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

Super Museum Sunday on Ossabaw Island

Sun. February 11

Visit Ossabaw Island as part of the city-wide Super Museum Sunday event. The boat to Ossabaw departs at 12:00 P.M. from the Rodney J. Hall Boat Ramp on Diamond Causeway. Enjoy a day trip, free of admission, with only a \$30 boat fee. Hosted by The Ossabaw Island Foundation.

Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat

Fri. February 23 – Fri. March 2

Six days and five nights (additional two-night stay available) of individualized workshops, lectures, readings, and manuscript consultations. Faculty: Craig Johnson, Beverly Donofrio, Neil Shepard, and Tony Morris. Limited to eighteen participants.

ossabawwritersretreat.org or call 912-344-3123

Day Trip Tour of Ossabaw Island's North End

Sat. April 21

Travel by pontoon boat with Captain Mike Neal of Bull River Cruises to the island's North End for an interpretive tour that includes ecology and history. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

Ossabaw Island Yoga Retreat

Fri. May 4 – Sun. May 6

Renew your spirit on Ossabaw Island with yoga classes on the beach, evening pranayama and meditation. Hosted by Coastal Yoga Therapy. Register by February 1.

coastalyogatherapy.com/coastal-yoga-therapy-events or 360-207-5641

Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat

Fri. May 25 – Sun. May 28

Writing workshops, lectures, readings, one-on-one mentoring by nationally recognized writing faculty highlight this weekend workshop. Directed by poet and writing professor Tony Morris.

ossabawwritersretreat.org or 912-344-3123

Be Creative on Ossabaw: Day Trip

Sat. June 2

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 experience the island's inspiring features of marsh vistas, maritime forests, wildlife sightings. Bring your own art supplies. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

Dig Ossabaw Island: Work as an Archaeologist For A Day

Sat. June 23

Led by the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources' Archaeology Division and the University of Georgia, this excavation of a 19th-century plantation site is the fifth year of a ten-year archaeological project on Ossabaw Island. Hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.



Photo by Heather Powers

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

Sat. September 22 OR 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. October 26 – Sun. October 28

Writing workshops, lectures, readings, one-on-one mentoring by nationally recognized writing faculty and ghost stories are the highlights of this Halloween weekend workshop. Directed by poet and writing professor Tony Morris.

ossabawwritersretreat.org or 912-344-3123



Photo by Elizabeth DuBose

Turtle Hatching Two-night Trip

Fri. July 27 – Sun. July 29

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.

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 features of marsh vistas, maritime forests, wildlife sightings. Bring your own art supplies. 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.

georgiaconservancy.org or 404-876-2900



OSSABAW ISLAND

Foundation & Education Alliance

2017 Summary & Accomplishments

Overview

The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) provided coordination and facilitation on Ossabaw Island to 1,100 learners from twenty-eight states and a dozen different countries in FY 2017. TOIF hosted 160 program days and 84 nights on Ossabaw Island. Of the 63 total groups who visited, 24 groups were first-timers. Groups included 43 cultural study trips, 12 student/teacher trips (totaling 280 student/teachers), and 8 science related trips.

Education

Augusta University's Barrier Island Ecology class spent a week on Ossabaw. Using baseline data from a 1993 study of the island, the class compared current and former island conditions including temperature, pH and salinity of tidal creeks and fresh water systems; soil chemistry; and the diversity and density of plant communities.

Georgia State University's American Architectural History class field trip to Ossabaw focused on how history is revealed through architecture. **Savannah Technical College's** Historic Preservation Department field trip examined lessons learned from two decades of historic preservation projects completed by the Ossabaw Island Foundation.



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

Dr. Paul M. Pressly was named **Director Emeritus of the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance**. Pressly's first project as Director Emeritus is co-editing *Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture: Environmental Histories of the Georgia Coast*, (UGA Press, 2018) a book based on the 2016 symposium hosted by the Ossabaw Island Foundation and Education Alliance.

Georgia Historical Society's National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, *Recognizing an Imperfect Past: History, Memory and the American People*, engaged university professors from across the U.S. in an exploration of how controversial events in the American past are remembered. The Ossabaw day trip and lectures by Paul Pressly and Elizabeth DuBose, Executive Director, focused on the history of enslaved and free African American people on Ossabaw.



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

Science

Hurricane Research

A **Georgia State University** team traveled to Ossabaw Island for paleotempestology pre-grant data collection. The project uses geological data to determine variations in hurricane activity for several millennia on Georgia's coast, and their relationship to global and regional climate changes. [Source: Kiage]

Sea Turtle Nesting

TOIF hosted two turtle-hatching weekend trips, with participants assisting the **Georgia DNR's Sea Turtle Conservation Program** interns in documenting some of the 316 turtle nests occurring on Ossabaw Island's beaches in 2017. Nearly 17,000 turtle eggs hatched from Ossabaw's nests.



Photo by Heather Powers

History and Culture

The Art of Indigo Dyeing

During three indigo workshops, taught by Donna Hardy of Sea Island Indigo, participants created fresh-leaf indigo dye using the naturalized indigo plants growing on Ossabaw's North End for the past 270 years. Participants dyed natural fiber items in the just-created Ossabaw Indigo blue dye. Fiber art students from **Savannah College of Art and Design** were filmed during one workshop for an educational short scheduled for release in 2018.

Fee-Free Trips

Ossabaw Island participated in **Lift Every Voice: Savannah's African American Historic Sites Free Day**, in partnership with six other local sites that offer programming highlighting the roles and histories of African-Americans. Lift Every Voice was held to mark the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). This is one of two "fee-free" trips TOIF offered in 2017, along with Super Museum Sunday in February.

Governance

Friends of Ossabaw

69% of our friends are from the Georgia coast and Carolina lowcountry. 14% are from the non-coastal regions of Georgia, especially the Atlanta area, Athens, and south-central Georgia. 17% of our supporters come from outside Georgia and represent a national constituency.

Stewardship

FY 2016/2017. Gross revenue at the end of the TOIF fiscal year (July 31, 2017) was \$344,000, including donations, grants and island use fees. TOIF expenses for the year were \$309,000. For the fourteenth consecutive year we conducted an audit of financial statements. About 80 volunteers contributed time, energy, and expertise working on events and projects throughout the year.



Photo by Julian Buckmaster



Photo by Julian Buckmaster

Partnerships

Collaboration and support throughout the year is provided by the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia, and Georgia Southern University's Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. Other partnerships in 2017 included Emory University's Center for Digital Scholarship, Moon River District, Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Historical Society, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat, UGA's Center for Archaeological Sciences, UGA's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, UGA's Marine Extension Center & Aquarium, and Wesley Gardens Retreat Center.



Photo by Natalie Hogan

Keenan Hogan and his grandfather Jerry Hogan install a shower.

Volunteers: Eagle Scout Keenan Hogan rebuilds Shower House

Campers at the island's South End Camp Site can stay squeaky clean in the newly-rebuilt Shower House, thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Keenan Hogan.

On May 27, 16-year-old Hogan of Boy Scout Troop 16 in Savannah completed six months of planning, fundraising, demolition, clearing, and construction to refurbish the almost 20-year-old, four-shower structure.

Hogan's first visit to Ossabaw Island was on a family trip, attending the Turtle Hatching weekend in August 2015.

"I was looking for an [Eagle Scout] project pretty intently. I told my dad, 'We should do a project here.' Just then Mark Frissell said 'We need an Eagle Scout to do our shower house.' My dad said, 'Hold on, we have one right here!'"

The Eagle's responsibility is to organize the logistics, the planning, and help with the work. "My whole troop assisted me, 15 boys and 15 adults," said Hogan. The project took 12 weekends.

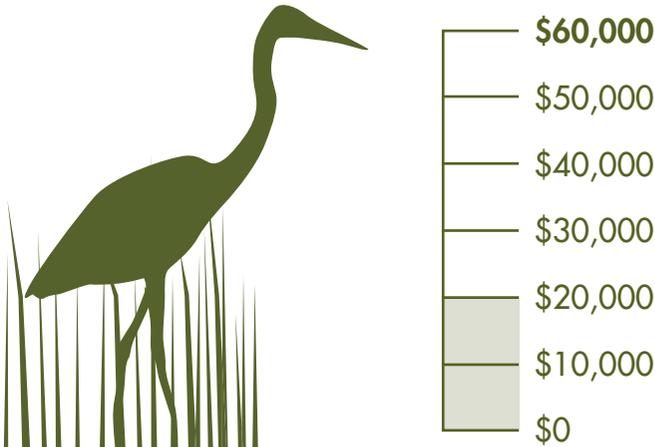
"We redid the plumbing of all four showers, had to replace two of the shower stalls, did woodwork in all four stalls, stained the whole thing, and added a propane hot water tank...and replaced two sinks."

Hogan solicited donations from about 25 people to cover the \$3,000 project cost.

"The hardest part was by far the logistics. That was a bear. You have to go on a boat to get there, and you can't make a run to Home Depot if you forget something. Once we did forget something, so we had to call it a day for that weekend."

Hogan's project will benefit Ossabaw campers, including other Boy Scouts from across Georgia. "It's for betterment of the community, and for the betterment of the Scout. You benefit from learning how to do all that work."

Support the Ossabaw Fund



2016-2017 Ossabaw Fund Goal

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 gagives.org (search Ossabaw Island Foundation) to make a one-time or an on-going gift.

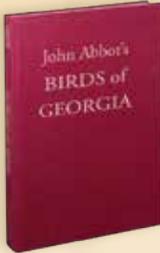
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

John Abbot's

BIRDS of GEORGIA

This elegant volume, 10 1/2 by 12 1/8 inches tall, displays 25 watercolors by the English-born artist John Abbot (1751-1840).

Framed prints also available.



Great Holiday Gift!



The Beehive Foundation
beehivefoundation.org
 912-236-4870 • 800-896-9772

Support Your Local Booksellers



Genesis and Ossabaw Island Project Alums — Donate Ossabaw Journals and Photos to Preserve History

Earlier this year, TOIF received a gift of several silver gelatin black and white photographs made in the 1970s by Marilyn Pennington during several island visits. After Pennington's death in 2006, her family found the photographs among her papers, and contacted TOIF about them.

In August 2011, a package from Antonia "Toni" Hamilton arrived at TOIF's office. Enclosed was a worn black and white composition notebook filled with penciled comments, to do lists, addresses, and even a recipe for pumpkin bread. This notebook is Toni's journal, recording her stay on Ossabaw Island from May 4 – June 8, 1981, as a member of the Genesis Project, the "experiment in human ecology" (a cooperative, semi-sustainable community) that operated at Middle Place on Ossabaw Island, from 1970 – 1983. Tucked inside the back cover of Toni's journal were photocopies of four columns she wrote during that time for a publication known only as "The Weekly News" (no city) including three with datelines from Ossabaw.

Hamilton's notebook and Pennington's photographs are important original documents from Ossabaw's history. To keep them preserved, and to make them available to historians, Hamilton's Genesis Project notebook and the Weekly News columns were added to the Ossabaw Island and Torrey Family Papers archival collection at the Georgia Historical Society. We are working with GHS to process Pennington's photographs for their addition to the Ossabaw collection.



Because of these gifts, Pennington's and Hamilton's places in Ossabaw history are secured. Hamilton died in 2015, yet her Ossabaw story will continue to be told through her gift to the Ossabaw archive, as will Pennington's story as captured in her photographs.

Records in the Ossabaw collection date from 1699 to 2007, providing insights into the people, events, and use of the island and its history for over four centuries. The collection includes the original grant from King George III in 1760, slave inventories from 1812 to 1817, historical maps from the 18th through the 20th century, photographs, and the records and papers of the Ossabaw Island Project and Genesis Project.

If you or a family member participated in the Genesis Project or the Ossabaw Island Project (an interdisciplinary fellowship program on Ossabaw Island from 1961 – 1983) please consider donating your journals, letters, photos, sketchbooks or other materials from that era to the Ossabaw collection.

All archival collections at Georgia Historical Society are stored in their secure, environmentally controlled archives wing and housed in archival quality boxes and folders.

For information on how to contribute your Ossabaw items, contact Elizabeth DuBose, Elizabeth@ossabawisland.org, to begin the donation process.

Donated photos by Marilyn Pennington



Chimpanzee on Bear Island from Yerkes Primate Center.



Thank you! 2017 Ossabaw Island Pig Roast & Art Auction Sponsors and Host Committee Members

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Save the date!
Ossabaw Island Pig Roast & Art Auction • Sat. October 20, 2018
Sponsorships available now. General admission tickets on sale September 1.

Ossabaw Island Education Alliance

Dr. Paul M. Pressly: Director Emeritus of the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance

On January 12, 2017, Dr. Paul M. Pressly was named Director Emeritus of the Education Alliance by the Ossabaw Island Foundation Board of Trustees. In his new role, Pressly is conducting original historical research and related projects that reveal “the voices and mystery of Ossabaw Island” and Georgia’s coast. “Paul embodies Ossabaw’s vision,” said Elizabeth DuBose. “He revealed new voices of the enslaved people from Ossabaw’s past whose stories we now share with visitors. His passion for research continues to uncover more of the island’s mysteries. Paul’s work enriches all of us who are involved with Ossabaw Island.”

His first project is the completion of *Coastal Nature, Coastal Culture: Environmental Histories of the Georgia Coast*, a book based on the 2016 symposium of the same name. Pressly served as director of the symposium and is associate editor of the forthcoming book.



Photo by Robert Cooper

Pressly was Head of School for Savannah Country Day School from 1982 until 2004. He earned a BA in History from Princeton University, a Master’s in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Ph. D. in History from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He is an award-winning historian who has conducted extensive research on the colonial and post-revolutionary history of coastal Georgia and Ossabaw Island. Awards he and/or the Alliance have received include: the Governor’s Award for the Humanities; the Bell Award for the best book on Georgia history (in 2011 and in 2014); the Coastal Museums Association award for Individual of Excellence (2017); and One Hundred Miles 100 (2017).

The Education Alliance is a collaboration between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Ossabaw Island Foundation, to encourage and support use of Ossabaw Island by colleges, universities and researchers from across the state and around the world.



Pressly at an Indigo workshop.

Photo by Elizabeth DuBose

Pressly served as Director from 2005 - 2017. Under Pressly’s leadership, the Education Alliance led or collaborated on several key initiatives:

- Ossabest (2007 - 2010). Installed internet connectivity to Ossabaw Island; collaborated with Skidaway Institute of Oceanography to link a network of data collecting sensors, monitors, and observatory web-cameras on Ossabaw; and, with Armstrong State University, hosted a \$1.1 million grant-funded program for Savannah-Chatham County middle school students and teachers.
- African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry. Coordinated this 2008 symposium, bringing ten leading historians to present original research to 450 people. The papers were compiled into an award-winning book published by University of Georgia Press in 2010.
- Teacher training workshops (2009 – 2017). Grant-funded, place-based education courses for middle- and high school teachers and university professors from across the United States. Topics include colonial and antebellum history, emphasizing Ossabaw and coastal Georgia.
- Moon River District (2013 to present). Pressly led a team of seven historic and visitor sites in southern Chatham County to create the Moon River District, bringing attention to the interrelated educational and visitor opportunities in the region surrounding the Moon River.



Paul Pressly and Sandy West at Whole Foods.

Photo by Elizabeth DuBose



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Dr. Paul Pressly, Director Emeritus, The
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Featuring birthday cake and singing in
honor of Eleanor "Sandy" West's 105th
birthday on January 17.

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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Join our Facebook group: Ossabaw Island Lovers

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