



OSSABAW ISLAND

Foundation & Education Alliance

2014 Summary & Accomplishments



Education

Program Days: The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) and Education Alliance provided coordination and facilitation for 156 program days and 135 nights on Ossabaw Island. Of the 63 groups who visited Ossabaw Island, 34 groups were first-timers. Groups included 33 cultural study trips, 19 student/teacher trips (totaling 240 students and teachers), and 11 science-related trips.



TOIF-Sponsored Programs: TOIF expanded our day trip and overnight opportunities to include turtle hatching and archaeological exploration trips. During the turtle hatching trip, the group helped to rescue an injured adult loggerhead turtle. After months of recovery at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on

Jekyll Island, Phoenix the turtle was released late in October 2014. Other trips hosted by TOIF included the New Year's Eve Wild Night on Ossabaw, island history daytrips, and three indigo dyeing workshops.



Science

UGA Archeological Field School: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and University of Georgia's Department of Anthropology (UGA) hosted the first year of a multi-year archaeological excavation and field school on Ossabaw. During the dig at the South End Plantation site, prehistoric, Spanish and colonial artifacts were discovered as the eroding bank at Newell Creek was surveyed. Three public trips were offered by TOIF, the Education Alliance and DNR, providing members of the public the chance to dig, sift, wash and sort artifacts alongside university students and archaeology professionals. In 2015 the field school will explore the Buckhead Plantation and prehistoric settlement site.

Pictures by: Robert Cooper, Elizabeth DuBose & Fran Lapolla

Revealing the Voices & Mystery of Ossabaw Island



History and Culture

The Art of Tabby Making: Ossabaw Island was selected as a Field Study site for the 2014 National Preservation Conference. This hands-on experience featured the mixing of traditional Ossabaw tabby, an oyster-shell-based building material that was used on the coast during the 18th and 19th centuries. Workshop participants made tabby and molded bricks using traditional methods. The tabby bricks will be used for the continued restoration of the tabby slave buildings.

Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat: For the fourth year, this five-day retreat hosted by Dr. Tony Morris of Armstrong State University brought writers from around the country to Ossabaw for in-depth workshop/instruction from critically acclaimed writers in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

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 and Fundraising: FY 2013/2014. Gross revenue at the end of the TOIF fiscal year (July 31, 2014) was \$282,000. TOIF expenses for the year were \$340,000, including \$60,000 in Field Lab renovation expenditures (funds for the lab were raised during the previous fiscal year.) For the eleventh consecutive year we conducted an audit of financial statements. In the past 17 years, TOIF has raised over \$4.5 million for infrastructure improvements and exceptional educational, scientific, and cultural programming.

Volunteer Opportunities: For the third year, Ossabaw hosted 50 volunteers from our partner The Georgia Conservancy for a fall service weekend. In May, Ossabaw welcomed 12 volunteers who work at Whole Foods for a North End and marsh shore clean up. It takes a village...over 60 volunteers contributed time, energy and expertise to events throughout the year, including staffing for the Annual Meeting and the Pig Roast.



Partnerships: Collaboration and support throughout the year are provided by the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia, and Georgia Southern's Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. Other partnerships in 2014 included Armstrong State University, The Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Historical Society, Moon River District, Savannah State University, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and University of Georgia's Marine Extension Center & Aquarium.

Mission: The Ossabaw Island Foundation, through a public-private partnership with the State of Georgia, 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.

Pictures by: Robert Cooper & Elizabeth DuBose

For more information: www.ossabawisland.org
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or our e-mail list found on our website, ossabawisland.org.