



OSSABAW ISLAND

Foundation & Education Alliance

2015 Summary & Accomplishments

Revealing the Voices & Mystery of Ossabaw Island



Photo by: Robert Cooper

Education

The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) provided coordination and facilitation for 140 program days and 107 nights on Ossabaw Island. Of the 60 groups who visited Ossabaw Island, 25 groups were first-timers. Groups included 38 cultural study trips, 12 student/teacher trips (totaling 135 students and teachers), and 10 science-related trips.

TOIF-Sponsored Programs: TOIF expanded our day trip and overnight opportunities to include Super Museum Sunday, one creative day trip, three turtle hatching trips and an archaeology trip. Other education trips hosted by TOIF included island history day trips, and three indigo dyeing workshops.

Museum artifact conservation: For the eighth and final year, a two-week national course for museum professionals pursuing graduate degree programs was hosted in January on Ossabaw Island. Preventive Conservation 2015: A hands-on study experience, was taught by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic

Works (AIC) and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The course used the Main House as a laboratory to gain hands-on experience in maintaining, cleaning, and preserving furnishings in historic structures. David Bayne, director and instructor for the course, is furniture conservator for the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites. He is an alumnus of Genesis Project and also a former director of Genesis.

Science

UGA Archaeological Field School: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and University of Georgia's Department of Anthropology hosted the second year of a multi-year archaeological excavation and field school on Ossabaw. This year's excavation focused on the pre-history of the Buckhead Plantation site on the south end of Ossabaw Island. A trip was offered by TOIF and DNR, providing members of the public the chance to dig, sift, wash and sort artifacts alongside university students and archaeology professionals. In 2016 the Field School will continue to explore the Buckhead Plantation site.

Sea Turtle Nesting: TOIF hosted three turtle-hatching weekend trips, with participants observing the Georgia DNR's Sea Turtle Conservation program interns in documenting some of the 368 turtle nests occurring on Ossabaw Island's beaches in 2015.



Photo by: Fran Lapolla

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History and Culture

The Art of Indigo Dyeing: During each of our fall indigo workshops, taught by Donna Hardy of Sea Island Indigo, we created a fresh leaf indigo vat by using the naturalized indigo plants growing on Ossabaw's North End for the past 270 years. The workshop walks through the chemical process used during colonial production of indigo dye. By the end of the day we have beautiful Ossabaw indigo blue to dye.

Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat: For the fifth 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. In addition to the weeklong workshop, Ossabaw Island Writers' Retreat has expanded to include a shorter two-night experience in the fall.

Cultural opportunities: TOIF-hosted culture trips included the fifth New Year's Eve Wild Night on Ossabaw and an Artist/Creativity Day Trip. Photography trips open to the public were led by Kathryn Kolb of Atlanta and by the Telfair Art Guild. A history tour of Ossabaw Island was offered to the general public by The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc. as part of a Moon River District course.



Photo by: Fran Lapolla

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 2014/2015. Gross revenue at the end of the TOIF fiscal year (July 31, 2015) was \$402,730, including donations and grants for use in FY 2015-16 for the environmental history symposium. TOIF expenses for the year were \$311,340. For the twelfth consecutive year we conducted an audit of financial statements.



Photo by: Fran Lapolla

Volunteer Opportunities: For the fourth year, Ossabaw hosted 60 volunteers from our partner the Georgia Conservancy for a fall service weekend. 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 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 2015 included Armstrong State University, Moon River District, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Georgia Historical Society, University of Georgia's Marine Extension Center & Aquarium, Georgia Conservancy and The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc.

Mission: The Ossabaw Island Foundation, through a 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.



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