

STEWARDS OF THE GEORGIA COAST  
COASTAL CONSERVATION PROJECT LIST

MARCH

2022



STEWARDS  
OF THE GEORGIA COAST





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COVER PHOTO BY PHILLIP MURDACO





# STEWARDS OF THE GEORGIA COAST



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STEWARDS  
OF  
THE GEORGIA COAST

# Stewards of the Georgia Coast Coastal Conservation Project List



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**Stewards of the Georgia Coast** is an informal donor network for coastal conservation. **Stewards** is modeled on donor networks across the country in which donors with a common focus share resources, learn together, and build community, all in the interest of making greater impact with their philanthropy.

When meeting with people new to coastal conservation, we're often asked, "How can we help?" To answer that question broadly and responsibly, we set out to curate a list of high priority conservation projects with strong leadership and immediate needs for private philanthropy. Nominations were solicited from more than 20 trusted conservation professionals currently serving on the Georgia Coast.

Projects were selected based on **Stewards'** working knowledge of coastal conservation priorities and confidence in the leadership and organizations involved. Nevertheless, donors are encouraged to engage in their own due diligence when making contributions.

Projects have been grouped in the following categories: Advocacy; Environmental Education; Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Restoration; Conservation Infrastructure; Estuary Conservation and Restoration; Watershed Protection; and Wildlife Conservation. While most are highly collaborative, a single point of contact has been provided for each project for use when donors would like more information or want to make a donation.

In addition to special project funding, general operating support is the lifeblood of every non-profit. Please consider also reviewing the Directory of Conservation Organizations Serving the Georgia Coast, accessible via the Stewards of the Georgia Coast website, and supporting the general operating budgets of these worthy non-profit organizations.

Your input and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. Please contact Burch Barger ([stewardsofgacoast@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsofgacoast@gmail.com) or 205-643-8121), Scott Coleman ([scottc@littlessi.com](mailto:scottc@littlessi.com) or 229-724-9202), or David Weitnauer ([dweitnauer@rhdobbs.net](mailto:dweitnauer@rhdobbs.net) or 404-574-2970). Also, if you choose to support a project from the list, please consider letting us know as it will help us to assess the value and impact of this effort.

Thank you for your interest in and support for coastal conservation in Georgia.

**Stewards of the Georgia Coast**

[www.stewardsofgacoast.org](http://www.stewardsofgacoast.org)





## ■ ADVOCACY

### Council on Environmental Injustice (\$15,000)

One Hundred Miles is committed to addressing the systemic failures that are degrading our environment and harming people in vulnerable communities along our coast—most of whom are African American and underserved. There is nothing more urgent than ensuring a just and safe future for all who call Georgia's coast our home. To support this work, we are creating a Council on Environmental Injustice (Council). The goal of the Council is to educate and advise OHM in the development of a policy agenda resulting in more equitable access to clean air and water, wildlife, and land. The Council will be made up of 15-20 experts on racism, environmental policy, and conservation. The Council will meet every 2 months for a minimum of a year. Key to our success will be engaging a consultant to serve as a facilitator for our Council meetings to ensure all stakeholder voices are represented and objectives are achieved. The facilitator will help guide conversations around the impacts of superfund sites, state land conservation, and climate change affecting coastal Georgia's Black and Brown populations, resulting in the development of a policy agenda that will advance equitable adaptation strategies. For more information or to make a donation, contact Kate Grinalds at 404-395-7423 or [kate@onehundredmiles.org](mailto:kate@onehundredmiles.org). Kate serves as VP of Philanthropy for One Hundred Miles.

### Okefenokee Protection Alliance (\$10,000):

Forty-three local, regional, and national conservation organizations are working collectively with small businesses to protect the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge from current and future threats. The Refuge is one of the largest remaining intact freshwater ecosystems in the world and one of America's most pristine and biodiverse areas. The Okefenokee is a National Natural Landmark, a RAMSAR "Wetland of International Importance," and a candidate for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Despite these accolades, in 1998 DuPont sought to mine Trail Ridge, the eastern rim of the Swamp. Public outrage caused DuPont to abandon its plan. But three decades later an Alabama mining company, Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, is attempting to set up shop immediately south of the DuPont mine site. If permitted by the Environmental Protection Division, the mine would not only threaten the biodiversity of the Swamp, but also the economies of the communities around the Swamp. Tourists make over 600,000 visits to the Refuge each year. These visits support over 750 jobs, \$17.2 million in annual employment income, \$5.4 million in annual tax revenue, and \$64.7 million in annual economic output per year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information about how your donation could help advance the Alliance's mission, contact Bill Sapp with the Southern Environmental Law Center at (404) 309-3197 or [bsapp@selcga.org](mailto:bsapp@selcga.org).







GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ■ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### Giving a Voice to the North Atlantic Right Whale (\$8,000):

Georgia's state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale, is also the most endangered large whale species on Earth. Though they face risk of extinction, their population can rebound if we reduce human-caused deaths by using updated science and fishing technologies.

Georgia's coast is a special place for this majestic species. Each winter, the North Atlantic right whale migrates south from New England to one of the species' only known calving grounds off our coast. A small group of Georgia conservationists discovered these grounds in the 1980s. Since then, Georgia has played a role in developing the science and related conservation policy for this species.

We need to tell the whales' story, which continues to evolve. Each year, news of the calving season emerges for a few winter months. We would like to sustain the support for the species by creating an educational resource for Georgians to learn about the right whale and its importance to our state. There are essential parts of the story, such as ongoing, groundbreaking, Georgia-based research that could aid whale conservation efforts.

A grant of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) will fund Georgia Conservancy to collect the elements of Georgia's Right Whale Story into one place to tell a cautionary story of hope. Georgia Conservancy will publish this story and link it to a GIS StoryMap, generated in collaboration with four other conservation organizations and hosted online. Contact Charles McMillan, Georgia Conservancy Coastal Director, at 912.447.5910 or [cmcmillan@gaconservancy.org](mailto:cmcmillan@gaconservancy.org) to learn more.



## **OCEAN THEATER, 360° Projection & Virtual Reality Exhibit at Gray's Reef Ocean Discovery Center (\$50,000):**

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is coming to historic Savannah, Georgia and bringing the power of interactive and immersive digital technologies to connect audiences with the sea. The Gray's Reef Ocean Discovery Center will offer the community a convenient location to dive into the sanctuary through educational, entertaining, and inspirational exhibits, and will feature captivating cinematography on our large screen Ocean Theater display.

We brought the Gray's Reef Ocean Film Festival to Savannah for over a decade and understand the power of film and animation in making emotional connections with audiences of all ages. Our Ocean Theater and Virtual Reality exhibit will feature state-of-the-art technologies to provide a touchless but impactful experience for visitors to learn about their spectacular ocean in an immersive and interactive environment. Guests can relax and enjoy the serenity of the sanctuary or take a Virtual Reality Dive to explore the seafloor habitats. No fins or tanks required!

Public visitors and school groups alike will discover Gray's Reef and our Atlantic ecosystem at the Ocean Discovery Center. The Ocean Theater & Virtual Reality exhibit will inspire visitors while providing practical solutions for environmental issues that impact the future of our local habitats and coastal environment. Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is seeking a Signature Sponsor for this exciting visitor installation in our Ocean Discovery Center. Join us as a partner and be a catalyst for ocean conservation, inspiration, and education with Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

For more information, contact Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Chapter Director, Jody Patterson at [jody@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:jody@marinesanctuary.org).



## Sanctuary Soundscapes, Ocean Acoustics Exhibit at Gray's Reef Ocean Discovery Center (\$50,000):

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary welcomes the community to explore the catalog of underwater sounds collected from the Atlantic Ocean through our Sanctuary Soundscapes exhibit. This fascinating exhibit will introduce the soundscape of the submerged seafloor habitat and the species that live in our sanctuary community at our brand new Gray's Reef Ocean Discovery Center in Savannah, Georgia.

The SanctSound project features acoustic audio recordings collected approximately 60 feet below the ocean at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. This marine protected area is centrally located just 20 miles offshore of Sapelo Island, Georgia and is home for many acoustically active and sound-sensitive animals like whales, fishes, birds, turtles, and invertebrates. Gray's Reef is one of seven national marine sanctuaries currently involved in the NOAA/NAVY Underwater Sound Monitoring Program, which aims to better understand our ocean soundscape.

With over 12,000 hours of acoustic recordings from our seafloor, we will provide access to an archival collection for the community to explore and find meaningful connections between ocean sound, marine species, and conservation. Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is seeking a Signature Sponsor for this exciting visitor installation in our Ocean Discovery Center.

For more information, contact Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Chapter Director, Jody Patterson at [jody@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:jody@marinesanctuary.org)

## Scholarships for Youth Environmental Leadership Program (\$1,000 per student or \$12,000 total):

Now in its 3rd year, One Hundred Miles' Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) is an innovative conservation leadership initiative for high school students who have a strong interest in deepening their environmental knowledge, cultivating leadership skills, and making a positive impact on our coast's future. During the nine-month YELP experience, students take part in monthly field experiences to better understand the issues impacting our natural and cultural resources and skill-building meetings that help them learn critical leadership skills and how to plan and execute projects that benefit our coastal environment. For our 4th year in 2022-23, we plan to select up to twelve 9th-12th grade students from across our coast via a competitive application process. To ensure that YELP is accessible to deserving students across our coast, we are intentional about selecting an economically and racially diverse cohort of students and eliminating barriers to participation. We will continue to offer the leadership program at NO COST to participants. Funding covers program costs, including increased transportation costs due to pandemic safety measures, and will ensure that students from all backgrounds have access to these hands-on environmental experiences. For more information or to make a donation, contact Kate Grinalds at 404-395-7423 or [kate@onehundredmiles.org](mailto:kate@onehundredmiles.org). Kate serves as VP of Philanthropy for One Hundred Miles.



## Coastal Wildlife Education Program (\$10,000):

One Hundred Miles (OHM) and the St. Simons Island Sea Turtle Project (SSI STP) are partnering to expand wildlife-related field experiences for stewardship-minded volunteers across our coast. In spring and summer 2022, we will expand our volunteer corps at the SSI Sea Turtle Project to include an expanded team of education volunteers. Volunteers will lead neighborhood meetings and regular beach outreach events throughout loggerhead nesting and hatching season in order to educate beachgoers and coastal residents about the simple steps they can take to protect threatened sea turtles, as well as other coastal wildlife such as shorebirds, diamondback terrapins, and right whales. We will also launch a new coastwide horseshoe crab monitoring volunteer program this spring. In order to reach even more tourists and visitors, we will feature corresponding digital educational tools on OHM's website and both OHM and the SSI STP's social media channels. Collectively, these programs will provide hands-on opportunities for volunteers and coastal residents to experience and learn about our wildlife and deepen their sense of responsibility to protect them. For more information or to make a donation, contact Catherine Ridley at 912-222-3140 or [catherine@onehundredmiles.org](mailto:catherine@onehundredmiles.org). Catherine serves as VP of Education and Communications for One Hundred Miles and as project leader for the St. Simons Island Sea Turtle Project.

## Screening of *Last of the Right Whales* (\$25,000):

The coast of Georgia is within the calving grounds to the most endangered great whales in the world, the North Atlantic right whales. Pregnant females migrate each fall to the southeastern coastal waters from their feeding grounds in the St. Lawrence Seaway and return there with their newborn calves in spring. Their journeys are fraught with danger. Many of the mothers and calves are killed during their migration by accidental, but avoidable, fishing, and recreational activities. We think raising awareness and understanding of their situation within the coastal communities will help the remaining 360 right whales.

HitPlay Productions, a Canadian company, produced a documentary called *Last of the Right Whales*. Tybee Island Marine Science Center has been asked by its producers to screen *Last of the Right Whales*. This highly proclaimed documentary film has been selected by Calgary International Film Festival (2021), Victoria Film Festival (2022) and Planet Focus International Environmental Film Festival (2021) for their respective awards. Knowing about these whales is critical to their survival. The film empowers viewers with knowledge and encourages our stewardship. We therefore request \$25,000 to screen the film in both Savannah and Tybee Island theaters to reach a broad audience.

For more information, contact Cathy Sakas at 912.660.7164 or [CathyJoSakas@gmail.com](mailto:CathyJoSakas@gmail.com). Cathy serves as Board of Trustees Chair for the Tybee Island Marine Science Foundation.







PHOTO BY RICHARD T. BRYANT

## ■ LAND CONSERVATION, STEWARDSHIP AND RESTORATION

### Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration to Enhance and Restore Gopher Tortoise Habitat (\$25,000):

The Orianne Society is currently fundraising to expand their capacity to restore native ground cover to provide habitat for the Gopher Tortoise and other Georgia sandhill associated wildlife. In 2019 The Orianne Society began evaluating the habitat needs for the Gopher Tortoise beyond their work implementing prescribed fire and determined that native ground cover restoration was not only critically important for Gopher Tortoise conservation, but severely lacking in implementation. To address this, Orianne began preparing ground cover restoration sites on The Orianne Indigo Snake Preserve (OISP) in Telfair County, Georgia. Sites were prepared in a manner that allows for accessible seed collection that can then be planted in similar ecotones to restore native ground cover. However, these donor sites were initially planted to restore ground cover on the OISP and some adjacent lands, not for large scale restoration. Because there is not another organization implementing groundcover restoration or a seed source available for ground cover in this region, moving forward Orianne is focusing its efforts on increasing its capacity to offer seed and ground cover restoration on private and public lands in the vicinity of the OISP and on Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative properties. This includes increasing donor sites and seed collecting capacity, implementing a formalized volunteer program to assist in seed collection and planting, and talking to landowners about the importance of groundcover restoration to not only tortoises, but all native wildlife. Harvesting seed from intact habitats to plant in areas without this diversity of plant species is a crucial aspect of restoring Longleaf Pine forests. Orianne is seeking funding in the amount of \$25,000 in capital investment to purchase equipment (Polaris Ranger) to expand our ground cover restoration efforts and to continue the implementation of prescribed fire. For more information or to make a donation, contact Chris Jenkins at 208-241- 9124 or [cljenkins@oriannesociety.org](mailto:cljenkins@oriannesociety.org).

## Longleaf Understory Restoration (\$11,900):

To meet the conservation objectives of the lower Altamaha Conservation Corridor lands, Georgia DNR has been converting a former 5-acre vegetable garden into a native ground cover seed production nursery. Over 40 different native forbs, legumes, and grasses have been collected since fall 2019 for the project from locations within the South Atlantic Coastal Plain plant transfer zone with an effort to prioritize collection within the Altamaha Conservation Corridor. Each species will be planted out separately to ensure ease of future seed harvest. The list of species was chosen to have flowering throughout the growing season, species that provide cover and food for quail, cover and food for gopher tortoises, and nectar and host material for pollinators.

Once established, seeds from each species will be harvested and disbursed to Georgia DNR and partner conservation properties in the Altamaha Conservation Corridor that have low groundcover diversity. Over the last year great gains have been made with establishing the nursery, including constructing a propagation shade house (January 2021), installation of irrigation lines and risers (June 2021), construction of cold frames (Feb 2022) and purchase of many of the supplies and equipment needed to begin propagation. We have additional funding needs to fully realize and operate this facility. For more information or to make a donation, contact Eamonn Leonard with Georgia DNR at (912) 262-3150 or [Eamonn.Leonard@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Eamonn.Leonard@dnr.ga.gov).

Funding for any of the following items would go a long way toward meeting our project goals:

Drip Irrigation lines - **\$7,500**

Ground cloth - **\$3,000**

Nursery Tables (4ftx8ft) - Quantity 6 - **\$1000**

Germination supplies (pots and potting soil) - **\$400**

**Total Cost - \$11,900**

## Stewardship Service Work on Ossabaw Island (\$12,000):

Ossabaw Island is one of Georgia's most precious places. It is a protected heritage preserve, rich with thousands of years of human history and recreational opportunities focused on research, education, and habitat management.

One area of Ossabaw, called Middle Place, has been continuously inhabited by humans for the past two thousand years. Throughout this area, layers of cultural resources are hidden and threatened by encroaching, invasive underbrush and growth. For example, the foundations and walls of nine tabby slave houses, built circa 1820, were destroyed in the 1898 hurricane, leaving them exposed to the elements. Currently, the ruins are overgrown with cedar vines, sawtooth palmettos, and cabbage palms that threaten to destroy what remains.

Uncovering these and other nearby structures from the early 20th century would allow for their improved preservation, and would allow stewards of this history to enable visitors to see the ruins and learn about their historical context.

The Georgia Conservancy (GC) is excited to partner with the Ossabaw Island Foundation on this effort. GC seeks \$12,000 to send a volunteer force, up to 40 strong, to Ossabaw Island to support service needs. Funding would help to cover equipment, food and lodging for volunteers, ferry transportation to the island, and associated staff time to manage the project. Additional funding would support additional volunteer service visits. For more information or to donate to support this work, contact Clark Harrison, Georgia Conservancy Stewardship Trips Director at 678.899.3561 or [charrison@gaconservancy.org](mailto:charrison@gaconservancy.org).





## Hitting the Ecological Reset Button - Collaborative Preparation to Recreate Large Scale Terrestrial and Wetland Ecosystems on Jekyll Island (\$70,000):

The Jekyll Island - State Park Authority (JIA) has prepared a Golf Improvement Plan outlining the future of golf on Jekyll Island. Jekyll is a state-owned barrier island lying between Saint Simons Island and Cumberland Island under the management of the JIA. Most of the land on Jekyll Island is set aside and managed under the Jekyll Island Conservation Plan. Development on the Island is limited by state statute to no more than 1,675 acres. The current land area utilized for golf on Jekyll is over 450 acres for 63 holes, which has been determined to be financially unsustainable in scale.

The total acreage recommended by the Golf Improvement Plan to be made available for re-creating ecosystems and landscapes from land currently allocated to golf is 82 acres with substantial potential for additional collateral enhancement of adjacent natural areas allowing for a potential restoration scope of over 100 acres. Actions to be planned could include rebuilding freshwater wetland systems and salt marsh headwater systems that were disrupted and displaced by golf course construction. Terrestrial restoration opportunities could include creation of maritime grasslands, establishment of coastal longleaf pine or pond pine systems to be managed with prescribed fire. Wildlife species that could be supported include grassland dependent bird species, waterfowl species, and predatory species of birds, snakes, and mammals – notably, the island’s naturally re-establishing bobcat population. Opportunities for reintroducing native wildlife such as wild turkey warrant consideration.

The recommended reconfiguration of golf makes way for a major wildlife corridor and enhances nature-based recreation and educational prospects. Successfully bringing forgotten Georgia barrier island landscapes back to life while creating newly diverse habitats that support rare, threatened, or keystone species has tremendous potential to be a high-profile conservation success story – but not without smart, collaborative planning. For more information or to make a donation contact Ben Carswell, JIA Director of Conservation and Sustainability, at [bcarswell@jekyllisland.com](mailto:bcarswell@jekyllisland.com) or 912-635-9384.

Consultant-facilitated Planning and Plan Preparation: **\$60,000**

Environmental data-collection and analyses to support planning: **\$10,000**

**Total project: \$70,000**

## Growing the Conservation Circle: Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Outreach in the Fort Stewart/Altamaha River Landscape (\$5,000):

The Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Partnership seeks to widen the circle of community support and effort to protect the longleaf forests of southeast Georgia. The Partnership, a collaborative group of federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, industry, and private landowners shares commitment to the protection, stewardship, economics, recreation, and conservation values of the longleaf pine ecosystem. The Partnership works in a landscape of over 400,000 acres with work centered around Fort Stewart's 280,000 acres.

Key to this effort is increasing outreach with local communities on the historic and current efforts to conserve this iconic forest community. The Partnership provides education and outreach programs for the region and seeks to engage landowners interested in stewarding their land. With the longleaf pine forests historically dominating the southern states (90 million acres) and currently reduced to five percent of its original extent, the Partnership is working as one of 18 regional teams with America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative to build healthy native forests.

With Department of Defense and agency-owned lands as the core of protected lands, the addition of private lands under conservation management will safeguard native plants, wildlife, and habitat of the area.

The Partnership also engages the public (youth and adults) with interaction with Burner Bob®, a Northern Bobwhite Quail, to promote the message of outdoor environmental education, safe prescribed fire, and care for the wildlife resources of the state.

We seek to include more members of the local community to support and steward the rich natural diversity of Southeast Georgia. Financial support of \$5,000 would be used for interpretive displays, design and distribution of interpretative and educational materials, supplies, and equipment for programs and events, including the annual Savannah River Fire Festival held in Guyton, Georgia.

For more information or make a donation, contact Wendy J. Ledbetter, Fort Stewart/Altamaha Partnership Coordinator for The Longleaf Alliance, at 409-658-4300 or [wendy@longleafalliance.org](mailto:wendy@longleafalliance.org).



PHOTO BY RICHARD T. BRYANT



# CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

## Longleaf Stewardship Center – (\$150,000):

As part of The Orianne Society's conservation efforts over the last decade, we have acquired the 2,500 acre Orianne Indigo Snake Preserve. To date, the Preserve has served as a base for our land management team and is a landscape where we have conducted extensive restoration efforts and rare species inventory, monitoring, and research. We are transitioning the Preserve into the Longleaf Stewardship Center, which will be a nexus that brings together Orianne staff, volunteers, and partners to learn about and implement Gopher Tortoise and habitat conservation. This will allow us to expand our restoration efforts. We plan to enhance our conservation footprint by continuing a strong focus on prescribed fire while expanding our native groundcover restoration, Longleaf Pine planting, and Gopher Tortoise stewardship and monitoring efforts through training and volunteers. To implement the Longleaf Stewardship Center, we are currently raising funds in the amount of \$150,000 to build lodging facilities on the Preserve to house volunteers and partners. For more information or to make a donation, contact Chris Jenkins at 208-241-9124 or [cljenkins@oriannesociety.org](mailto:cljenkins@oriannesociety.org).

## John Gilbert Nature Trail Restoration (\$1,500 - \$156,700):

One of the most visited hiking trails and observation sites on St. Simons Island is the 40-acre John Gilbert Nature Trail. Donated to the St. Simons Land Trust by Mr. Gilbert's widow, Dorothy Gilbert, the parklike area opened to the public in 2006. A nearly half-mile trail and boardwalk extend from Frederica Road through maritime forest and marshlands, with views of Postell Creek and Sea Island. Over these past 16 years, humidity, tidal surge, tropical storms, and public use have taken their toll on the trail, boardwalk, signage, and other wooden structures, resulting in constant repairs and safety and esthetic issues. The St. Simons Land Trust is therefore seeking funds to replace the observation platform and the boardwalk, provide seating, add interpretive signage, and replace directional signs and the kiosk at the trailhead. Restoration will take place in phases. The first phase (and highest priority) is removal and replacement of the deteriorating viewing/birding platform that extends into the saltmarsh. The connecting boardwalk will then be replaced with more durable materials.

To provide historical context and educational information about the native plants, coastal birds, and other wildlife indigenous to the area, interpretive signage will be created and installed. A permanent marker will be added along the boardwalk honoring Reid W. Harris, Sr., Georgia legislator who authored the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970. Another marker will be installed at John's Oak, honoring the Gilbert family and their contributions to land conservation. For more information, to arrange a tour of the John Gilbert Nature Trail, or to make a contribution, please contact Emily Ellison, Executive Director of the St. Simons Land Trust, at (912) 638-9109 or [emellison@sslt.org](mailto:emellison@sslt.org).

Replacement of Observation Platform: **\$35,000**

Replacement of Boardwalk: **\$75,000**

Replacement of 2 Wooden Bridges: **\$20,000**

Addition of 4 Wheelchair Accessibility Ramps: **\$3,500**

Educational Interpretive Signage (Content Development, Design, Fabrication, Installation): **\$15,000**

Permanent Marker Recognizing Reid W. Harris, Sr. & Coastal Marshland Protection Act: **\$3,500**

John Gilbert Family Historic Marker: **\$1,500**

Trail Head Kiosk and Directional Signs: **\$3,200**

**Total Project Cost: \$156,700**



### **Solar Thermal Panels for Sea Turtle Pool (\$35,000):**

Every couple of years Tybee Island Marine Science Center becomes the steward of a new loggerhead sea turtle hatchling, usually a stray not able to break out of its nest with its nestmates. The hatchling is cared for by the able, highly knowledgeable, and skilled staff of the Center until it reaches a size at which it can be safely released without the fear of becoming a meal. As the hatchling grows, Center staff accommodate its size by moving it to increasingly larger aquariums.

Recently a large sea turtle pool was procured and installed in the undercroft of the Center where it must be thermoregulated. One of the mechanisms for thermoregulating the 40,000-gallon pool is by solar thermoregulation. Solar panels that collect heat will be placed near the pool on the south side of the building to access the most sunlight. The thermal solar panel array costs approximately \$75,000 and we have raised half that amount. We therefore are seeking \$35,000 to complete the purchase and installation of the sea turtle pool solar thermal panel array.

For more information, contact Cathy Sakas at 912.660.7164 or [\*\*CathyJoSakas@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:CathyJoSakas@gmail.com). Cathy serves as Board of Trustees Chair for the Tybee Island Marine Science Foundation.

### **Housing for Researchers on Ossabaw Island (\$7500 to \$82,500):**

Ossabaw Island is Georgia's first Heritage Preserve, encompassing 26,000 acres of protected and unspoiled maritime forests, brackish and freshwater lagoons, tidal marshlands, and wide, pristine beaches.

The state-owned barrier island is a living laboratory for natural and scientific research on ecosystems, sea level rise, and many threatened and endangered species. Cultural and historic research and programming reveals the history of the Guale/Muscogee/Creek native communities, generations of enslaved people who constructed tabby buildings and farmed indigo and cotton, early 20th-century northern US industrialists who wintered on Ossabaw, and mid-20th century scientists, artists, linguists, and writers who retreated to Ossabaw Island as members of Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West's interdisciplinary programs – the Ossabaw Island Project and Genesis.



The non-profit Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF), holds a use agreement with the state of Georgia giving us responsibility for providing all programming in all disciplines. TOIF brings 2,000 visitors to Ossabaw each year for such programming, and manages eleven historic buildings for related uses. We pay an annual fee to the State of Georgia for this privilege.

Over two decades TOIF has raised over \$5 million for the preservation, adaptive re-use, and maintenance of these eleven structures. TOIF intends to renovate the Little Torrey House (circa 1950) as housing for long-term researchers or study teams. The 2,000 square foot building's living room will be converted to a meeting/classroom facility. TOIF has begun the renovation effort by installing a new roof, septic system and repairing rotten floors. All that is needed to complete the project is the interior renovation of the rooms, as described below:

Install solar hot water system: **\$10,000**

Renovate and furnish bedroom #1: **\$10,000**

Renovate and furnish bedroom #2: **\$10,000**

Renovate and furnish bedroom #3: **\$10,000**

Renovate bathroom #1: **\$7,500**

Renovate bathroom #2: **\$7,500**

Renovate mudroom/half bath: **\$7,500**

Paint, install flooring, repair wood windows, repair plumbing and install new appliances in the kitchen: **\$10,000**

Paint, refinish wood floors, install heat pump window AC unit, install room darkening shades and audio visual system in living/meeting room: **\$10,000**

**Total renovation cost: \$82,500**

For more information or to make a donation, contact Elizabeth DuBose at 912-344-3900 or [elizabeth@ossabawisland.org](mailto:elizabeth@ossabawisland.org).

## **Gilman Colony Observation Tower (\$35,000):**

There are relatively few places in Georgia where wildlife enthusiasts and photographers can get great and safe access to wading bird colonies. With the recent purchase of the old Durango/Gilman Paper Company mill site in St. Marys Georgia, we have the exciting opportunity to provide just such an opportunity. In an old borrow pond with emergent islands is one of the largest and most diverse wading bird colonies in the state. The Gilman colony is routinely the second largest Wood Stork colony in Georgia. It is also the first confirmed, and the only regular, nesting site for Roseate Spoonbills. Beyond these species, essentially every wading bird that nests in Georgia except Great Blue Heron nests here. That includes Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Green Heron, Anhinga and Double Crested Cormorant. The raucous noise and smell in spring and summer is quite an experience to behold. A carefully planned and constructed observation blind could allow access to this colony without disturbing the birds.

Working closely with the new landowners, this project would allow controlled access to an observation blind off Point Peter Road in St. Marys. It would require a fence to limit access to the broader property, a small bridge or boardwalk to cross a ditch, and a camouflaged observation blind in a low tower adjacent to the wading bird colony. Through the collaboration of a local state park and the Gilman landowners, the site would be monitored to ensure that the colony suffers no disturbance from the project.

Funding needs are \$35,000 for trail work, additional fencing, and the construction of a basic blind and parking area. To make a donation or get more information, contact Tim Keyes with Georgia DNR at [tim.keyes@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:tim.keyes@dnr.ga.gov).

## Saving Nesting Diamondback Terrapins from Roadway Mortality (\$24,000):

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC) and its collaborators have been working since 2007 to understand the conservation needs and population dynamics of diamondback terrapin in the marshes around Jekyll Island. The Downing-Musgrove Causeway, which provides important linkage between mainland Georgia and Jekyll Island, serves as suitable nesting habitat for diamondback terrapin females each summer. However, turtles that attempt to cross the road quickly face dangers of automobile strikes while drivers are forced to make quick decisions when faced with a hazard in the road.

While the efforts of the GSTC staff and collaborators to actively save and collect data on road-crossing turtles have been monumental and informative, we are moving towards adopting more sustainable, long-term, management and conservation regimes based around habitat management and alteration. Beginning in 2022, we are installing fencing along 1000-linear feet of causeway in an area which annually sees high rates of terrapin encounters. The fence will be bounded on both sides by customized predator-proof nesting boxes which allow for safe nesting by female terrapin and protection of eggs from predation. The GSTC has used these nesting boxes in other areas of Causeway with great success in reducing terrapin road-crossing and predation.

This project has the potential to positively influence recruitment and longevity of terrapin along an area of road that is responsible for approximately 20% of at-risk terrapin encounters since 2007. It is our hope that, if successful, we can replicate these methods in other areas to achieve high-impact conservation results in relatively small areas. For example, nearly 40% (2,000+) of our GPS-marked terrapin encounters along the causeway occur along just 12% of the causeway linking Jekyll to Brunswick. By prioritizing management actions in these areas, we hope to see rapid dividends leading to increased persistence and conservation of the local terrapin population. For more information or to make a donation, please contact: Michelle Kaylor at [mkaylor@jekyllisland.com](mailto:mkaylor@jekyllisland.com) or 912-635-4090.

Nesting boxes: **\$1,000**

Fence installation materials: **\$3,000**

2000 feet of Animex Fencing: **\$20,000**





# ESTUARY CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

## Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) Initiative (\$5000 - \$20,000):

Farmed or wild, a healthy adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water daily. Oyster reefs, which can be made up of clusters of hundreds of thousands of oysters, help protect shorelines from erosion by serving as natural buffers against rising tides and storms. They provide habitat for fish, crab, shrimp, and other commercial and recreational fish species. Georgia led the U.S. in oyster production in the early 1900s, but the oysters and industry collapsed in the 1940s due to overharvest and disease. Despite the many benefits oysters provide, they are one of the most imperiled marine habitats in the world. Globally, over 85% of oyster reefs have disappeared. The traditions of the oyster fishery and connections to our coastal communities are fading. A relatively small fishery exists in Georgia. Oyster shells, the foundation for growing reefs, are thrown in the trash every week from restaurants.

Keeping the oyster history alive and rebuilding an oyster fishery is critical to ensuring the health of our coastal economy, environment, and community. We have the opportunity to take a new approach in Georgia. Working with partners, we can use an integrated, holistic approach to oysters that recognizes the needs for habitat restoration and the oyster fishery, and the desire for an aquaculture industry. Overall priorities include growing oysters and the oyster industry, restoring oysters and shorelines, developing an oyster management work plan and reconnecting oysters to coast and people to oysters. Events to share information will be hosted in Athens, on the Coast, and potentially other areas. We are seeking funds to support the following:

**Integrated Oyster Management Planning in Georgia:** Work with partners to commit to a holistic approach to oyster management, to secure a letter of collaboration, to prepare a work plan and to identify sources of funding to develop the Integrated Oyster Management Plan that incorporates oyster restoration, oyster wild harvest and aquaculture, and shoreline restoration and protection with living shorelines. \$20,000 is requested to help support this new project.

**Growing Oyster Farmers and Oysters Project:** The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working with local oyster farmers and McIntosh County Academy High School to advance oyster aquaculture and restoration through a high school Oyster Management program. Students will engage in growing and restoring oysters and shorelines with local oyster farmers and resource managers. Project funding needs include oyster cages and supplies for aquaculture and restoration demonstration, field travel, classroom and event educational materials, TNC staff and marketing and media support. \$7,500 is requested to help match a \$20,000 grant provided by TNC to support oyster farmers and the high school.

**Shell to Shore Project:** TNC is working with Seabear Oyster Bar in Athens, the University of Georgia and Georgia DNR to develop and implement an oyster shell recycling program that connects inland Georgia with the coast to support oyster restoration and farming. Oyster shells will be cleaned and cured and returned to Georgia estuaries to grow oysters in restoration, shoreline and aquaculture projects. Events will be held on the Georgia Coast, Athens and Atlanta to increase the awareness of oysters and their many benefits. Funding needs include event educational materials and supplies, food, educational signage to promote local oysters and fishers, travel, TNC staff and marketing and media expertise. \$5,000 is requested to help match a \$20,000 grant provided by TNC to support the project.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Christi Lambert at [clambert@tnc.org](mailto:clambert@tnc.org) or 912-617-0143.

# WATERSHED PROTECTION

## Altamaha Riverkeeper Vehicle (\$20,000):

To increase Altamaha Riverkeeper's monitoring on the Altamaha and its tributaries, we need a reliable vehicle capable of towing a motor boat and hauling gear. A dedicated vehicle will enable ARK staff to conduct routine river patrols and respond quickly to investigate reports of river contamination – enabling us to be more effective at protecting our watershed. To make a donation, contact Fletcher Sams. He is Executive Director of Altamaha Riverkeeper and can be reached at [fletcher@altamahariverkeeper.org](mailto:fletcher@altamahariverkeeper.org) or (404) 985-9606.

## Filling the Regulatory Gap to Protect Communities Often Left Behind (\$30,000):

The Altamaha River watershed along the coast includes many areas that have a disproportionate number of historical and active industrial pollution sites that are releasing toxic substances to the surrounding environment and placing nearby residents at risk of toxic exposure. Many of these areas have exceptionally low household income levels and an exceptionally high level of pollution.

Most of the currently operating sites have properly permitted and tested discharges, while others have violated regulatory standards and have contaminated soil and groundwater to the point where they needed to be listed on the Georgia Hazardous Site Inventory or Federal Superfund lists.

However, there are other sites in the area that are falling through the regulatory cracks. Some of these sites predate important environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, some are receiving the bare minimum of regulatory review, and many others are simply operating without the proper permits and regulation. Altamaha Riverkeeper (ARK) and partners at Emory University and Mercer University have investigated a few such cases of industrial releases of contaminants to tributaries of the Ocmulgee in the past year that have highlighted such gaps in the regulatory structure.

Due to the complex nature and variety of toxins that could be present at these sites, a broad range of equipment will be necessary to locate and analyze each site. Most investigations involve taking samples and sending them off for analysis, but this initiative calls for rapid screening and tracing for on-the-fly investigation. Field-capable conductivity meters, pH meters, and various fluorometers will need to be purchased by ARK. Third-party analysis will still play a critical role in documenting certain types of contamination. ARK will need additional funds for 3rd party accredited labs to conduct analysis on toxins that are not able to be analyzed by other means.

For more information on this project or to make a donation, contact Fletcher Sams. He is Executive Director of Altamaha Riverkeeper and can be reached at [fletcher@altamahariverkeeper.org](mailto:fletcher@altamahariverkeeper.org) or (404) 985-9606.



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### Protect The Vernon (\$20,000 per year for 3-5 years):

Ogeechee Riverkeeper's mission is to "Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Water Quality of the Ogeechee River Basin, and one of these waterways is the Vernon River in Chatham County. The Vernon River drains approximately 40% of the City of Savannah, via urban and suburban runoff that flows primarily through Wilshire Canal, Harmon Canal, Casey Canal, and Hayners Creek, before reaching the Atlantic Ocean.

The Protect the Vernon project aims to reduce environmental hazard impacts (pathogens and litter), and plan for long-term sustainability in the Vernon River, its tributaries, and the

connected salt marsh. This valuable area provides habitat for endangered sturgeon, diamondback terrapins, and sea turtles, as well as important commercial and recreational fishing opportunities.

The ultimate goal of this project is to gain a larger group of more engaged stakeholders who will have a scientifically robust plan to implement high-probability measures that will move the Vernon River toward greater ecological health, and enable this restoration project to serve as a model for regional restoration activities.

This project aims to engage a large and diverse group of stakeholders, volunteers, and citizen scientists to track and eliminate sources of bacterial contamination, and reduce litter and plastic pollution using cleanups, data, education, and litter traps.

The timeline for this project is 3-5 years and the cost is estimated to be \$20,000 per year.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Damon Mullis at [damon@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org](mailto:damon@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org) or 866-942-6222.

### Satilla Riverkeeper Vehicle (\$20,000):

Satilla Riverkeeper serves as the "eyes and ears" of the Satilla River watershed, keeping an eye out for threats to the water quality and ecological function of the river, its tributaries and estuary. The 4,000-square mile Satilla River watershed touches 14 counties in rural southeast Georgia. Many of the river access roads are unpaved and prone to flooding. Satilla Riverkeeper staff drive about 14,000 miles a year to monitor water quality, lead paddle trips, river cleanups, and investigate pollution issues. We need a reliable 4-wheel drive or all-wheel drive SUV to tow our patrol boat, kayak trailer, and facilitate water quality monitoring and site visits. Contact the Satilla Riverkeeper and Executive Director at [riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org](mailto:riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org) or (912) 421-8972.

### Satilla Riverkeeper Water Quality Monitoring (\$5,000):

The Satilla Riverkeeper needs help to fund its water quality testing on the river. Last year we conducted 141 tests. This year we are aiming to increase our testing. Water quality testing allows us to see which areas of the river are safe for swimming and healthy for wildlife. If our testing indicates water quality issues, the Satilla Riverkeeper works with partners to improve the health of that river segment. This project will pay for testing supplies, staff time, and gas mileage for testers. Contact the Satilla Riverkeeper and Executive Director at [riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org](mailto:riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org) or (912) 421-8972.

## Protect Our St. Marys River (\$7500 to \$17,500):

Since our founding in 2016, the St. Marys Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper) has made it a priority to address and resolve any and all threats to the St. Marys River by providing experiential learning and citizen science opportunities to engage people with the river. The St. Marys River originates in the Okefenokee Swamp which is a 438,000-acre black water swamp, the largest in the United States, is a National Wildlife Refuge, and is designated a Wetland of International Importance. The Swamp is the wild heart of Georgia and the St. Marys River is a direct lifeline. There are many threats, including a proposed titanium mine, near the headwaters of our St. Marys River with tributaries near the site that flow into the river.

Riverkeeper works directly with communities to engage them in the issues that will impact their lives. Through a series of paddles, bike rides, hikes, and community town hall meetings, Riverkeeper is looking to provide a platform for public engagement and open conversation about the potential impacts a proposed mining project will have on our beloved Okefenokee Swamp and St. Marys River. We are seeking \$10,000 for subject expert fees, educational program and venue expenses, marketing materials and print costs, and \$7,500 for a part time Communications Specialist who will coordinate all urgent and timely communications to increase awareness of the St. Marys River and its advocacy priorities.

For more information, contact Emily Floore, Executive Director & St. Marys Riverkeeper, at 843-906-6548 or [emily@stmarysriverkeeper.org](mailto:emily@stmarysriverkeeper.org)

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



### Loggerhead Sea Turtle Protection and Management (\$8000 - \$10,672):

The loggerhead turtle population in Georgia is showing signs of recovery due to 30 years of intensive management. Approximately ten years of additional surveys and management are necessary for loggerheads to reach recovery goals in the southeast. This project involves annual surveys on 13 barrier island beaches which include nest surveys, nest protection activities (nest relocation and screening and predator control), assessments of reproductive success and the monitoring of

threats (strandings). We need to buy equipment (ATVs, bikes), hire seasonal personnel, and buy supplies (screens, stakes) to collect the data we need for management. This project provides the opportunity for donors to ride along with the researchers for the day on Sapelo Island to see how the money is spent.

- **Sapelo Island** is a nesting beach monitored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Conservation Section. Daily surveys are conducted from May through September on Nanny Goat and Cabretta beaches and Little Blackbeard, a 1.5 km section of beach that split from Blackbeard proper during Hurricane Irma. The Sapelo intern will be required to survey and paddle a kayak across the inlet to Little Blackbeard each day and patrol the beach by bike. We are in need of \$10,672 to support a single intern for the summer and a bike.
- **Ossabaw Island** is one of Georgia's three main nesting beaches monitored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Conservation Section. Monitoring sea turtle nesting and strandings on Ossabaw is difficult due to the remoteness of the island and rough terrain. We are in need of funds to support a single intern for the summer (\$10,472) and a Kawasaki Mule UTV for beach surveys (\$8,000).

To learn more or to make a donation, contact Mark Dodd with Georgia DNR at [Mark.Dodd@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Mark.Dodd@dnr.ga.gov).



## Diamondback Terrapin Conservation (\$6488):

The diamondback terrapin is an estuarine turtle that spends its entire life in the saltmarsh. Terrapins are listed as a species of concern due to mortality in the commercial crab pot fishery. The Georgia DNR is hoping to establish two long-term monitoring projects to assess trends in abundance of terrapins (Plantation Creek and Gould's Inlet). We are in need of seasonal help to complete surveys. An intern will travel to randomly selected creeks in Georgia and conduct abundance surveys. Total cost is \$6488, which includes a laser range finder for \$300. To support this project, contact Mark Dodd with Georgia DNR at [Mark.Dodd@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Mark.Dodd@dnr.ga.gov).



## North Atlantic Right Whale Research Boat (\$25,000):

Ocean waters off the Georgia coast are the only calving grounds for critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. Georgia DNR has been a leader in right whale research and management for over two decades. Whether we're deploying satellite tags to track whales, collecting genetic samples from newborn calves, or rescuing whales entangled in fishing rope, none of our field work is possible without an offshore research boat.

In 2021 DNR lost access to a federally-owned research boat that we used each winter for over 15 years, and this has hampered our whale response efforts. Thankfully, we recently received a grant from NOAA Fisheries to purchase our own twin-engine rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) for offshore research. But before we can fulfill this need, we need to raise approximately \$25,000 in private philanthropy for matching funds. The boat will be used for whale research in the winter months, and for other offshore conservation efforts during the warm months, including sea turtle research and artificial reef management.

To support this effort, please contact Clay George with Georgia DNR at 912-262-3336 or [Clay.George@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Clay.George@dnr.ga.gov).

## Habitat Protection through Targeted Outreach (\$25,000):

Shorebirds, like Red Knots who migrate from South America to the Arctic to nest, depend on safe inlets and islands to refuel and rest. Our resident nesting shorebirds, like American Oystercatchers, lay their eggs and raise their chicks on remote sand bars. One significant challenge in protecting these places is helping the people who visit them to understand their critical role in the survival of these imperiled species. Recreational boaters are able to access remote, fragile habitats- but with too much pressure from people, shorebirds are no longer able to use them.

Recently, we collaborated with GA Department of Natural Resources to increase the appreciation of recreational boaters for the birds that share some of the same environments. Through an ongoing education and outreach campaign, our goal is to reduce negative impacts at the most important places for migratory and nesting shorebirds. Teaching recreational boaters about the habitat needs of shorebirds will be paired with raising awareness of the simple steps they can take to protect important shorebird habitat on the Georgia Coast.

This project will be especially successful because the boaters we are working with know the coast, and return to the same places regularly. We have seen that informed boaters become protective of the most sensitive sites, growing into the best stewards of the places they love, resulting in long-term protection. Your contribution of \$25,000 (for staff time and materials) to our education and outreach campaign will help us inform more people and build pride for protecting coastal wildlife.

For more information or to make a donation, you can reach out to Brad Winn at (508) 524-8276, [bwinn@manomet.org](mailto:bwinn@manomet.org) or Abby Sterling at (585) 339-8885 or [asterling@manomet.org](mailto:asterling@manomet.org).



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## Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative (\$30,000):

Shorebirds, particularly the species that make the longest migrations, like Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and Lesser Yellowlegs, are undergoing some of the most significant and long-term declines of any bird group in the Americas. The southeastern coast of the United States is vitally important to nineteen species of shorebirds of the Atlantic and Central Continental Flyways. The Georgia and South Carolina barrier coasts are, in many ways, the hub of shorebird abundance on the US Atlantic Coast, supporting breeding, migrating, and wintering populations of these birds. We call this the area the Georgia Bight.

A highly collaborative group of federal agencies, state agencies, and non-profits believe the best way to maintain and restore shorebird populations is to ensure the effective management of key sites they depend upon. Manomet is bringing its best habitat management and conservation strategies to the Georgia Bight by developing coalitions of partners to work toward real gains at the ground level. We are working to alleviate disturbance of sensitive areas, working with state partners to restore habitat, and understanding what threats to shorebirds and shorebird habitats are impacting populations of the birds with directed research. A contribution of \$30,000 (to offset operating costs) to Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative will help us continue to grow our beneficial conservation impacts.

For more information or to make a donation, you can reach out to Brad Winn at (508) 524-8276, [bwinn@manomet.org](mailto:bwinn@manomet.org) or Abby Sterling at (585)339-8885 or [asterling@manomet.org](mailto:asterling@manomet.org).

## Effects of Long-term Longleaf Pine Management on a Protected Gopher Tortoise Population (\$12,000):

Over the last 10 years there has been a movement of significant management designed to restore Longleaf Pine forests and promote natural communities. This includes planting Longleaf Pine seedlings, applying prescribed fire on a regular rotation (especially during the growing season), and planting native groundcover. These activities have focused on promoting high quality habitat for wildlife, including rare and declining species of reptiles and amphibians, such as the Gopher Tortoise. The Orianne Society is working to assess the long-term effects of Longleaf Pine management, especially groundcover restoration, on properties that currently hold protected populations of Gopher Tortoise. These will be baseline surveys to which we can compare future survey numbers. Orianne is seeking funding in the amount of \$12,000 to complete one baseline Gopher Tortoise survey. For more information or to make a donation, contact Chris Jenkins at 208-241-9124 or [cljenkins@oriannesociety.org](mailto:cljenkins@oriannesociety.org).



## Project Safe Flight Georgia: Coastal Expansion (\$50,000):

Avian migration is one of the most amazing feats in the natural world. An estimated 900 million birds migrate over Georgia each spring and fall, with a large amount of this migration occurring over the Georgia coast due to its unique geography and relatively intact habitat. The journey is long and difficult, and a relatively new threat has emerged that may be the most dangerous of all: buildings.

Since 2015 Georgia Audubon has been studying the issue of bird-building collisions throughout metro Atlanta, as well as retrofitting problematic buildings with window films and encouraging other preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of collisions. With an estimated 365 million to 1 billion birds dying each year in the U.S. due to building collisions, along with Georgia's pivotal placement along the Atlantic Flyway, we have a chance to lead in finding solutions that not only protect birds passing through Georgia, but that can also be replicated across the country.

Funding will support expansion of Project Safe Flight Georgia to the Georgia coast. Our goals are to understand how migratory songbirds use coastal hotspots, which locations are most vital and why they are attractive, how to lessen the threats birds face, influence local development and lighting ordinances, and educate and engage the local communities in bird conservation.

Georgia Audubon seeks \$50,000 in support of this program expansion. For more information, including project components, please contact Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation, at [adam.betuel@georgiaaudubon.org](mailto:adam.betuel@georgiaaudubon.org).

## Coastal Conservation Program Coordinator (\$50,000):

Georgia Audubon is the largest conservation organization in the state focused primarily on conserving and protecting our state's birds. As part of our commitment to expanding conservation and community engagement capacity along the Georgia coast, we seek an annual commitment of \$50,000 (or multiple commitments of smaller amounts) that will support our Coastal Conservation Program Coordinator staff position.

Georgia Audubon's Coastal Conservation Program Coordinator is based out of Brunswick, GA, and provides support for Georgia Audubon's work along the entire Georgia coast. This key staff member will help expand Georgia Audubon's existing programs, such as habitat restoration and community science programming, in coastal counties. They will also develop novel monitoring projects, species or place-specific conservation efforts, and other opportunities where we can marry scientific knowledge and skill with the power of our membership and network. Additionally, the coordinator will assist and provide expertise to partner organizations when needed, on projects that may require shorebird monitoring, focal species banding and resighting, as well as educating and interacting with the public.

For additional information, please contact Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation, at [adam.betuel@georgiaaudubon.org](mailto:adam.betuel@georgiaaudubon.org).



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STEWARDS  
OF  
THE GEORGIA COAST