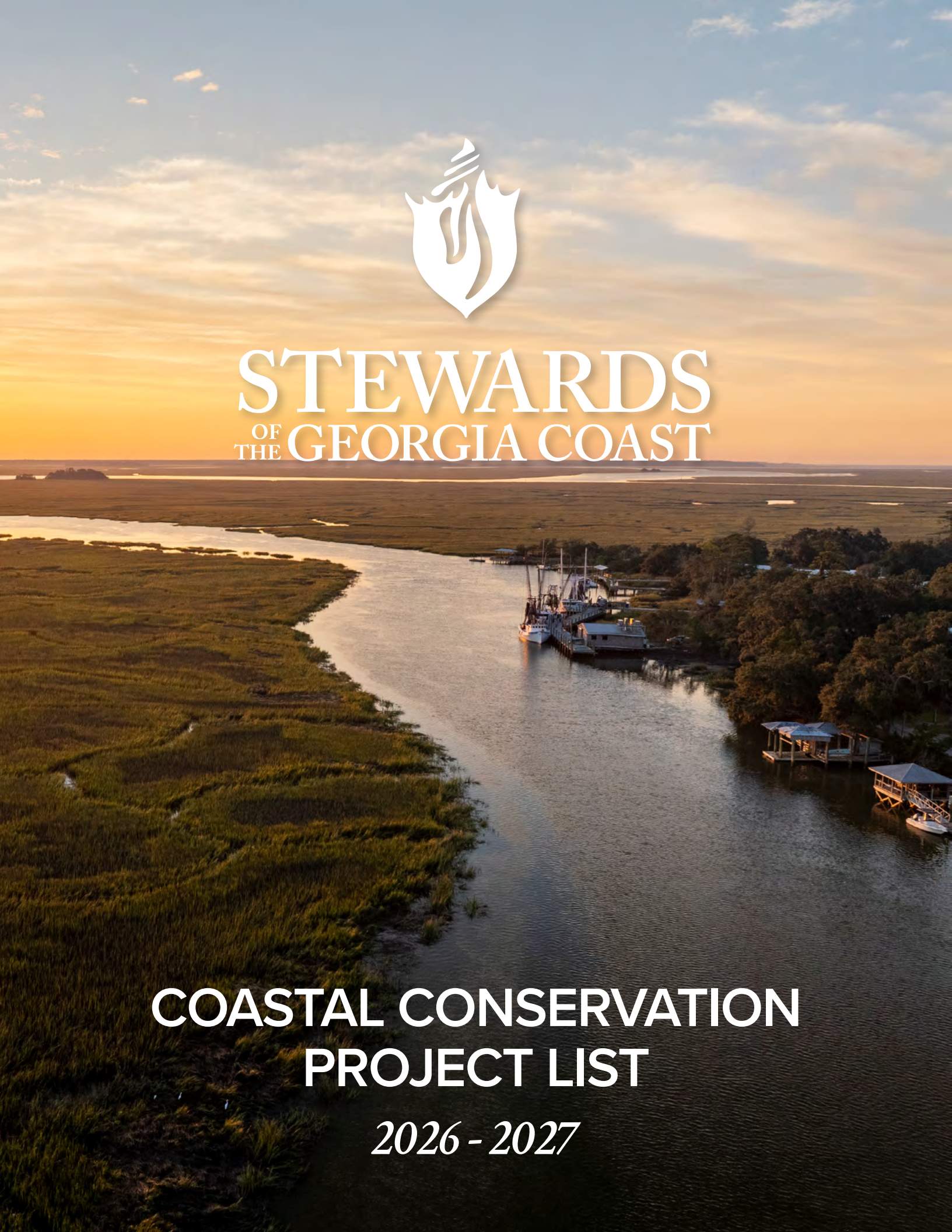


STEWARDS OF THE GEORGIA COAST

COASTAL CONSERVATION PROJECT LIST

2026 - 2027

Connecting people
committed to advancing
Georgia's *coastal conservation.*

Cover, Back Cover, & Interior Photo
by Benjamin Galland

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Photo by Benjamin Galland

Coastal Conversation Project List

2026 - 2027

Stewards of the Georgia Coast is an informal network of 350+ donors committed to advancing philanthropy for coastal conservation. Our core objective is to increase private donors' investment of time, influence, and financial resources in the conservation nonprofit organizations serving Georgia's coast. We seek to build relationships, share experiences, cultivate learning, communicate philanthropic needs, and facilitate giving for impact.

We are pleased to present the ninth edition of the Coastal Conservation Project List. Originally published in 2018 and updated annually, the list features high priority projects in need of private philanthropy and is curated with help from respected conservation leaders across the region. 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.

We hope you will review the list and share it with others. Look for projects that resonate with your particular interests, and join us as we invest in the long-term future of Georgia's coastal resources. If you support a project from the list, please let the Stewards' leadership know as it will help us to assess the value and impact of this effort.

If you would like to make a donation but the array of funding needs on this list feels overwhelming, please reach out to Stewards staff members Burch Barger or Scott Coleman. We are available to meet with you and to consult on the philanthropy needs that most closely align with your interests. We can help you get connected directly with your chosen nonprofit organization, or we can process a general gift to conservation grantmaking via Stewards' donor advised fund at the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

Finally, as a complement to (and not as a replacement for) your support of conservation nonprofits, we also welcome Stewards Sustainer gifts to offset the costs of Stewards programming. With your help, we can increase our outreach, widen our circle of engaged donors, amplify our mission, and ensure the Stewards network's long-term sustainability. For more information or to make a donation online, follow the QR code below.

Should you have questions, please contact Burch Barger at **stewardsofgacoast@gmail.com** or (205) 643-8121 or Scott Coleman at **scott@littlessi.com** or (229) 724-9202 or visit our website at **stewardsofgacoast.org**. Thank you for your interest in and support for coastal conservation in Georgia.

STEWARDS SUSTAINERS

STEWARDS OF THE GEORGIA COAST

Design by NatMatt Studio • NatMattStudio.com

ADVOCACY



Photo provided by Ogeechee Riverkeeper

Aerial Imagery for Coastal Advocacy, Education, and Community Engagement

ONE HUNDRED MILES • $10,000 - $20,000

One Hundred Miles (OHM) seeks to purchase drone equipment, training, and related analytical services that will strengthen our ability to document, protect, and tell the story of Georgia's coast. By pairing high-quality aerial imagery with geographic information system (GIS) analysis, OHM can gather timely, credible, science-based visual evidence—showing the size, scale, and pace of changes affecting our coast. This capacity will help us document development impacts, verify impervious surface coverage, compare project footprints, track change over time, and illustrate the ecological connections that are central to Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan.

This investment will also support policy discussions, community meetings, planning processes, donor briefings, social media outreach, and public storytelling. In addition to showing Georgia's remote marshes, barrier islands, tidal creeks, and wildlife corridors, the aerial imagery will help audiences see shoreline change, marsh migration, resilience projects, conservation successes, and development impacts in ways that are immediate, memorable, and difficult to convey through words alone.

Project costs include the drone and controllers, spare batteries, storage media, protective carrying case, filters and accessories, liability insurance, FAA registration, FAA Part 107 training and testing for two OHM staff, editing software, replacement parts, annual maintenance, and GIS contractor support for advanced analysis. The higher funding level would allow OHM to invest in more durable equipment, expanded accessories, additional staff training, and deeper GIS analysis.

For more information or to donate, contact Alice Keyes
alice@onehundredmiles.org / (912) 230-6494.

Advocacy Program: Pushing Back on Data Centers

OGEECHEE RIVERKEEPER • $6,250

Protecting, preserving, and improving our waterways takes a lot more paperwork than you'd expect. Ogeechee Riverkeeper's small team—including a fulltime, on-staff environmental lawyer, a rarity in an organization like ours—spends countless hours reviewing and providing comments for proposals and permits, drafting legislative protections, and updating planning and zoning ordinances to better protect our water resources, our environment, and the people and wildlife who call it home. It's not flashy, but it's fundamental to the work we do.

In 2025, our staff attended 85 public meetings, promoted 19 new and improved protective ordinances, and submitted 22 official comments on development projects planned in our watershed. The explosive growth of data centers in Georgia—and related and valid concerns about threats to water resources, ecosystems, and communities—means our advocacy work is only going to increase.

Funding for our advocacy program will give us the bandwidth to work with local governments and communities to help mitigate potential harms from proposed data centers. This includes attending public meetings, researching existing regulations, reviewing permits, updating or drafting ordinances, and meeting with stakeholders. Your support will give us the ability to defend our watershed and, when necessary, punch above our weight to take on the offenders who threaten it.

For more information or to donate, contact Damon Mullis, Executive Director and Riverkeeper
damon@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org / (866) 942-6222 ext. 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Photo provided by ECO Georgia

Growing Georgia's Next Generation of Coastal Stewards

ECO GEORGIA • $5,000 per partnership

Meaningful environmental stewardship begins with connection. ECO Georgia helps students discover that Georgia's coast is more than where they live. It is a place they understand, value, and ultimately help protect.

Each $5,000 grade-level partnership provides a complete place-based environmental education experience while ensuring no child is denied participation because of personal or school financial constraints. Partnerships include $2,800 for immersive field experiences and boat trips to a working floating oyster farm, $400 for teacher professional learning, $1,000 for classroom investigations, educational materials, nature journaling, and creative expression, plus an optional $500 Pin Point Heritage Museum experience. Students also participate in oyster shell bagging that supports future reef restoration while exploring the connections among healthy estuaries, clean water, biodiversity, resilient shorelines, sustainable aquaculture, and thriving coastal communities.

Teacher workshops equip educators with practical strategies for using the local environment as an extension of the classroom, extending the impact well beyond a single school year.

ECO Georgia's 2026-2027 goal is to establish 6-10 new grade-level partnerships, bringing immersive coastal education to hundreds of additional students across Georgia's coast. Each $5,000 gift funds one complete partnership, allowing schools to participate regardless of financial constraints while creating lasting connections between students, educators, and Georgia's coastal ecosystems. Donors will be invited to experience the program firsthand by joining an educational boat excursion to the floating oyster farm and surrounding estuary.

For more information or to donate, contact Laura Solomon, Board Chair
laura@ecogeorgia.org / (757) 971-2434.

ECO Place-Based Coastal Education Model

ECO GEORGIA • $20,000

Research consistently shows that students are more engaged when learning is connected to authentic experiences, and teachers are more likely to adopt new instructional practices when they receive high-quality professional learning paired with classroom-ready resources. Every teacher has the potential to inspire hundreds of students over the course of a career. By equipping educators with place-based tools and training, ECO Georgia can expand environmental education far beyond the classrooms it serves directly.

Funding will support the development of the ECO Place-Based Coastal Learning Toolkit, a standards-aligned collection of lessons, student journals, nature journaling activities, field investigations, oyster restoration projects, and digital resources that help educators connect students to Georgia's estuaries, working waterfronts, sustainable aquaculture, and coastal communities.

Building on ECO Georgia's educator learning program, funding will also support the 2027 ECO Coastal Conference, expanding teacher training into a two-day immersive experience featuring field investigations, classroom-ready resources, and collaboration with scientists, conservation practitioners, and community partners.

Together, the toolkit and conference will establish a scalable model for place-based coastal education, building a statewide network of educators equipped to inspire future generations of coastal stewards.

For more information or to donate, contact Laura Solomon, Board Chair
laura@ecogeorgia.org / (757) 971-2434.

Education and Community Outreach

COASTAL WILDSCAPES • $5,000 per year for 3-5 years

Coastal WildScapes is an organization dedicated to connecting residents to the habitats of coastal Georgia and empowering them to be good stewards of their natural environment. Our goals are to educate target audiences about native habitats, provide tools to empower ecologically based decision making, and foster a culture that values biodiversity.

To accomplish our mission and goals, we are seeking funds for education and outreach assistance for the development and delivery of education initiatives to increase knowledge about the importance of Georgia's coastal ecosystems. This project will help to support a wide variety of environmental education programs across the coast and help increase our presence at community outreach events.

This project will provide $3,000 for staff time and $2,000 for gas mileage associated with community outreach events such as the Pollinator Palooza and Nursery Fest in Savannah, Arbor Day in Brunswick, the Savannah River Fire Festival, and Earth Day in Guyton. The timeline for this project is 3-5 years and the cost is estimated to be $5,000 per year. A total of at least 5,000 people per year are expected to be reached at the community outreach events.

For more information or to donate, contact Amy Schuler, Education Outreach Coordinator
admin@coastalwildscapes.org / (912) 289-7736.

Education Outreach Materials

COASTAL WILDSCAPES • $1,200 - $3,100

Coastal WildScapes is an organization dedicated to connecting residents to the habitats of coastal Georgia and empowering them to be good stewards of their natural environment. Our goals are to educate target audiences about native habitats, provide tools to empower ecologically based decision making, and foster a culture that values biodiversity.

To accomplish our mission and goals, we are seeking funds to purchase materials for our education outreach table. Items needed include a new tablecloth, a trifold display, a banner, and copies of our Coastal Butterflies and Landscaping with Native Plants brochures. The timeline for this project is one year. A total of at least 5,000 people per year are expected to be reached at the community outreach events.

400 butterfly brochures **$600**
400 landscaping brochures **$600**
Total: **$1,200**

Table Cloth: **$150**
Pull-Up Banner: **$250**
Tri-Fold Display with Travel Case: **$1050**
Design Time for Layout: **$450**
Total: **$1,900**

For more information or to donate, contact Amy Schuler, Education Outreach Coordinator
admin@coastalwildscapes.org / (912) 289-7736.

Coastal Research Methods: Training the Next Generation of Coastal Leaders

COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

$360 (one student) - $6480 (18 students)

Enable college students to take Coastal Research Methods, a transformative summer course offered by the Environmental Sciences Program at the College of Coastal Georgia. Here, students conduct hands-on environmental research, mastering field, laboratory, and statistical methods with a specialized focus on coastal and barrier island environments. The course is more than a learning experience; it's a simulation of real-world research teams, complete with a one-week expedition to the UGA Marine Institute on Sapelo Island. Among many other practices, students test water quality in coastal marshes and conduct fish identification surveys on trawls, which provides them with a diverse skill set and prepares them for impactful careers in environmental consulting, engineering, natural resource management, and government agencies.

The success stories of our alumni speak volumes, with graduates now actively contributing to local environmental preservation and working for organizations like the Jekyll Island Authority, DNR Coastal Resources Division, UGA Marine extension, Army Corps of Engineers, and United States Geological Survey. Your support for this project will make a difference by eliminating the $360 course fee, ensuring that every student, regardless of financial constraints, can partake in this invaluable training and contribute to the coastal conservation workforce in Georgia.

For more information or to donate, contact James Deemy, Associate Professor of Environmental Science
jdeemy@ccga.edu / (912) 279-5934.

Scout Ocean Stewardship: Bringing Scouts to the Ocean

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY • $5,000 - $10,000

Each year, an estimated 50,000 Girl Scouts visit Savannah to honor the birthplace of their organization, yet few have the opportunity to experience hands-on coastal science education. In partnership with Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is launching a youth empowerment program at our Ocean Discovery Center to inspire future ocean conservation leaders.

Because the sanctuary is a protected, 22-square-mile underwater park located 19 miles offshore, this program brings the ocean to life through an immersive experience centered around a life-sized reef exhibit. Guided by sanctuary educators, Girl Scouts will explore Georgia's marine ecosystem, learn how scientists monitor ocean wildlife, and discover the importance of healthy watersheds. Participants will be sworn in as "Sanctuary Stewards" and receive a custom merit patch. Your support expands STEM education while empowering thousands of children to become future environmental leaders.

- Girl Scouts Ocean Literacy Package ($5,000): Provides a free two-hour educational program for up to 2,500 Girl Scouts annually, including an interpretive tour, an Ocean Literacy Principles-aligned class, and a Sanctuary Steward patch.

- Ocean Literacy Package + STEM Education Programing ($10,000): Includes all Ocean Literacy Package benefits, plus hands-on watershed testing tool kits for participating troops. This level will also support a special community event with Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia.

For more information or to donate, contact Sarah Porter, Regional Director
sporter@marinesanctuary.org / (912) 598-2345.

Bringing the Okefenokee to the Classroom

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP PARK , INC. • $28,000

For many children across Southeast Georgia, a visit from the Okefenokee Swamp Park (OSP)'s Director of Education is their first real encounter with environmental science. Each year, OSP's outreach team travels directly to schools, bringing curriculum-aligned, hands-on wildlife and conservation programs — complete with live ambassador animals — into classrooms that might otherwise never have access to this kind of experiential learning. Students examine animal adaptations, explore local wildlife habitats, and discuss how they can protect the natural resources in their own backyards.

OSP conducts approximately 200 classroom outreach sessions annually, reaching students in grades pre-K and up across southern Georgia. Demand continues to outpace what our small Education team can deliver on a self-funded basis, and every additional session made possible through philanthropic support connects more children with the Okefenokee — many for the first time.

$125 - One outreach session for one classroom (20–30 students)
$500 - One outreach session for four classrooms (80–120 students)
$1,000 - One outreach session for eight classrooms (160–240 students)
$3,000 - Educational resources and materials for up to 4,500 students for one school year
$28,000 - Fully funds OSP's classroom outreach program for one year — approximately 200 classrooms across Southeast Georgia — plus educational resources and materials for up to 4,500 students

For more information or to donate, contact Katie Antczak, Director of Education
katie.antczak@okeswamp.org / (912) 283-0583.

Lights Out for Sea Turtles Program

ONE HUNDRED MILES • $5,000 - $12,500

One Hundred Miles and the St. Simons Island Sea Turtle Project work to address the human impacts to sea turtles on our beaches. We plan to launch a Lights Out for Sea Turtles initiative that will train beachfront property owners, businesses, and other coastal residents across St. Simons Island and Sea Island to take responsible actions to protect sea turtles and other wildlife. As part of this initiative, modeled off of similar successful projects in Florida and across the Southeast, we will conduct trainings, lead neighborhood meetings and regular beach outreach events throughout loggerhead nesting and hatching season, and offer recognition for those individuals and groups who complete turtle-friendly requirements, such as replacing unshielded light fixtures and using long wavelength light or shutting off beachfront lights. This program will train additional volunteers and beachgoers to further monitor and advocate about these impacts, develop partnerships with hardware stores to supply turtle-friendly products, and provide continued outreach to elected officials. Finally, we will produce and distribute updated educational materials/signage and PSAs to help residents, beachgoers, and community leaders across our coast better protect sea turtles and other wildlife, and garner community support for stronger wildlife protections. Project costs include $5,000 for materials and programming and $7,500 for digital PSA production and signage.

For more information or to donate, contact Catherine Ridley, VP of Communications and Director of St. Simons Island Sea Turtle Project
catherine@onehundredmiles.org / (912) 222-3140.

Creating and Distributing an Educational Children's Book Encouraging Early Environmental Stewardship

SATILLA RIVERKEEPER • $10,000 - $15,000

The Satilla River is a lifeline that connects Georgia's inland forests, farms, small towns, wetlands, and coastal estuaries. However, many children growing up along its watershed do not realize that the health of their own community is directly tied to the well-being of neighbors living many miles away.

We seek philanthropic support to create and distribute an engaging educational children's book that illustrates how the Satilla River unites inland and coastal communities through a shared ecosystem and shared responsibility. Through storytelling, vibrant illustrations, and science-based lessons, the book will demonstrate how litter, stormwater runoff, and other forms of pollution introduced upstream ultimately affect downstream habitats, wildlife, fisheries, and coastal economies.

By helping young readers understand these connections, the project will inspire environmental stewardship, encourage conservation-minded choices, and foster a sense of pride in protecting one of Georgia's most treasured waterways. Funding will support writing, illustration, printing, and free distribution to schools, libraries, community organizations, and educational programs throughout the Satilla River watershed. By investing in this project, philanthropic partners will help cultivate a new generation of informed, engaged citizens who recognize that protecting the Satilla River begins in every community and that every action taken upstream contributes to a healthier, more resilient coast for future generations.

For more information or to donate, contact Shannon Gregory, Executive Director and Riverkeeper
riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org / (912) 421-8972.

Coastal Restoration Workforce Development: A Shell to Shore–Zulu Marine Externship Program

SHELL TO SHORE • $20,000 - $25,000

Shell to Shore's internship and fellowship program introduces college students to the science and practice of coastal restoration, but few pathways exist for these young professionals to gain hands-on experience actually building the living shorelines and oyster reefs they study. This program would launch a paid summer externship placing our most qualified current and former interns directly with Zulu Marine, a coastal construction and restoration firm, to work alongside conservation and construction crews on joint Shell to Shore and Zulu Marine projects along Georgia's coastal corridor.

Externs will gain field experience in restoration techniques, equipment, and project execution that classroom training alone cannot provide, helping build a skilled, locally rooted workforce for Georgia's growing coastal restoration industry. Each extern will also produce written reflections documenting their experience and professional growth, which Shell to Shore will use to recruit future interns and demonstrate the program's impact to partners and funders.

A gift of $20,000 to $25,000 will fund extern stipends, travel, and program coordination for the pilot summer. Donors will receive monthly progress updates and are invited to visit active restoration sites where program participants are working.

For more information or to donate, contact Tyler Leslie, Executive Director
director@shelltoshore.com

Savannah State University Coast Camp for Youth

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY MARINE SCIENCES DEPARTMENT • $10,000

Coast Camp for Youth is an immersive STEM education program serving K-12 students in coastal Georgia. The program prioritizes youth from underserved communities and groups historically underrepresented in marine science. Through partnerships with local schools and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, participants explore Georgia's coastal ecosystems while learning about traditional ecological knowledge, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation.

Funding will provide field equipment, safety gear, educational materials, and transportation that enable students to safely participate in marsh investigations, coastal field experiences, and hands-on marine science activities aligned with Ocean Literacy Principles and Georgia state standards. Camp staff include Savannah State University marine science students, local educators, and high school interns who serve as mentors and role models.

Support for this project will expand access to meaningful outdoor learning experiences, foster the next generation of environmental stewards, and strengthen conservation awareness among coastal Georgia youth.

For more information or to donate, contact Victoria Young, Program Manager
youngv@savannahstate.edu / (912) 228-9449.

SSU Coast Camp for Youth – Professional Development and Curriculum Retreat

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY MARINE SCIENCES DEPARTMENT • $20,000 - $21,500

As SSU Coast Camp for Youth prepares for its twentieth anniversary, Savannah State University seeks support to develop a comprehensive marine science and coastal stewardship curriculum that can be shared with educators throughout Georgia. Since 2007, Coast Camp has advanced ocean literacy through hands-on learning experiences for youth and professional development opportunities for teachers.

Funding will support a series of spring-semester curriculum development retreats bringing together veteran camp educators, marine science students, and former camp participants who now serve as staff and interns. The team will evaluate successful activities, refine lessons developed over nearly two decades, and create a publishable curriculum resource focused on coastal conservation, marine science, and field-based learning.

The completed curriculum and professional development materials will expand the program's impact beyond summer camp, providing educators with proven tools to engage students in environmental stewardship and conservation of Georgia's coastal resources.

For more information or to donate, contact Victoria Young, Program Manager
youngv@savannahstate.edu / (912) 228-9449.

Spreading the Message of Good Fire – Savannah River Fire Festival

THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE • $5,000 - $15,000

Since 2021, the Savannah River Fire Festival has been a successful celebration of the historical and current benefits of prescribed fire across the fire adapted landscape of Southeast Georgia. It is a great way to introduce children and adults alike to the benefits that prescribed burning has on the landscape as well as the many plant and wildlife species that depend on frequent fire. Prescribed burning is not only important for the ecosystem, but it also decreases the potential for catastrophic wildfire. After the 2026 drought and resulting wildfires across the state, this message has never been clearer.

The festival offers a wide variety of youth activities but also offers community members and landowners management information and resources. Festival participants can talk with resource professionals and receive additional information on financial assistance, technical assistance, prescribed fire management, and land management techniques.

Held in Guyton, Georgia at the UGA Warnell Forest Education Center in Effingham County, the event attracts coastal and interior Georgia residents. The event is free and often offers participants the ability to witness natural resource professionals conducting prescribed burn demonstrations. Past festivals have attracted 200-600 visitors on average, and future festivals offer potential to grow. A gift of $5,000-$15,000 would support staff time and travel expenses, equipment rental, festival supplies, sound equipment, entertainment, media promotion, and advertising to enhance and grow the festival.

For more information or to donate, contact Marylou Horan, Georgia Partnership Coordinator
Marylou@longleafalliance.org / (912) 293-6483.

Revitalize a Coastal Learning Space

UGA MARINE EXTENSION AND GEORGIA SEA GRANT • $25,000

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant seeks to transform an outdated waterfront structure on the banks of the Brunswick River into a dynamic Outdoor Learning Lab that will serve as a hub for coastal education, community engagement and environmental stewardship. This screened, open-air educational venue will immerse students, educators, residents, visitors, and community partners in hands-on experiences that can connect people directly to Georgia's coastal ecosystems.

Participants will engage in STEM education, including water quality monitoring, pollution prevention and community science. The facility will also support fisheries and seafood experiences, including crabbing demonstrations, fish identification, and sustainable seafood workshops celebrating Georgia's coastal heritage. In addition, the lab will serve as a discovery center for nature-based solutions education, offering native plant propagation workshops, rain barrel demonstrations, stormwater management training and other resilience-focused initiatives. Programs will be tailored for K-12 students, college classes, teachers, local governments, nonprofit organizations and community groups.

The Outdoor Learning Lab will be equipped with electricity, running water, and flexible workstations, creating a versatile setting for experiential learning and community programs enriched by the latest coastal science. Each gift will help move us closer to creating a lasting community asset that will expand educational opportunities, strengthen partnerships and inspire stewardship of our coastal resources.

For more information or to donate, contact Katy Smith, Water Resources Specialist
klaustin@uga.edu / (912) 262-3338.

Support the Next Generation of Conservationists

UGA MARINE EXTENSION AND GEORGIA SEA GRANT • $10,000

The Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, hosted annually at the Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant's aquarium on Skidaway Island, equips middle and high school students with the skills and knowledge to lead ocean conservation efforts in their communities. This immersive program brings students together to learn from scientists and educators, explore coastal ecosystems, build leadership skills and develop their own conservation ideas to be implemented in Georgia's coastal communities.

Support will expand this established program by reducing registration costs, strengthening the summit experience and increasing access for underserved and underrepresented students. These investments will ensure broader participation and help more young people explore marine science careers while engaging directly with Georgia's coastal resources to address pressing coastal challenges. Gifts also support meals and supplies for both students and presenters.

Each gift will help increase access to high-quality marine education, strengthen connections between students and scientists and inspire the next generation of stewards working to protect the natural resources that define the Georgia coast.

For more information or to donate, contact Shannon Matzke, Marine Educator and Public Program Coordinator **Shannon.matzke@uga.edu / (912) 598-2446**.



Photo provided by UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP AND RESTORATION

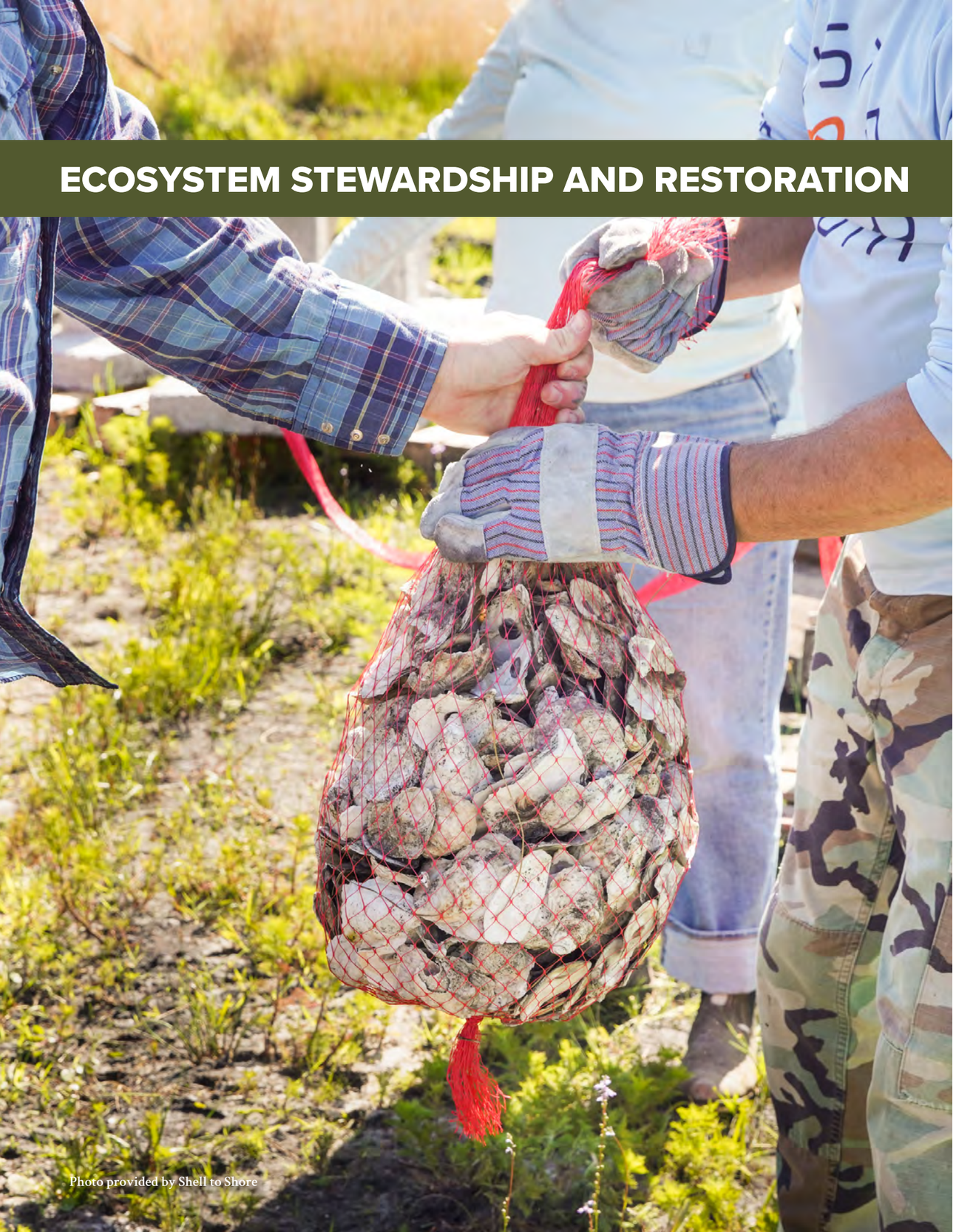


Photo provided by Shell to Shore

Coastal Avian Monitoring & Collaboration: Evaluating Habitat Restoration and Avian Response

JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY · $15,000

This initiative partners with multiple research and management institutions to monitor resident and migratory passerines and nightjars across critical coastal habitats. By deploying advanced automated radio and Bluetooth telemetry infrastructure, including Motus and CTT network nodes and bird tags, we seek to evaluate how targeted land management and ecological restoration practices influence avian habitat use. Funding will directly support the acquisition of tracking technology, expanding regional tracking coverage for academic, state, and NGO partners while delivering actionable data to optimize ongoing conservation and land stewardship strategies. Donors will have the ability to direct funds towards a specific partner project if desired.

For more information or to donate, contact Yank Moore, Director of Conservation
ymoore@jekyllisland.com / (912) 635-9384.

Statewide Oyster Shell Recycling Expansion for Georgia's Coastal Restoration

SHELL TO SHORE · $25,000 - $30,000

Shell to Shore is the premier organization aggregating and recycling oyster shell across the entire state of Georgia, partnering with 50+ restaurants in Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, and Savannah to divert shell from landfills and return it to the coast. Each pound of cured shell becomes new substrate for oyster reef restoration and living shorelines, nature-based infrastructure that fights erosion, buffers storm surge, and restores vital habitats along Georgia's 100-mile coast.

This project will grow our statewide network from 50 to 65–70 restaurant partners over the next 12 months, increasing our goal of annual recycled shell total to 200,000 pounds. Funding will directly support our program's staff, logistics, transportation, and materials needed to collect, cure, make ready, and haul this growing volume of shell from restaurants across the state to our coastal staging sites, and ultimately to restoration projects along the Georgia coast.

Donors are invited to experience this work firsthand: touring our statewide restaurant partners network, visiting our curing and staging sites, helping bag and prepare shell for transport, and visiting active restoration sites along the coastal corridor.

For more information or to donate, contact Tyler Leslie, Executive Director
director@shelltoshore.com

Restoring Oysters for Habitat, Resiliency and Community

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY • $83,000

Through the Georgia Oyster Resiliency Initiative, coastal stakeholders are collaborating to promote ecological, economic, social, and cultural resiliency through oyster and estuary conservation. Current aerial imagery, estuary scale habitat analysis, and oyster reef mapping have been identified by stakeholders as one of the high priority needs to plan and implement oyster restoration for multiple benefits: oyster reef and wildlife habitat restoration, shoreline and community resiliency, and healthy fisheries. The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, federal and local governments, universities, and fishers are partnering for healthy estuaries and communities.

Equipment and digital data are needed for oyster mapping, habitat suitability analysis and restoration planning and implementation, and to assess the heath of oysters and estuaries. The project estimate of $83,000 includes drone hardware, software, training, license, and gear to operate.

For more information or to donate, contact Christi Lambert, Marine and Coast Conservation Director
clambert@tnc.org

On-the-Ground Habitat Conservation in Coastal Georgia

THE ORIANNE SOCIETY • $15,000

The Orianne Society leads on-the-ground habitat conservation across coastal Georgia, focusing on prescribed fire and native groundcover restoration. Our staff assist with prescribed burns on six state Wildlife Management Areas—Sansavilla, Penholoway Swamp, Townsend, Ceylon, Altamaha, and Altama Plantation—and support habitat management on private conservation lands such as Fort Barrington and Little St. Simons Island. These partnerships expand managed habitat and improve conditions for Gopher Tortoises, Eastern Indigo Snakes, and other species dependent on healthy longleaf pine ecosystems. We also advanced native groundcover restoration.

Recently, we donated native grass seed to the Jekyll Island Authority to help create a wildlife corridor linking northern and southern Jekyll Island by converting part of a golf course back to native vegetation. This project enhances habitat connectivity, increases plant diversity, and benefits reptiles, amphibians, and other coastal wildlife.

To increase these efforts, we aim to build new partnerships with private landowners across the region by launching an outreach program to introduce landowners to habitat-management options and provide guidance on prescribed fire, native groundcover restoration, and related practices. Expanding our private lands program will help conserve and connect habitat beyond public lands while supporting landowners' wildlife and property-management goals. The Orianne Society seeks a donation of $15,000 to support these efforts in coastal Georgia.

For more information or to donate, contact Chris Jenkins, CEO
cljenkins@oriannesociety.org / (208) 241-9124.

Restoring Coastal Grasslands to Support Species of Conservation Concern

UGA, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES • $25,000

Georgia's maritime grasslands are unique and imperiled ecosystems that support a diversity of plant and wildlife species, including species of conservation concern and species of cultural significance. The Jekyll Grassland Restoration Project (JGRP), which aims to convert a decommissioned golf course into a mosaic of wetland and upland grassland habitats, is the first and only maritime grassland restoration project in coastal Georgia.

Because the JGRP plan does not include any funding for monitoring or evaluation, a team of UGA researchers has partnered with JGRP staff to evaluate how restoration strategies affect plant species diversity and community composition, assess the factors influencing the establishment of invasive species, and identify the specific restoration practices that support two species of conservation concern, Painted Buntings and Diamondback Rattlesnakes. Ultimately, this research will provide recommendations for land managers to tailor maritime grassland restoration practices to support wildlife and cultural heritage.

Your support will provide critical funds for student and field technician salaries ($10,000) and travel ($2,500), field supplies ($3,500; trail cameras, vegetation monitoring, bunting diet sampling), and laboratory fees ($9,000; DNA metabarcoding of bunting diet samples). Donor(s) will have an opportunity to join our team to participate in wildlife and vegetation sampling.

For more information or to donate, contact Dr. Clark Rushing, Associate Professor
Clark.Rushing@uga.edu

Bridging the Gap Between Private Landowners and Longleaf Pine Groundcover Restoration

THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE • $2,000 - $10,000

The longleaf pine forests of Georgia are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems in North America, and the grasses and forbs in the understory provide much of that diversity. Private landowner interest in restoring their lands with native groundcover is rapidly growing. As more landowners convert their property to longleaf pine, there is a great need to reintroduce many of the plant species associated with these magnificent trees.

An unfortunate reality of groundcover restoration is that it is currently a very expensive undertaking. The Longleaf Alliance aims to locate the needs of local landowners and capacities of local plant nurseries, and help bridge the gap between landowner needs and groundcover restoration goals. In addition to resource allocation and technical assistance, The Longleaf Alliance aims to help landowners with the cost of seeds, plugs, and planting efforts to get these restoration projects underway.

Identification of suitable private lands and interested landowners is a critical first step. In addition to assisting landowners, local plant nurseries will be able to grow their customer base and recognition. A gift of $2,000-$10,000 would support staff time and travel expenses, native local seed and/or plugs, and planting costs, with a goal of enhancing longleaf groundcover on a minimum of three different landowner properties within the Altamaha / Fort Stewart landscape.

For more information or to donate, contact Marylou Horan, Georgia Partnership Coordinator
Marylou@longleafalliance.org / (912) 293-6483.

Restoring Native Coastal Grasslands on Jekyll Island

STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA · $25,000

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is partnering with the Jekyll Island Authority and the Georgia Native Seed Network to restore native coastal grasslands that strengthen Georgia's barrier island ecosystems. Along the coast, native grasses help buffer communities from storm impacts, stabilize soils, support pollinators and wildlife, and rebuild habitats threatened by development and severe weather.

On Jekyll Island, this partnership is already producing measurable results. A coastal greenhouse is being used to cultivate locally appropriate maritime grasses, including wiregrass, muhly grass, and bluestems, for restoration projects across the island. These plant materials are helping convert former managed landscapes into resilient native habitat, including a 126-acre wildlife corridor where thousands of native grass plugs have already been installed.

A gift of $25,000 will support the next phase of native grassland restoration on Jekyll Island by helping fund seed collection, plant propagation, building supplies, volunteer planting days, and project monitoring. Donor(s) will have the opportunity to visit the Jekyll Island greenhouse and restoration site with project partners to see how native plants are helping build a more resilient Georgia coast and learn what they can do at their own homes to help.

For more information or to donate, contact Eric Schmidt, Director of Development
eric.schmidt@uga.edu / (706) 247-4675.



Photo provided by State Botanical Garden of GA

CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE



Photo provided by St. Simons Land Trust

Sustaining Cannon's Point Preserve: Celebrating 15 Years of Conservation

ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST · $5,500 - $31,500

In 2027, the St. Simons Land Trust will celebrate the 15th anniversary of Cannon's Point Preserve, marking 15 years of protecting one of Georgia's most remarkable and globally significant coastal landscapes. Since its permanent protection in 2012, the preserve has become one of the state's premier conservation destinations, safeguarding 644 acres of maritime forest, tidal creeks, shell middens, and archaeological sites while providing opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, environmental education, and scientific research.

Protecting a preserve of this significance requires ongoing stewardship. Routine maintenance is essential to provide a safe, welcoming experience for visitors while preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the property. This project will support trail maintenance and the repair and preservation of structures that have served nearly 100,000 visitors and researchers over the past 15 years.

By investing in the stewardship of Cannon's Point Preserve, supporters will help ensure this extraordinary landscape remains accessible, resilient, and well maintained for years to come. Gifts may be directed to one or more of the giving opportunities below or made in any amount to support the overall project. In recognition of their generosity, donors will be invited to a private guided tour celebrating the preserve's 15-year conservation legacy and the lasting impact of their investment.

Trail Stewardship and Enhancements: **$5,500**
Georgia Pacific Education Pavilion and Restrooms Enhancements and Upkeep: **$18,000**
Southend Observation Tower ("Ethel's View") Enhancements and Upkeep: **$4,000**
North End Observation Tower, ("Susan's Tower") Enhancements and Upkeep: **$4,000**
Estimated Total Project Cost: **$31,500**

For more information or to donate, contact Sara Baker, Devleopment & Marketing Director
sbaker@sslt.org / (912) 638-9109.

Bird Blind at Scott's Wild Bird Preserve

ROOKERY AND ROOTS CONSERVANCY · $12,000

Rookery and Roots Conservancy seeks $12,000 to construct a bird blind which will create opportunities for visitors to engage with our wild birds through intimate observations without disturbance. The bird blind will be a safe and accessible, two-story structure that includes a blind with an open top deck. It will be located on the back side of our 2-acre pond, which is a critical habitat for water-loving birds and wildlife. This will provide better viewing opportunities of birds such as Wood Ducks, Anhingas, Little Blue Herons, and Great Egrets. This funding will cover the costs of wooden building materials, strategic infrastructure and certified labor for construction. It will also cover landscaping with native plants to reduce erosion and enhance the pond ecosystem.

At Scott's Wild Bird Preserve, we hope to serve as a cornerstone for bird conservation, environmental education, and community engagement in Effingham County. Enhancing personal engagement and visibility with wild birds aids in our mission to educate the public about their importance to the ecosystem, current threats, and how we can protect them. The bird blind will also create memorable experiences for K-12 school groups, youth organizations, and families who explore Scott's Wild Bird Preserve.

For more information or to donate, contact Isaiah Scott, Founder
contact@rrconservancy.org / (912) 659-7985.

Trail Expansion at Scott's Wild Bird Preserve

ROOKERY AND ROOTS CONSERVANCY · $25,000

Preserved in 2025 and located in Effingham County, Scott's Wild Bird Preserve comprises 16.1 acres of forest and wetlands — a cornerstone for bird conservation, environmental education, and community in the Lower Coastal Plain.
Rookery and Roots Conservancy seeks $25,000 to create safe, accessible, and walkable trails and accompanying signage across the preserve. This would cover equipment costs for selective land clearing, purchasing of sand substrate to compose the trail, and equipment and labor. This installation will increase accessibility and safety of guests to spot potentially dangerous wildlife, such as venomous snakes, or hazards on the trails. This will also preserve the habitats by creating clear delineation between the path and conservation areas.

Alongside trail construction, we would like to include trail signage marking entrances, end points, length, and names of the trails, as well as habitats and wildlife on our preserve. This project is foundational, allowing us to host guests sooner and with infrastructure that will invite them to explore our preserve.

Accessibility is key in creating a public exposure for Scott's Wild Bird Preserve and cementing it as an institution of coastal Georgia. Our mission is to conserve bird habitat and educate all through field experience. As we work to create accessible protected land, we invite donors to join our conservation efforts. When we engage others to experience the natural wonders of coastal Georgia, we help ensure our wild spaces are continually protected and embolden a new generation of Georgia coast stewards.

For more information or to donate, contact Isaiah Scott, Founder
contact@rrconservancy.org / (912) 659-7985.

Interpretive Signage for the Okefenokee Swamp Park

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP PARK, INC. · $13,000

Interpretive signage is one of the most cost-effective ways the OSP deepens the impact of every park visit. Along our boardwalk, at our ambassador animal habitats, and throughout our Pioneer Island train experience, well-designed signs turn passive sightseeing into active learning — prompting visitors to use their senses, ask questions, and understand the Okefenokee's ecology and history.

The OSP has identified priority signage needs, including a boardwalk "scavenger hunt" series encouraging children to explore the swamp using their five senses, signage at ambassador animal enclosures explaining gator behavior and conservation, and historical signage at Pioneer Island covering soap-making, cabin life, and the site's steam-boiler and pulpwood history.

$750–$1,000: Funds one interpretive sign (average cost)
$13,000: Funds 12 priority signs across the boardwalk, ambassador animal areas, and Pioneer Island train experience

For more information or to donate, contact Hunter Barber, Operations and Facilities Manager
Hunter.Barber@okeswamp.org / (912) 283-0583.

Creating the Elouise Spears Heritage and Nature Trail

ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST · $5,000 - $59,000

The St. Simons Land Trust is bringing the Elouise Spears Heritage and Nature Trail to life at Spears Preserve at Harrington. At 15.76 acres, Spears Preserve is one of the few remaining undeveloped marsh-front properties on St. Simons Island and the last significant undeveloped tract within the historic Harrington community. Few areas of the preserve show recent human impact, leaving a healthy maritime forest—one of the world's rarest coastal habitats—along with an intact marsh-upland interface, tidal creeks, and expansive saltmarsh views.

The Elouise Spears Heritage and Nature Trail will invite visitors to experience this remarkable landscape while celebrating the history and legacy of the Harrington community and Elouise Spears, whose vision helped make this preservation possible. The trail will create opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and heritage interpretation, connecting visitors to the preserve's ecology and the stories of the families who have stewarded this land for generations.

Funding will help create welcoming trail access, interpretive and educational structures, and immersive visitor experiences. Donors may choose to support one or more of the giving opportunities below or make a gift of any amount toward the overall project. Donors who help bring this vision to life will be invited on a private guided tour when the trail is complete to experience firsthand the lasting impact of their investment.

Trail Infrastructure: **$25,000**
Trail Signage: **$5,000**
Pergola at Trail Entrance: **$7,000**
Two-Story Observation Blind Tower: **$22,000**
Estimated Total Project Cost: **$59,000**

For more information or to donate, contact Sara Baker, Development & Marketing Director
sbaker@sslt.org / (912) 638-9109.

Renovating Infrastructure for Moody Forest Preserve and Wildlife Management Area

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY · $25,000

Moody Forest Preserve and WMA encompass more than 4,400 acres of land along the Altamaha River in Appling County. Old-growth longleaf pine and blackjack oak woodland, cypress-tupelo sloughs, and bottomland hardwood forests are protected and managed by the Nature Conservancy and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Management of this area, Broxton Rocks and other lands in the region requires staff, seasonal work crews, equipment, office, lodging and maintenance facility. The current priority is to renovate an existing pole barn to provide much needed storage and maintenance workspace.

Funding is needed to enclose an existing side of a pole barn at Moody Forest Preserve to increase area and provide a more centralized, usable and secure storage for equipment, tools and supplies. It would provide a usable space for crew to complete equipment maintenance and rehab during evening hours and during times when weather doesn't allow for outside work.

Renovation would include:

- Installing electrical service with sufficient lighting and receptacles
- Constructing a concrete floor in the 18 ft X 40 ft space under the current roof of the pole barn
- Enclosing the walls with similar siding as existing structures
- Installing roll-up doors and one or two entry doors

For more information or to donate, contact Christi Lambert, Marine and Coast Conservation Director
clambert@tnc.org

WATERSHED PROTECTION

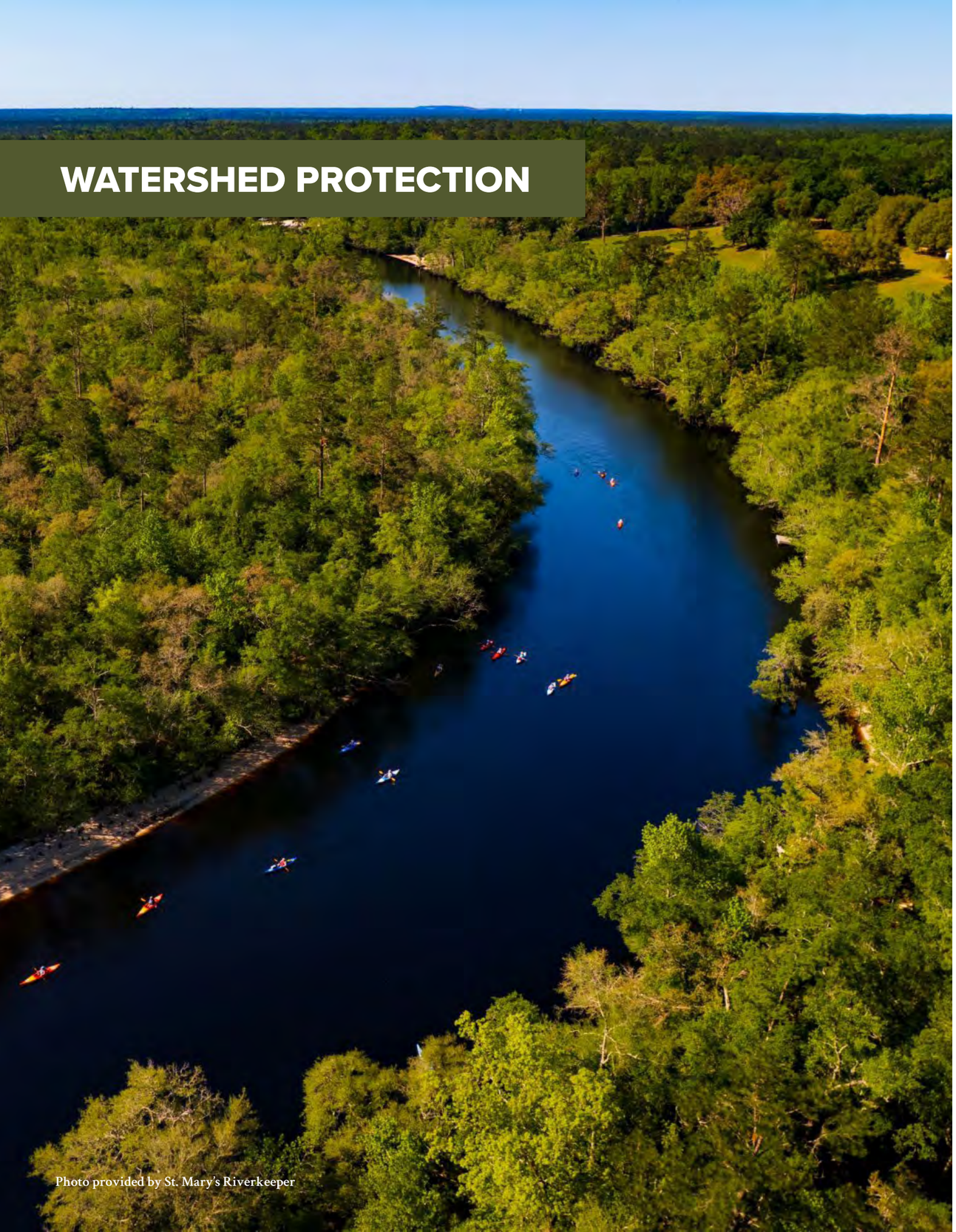


Photo provided by St. Mary's Riverkeeper

Water Quality Monitoring Program

ALTAMAHA RIVERKEEPER • $1,500 - $12,000

The Coastkeeper for Altamaha Riverkeeper, Inc. serves as a local trainer for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Adopt a Stream program. As trainer, Coastkeeper coordinates training throughout the Altamaha watershed, handles all promotions, advertising and registration for training, recruits and supports volunteers who complete training, and handles all equipment and supply purchasing and maintenance for the volunteer water quality monitoring program. The state does not provide any financial support to partner organizations who facilitate the Adopt a Stream program.

Chemical test kits cost approximately $350-$500 each, plus reagent replacements cost approximately $40 per year for volunteers conducting monthly testing. One turbidity meter costs approximately $475.
Bacteria testing costs approximately $30 per sample; $540 per site is needed to conduct weekly bacteria testing from May through September.

In order to increase our monitoring impact to achieve weekly 'swim guide' monitoring from May to September, Altamaha Riverkeeper requires additional funding to support a swim guide intern (stipend and travel costs), plus an increase in funding for additional equipment and consumable supplies.

A $1,500 gift will provide funding to sustain our current Adopt a Stream volunteer program. A $6,000-$12,000 gift will provide funding to expand our program to add swim guide intern(s) to conduct more frequent water quality testing at more locations.

For more information or to donate, contact Altamaha Riverkeeper, Maggie Van Cantfort, Coastkeeper
maggie@altamahariverkeeper.org / (912) 223-6073.

Building a Community of River Stewards

ST. MARYS RIVERKEEPER • $5,000 - $25,000

Inspired by collaborative conservation models such as Stewards of the Georgia Coast, St. Marys Riverkeeper is building a community of river stewards who protect the St. Marys River through science, service, and education. Through River Watch, Citizen Scientists, Young Professionals, and Operation River Steward, this initiative engages diverse audiences while expanding volunteer capacity to monitor river health, reduce pollution, and build conservation leadership.

River Watch volunteers—primarily boat captains, anglers, paddlers, and frequent river users—serve as the eyes and ears of the watershed by utilizing our Pollution Report Tool, distributing River Etiquette resources, supporting monofilament recycling, and reporting emerging threats.

Citizen Scientists collect water quality and environmental data that strengthen science-based conservation.
Young Professionals engage emerging leaders through volunteer cleanups, river outings, and networking opportunities that foster lifelong stewardship.

Operation River Steward connects veterans, active-duty service members, and their families through river cleanups, habitat restoration, and volunteer service projects that continue a tradition of serving their communities.

Funding between $5,000 and $25,000 will support volunteer recruitment, training, monitoring equipment, cleanup supplies, educational outreach, and stewardship activities that strengthen long-term watershed protection. Donors are invited to experience the program by participating in river cleanups, stewardship events, and guided outings alongside the volunteers they help support.

For more information or to donate, contact Emily Floore, Executive Director & Riverkeeper
emily@stmarysriverkeeper.org /(843) 906-6548.

Creating a Replicable Restoration Model for Blackwater Rivers

SATILLA RIVERKEEPER · $25,000

Restoring an eroding bluff along the Satilla River presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate how science-based conservation can revitalize one of Georgia's most ecologically significant blackwater river systems. We seek private philanthropic investment to establish a living demonstration site that will restore natural riverbank stability, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase the resilience of this extraordinary watershed.

Beyond the immediate environmental benefits, this initiative will create a replicable restoration model supported by documented planning, engineering, ecological monitoring, and community engagement. The lessons learned will be compiled into a practical framework that can be adapted for restoration projects throughout the Satilla watershed and other blackwater rivers across the southeastern United States.

Philanthropic support will provide necessary flexibility to implement innovative restoration techniques, monitor long term ecological outcomes, and share best practices with conservation organizations, local governments, landowners, and educational institutions. By investing in this project, donors will help launch a solution that extends far beyond a single riverbank, creating lasting environmental, educational, and economic value. This is an opportunity to leave a legacy of measurable conservation success while advancing a proven blueprint for protecting and restoring the unique ecosystems of blackwater rivers for generations to come.

For more information or to donate, contact Shannon Gregory, Executive Director and Riverkeeper
riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org / (912) 421-8972.

Water Quality Monitoring Program

OGEECHEE RIVERKEEPER · $1,700 - $18,985

Ogeechee Riverkeeper protects, preserves, and improves the water quality of the Ogeechee River Basin, which includes 5,500 square miles of waterways across 20 Georgia counties. Last year alone, we monitored 60+ sites across our watershed through our water quality monitoring program. We took 17,000 water samples to create a baseline before Hyundai began discharging treated wastewater into the Ogeechee River in February, and continue to monitor it 24/7. We are partnering with Halcyon Bluff residents to investigate possible contaminants of Haneys Creek. And through our Protect the Vernon project, we are working to reverse the river's impairment.

An effective water quality monitoring program requires time, tools, and resources. We use university-grade equipment and methodology to test for contaminants including PFAS and e Coli. Our water-quality monitoring probes—which collect data that determine a river's health—must be cleaned and calibrated monthly. In addition to equipment and supplies, a rigorous monitoring program requires staff and volunteer time to establish sites, collect and test samples, and share the resulting data with stakeholders.

Supporting our water quality monitoring program means you are keeping our rivers safe for both work and play. You are giving us the tools and resources to help decide if a river's health has been compromised, respond quickly, and hold those responsible accountable.

For more information or to donate, contact Damon Mullis, Executive Director and Riverkeeper
damon@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org / (866) 942-6222 ext. 4.

Coastkeeper Field Truck

ALTAMAHA RIVERKEEPER · $20,000 - $60,000

Altamaha Riverkeeper, Inc. is the environmental watchdog organization for the largest watershed in Georgia. Two full-time staff work vigilantly to respond to threats to water quality across the 14,000 square-mile basin. Monitoring the river basin and conducting investigations of pollution incidents requires frequent travel, often on rural unpaved roads. A dedicated work truck will increase the Coastkeeper's ability to be nimble and to get to all parts of the watershed.

A four-door 4x4 truck for towing the Coastkeeper Carolina Skiff, with space for hauling equipment and volunteers, will greatly enhance our responsiveness and presence in a larger part of the watershed.

For more information or to donate, contact Altamaha Riverkeeper Maggie Van Cantfort, Coastkeeper
maggie@altamahariverkeeper.org / (912) 223-6073.

Oke to Ocean: A St. Marys River Journey from Headwaters to Coast

ST. MARYS RIVERKEEPER · $25,000

Experience the St. Marys River like never before through Oke to Ocean, an immersive three-day stewardship journey connecting the places, people, and ecosystems that define this remarkable river.

Designed for supporters and conservation partners, this unique experience follows the St. Marys River from its headwaters in the iconic Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to the coastal waters of Cumberland Island. Along the way, participants discover how freshwater wetlands, blackwater rivers, maritime forests, and estuaries are interconnected while learning how science, advocacy, and community stewardship protect this nationally significant watershed.

Guests will explore the Okefenokee with expert naturalists, travel the St. Marys River by boat to experience its wildlife and conservation challenges firsthand, and conclude with a coastal excursion to Cumberland Island, where the river meets the Atlantic Ocean. Educational presentations, guided discussions, and shared meals will foster meaningful connections among participants and conservation leaders.

A $25,000 investment will support trip planning, educational programming, logistics, transportation, and coordination needed to launch this signature stewardship experience. Participants will contribute toward the cost of their journey, while philanthropic support will ensure the program is professionally developed and sustainable. Donors will have the opportunity to experience the journey firsthand and witness the impact of their investment in protecting the St. Marys River from Oke to Ocean.

For more information or to donate, contact Emily Floore, Executive Director & Riverkeeper
emily@stmarysriverkeeper.org / (843) 906-6548.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Photo by Breanna Ondich

Expanding the Georgia Birding Trail Along the Coast

BIRDS GEORGIA · $500 - $20,000

Birds Georgia is thrilled to launch a state-wide landmark—the Georgia Birding Trail. Designed to connect birders of all experience levels, this trail will highlight some of the state's most spectacular birding locations while creating an avenue for stewardship and conservation. This funding will provide support to add sites along Georgia's coastal plain and barrier island ecoregions. With your support, we can attract more visitors to the coast, strengthen local economies, and protect vital habitats. Invest in a future where birds and people thrive.

$500: Signage for a site of your choosing and recognition as a site-level sponsor on the Georgia Birding Trail website.
$1,000: Signage for three sites of your choosing, and recognition as a site-level sponsor on the Georgia Birding Trail website.
$5,000: Loop-level sponsorship, which includes a logo on the loop page of the website.
$10,000: Ecoregion sponsor, which includes name recognition on trail maps and guides, social media promotion, and logo on ecoregion page of the website.
$20,000: Partner-level recognition on the trail website; place of honor at a trail site unveiling; priority access to special events throughout the year, and logo on the sponsor page of the website.

For more information or to donate, contact Adam Betuel, Executive Director
adam.betuel@birdsgeorgia.org / (678) 973-2437.

Critical Nest Protection to Preserve Loggerhead Sea Turtle Habitat

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES · $13,000 - $39,000

For over 35 years, Georgia Department of Natural Resources has managed the Georgia Sea Turtle Cooperative. Interns and technicians patrol the beach from May through October each year, locating and monitoring nests, protecting the nests from tidal washovers and predation, and inventorying the nests after hatching to evaluate success.

Recognizing the importance of the barrier islands to sea turtle nesting in Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is raising funds to continue this critical nest protection work to preserve loggerhead sea turtle habitat and ensure their survival. This is where you can help. Funding needs include $26,000 for seasonal staff (2 interns at $13,000 each) and $13,000 for a Kawasaki Mule 4010 to replace aging machines on Ossabaw and Sapelo Island.

Your support directly fuels critical work on the ground, including:
· Conducting daily nesting surveys during the breeding season
· Purchasing essential field equipment
· Employing trained seasonal staff who monitor and protect nests
· Improving hatching success
· Collecting long-term data vital for species management and recovery

Beyond immediate protection, your contribution supports cutting-edge research. Through genetic analysis, we can identify individual female turtles, track their reproductive success, and better understand survival patterns over time. This information is essential for developing effective conservation strategies.

For more information or to donate, contact Mark Dodd, Senior Wildlife Biologist - Wildlife Conservation Section
mark.dodd@dnr.ga.gov / (912) 280-6892.

Seasonal Support for Two Biological Interns

CARETTA RESEARCH PROJECT • $3,000 EACH

Caretta Research Project (CRP) provides exceptional opportunities for students to conduct independent research as part of senior projects, master's theses, and doctoral dissertations. Through our internship program, participants gain hands-on experience in sea turtle biology, conservation, and field research techniques while developing a deeper understanding of the scientific and practical challenges involved in protecting endangered species.

Each intern participates in up to six weeks of fieldwork during the nesting season. Responsibilities include overnight sea turtle patrols, daytime beach monitoring and data collection, and assisting with informal environmental education programs in the afternoons. This immersive experience equips students with valuable research skills while fostering a strong commitment to wildlife conservation and community engagement.

To date, CRP has trained 32 interns, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in biology, environmental science, conservation, and education. Over the past four years, three of our interns have presented their research at regional and international sea turtle and biological science symposia. These students are currently preparing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals, reflecting the high caliber of research conducted through the program.

For more information or to donate, contact Kris Carroll, Executive Director
WassawCRP@gmail.com / (912) 704-9323.

Kawasaki Mule for Sea Turtle Monitoring and Environmental Education on Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge

CARETTA RESEARCH PROJECT • $10,000

Caretta Research Project (CRP) is a nationally recognized research, conservation, and education program that has been studying and protecting nesting loggerhead sea turtles on Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) since 1973. Two features make CRP uniquely valuable. First, CRP maintains the longest continuously-operating loggerhead sea turtle saturation-tagging program in the U.S., providing critical information for coastal resource managers, contributing to science-based conservation strategies and management decisions throughout the region.

Second, CRP is deeply committed to education and community engagement. Volunteers work alongside professional biologists to monitor nesting activity, collect scientific data, and protect eggs and hatchlings. This immersive experience empowers participants to become informed advocates for sea turtle conservation in their own communities, extending the program's impact far beyond the Georgia coast.

Kawasaki Mules are the backbone of our field operations, enabling biologists to safely and efficiently patrol miles of remote nesting beaches transporting personnel and equipment. Without them, CRP could not sustain its uninterrupted long-term tagging database, implement consistent conservation and monitoring efforts, or provide hands-on educational programming. Their proven durability and reliability allow them to withstand nightly 12-hour patrols from mid-May through early September in the demanding barrier island environment.

CRP maintains four Mules and follows a proactive replacement schedule, retiring the oldest vehicle and purchasing one new each year.

For more information or to donate, contact Kris Carroll, Executive Director
WassawCRP@gmail.com / (912) 704-9323.

Critical and Endangered Marine Life Tracking

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY • $11,000 - $25,000

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, a 22-square-mile underwater park off the Georgia coast, provides critical habitat for resident and migratory marine species. To protect this vital ecosystem, researchers rely on acoustic telemetry - an underwater monitoring network that uses acoustic receivers to detect tagged animals 24/7. Tagged marine life, including endangered sea turtles and sturgeon, apex sharks, and reef fish, emit high-frequency "pings" containing unique identification codes. As these animals move throughout the reef, seafloor receivers function like an underwater "EZ Pass," automatically recording migration dates, times, and species data.

Our team manages fifteen acoustic receivers used by state, federal, and academic partners across Georgia to monitor animal movements and habitat use within the sanctuary. Expanding this network beyond the sanctuary into deeper waters will provide more comprehensive monitoring of this unique ecosystem. Donors will have the exclusive opportunity to join our research team offshore to witness acoustic system deployments firsthand and observe real-time animal detections. Your support strengthens Georgia's marine research community and helps protect the dynamic ecosystems along the Georgia coast.

- Deep-Water Sponsor ($11,000): Purchase equipment needed to detect and communicate with deep-water acoustic receivers.
- Acoustic Array Expansion Partner ($25,000): Includes all Deep-Water Sponsor benefits, plus expansion of the acoustic array beyond the Sanctuary to the continental shelf edge.

For more information or to donate, contact Sarah Porter, Regional Director
sporter@marinesanctuary.org / (912) 598-2345.

Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative: Shorebird Ambassador and Volunteer Coordinator

MANOMET CONSERVATION SCIENCES • $25,000

For migrating shorebirds like the Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone, safe places to rest and refuel can mean the difference between a successful nesting season in the Arctic and failure. Local nesting species, including the American Oystercatcher and Wilson's Plover, also need protected habitat to find food and raise their chicks. Recreational disturbance is one of the greatest threats these birds face year-round. Education through signage and posting alone is often insufficient. Research shows that one of the most effective ways to protect habitat is through a well-trained volunteer program of Shorebird Ambassadors.

Shorebird Ambassadors create positive experiences for beachgoers while inspiring them to recognize the value of their favorite beaches as critical shorebird habitat. These conversations lead to lasting behavior changes that protect wildlife and the places people love. As we expand beyond St. Simons Island and Tybee Island, your investment will help us add a Shorebird Ambassador and Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, train, organize, and evaluate volunteers while growing the Georgia Shorebird Alliance through expanded communications. Your gift of $25,000 will provide matching funds to build a reliable, well-trained network of Shorebird Ambassadors that provides consistent coverage, strengthens local relationships, measures conservation impact, and dramatically expands our ability to protect critical shorebird habitat across the Georgia coast.

For more information or to donate, contact
Abby Sterling, Senior Director of Shorebird Conservation, North America **asterling@manomet.org**;
Allie Hayser, Shorebird Biologist, Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative **ahayser@manomet.org**

Addressing Threats to Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs

MANOMET CONSERVATION SCIENCES · $25,000

The Georgia Bight supports more than 400,000 shorebirds every year, some of them traveling from South America on their way to the Arctic. For these long-distance migrants, ensuring that their stop-over habitat is healthy and protected is critical for addressing population declines. One of the most concerning threats to food resources is the harvest of horseshoe crabs. While there is currently no harvest of crabs in Georgia, South Carolina has an active harvest for the biomedical industry. New regulations have reduced harvest at certain beaches in South Carolina, but these regulations will be reviewed every five years which means documenting spawning activity in a coordinated fashion is an urgent need.

We are working with our partners at Georgia and South Carolina DNR and One Hundred Miles to conduct critical surveys to document horseshoe crab spawning and availability of eggs to fuel migration. This field work is also allowing us to explore innovative research opportunities using eDNA to fill information gaps that will help us collaboratively protect this incredible, ancient species. For a millennium, spawning horseshoe crabs have fueled shorebird migration along the Atlantic Coast. With your support of $25,000 (for staff time and materials) we can ensure that this important relationship remains intact.

For more information or to donate, contact
Abby Sterling, Senior Director of Shorebird Conservation, North America, **asterling@manomet.org**;
Allie Hayser, Shorebird Biologist, Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative **ahayser@manomet.org**

Protecting Georgia's Last Bat Refuge: Researching Hidden Pollutants

UGA, ODUM SCHOOL OF ECOLOGY · $5,000 - $25,000

As dusk settles across Georgia's coast, our most important conservation allies take flight. By day, bats roost in maritime forests; by night, they forage across coastal wetlands, consuming thousands of insects and serving as key indicators of environmental health. Along our coast, species like the northern yellow bat have found vital coastal strongholds.

This refuge is especially important because our coast remains free of white-nose syndrome, which has devastated populations elsewhere. With species like the tricolored bat declining by 99% in north Georgia, our coastal populations are increasingly vital to our state's biodiversity.

However, an invisible threat looms. Decades of industrial development have left a legacy of pollutants, including mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). While known to threaten bats globally, specific risks to Georgia's coastal populations remain unknown.

To address this, UGA PhD student Marisa Mizzoni is leading a three-year study at the Wormsloe State Historic Site and Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, mentored by Dr. Tamika Lunn. Her dissertation research will track how contaminants impact bat immune function, energy, and overall health, guiding long-term conservation efforts by the Georgia DNR and other partners. Donors supporting this research will be invited to join our team in the field to observe mist-netting and bat research during the 2026-2027 season.

Toxicology/PCB Screenings: **$5,000**
Field Operations: **$5,000**
Seasonal Field Technician (Salary): **$15,000**
Total: **$25,000**

For more information or to donate, contact Andrew Salinas, Foundation Relations Officer
salinas@uga.edu / (706) 542-8107.

Breeding, Molting, and Wintering Ecology of Eastern Painted Buntings

UGA, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES · $25,000

Painted Buntings are an iconic but declining songbird native to the Southeastern coast. Primarily granivorous, buntings reach their highest abundance in native grasslands or other early successional habitats that offer plentiful resources needed to breed, molt, and successfully migrate. These habitats are undergoing rapid changes, including loss of native vegetation, increased access to supplemental food at bird feeders, and altered climate regimes. Understanding how buntings are responding to these changes and managing habitats to reverse population declines requires long-term monitoring of bunting populations across their entire migratory annual cycle.

The Rushing Lab at UGA has been studying breeding Painted Buntings along the Georgia coast since 2017, documenting their migration patterns, dietary requirements, and molting behavior. Your support will allow us to continue this research and expand the project to include monitoring changes in molting and wintering ecology.

Funds are needed for tracking tags to document and monitor migratory behaviors: **$7,500**
Establishing monitoring programs during molt and winter; equipment and staff time: **$2,500**
Field technician salary: **$3,000**
Student travel costs: **$1,500**
Additional support will allow the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle for use at our primary study site: **$10,500**

Donor(s) will have an opportunity to join our team to participate in bird banding.

For more information or to donate, contact Dr. Clark Rushing, Associate Professor
Clark.rushing@uga.edu

Male Loggerhead Sea Turtle Genetic Tagging

UGA, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES
$1,600 - $15,000 PER ISLAND

All sea turtles have temperature dependent sex determination. Rising incubation temperatures and shortening incubation periods have raised concerns about male scarcity globally across all species. Male sea turtles are relatively understudied because, unlike females, they never return to shore after they leave the beach as hatchlings.

Since 2008, we have assigned over 40,000 Georgia loggerhead nests to 5,000 mothers. We are now interested in collecting complementary information for adult male loggerheads mating along the Georgia coast to estimate how many there are and identify any important courtship areas.

We have developed a new method to directly identify males via genetic tagging of their sperm trapped in the yolk membrane of an egg. We have validated that each female's eggs laid throughout the season provide consistent information on their sire(s). Therefore, sampling nests over a two-week period (a female nesting interval) on each Georgia barrier island will provide individual identity data for the nesting females and the males they have mated with each year.

We are requesting funds to conduct male genetic tagging across all Georgia barrier islands. Given average nest counts, we anticipate that costs will range from $1,600 on Little Cumberland Island to $15,000 on Cumberland Island. We would be happy to provide a behind the scenes lab tour for anyone interested in seeing how "sea turtle CSI" works.

For more information or to donate, contact Dr. Brian, Shamblin, Assistant Professor
brianshm@uga.edu / (423) 595-0289.

Resilience of Coastal Spotted Turtle Populations to Environmental Change

THE ORIANNE SOCIETY • $25,000

Chelonians (turtles and tortoises) are one of the most imperiled groups of vertebrates on the planet, with over 50% of species threatened with extinction. The southeastern U.S. is a hotspot for turtle diversity but also faces significant conservation challenges. The Spotted Turtle is one of the most charismatic species occurring in our region, inhabiting a variety of shallow wetlands. The Orianne Society has developed a broad Spotted Turtle conservation program over the last decade, focusing on identifying conservation priorities for Georgia populations. Part of this work has identified coastal ecosystems supporting numerous Spotted Turtle populations. However, it remains unclear how these populations will be impacted by changing environmental conditions along Georgia's coast.

The Orianne Society seeks $25,000 to pursue additional conservation work with Spotted Turtles in coastal areas. This includes 1) expanding survey efforts on protected coastal lands, 2) evaluating use of brackish water systems, 3) and assessing long-term likelihood of urbanization and sea level rise to threaten core habitat areas as well as nesting habitat. We will leverage lessons learned from years of successful Spotted Turtle work to maximize the benefits of this project.

For more information or to donate, contact Chris Jenkins, CEO
cljenkins@oriannesociety.org / (208) 241-9124.



Photo provided by Orianne Society

CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

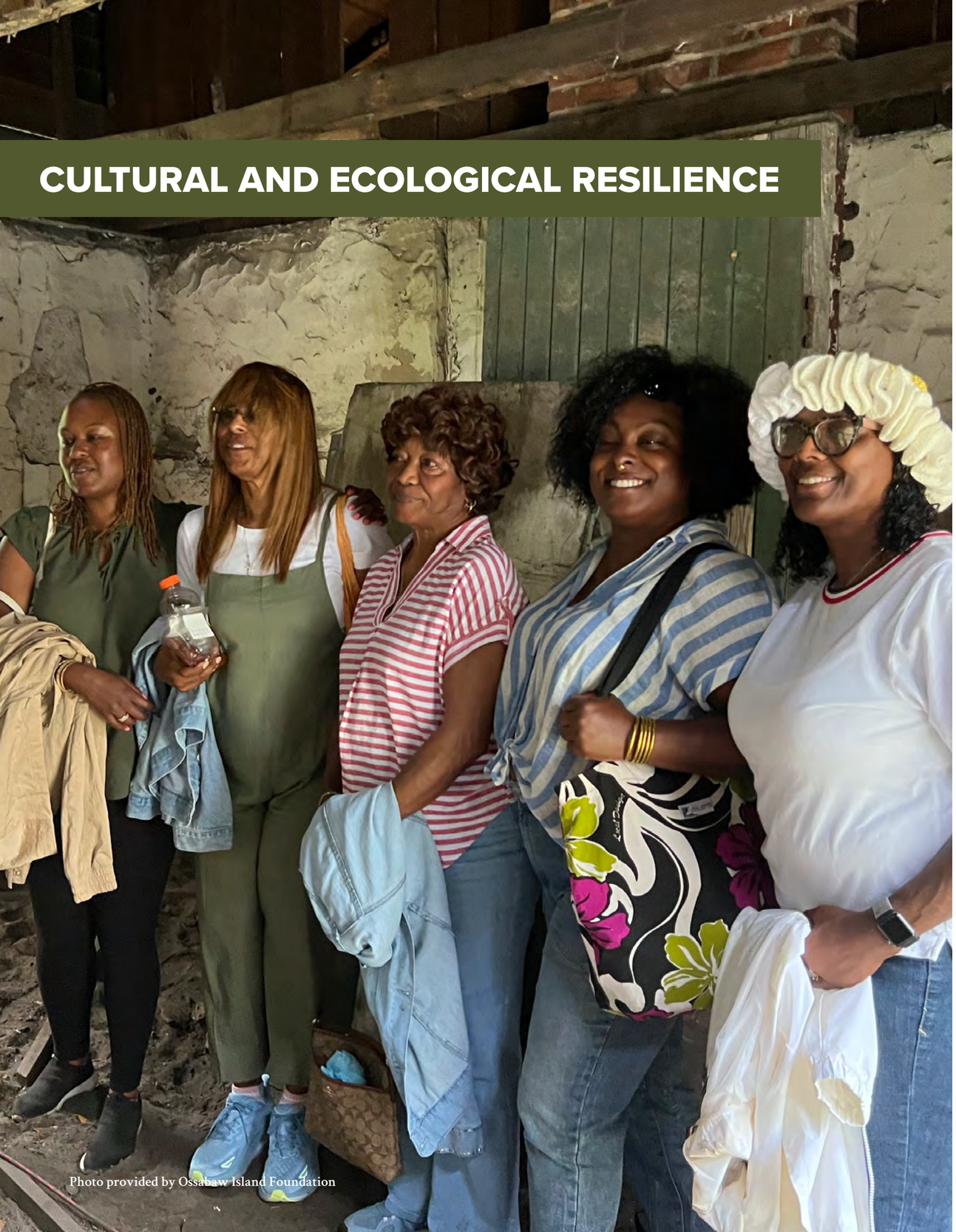


Photo provided by Ossabaw Island Foundation

The Gullah Geechee Guide to Land Conservation and Management

THE GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR · $25,000

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor preserves, interprets, and shares the history, cultural traditions, heritage sites, and natural resources of the Gullah Geechee people, descendants of Africans enslaved along the southeastern U.S. coast. Their ancestry in the rice-growing regions of West Africa, combined with generations of relative isolation on coastal islands, fostered a distinctive culture that continues today.

Many Gullah Geechee people maintain traditional livelihoods through farming, crabbing, shrimping, fishing, and oyster harvesting, while preserving generations of ecological knowledge rooted in stewardship of the land and water. For centuries, their communities have practiced sustainable resource management, yet much of this knowledge remains undocumented and underutilized in modern conservation efforts.

To address this gap, the Corridor will work with Gullah Geechee elders in Georgia to document traditional conservation practices, including restoring sweetgrass populations for basket weaving, preserving ecologically significant heirs' property, promoting crop diversity and rotation, and sustainably harvesting oysters. This guide will be the first comprehensive resource to capture and preserve these practices.

Once completed, the guide will be shared throughout the Gullah Geechee community and with conservation practitioners across Georgia. By preserving and elevating traditional ecological knowledge alongside conservation science, this project will strengthen efforts to protect Georgia's coastal ecosystems while demonstrating how generations of indigenous and African-descended stewardship can inform biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and resilience for the benefit of future generations.

For more information or to donate, contact Brigitte Griswold, Research and Grants Manager
bgriswold@gullahgeecheecorridor.org / (843) 818-4587.

Preservation of the Williams Tabby Cabin (Phase I)

OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION · $35,000 - $40,000

The Williams Tabby Cabin on Ossabaw's North End is one of three extant 19th-century tabby duplexes. Built in the Antebellum era by enslaved African Americans, the structures were used for enslaved housing, Freedmen housing, and employee housing for Gullah Geechee descendants until the 1980s. Over 175 years, these structures were repeatedly "modernized," including adding porches, plumbing, electricity, and kitchens. In 2003, The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) received a federal Save America's Treasures grant to restore the three North End tabbies and conduct archaeological excavations.

During the project, it was recommended that TOIF consider interpreting one of the tabbies to reflect its use in the 1940s-1960s instead of the 1840s. During the mid-twentieth century, Ossabaw's Gullah Geechee community was an extension of the mainland Pin Point community (founded in the 1890s by Ossabaw Island Freedmen and their descendants). The tabbies were occupied year-round by Gullah Geechee people employed by the white island owners who visited the island seasonally.

Based on this recommendation and dwindling restoration funds, Tabbies 1 and 2 were restored to their original 1820s-1840s design to share the history of enslaved and Freedmen African American people on Ossabaw, while the third tabby was shelved. Since 2003, TOIF has made connections with descendants of two families (both named Williams) who lived in the house in the 40s and 50s. Family members, now in their 80s, lived in the third tabby as children, and are advising TOIF through oral history and family photos. We renamed the building for these families, replacing "Tabby Number 3."

Phase 1 includes replacing the 50+ year-old deteriorated metal roof with a replica of the early 20th-century "tin roof." This reroofing will include reframing the roof structure. TOIF will reestablish the 20th-century front porch. Phase 2 will consist of replicating some of the additions and interior modifications that were not original but were vital to the building's 20th-century uses. TOIF will engage graduate students in historic research to conduct interviews with elderly former residents and descendants. Their insights will be incorporated into Phases II and III.

Construction costs for Phase I, including materials, labor, and boat transportation of materials and workers to and from the island, are estimated at $40,000.

For more information or to donate, contact Elizabeth DuBose, Executive Director
elizabeth@ossabawisland.org / (912) 344-3900.


STEWARDS
OF THE GEORGIA COAST