



OSSABAW ISLAND

F O U N D A T I O N
& EDUCATION ALLIANCE

2012 Summary & Accomplishments Revealing the Voices & Mystery of Ossabaw Island

EDUCATION

Professor and Teacher Training Workshops :: For the fourth year, the Georgia Historical Society brought its Landmarks in American History program, “African American History & Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry,” to Ossabaw Island. For the tenth year, both the University of Georgia Marine Education Center and Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center brought teacher training workshops to the island during the summer.



Education Alliance :: In 2012, Armstrong Atlantic and Georgia Southern universities joined together with the Education Alliance to tap the many resources of Ossabaw Island for teaching and research purposes. A leadership team comprised of five faculty members from each institution spent the first year of this new endeavor in planning, site visits, and developed a strategic plan for the next few years. New and expanded projects in the plan include: ecology-based undergraduate and graduate research, biology field work, teacher training utilizing the Barrier Island Observatory, on-site public history, and use of facilities as a retreat and instructional facility for writers and artists affiliated with these universities.



Program Days :: The Foundation and Education Alliance provided coordination and facilitation for 150 program days on Ossabaw Island. Foundation-sponsored trips included a stargazing overnight and two turtle-watching programs. Among the program days sponsored by TOIF partners was a volunteer weekend organized by the Georgia Conservancy.

Collaboration and support throughout the year is provided by the Department of Natural Resources, The Board of Regents of the State of Georgia, and Georgia Southern’s Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah.

SCIENCE

Barrier Island Observatory (BIO) :: Skidaway Institute of Oceanography continues to provide leadership in designing a network of sensors and web cameras on the island, that offers real-time environmental data to classrooms and the general public. The Observatory is available at ossabaw.skio.usg.edu.

Archaeological Field School :: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, and Georgia Southern University collaborated in a partnership that brought sixteen students and their professor, Dr. Nick Honerkamp, to Ossabaw Island for four weeks. The field school, established in 2011, devoted its 2012 work to furthering an archeological survey of the entire North End Plantation site. It will continue on Ossabaw in 2013.



Wet Lab :: The Armstrong/Georgia Southern/Ossabaw task force identified laboratory/work facilities as a critical need on Ossabaw for increased use by university-level education initiatives. In 2012, TOIF and the Education Alliance committed to constructing a “wet laboratory” on the island by mid-2013. An existing 500 square foot building on the North End (a former meat processing shed) will be renovated to create a workspace for preparing and evaluating biological, geological, and archaeological samples. Planning work in 2012 included development of construction drawings, raising approximately half of the \$125,000 needed for the adaptive reuse project, and some preliminary site work and demolition.

Governance

Friends of Ossabaw :: 69% of our friends are from the Georgia coast and the Carolina Lowcountry. 14% are from the non-coastal regions of Georgia, especially the Atlanta area and south/central Georgia. 17% of Ossabaw’s supporters come from outside of Georgia and represent a national constituency.

Stewardship and Fundraising :: FY2011/2012. Gross revenue at the end of the TOIF fiscal year (July 31, 2012) was \$215,000. TOIF expenses for the year totaled \$195,000, marking the tenth year that gross revenues exceeded expenditures. For the eighth consecutive year we conducted an audit of financial statements. In the past 14 years, TOIF has raised over \$4.3 million for infrastructure improvements and exceptional educational, scientific and cultural programming.



Partnerships :: Use Agreement. In October 2012, TOIF renewed its use agreement with the State of Georgia for the management of Ossabaw Island. This document, renewed every five years, reaffirms that TOIF and the State of Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources will continue its management partnership of state-owned Ossabaw Island until 2017.

Mission :: The Ossabaw Island Foundation, through a public-private partnership with the State of Georgia, inspires, promotes, and manages exceptional educational, cultural, and scientific programs that are designed to maximize the experience of Ossabaw Island, while minimizing the impact on its resources.



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or our e-mailing list found on our website, ossabawisland.org.