

ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING THE NATURAL AND SCENIC CHARACTER OF OUR ISLAND



WINTER 2017

OYSTER ROAST 2018



SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

SAVE THE DATE

The 18th annual St. Simons Land Trust Oyster Roast is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Gascoigne Bluff.

Thanks to the help of local chefs, sponsors and volunteers, the oyster roast will be a night of food and fun to celebrate the Land Trust's conservation efforts.

Tickets are \$85 each. Land Trust members can purchase tickets at a discounted rate of \$60 through Jan. 5.

To buy tickets or update your membership, visit sslt.org or call (912) 638-9109.



1% FOR ST. SIMONS LAUNCHES

In October, the Land Trust launched a new program – **1% for St. Simons** – to further support the mission of protecting the natural and scenic character of the island. Made possible through the participation of local businesses, 1% for St. Simons will help generate additional funds to preserve the green space, parks, wildlife, waterways and trails present on St. Simons. All participating businesses will collect a voluntary 1% donation on the gross sales from each customer. These donations will directly benefit Land Trust efforts.

The success of this program will come from community participation, and we are grateful for the local businesses who have supported 1% for St. Simons from the start.

"The response during our first week has been overwhelmingly positive, and the program has been easy to implement due to our informed team members and the strong reputation that the Land Trust's name carries," said Zack Gowen, owner, Georgia Sea Grill.

The founding participating businesses include:



MUSGROVE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

There's a hidden treasure in the heart of St. Simons Island. It's a pristine tract of land abundant with maritime live oak hammocks, rare or threatened plant and animal species and fragile wetlands. This one-of-a-kind land is called Musgrove, and a major part of the property is the latest acquisition of the St. Simons Land Trust, which plans to preserve it in its natural state forever.

The Land Trust parcel will total 258 acres of the 450-acre Musgrove property. Tobacco magnate R.J. Reynolds' grandson, the late Smith Bagley, transferred the property to the Brenn Foundation, which in turn is selling it to the Land Trust. The family compound, shown frequently on the Christ Church Tour of Homes, is not part of the acquisition.

Soon, you'll be able to explore Musgrove for yourself, hiking or biking its trails, fishing from its pier, or launching your kayak or small boat into Musgrove Creek. The pristine natural habitat of the land will be preserved.

Below, we answer your questions about this latest addition to the island's system of protected parks, natural areas, and trails. If you have additional questions, please know we're here to answer them. Contact our office (912-638-9109) and we'll be happy to speak with you directly.

WHY PROTECT MUSGROVE?

As one of the few large, undeveloped parcels on the island, Musgrove could have been subdivided into hundreds of home sites, adding significant strain to our island's sewer and road systems. Instead, its rich environmental attributes and public-use potential will benefit current and future generations. Protecting Musgrove will preserve the beautiful and resource-rich habitat for perpetuity. It will provide a forever-protected green space where residents and visitors can experience the benefits of conservation and recreation in the great outdoors. Finally, its hiking and biking trails will add another link to the Island-wide Trail System.

HOW MUCH WILL MUSGROVE COST?

The purchase price for all 258 acres is \$10.65 million, a fair price given the development pressures facing the island. The Land Trust is purchasing the property in three phases. The first phase, totaling 58 acres, and the second phase, totaling 90 acres, have been purchased. The Land Trust currently needs to raise about \$1 million to complete the purchase of the third 110-acre phase.



Proposed Boat Ramp & Dock

WHAT IS GEORGIA DNR'S INVOLVEMENT?

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the holder of the property's conservation easement. This is a binding agreement that the land will never be developed and that it will be managed in an environmentally sensitive way.

As the Land Trust's partner, the DNR has already contributed immensely to the project by obtaining federal grants totaling \$3 million (\$1 million per phase). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants came through the highly competitive National Coastal Wetlands Grants Program because of Musgrove's conservation values, as well as the opportunities for low-impact public recreation on the property.

WHEN CAN THE PUBLIC BEGIN ENJOYING THE PARK?

The Musgrove property will open after the Land Trust raises the remaining funds to acquire Phase 3, sometime in 2018. There will be a "soft" opening to determine if adjustments need to be made to the operations and management plan. The long-term goal is that the property will be open seven days a week.



WHAT KINDS OF RECREATION WILL THE PARK OFFER?

You will find hiking trails, biking trails, a fishing dock, an exploratory area for children, and a ramp to launch kayaks, paddleboards, and small-craft fishing boats of 20 feet or less.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: MIRIAM LANCASTER

The Land Trust is proud to name Miriam Lancaster as the 2017 volunteer of the year. Since 2014, Miriam has given countless hours of volunteer work to the Land Trust, and her unwavering commitment doesn't go unnoticed. Among many duties, Miriam serves as the volunteer coordinator who manages the organization, scheduling and training of the Land Trust's 100 plus volunteers. This is no small task, and the Land Trust is grateful for Miriam's dedication to the organization.



"Miriam is the heart of our volunteer corps," said Sue Tuttle, director of finance and stewardship, St. Simons Land Trust. "She gives us countless hours of her time, and an organization like the Land Trust cannot function without devoted volunteers like Miriam."

HOW WILL THE PUBLIC ACCESS MUSGROVE?

The main entrance is off Lawrence Road to the east on a private asphalt road known as Middle Road. Not far into the property, cars can park and hikers and bikers can depart on the trail system. The entrance to the waterfront area of the property will be via Village Drive, a public paved road that runs east off Lawrence Road. There will be strict limitations on parking in the waterfront area to minimize traffic on Village Drive and to protect the ecological values of the site.

HOW DOES THE MUSGROVE PURCHASE FURTHER THE LAND TRUST'S MISSION?

St. Simons Island is a uniquely beautiful and special place from an ecological standpoint, and the Land Trust's mission is to "preserve its natural and scenic character and to enhance the quality of life for our island community for present and future generations." Having Musgrove in our "portfolio" beautifully supports that mission.

Development already encompasses much of the island, and there's more and more development pressure. The Land Trust has no regulatory authority to preserve the island, but we do have the ability to identify valuable properties that can be protected with mostly private funding along with occasional government funding. Since 2000, we have raised more than \$40 million to protect island property. Once the Musgrove acquisition is complete, our protected property will total approximately 1,036 acres in 20 locations, all of them available to the public. **For a list of our properties, please visit www.sslt.org.**



GET INVOLVED

The Land Trust is successful in large part because of the dedicated volunteers willing to help preserve the natural and scenic character of St. Simons Island. From serving as a Cannon's Point greeter to playing a role in SSLT events like the Oyster Roast, there are many opportunities to get involved. To learn more, join countless community members at our upcoming volunteer orientations.

***Save
the
Date***

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

When: Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Where: Land Trust Office; 2nd floor meeting room,
1624 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, GA

2017 Board of Directors

Frances McCrary, <i>Chairman</i>	Jim Manning
Greer Brown	Scott McQuade
Jay Buchert	Russ Mentzer
Sandi Channell	Frank Mitchell
Scott Coleman	Deborah Murphy
Frank DeLoach	Don Myers
Jack Kilgore	Deborah Nash
Jason Lee	Patrick Parker
Art Lucas	Tom Regan
Deb Luginbuhl	Susan Shipman, <i>ex officio</i>

2017 Advisory Council

Frances McCrary, <i>Chairman</i>	Jeanne Kaufmann Manning
Patricia Barmeyer	Leslie D. Mattingly
A.D. Pete Correll	James T. Mills Jr.
Martha Ellis	Colleen Nunn
Brad Foster	Senator Sam Nunn
Dave and Mike Fox	Wendy Paulson
Ken Henson Jr.	Roy Richards
Beth Holder	Manning Rountree
Bill Jones III	Susan Corn
Buff Leavy	Wainright
Davis Love III	Keith Weikel
Robin Love	



MOVIE NIGHT SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our July "Movie Under the Oaks" held at Old Stables Corner. We had a tremendous turnout of nearly 200 people, all of whom enjoyed a showing of "Swiss Family Robinson."

The campaign to protect the Old Stables Corner was announced on July 1, 2010 and completed on September 30, 2010. In less than 100 days, the community rallied to raise \$2.67 million to purchase, enhance and maintain this property for the public to enjoy forever. Few things are more characteristic of St. Simons than this corner of magnificent oak trees, and it was important to us to preserve this beautiful space for the enjoyment of our community.

The Land Trust is grateful for the support from our local community, and this is just one of the ways we like to say, "thanks!" Have a movie recommendation for our next event? We'd love to hear from you.

'Tis the Season for Giving!

Are you in search of a meaningful gift for a friend or family member this holiday season? If so, consider purchasing a tribute gift or annual St. Simons Land Trust membership for your loved ones. This gift will go directly to the protection and management of St. Simons Island's natural resources. For more information on gifting opportunities, visit the "Tribute Gifts" section on sslt.org.

BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP GIVING PROGRAM

The Land Trust invites you to join a growing number of members choosing to make their annual membership contribution monthly, over 12 months, via credit card.

Monthly giving provides a reliable stream of support for the Land Trust's mission. Here's how it works.

- ✓ You determine the amount of your monthly donation.
- ✓ Your credit card is charged each month and you receive an email confirmation.
- ✓ In January, you receive an annual giving statement.
- ✓ Your membership renews automatically each year.

To enroll in the Monthly Membership Program, visit: sslt.org

Your annual membership to the Land Trust allows us to fulfill our mission. Join us today! Please mail check and form to: St. Simons Land Trust, P.O. Box 24615 St. Simons Island, GA 31522 or join online at www.sslt.org.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000+ LIVE OAK BENEFACTOR <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-\$9,999 LIVE OAK PATRON <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500-\$4,999 LIVE OAK SPONSOR <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000-\$2,499 LIVE OAK SUPPORTER <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 MAGNOLIA <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 RED CEDAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$249 PALMETTO <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99 SEA OATS	NAME _____ Please print your name as you wish it to appear in Land Trust publications. <input type="checkbox"/> Please list me as "anonymous" ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CHARGE MY <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX \$ _____ NAME ON CARD _____ CARD NUMBER _____ EXP _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I WANT TO BECOME A MONTHLY MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> I AM CONSIDERING <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE MADE	} A PROVISION IN MY ESTATE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF ST. SIMONS ISLAND
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Join or renew today and help preserve the natural and scenic character of our island.

