

# FOOTPRINTS & PADDLED RIPS

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Articles of interest should be sent to the newsletter editor by the last Monday of each month.

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## The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association September Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19 on Jekyll Island at Villa Ospe in the Historical District. The host will be Sheila Godley of the Jekyll Island Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The featured speaker for the day will be Elaine Young, well-known naturalist from St. Simon's Island. Ms. Young will present an educational (and often humorous) program on the birds of the Georgia coast. She

uses specially-prepared specimens of local birds to illustrate her talk, which gives her audience a chance to examine colorful species such as Painted Buntings and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds up-close. Lydia Thompson, talented local artist and author of the guide, *Bird Finding in the Golden Isles*, will also be present. She will have on display her etchings and paintings of native birds, and autograph copies of her book. In the afternoon, those at-

tending the meeting will be given the chance to explore the historic sites and natural habitats of this Golden Isle.

Complementary 1-1/2 hour tours of the Historic District will be offered courtesy of the Jekyll Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, and alternately, Ms. Thompson will conduct a birding tour of the area. Please plan to attend this first Fall meeting of the Association, and bring a guest or two.

### Directions

Follow the signs to Jekyll Island. Just after the entrance booth (\$3.00 per vehicle), turn left and follow the signs to the Historical District. At the first fork in the road, bear right, and continue until you pass the fire station, which will be on your right. Take the second road to the left to the white house with the red tile roof. Call 912-635-4080 if you need assistance.

### Jekyll Island

Jekyll Island is one of Georgia's most famous barrier islands. Long a favorite with beach-lovers, it also has both driving and biking routes thru its magnificent maritime forests of live oak with views of the famous Marshes of Glynn. During the Fall, nature-lovers can expect to enjoy the migration flights of butterflies and birds alike, while history buffs traditionally come to tour the fabulous homes of the Millionaires Village in the Historic District or to examine the tabby ruins on the northern end of the island.

### Member News

Krueger Nicholson, GNBT's first President and veteran kayak guide, reports that he is enjoying life in the Florida Keys, having relocated to Key Largo in recent months. Please see his new listing in the revised directory. Good luck in your new venture, Krueger.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA

9 a.m. Morning Refreshments/Social Period/  
Committee & Board of Directors Meetings  
Bird Art Display (Lydia Thompson)

10 a.m. Introductions/Business Session  
11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

12 p.m. Lunch (catered on-site)

1 p.m. Elaine Young, "Birds of Coastal GA"  
(specimens & talk)

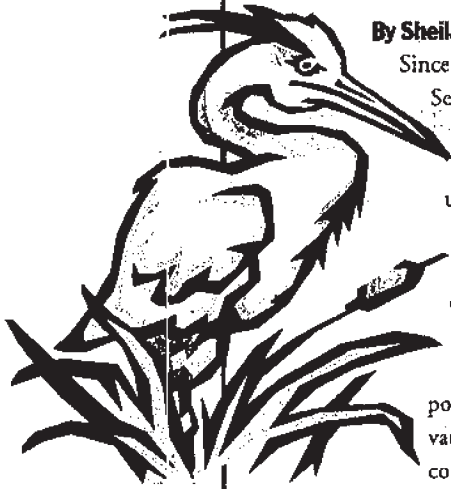
2 p.m. Exploring Jekyll Island (Historical District,  
Island Habitats)  
Lydia Thompson & various guides

### Annual Meeting

The officers of the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association invite all current and past members to attend the upcoming Annual Meeting. This will be held in conjunction with the September 19 gathering on Jekyll Island. The Board of Directors will meet that morning during the refreshment period. The formal election of officers and directors will be held, and highlights of the Association's history will be presented. Copies of the GNBT's By-laws, Policies & Procedures, revised Directory, and other materials will be available.

# President's Message

By Sheila Willis



Since the first organizational meeting in September of 1998, the members and officers of the GNBTA have been working together to create a unique coalition that seeks to educate the public about how environmental protection efforts can be, and need to be, integrated with nature-based tourism.

The various officer and chair positions have been occupied by a variety of talented persons over the course of the last two years, and within the member entities them-

selves, individuals have come and gone and business names have changed. There have been committees of every shape and description. Sometimes the cart went before the horse, or they didn't seem to move at all. But each step taken has led us forward, inch by inch. The coalition now

includes 54 members who are from 27 different locations (22 in South Georgia, 3 in North Georgia, and 2 in Florida).

The Association represents at least 22 different types of organizations, businesses, agencies, and individuals. As we come to the end of our first cycle of service, we give thanks to the organizers, laborers, and "lifters-of-spirit" without whom this milestone would never have been reached.

On a personal note, I would like to single-out two remarkable ladies who have gone above and beyond what could have been expected of them in the performance of their duties this year. Their personal (and professional) sacrifices have been many.

I am referring to Lynn Carter and Beth Nunley. Space would not permit me to list all that they have done on the Association's behalf. To say that they are creative, reliable, and enthusiastic is putting it mildly. It has been a distinct pleasure to work with them.

## DIRECTORY REVISION

*The revised and updated Membership Directory has been completed; it has more detailed information about each member, thanks to the many brochures and handouts we received. Please review each listing carefully, as during the past few months there have been many changes. A completely new directory will be issued in January and July of each year. New members' listings and changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter in a format that will allow you to add that information page to the most recent directory. Additionally, the Association's future website will provide instantaneous posting of data. Thanks go to all who provided information, helped organize the material, prepared it for distribution, and offered staff aid. Kudos to the Baxley-Applying Co. Chamber of Commerce, Chip & Joy Campbell, Jeremy Hill, Dr. Phyllis Isley, Vicki Leverette, Javier Pascua, Staci Tucker, and the Waycross Chamber of Commerce. Special laurels should be given to Lynn Carter, who also reorganized the membership information forms and created a membership database.*

## Reminders

### Membership Drive

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association, contact Lynn Carter with the information. Lynn's number is 912-367-7731, and her E-mail is [lcarter@applingslacoc.com](mailto:lcarter@applingslacoc.com).

### Hosts are Needed for 2001

Next year will be here before we know it, and planning is underway for future meetings.

If you would like to host an Association gathering in your town, please let us know by calling Sheila Willis at (912) 235-0419.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month except for April, August and December.

It's a great way to show off the natural beauty and cultural charm of your area, and introduce your local nature-based tourism businesses to the membership and other interested individuals.

### Send Us Your Events

If you have, or know of, any nature-based events, festivals, classes, conferences, etc. that would be of interest to association members, contact the editor by the newsletter deadline the last Monday of each month. Please include your phone number and e-mail address.

### Association Scrapbook

We are collecting media coverage, photos and other news and information about association events for a scrapbook that will be available for viewing at the general meeting. Send items of interest to the Post Office Box or bring them to a meeting.

### Send Us Your Information

Member information is need for the Association web site and reference file. Please send two sets of all your printed information, such as brochures, hand-outs, etc. Send all information to the P.O. Box. Please include your phone number and e-mail address.

## Leaders Needed

September is the time when the scheduled change of officers and other leadership positions takes place.

For example, Beth Nunley (Tootsy Tours) is completing her two-year stint as Association Treasurer.

During the coming days the membership will be contacted for volunteers to serve in various positions.

Please give this request your serious consideration. Without dedicated individuals, the pace of progress for the Association will slacken. What one person does, or doesn't do, really does make a difference. Let's make this transition period a smooth one, and keep the ball rolling.

## Year 2000 Schedule

Association meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, except for April, August and December. The Annual Meeting is in September with officer elections conducted in alternate years. Educational Focus Sessions are held periodically throughout the year.

September 19 - Villa Ospe (Jekyll Island) -- Jekyll Island Convention & Visitors Bureau  
October 17 - Stephen C. Foster State Park (Fargo) -- Stephen C. Foster State Park  
November 21 - General Coffee State Park (Douglas) General Coffee State Park

### Hurricane Helpline

In an effort to assist those members of GNBTA who have to evacuate their homes in the event of a hurricane, the following members have offered to provide temporary shelter:

Genna Wangness  
509 W. Main St., Folkston, GA 31537  
Home phone: 912-496-3764  
other #: 912-496-6256  
e-mail: genna@innatfolkston.com  
She is able to accommodate 10-15 guests (no pets, provide own bedding & meals).

### Environmental Park accepted into Flight Star Program

Lynn Carter, executive director of the Baxley-Appling County Board of Tourism, announced that the A. Randall Tuten Environmental Park/Outdoor Classroom recently received notification of acceptance into the Flight Star Program.

The certificate reads, "The A. Randall Tuten Environmental Park is recognized in the Flight Star Program in recognition of supporting Bird Conservation with Partners in Flight, Level 1, Georgia Wildlife Resources

Division."

The purpose of the Flight Star Program is to recognize and encourage activities in the areas of Conservation, Survey and Monitoring, Education and Outreach, and Research which lead to bird conservation in Georgia and the Southeast.

This recognition is active for two years.

### Altamaha River Rat Run Family Paddle

Enjoy a scenic tour of the Altamaha on the family canoe excursion Sat., October 7, 2000 beginning at Carter Right Landing in Appling County. Experienced guides will be on hand.

Paddlers will meet at 8 a.m. when they will register and launch their canoes and kayaks for the 12-mile trip. Participants bringing their own canoes and kayaks may register the morning of the event.

Registration is \$5 per person, children 10 and under are free and may ride with their parents.

A list of approved Outfitters will be provided for canoe and kayak rentals. Pre-registration is required.

The trip should last approximately 4-5 hours and will conclude at Upper Wayne County Landing. Altamaha River Rat Run T-shirts and bottled water will be available

for sale.

Port-a-potties will be placed on the landings for your convenience. Bring lifejackets, sunscreen and a sack lunch, as we will stop at a designated area to eat.

The Baxley-Appling County Board of Tourism and the Wayne County board of Tourism are sponsoring the excursion.

For registration forms and additional information, you

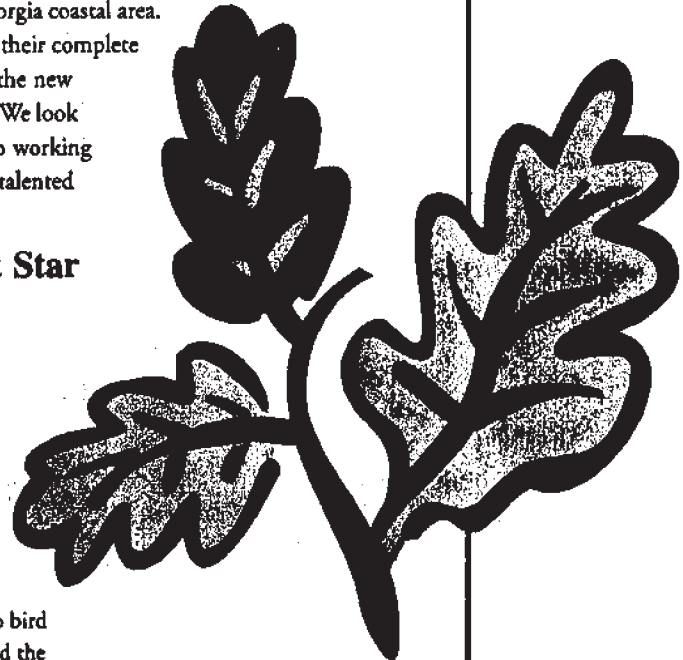
The Association attempts to highlight different areas of the state by moving the meetings to a new location each month. Thanks to all who have generously offered to be hosts. If you would like to host a future meeting, please contact Sheila Willis no later than the 15th of the month preceding the appropriate gathering.

May 15, 2001—Woodbine Waterfront Pavilion (Woodbine)—Kingsland Convention & Visitors Bureau (tentatively scheduled)

Note: All dates and locations are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Watch the newsletter for any updates.

### Welcome New Members

Ray and Jody Hetchka of Kayak Amelia (Fernandina Beach, FL) have recently joined the GNBTA. They offer guided kayak tours of the North Florida/South Georgia coastal area. Please see their complete listing in the new directory. We look forward to working with this talented couple.



*Leave no trace. Whether hiking the Appalachian Trail or strolling your local park, try to bring more trash home (pick up for your neighbor!) than you brought in.*

may check our web sites at [www.applingdacoc.com](http://www.applingdacoc.com) or [www.waynecchamber.com](http://www.waynecchamber.com).

You may also call the Boards of Tourism at (912) 367-7731 or (912) 427-2028 or stop by the Baxley-Appling County Chamber of Commerce or the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. The GNTBA will make educational materials available at this event.

*Bring your mug! Don't forget to bring your coffee mug to association meetings to enjoy our early morning coffee and talk time! By providing your own mug at each meeting, you will help eliminate the use of Styrofoam, a major polluter of the environment.*

# Upcoming Events

## GNBTA Suwannee River Canoe Excursion



*Don't panic! About the "paper or plastic" question. If you can, bring your own bags, commit to reusing first then recycling whichever you do choose.*

As part of their public educational outreach program, the GNBTA has planned another Fall Canoe Excursion for Saturday, Sept. 30 along the upper Suwannee River near its exit from the Okefenokee Swamp. The intent is to put the spotlight on efforts being made for its protection, and provide a way for the public to both enjoy and learn more about this scenic water-way.

Public Relations Chair Joy Campbell, and Environmental Advisory Committee members Jim Burkett and Chip Campbell announce that the route will be from Rivers Landing to Fargo, and include portions of the river that are parts of a proposed addition to Stephen C. Foster State Park. Canoeists will depart at 10 a.m. and travel the 6-mile, 4-hour stretch that is lined with towering cypress and flanked by white sandy banks. Afterwards, the participants will meet at the home of Fargo's Mayor for a bar-b-que luncheon.

Then representatives from the GNBTA, Upper Suwannee River Watershed Initiative (GA), Suwannee River Man-

agement District (FL), Stephen C. Foster State Park, Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, City of Fargo and others will discuss the river and the various measures being taken to ensure its protection. The public is invited to participate by phoning 912-637-5274 (Stephen C. Foster State Park) by Sept. 11 to reserve a space. A minimum \$10 per-person donation is suggested. It is requested that, if possible, participants bring their own watercraft; however, 15 canoes (30 persons) will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis with some space-sharing possible.

Please provide the following information: party-name & contact number, number of people, number of canoes provided/needed, and number of paddles and/or life jackets needed. Canoeists should bring water, snacks, and rain gear. Low water levels may affect portions of the trip. For further information, contact Jim Burkhart at 912-496-7366 ext. 233 or Joy Campbell at 912-496-7156.

As part of their public educational outreach program, the GNBTA will make available educational materials at event.

## Ocmulgee River Canoe Excursion

Come explore one of Georgia's greatest rivers, the Great Ocmulgee, on October 14. Sign up is from 8 to 9 a.m. at Burkett's Ferry Landing in Hazlehurst. Participants will launch boats at Burkett's Ferry and

paddle to Lumber City Bridge Landing, with guides from the Nature Conservancy leading the trip. Renting a canoe costs \$25 and require pre-registration, or you can bring your own canoe or kayak. Transporta-

tion to your vehicles after the paddle will be provided. There is a \$5 registration fee per person. The trip is sponsored by the Nature Conservancy of Georgia and the Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis County Board of

Tourism. Call (912) 375-4543 to pre-register or for more information. As part of their public educational outreach program, the GNBTA will make available educational materials at this event.

## Pogy Round-Up 2000

Beginning at 4 p.m. on Sept. 9, the wildlife rehabilitation center at Pine Harbor in McIntosh Co. known as Sanctuary on the Sapelo will celebrate its 10th fundraising activity, known as the Pogy Round-Up. Director Emmy Minor operates a facility which treats injured birds and prepares them for release in the wild. Also, it is the only captive Bald Eagle breeding site in the state.

Each year supporters gather for an afternoon of free

food, entertainment, and educational programs. Participants may make either a monetary contribution or donate food and supplies. This year, the featured speaker will be Cate Tobler, of Honey Creek Coastal Encounters, who will give a presentation on "The Dangers We Create for Our Wildlife Friends" at 4:30pm. Come on over and support this very worthwhile endeavor. For further information and directions, call Ms. Minor at 912-832-5571.

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