OPEN THE GARDEN GATE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM
January 20, 2018 / Richmond Hill City Center

BEACHES & BARRIER ISLANDS
Surf, Sand & Citizen Science
Brown pelican
OPEN THE GARDEN GATE
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Surf, Sand & Citizen Science

AGENDA

REGISTRATION  9 am
Coffee and Snacks

WELCOME  10 am

COASTAL WILDCAPES OF GEORGIA
A GEOLOGIC PERSPECTIVE  10:10 am
Dr. Clark Alexander

BREAK  10:45 am

MARINE LIFE OF COASTAL GEORGIA  11 am
Susan Shipman

LUNCH  12:00 noon

LIVING ON OUR COAST
BENEFITS & THREATS  1:00 pm
Adam McKinnon

BREAK  1:45

WHY WE SHOULD CARE  2:00 pm
Alice Keyes

CLOSING REMARKS  2:50 pm

Saltmarsh morning glory
Gulf fritillary
Dr. Clark Alexander is the Director of the University of Georgia’s Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, a Professor in the Department of Marine Sciences on the UGA-Athens campus, and is the Director of Georgia Southern University’s Applied Coastal Research Laboratory on the Skidaway Institute campus.

Alexander earned a BS in Oceanography and a BA in Geology from Humboldt State University in California, both in 1983, a MSc in marine geology and a PhD in marine sedimentology in 1985 and 1990, respectively, both from North Carolina State University. He joined the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in 1989 as a post-doctoral scientist. His general research focus is on understanding sedimentary processes in estuarine, coastal and continental margin environments, using both field-based sedimentological and radiochemical tools and GIS-based techniques, with funding from NSF, ONR, USGS, BOEM, NOAA and GA-DNR.

His recent projects have focused on barrier island erosion patterns, coastal hazards and benthic habitat distribution in the southeastern US. He recently led a regional (NC, SC, GA and FL) team of scientists and managers in the development of a coastal hazard vulnerability assessment tool with support from the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance.

Alexander works closely with the City of Savannah-Chatham County Metropolitan Planning Commission to support municipal resiliency planning efforts and with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to foster sustainable management of Georgia’s estuarine and coastal resources. He also served 8 years on the Georgia Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees, where he worked to balance development and natural resource protection in our coastal counties.
The Georgia coast is changing on timescales of the tides, seasons and decades. This change is a constant at the dynamic interface between land and sea, where the interplay between constructive and destructive forces can readily be seen. Our wild barrier coast is actively responding to natural and human processes.

Alexander’s talk will cover the physical processes responsible for the development and evolution of our barrier coast, the impact of human activities on the coast, and projections for the coast in light of ongoing sea level rise.
Susan Shipman worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division for 30 years, during which she served as its Chief of Marine Fisheries for 17 years and Division Director from 2002 until her retirement at the end of 2009. Susan is a graduate of Leadership Glynn, Leadership Georgia, and the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership.

Susan spends the majority of her time as a hobbyist beekeeper and community volunteer. She is on the Executive Committee of the St. Simons Land Trust Board of Directors, and chairs the Cannon’s Point Advisory Committee and Conservation Task Force. She is a member of the College of Coastal Georgia Board of Trustees, where she chairs the scholarship committee, and serves on the Golden Isles YMCA Foundation and Golden Isles Youth Orchestra Board. Susan is an advisor to Georgia Sea Grant, on the Frederica Academy Board of Visitors, and represents apiarists on the Glynn County Farm Bureau Board. Susan consults in federal marine fisheries policy with the Environmental Defense Fund’s Ocean Program.

Susan is a Vestry member and Senior Warden of Christ Church Frederica and St. Ignatius Chapel. She resides on St. Simons with her husband Mark Jicha, Boykin spaniel Dixie Scout and her bees. Son Charlie works as a scenic designer in Orlando.

Red drum
Susan Shipman will present an overview of Georgia’s marine fishery resources from the coastal rivers and estuaries, to offshore waters.

She will discuss Georgia’s traditional fisheries as well as those that are little known. The discussion will include the habitat that is essential for sustaining these resources, and the governance structures that are in place to manage these resources, many of which are shared with neighboring states.
Adam MacKinnon is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. Adam has held various positions that focused on sea turtle biology and conservation. He has a passion for environmental education which he has brought to all his endeavors.

His work has taken him to many far flung places including Tortuguero, Costa Rica; Ossabaw Island; Wassaw Island; Buck Island Reef National Monument, St. Croix; and Boca Raton FL. He received an associates degree with a major in business finance from the University of Florida, Gainesville (1992), and a BS in Marine Biology from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida (1995).

Adam has worked for Georgia Department of Natural Resources since 1998 starting as a technician working in the sea turtle conservation program and more recently taking over as the education coordinator on Sapelo Island. Currently he coordinates all educational activities on the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve; develops and implements estuarine and barrier island educational programming for grades k-12, university, and the general public; assists in research and stewardship activities on the reserve; and coordinates education, research, and stewardship activities for the Friends of Sapelo support network.
The Georgia coast provides a variety of ecosystem services to wildlife as well as to its human inhabitants. The onshore and terrestrial ecosystems have been important for human settlements historically and today. This area provides a rich tapestry of natural resources on which human life needs for survival.

Unfortunately, many activities that benefit human life are threats to the long-term viability of these ecosystems. Hopefully you will gain a better appreciation of the riches our coast provides as well as how you can continue to enjoy the bounty of our coast more sustainably.
Alice Keyes is the Vice President of Coastal Conservation at One Hundred Miles. She and her family have lived in coastal Georgia since 2009. Alice is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Biology. She also received a master’s degree in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development from the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia.

Before joining One Hundred Miles, Alice largely focused on water issues – working as a policy advisor to the Director of the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Director of Water Resource Programs at the Georgia Conservancy. She also served as a program officer for the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation.

Alice is a graduate of the Institute of Georgia Environmental Leadership and was honored with the Georgia Association of Water Professionals President’s Award for her work in water conservation.

Alice lives in Brunswick with her husband Tim and four children. They are active members of Taylors Chapel United Methodist Church, canoe as much as possible, and watch a lot of birds.
WHY WE SHOULD CARE

Alice Keyes

Being an advocate for the people and places you love is not easy. However, it is more important than ever for community members to civilly express what we value and be a voice for our coastal treasures.

Alice will address the importance of advocating for coastal issues, sharing examples of the big difference our voices can make. She will also provide ideas for citizens of all ages and walks of life to engage in civil discourse that can change the trajectory of conservation on our coast.
OUR BOARD
Eamonn Leonard – Board Chairman
Raleigh Nyenhuis – Vice Chairman
Stephanie Knox – Treasurer
Thomas Angell
Bob Claxton
Carol Denhof
Sally Revoile
Ashby Worley

OUR STAFF
Amy Schuler – Education Outreach Coordinator

OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Scott Coleman
Christa Frangimore Hayes
Linda Lamb
Christi Lambert

Visit www.coastalwildscapes.org for more information.
Coastal WildScapes is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2009 to address the increasing need to educate and engage the public in practices that will preserve the biodiversity of the Georgia coast. We are run by an all volunteer board and one part time staff person.

The mission of Coastal WildScapes is to actively preserve and restore the highly significant biodiversity of Southeastern coastal ecosystems by protecting existing native habitats, rebuilding the connectivity of impaired habitats and minimizing the future fragmentation of the coastal landscape.

WE HAVE THREE OVERARCHING STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION:

EDUCATION OUTREACH
Provide and facilitate presentations to professional organizations, civic groups, garden clubs, schools, non-profits, and commercial entities.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES
Provide volunteers in partnership with other organizations to protect and rebuild habitats.

GRASSROOTS ACTIVITIES
Stimulate opportunities to expand involvement and awareness of critical coastal issues.
Thank you to Emory Moody and the McIntosh Art Association for judging.
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE COASTAL WILDCAPES PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

FIRST PLACE Winter Scene by Duke Smith

FIRST RUNNER UP Jekyll Island Misty Dawn Dreams by Charles Opper
SECOND RUNNER UP Jekyll Island Driftwood Reflections by Jamie Anderson
THIRD RUNNER UP The Cast by Duke Smith
THANKS TO SAPELO ISLAND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE’S COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SPONSORING THIS EVENT!