

CASTNET

A User's Guide to Coastal Georgia's Natural,
Cultural, and Historical Resource Organizations



Compiled October 2007

A project of the Georgia Coastal Education Group (GCEG)

www.georgiacoastaleducationgroup.org

The information in this manual has been compiled by GCEG; however, the organizations included are public and private and GCEG does not endorse and is not responsible for any of the programming and/or information provided by any of the participants.

Georgia Coastal Education Group

“GCEG” Members

The Georgia Coastal Education Group is a partnership of coastal federal and state government agencies that educates the general public about the importance and value of Georgia’s coastal resources and promotes responsible stewardship.

GCEG – Educating for a Healthier Coast

Crooked River State Park
6222 Charlie Smith Sr. Hwy.
St. Marys, GA 31558
912-882-8531
www.gastateparks.org

Cumberland Island National Seashore
PO Box 806
St. Marys, GA 31558
912-882-4336
www.nps.gov/cuis

Georgia DNR - Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
912-264-7218
www.gadnr.org click “coastal resources”
www.knowtheconnection.com

Georgia Sea Turtle Center
214 Stable Road
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
912-635-4076
www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
912-598-2345
<http://graysreef.noaa.gov>

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
PO Box 15
Sapelo Island, GA 31327
912-485-2251
www.sapelonerr.org
www.sapeloislandnerr-ctp.org

Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10
Savannah, GA 31405
912-652-4415
www.fws.gov/savannah/

UGA Jekyll Island 4-H Center
201 S. Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Main Office: 912-635-4115
EE Office: 912-635-4117
www.jekyll4h.org

UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium
30 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
912-598-2364
www.uga.edu/aquarium/

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Name of Organization: Coastal Environmental Analysis
County: Chatham, but serves coastal GA
Description of Services: Coastal environmental consulting, especially water quality, coastal research (chemical, biological, ecological), marine and environmental training and education
Target Audience: All ages
Organizational Contact: Joe Richardson
Address: PO Box 30923, Savannah, GA 31410
Phone: 912-596-5362
Website: <http://ceasurf.com>
Email: joe@ceasurf.com

Name of Organization: Crooked River State Park, GCEG Member
County: Camden
Description of Services: The park is a 500-acre outdoor education facility offering both recreational and educational opportunities. The Nature Center houses live reptiles and offers programs for weekend visitors, scout groups, and school groups. Our programs focus on the marsh and salt water ecosystems, coastal and migratory birds, as well as the different forest habitats within the park. We also offer guided kayak trips through the marsh and over to Cumberland Island.
Target Audience: All ages
Organizational Contact: Interpretive Ranger
Address: 6222 Charlie Smith Sr. Hwy, Saint Marys, GA 31558
Phone: Nature Center – 912-882-8531, Front Office – 912-882-5256
Website: www.gastateparks.org
Email: Crooked_river_park@dnr.state.ga.us

Name of Organization: Fort Frederica National Monument
County: Glynn
Description of Services: 23-minute orientation film; self-guided walking tour of the archaeological remains of a 1736 British town and fort; exhibits and bookstore in visitor center. Call or visit park website to find out about scheduled programs presented by the park ranger staff.
Target Audience: All ages
Organizational Contact: Chief Ranger
Address: 6515 Frederica Rd., St. Simons, GA 31522
Phone: 912-638-3639
Website: www.nps.gov/fofr
Email: Fofr_administration@nps.gov

Name of Organization: **Geechee Kunda Arts Center & Museum**
County: Liberty
Description of Services: We are the Gullah-Geechee Interpretive Center for Georgia, Low Country South Carolina and North Florida. Exhibits, demonstrations, classes, lectures, performances, step-on tours
Target Audience: All ages, general public
Organizational Contact: Directors
Address: 622 Ways Temple Rd., Riceboro, GA 31323
Phone: 912-884-4440
Website: www.geecheekunda.net
Email:

Name of Organization: **Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources/Law Enforcement**
County: Southeast GA
Description of Services: Hunting, Fishing, Boating Safety Info
Target Audience: Kids
Organizational Contact: Sgt. Doug Lewis
Address:
Phone: 912-264-7237
Website: www.georgiawildlife.org
Email:

Name of Organization: **Georgia Sea Grant**
County: Clarke/Glynn
Description of Services: Unlike the populations of other coastal states, most Georgians live more than 100 miles inland. Georgia Sea Grant works to “bring the coast closer” by combining research, education, and outreach projects that identify the components critical to the economic, cultural, and environmental health of Georgia’s coast and encourage citizens throughout the state to become good stewards of the resources important to the coastal zone. Georgia Sea Grant does its work by channeling funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration into local research, education, and outreach and by encouraging collaboration among government, academia, and industry in responding to coastal needs. Over half of Georgia Sea Grant’s funds go directly into scientific research on Georgia’s coastal resources. The remainder funds the organization’s communications, education, outreach, and administrative activities. Georgia Sea Grant is part of the National Sea Grant College Program, a network made up of 30 programs located in each of the coastal and Great Lakes states.

Target Audience: Georgia Sea Grant serves Georgia’s citizenry through researchers, educators, resource managers among government, academia, and industry.

Organizational Contact: Communications Coordinator
Address: UGA, 220 Marine Sciences Bldg., Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-6009
Website: www.marsci.uga.edu/gaseagrant
Email: bryantd@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **Georgia Sea Turtle Center, GCEG Member**
County: Glynn
Description of Services: The GSTC provides state-of-the-art emergency care to sick and injured sea turtles, with opportunities for scientific research and long-term treatment. Jekyll Island is an ideal site for the new rehabilitation center. With an active sea turtle monitoring program since 1972, Jekyll is unique among Georgia's developed islands for its significant annual turtle nesting. Visitors to the GSTC will explore exhibits on sea turtle conservation, rehabilitation, and their amazing journey from egg to adulthood. School field trips, public programs, and special events will highlight Georgia's unique coastal ecosystem and the mysterious world of these ancient reptiles.

Target Audience: Tourists, local community, students
Organizational Contact: Education staff
Address: 214 Stable Road, Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912-635-4076
Website: www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org
Email: Gstc-ed@jekyllisland.com

Name of Organization: **Glynn County 4-H**
County: Glynn
Description of Services: Glynn Co. 4-H is for all county youth ages 9-19. It is an educational program which focuses on coastal Georgia exploration, citizenship/community service, and leadership development. Primary focuses: marine science, environmental science, wildlife stewardship, history, archaeology, geospatial technology, entomology, horticulture, arts and crafts, equestrian, archery, etc.
Target Audience: Youth ages 9-19
Organizational Contact: Glynn County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Address: 11 Judicial Lane, Brunswick, GA 31520
Phone: 912-554-7575
Website: www.ugaextension.com/glynn/4h
Email: robigray@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron**
County: Glynn, Liberty, Long, Camden, Wayne, McIntosh, Pierce, Brantley
Description of Services: Safe Boating Classes for the public, Advanced Boating Classes to our membership, Coop Charting Program (Aids NOAA in nautical chart updates and corrections)
Target Audience: The boating public
Organizational Contact: Executive Officer, Charles Wilsdorf
Address: 14 Berryhill Ln., Brunswick, GA 31523
Phone: 912-265-9550
Website: www.gisps.org
Email: chaswi@aol.com

Name of Organization: **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, GCEG Member**
County: Chatham
Description of Services: A unit of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, Gray's Reef is the only federally protected offshore marine area between North Carolina and mid-Florida. Located 17 miles east of Sapelo Island, the sanctuary protects an outstanding example of live-bottom marine habitat formed when invertebrates colonize exposed rock on the otherwise sandy sea floor. It is home to approximately 130 species of fish, thousands of species of invertebrates, the threatened loggerhead sea turtle and is near the calving ground for the North Atlantic Right Whale. We provide speakers, outreach and educational materials including posters, fact sheets, and curriculum suggestions. We also provide interpretive exhibits at a variety of museum and aquarium facilities; we have no on-site visitor center.

Target Audience: General public, teachers, students, researchers
Organizational Contact: Communications and Outreach Coordinator
Address: 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411
Phone: 912-598-2345
Website: <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>
Email: Gail.krueger@noaa.gov

Name of Organization: **Jekyll Island 4-H Center, GCEG Member**
County: Glynn (serves all of Georgia and surrounding states)
Description of Services: A unit of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension, we provide both day and residential environmental education field studies for public, private and home schools focusing on barrier islands. We also provide residential 4-H summer camps in the summer months.

Target Audience: Youth
Organizational Contact: Director
Address: 201 S. Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912-635-4115
Website: www.jekyll4h.org
Email: ejekyll@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **Jekyll Island Museum**
County: Glynn
Description of Services: Provides tours, exhibits, and educational programs centering on the history of Jekyll Island, including the Jekyll Island Club National Historic Landmark District.
Target Audience: General public, tour groups, school groups
Organizational Contact: Director
Address: 381 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912-635-4036
Website: www.jekyllisland.com
Email: museum@jekyllisland.com

Name of Organization: **Keep Brunswick-Golden Isles Beautiful**
County: Glynn
Description of Services: Provides waste disposal and recycling information to the public and manages and coordinates numerous programs, projects, and special events throughout the community in the areas of waste reduction and recycling to create a clean and beautiful community through citizen involvement and education.
Target Audience: General public, community members
Organizational Contact: Executive Director
Address: PO Box 1493, Brunswick, GA 31521
Phone: 912-279-1490
Website: www.kbgib.com
Email: msmith@kbgib.com

Name of Organization: **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

County: Charlton, Ware, and Clinch Counties, GA and Baker County, FL

Description of Services: Okefenokee NWR provides environmental education programs about natural and cultural resources to groups both on and off the refuge to enhance public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Okefenokee ecosystem. At the East Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) near Folkston, GA , a visitor center, nature drive, two boardwalks, walking trails, and a historic homestead are provided free of charge to students of all ages. Programs and activities about habitats, wetlands, wildlife and other topics that support state curriculum standards are available by reservation. For a small fee, guided boat tours and canoe rentals can be arranged through refuge concessionaire Okefenokee Adventures. There are also entrances to the swamp near Fargo, GA (Stephen C. Foster State Park) and Waycross, GA (Okefenokee Swamp Park) which provide some educational program and activities.

Target Audience: Environmental Education is provided to students K-12th grades, college and senior citizens

Organizational Contact: Refuge Ranger

Address: Route 2, Box 3330 Folkston, GA 31537

Phone: 912-496-7836

Website: www.fws.gov/okefenokee

Email: Sallie_gentry@fws.gov

Name of Organization:	Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, GCEG Member
County:	McIntosh
Description of Services:	Sapelo Island NERR is a multifaceted program that includes estuarine research and monitoring, stewardship and GPS/GIS mapping, and education and training programs. Education opportunities range from tours for the general public to curriculum based field trips for schools to teacher training workshops to programs and conferences for coastal decision makers.
Target Audience:	Schools (grades 5-12), teachers, decision makers (elected officials, etc.), public
Organizational Contact:	Education and Tour coordinators
Address:	PO Box 15 , Sapelo Island, GA 31327
Phone:	912-485-2300
Website:	www.sapelonerr.org
Email:	brooke@darientel.net

Name of Organization: **Satilla Riverkeeper**
County: Brantley
Description of Services: Watershed stewardship education
Target Audience: General public, community members
Organizational Contact: Riverkeeper
Address: PO Box 159, Waynesville, GA 31566
Phone: 912-778-3126
Website: www.satillariverkeeper.org
Email: riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org

Name of Organization: **Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Museum & Nature Center**
County: Chatham County
Description of Services: SOC Society Membership, Visitor Center and Nature Museum, self-guided trails, educational handouts and brochures, guided school programs and site visits, guided history and nature walks, research and data collection area, historical and cultural living history events, biking trails, birding trails, wildlife viewing area, archaeological programs,
Target Audience: Adults, children and organized group; historic and nature oriented
Organizational Contact: Museum Director/Site Manager
Address: 681 Fort Argyle Rd., Savannah, GA 31419
Phone: 912-748-8068
Website: www.savannahogeecheecanal.com
Email: info@savannahogeecheecanal.com

Name of Organization: **Savannah State University Marine Science Outreach Program**
County: Chatham
Description of Services: Classroom presentations and hands-on activities for K-12, professional development workshops for teachers, annual “Seaing” is Believing Visual Arts & Essay Contest for school children, SSU Coast Camp Summer Program for Youth
Target Audience: K-12 students, teachers, general public
Organizational Contact: Marine Science Outreach Coordinator
Address: SSU, PO Box 20228, Savannah, GA 31404
Phone: 912-351-6487
Website: www.ssufisheries.com
Email: wellsr@savstate.edu (K-12) or coastcamp@savstate.edu (camps)

Name of Organization:	Skidaway Island State Park
County:	Chatham
Description of Services:	588 Acres, 88 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites, Interpretive Center, Swimming Pool, 2 Playgrounds, 5 Picnic Shelters, Group Shelter (seats 150), 3 Pioneer Campgrounds, Hiking – 1 mile Sandpiper Nature Trail (accessible) and 3 mile Big Ferry Trail. Birding-Colonial Coast Birding Trail, Biking. No Beach Access.
Target Audience:	Public
Organizational Contact:	Park Manager/Interpretative Ranger
Address:	52 Diamond Causeway, Savannah, GA 31411
Phone:	912-598-2300
Website:	www.gastateparks/.org/info/skidaway
Email:	Skidaway_park@dnr.state.ga.us

Name of Organization:	St. Simons Land Trust
County:	Glynn
Description of Services:	We are a private non-profit land conservation organization. Our mission is to preserve the natural and scenic character of St. Simons Island, and its quality of life, for present and future generations.
Target Audience:	Landowners, tax professionals, appraisers, attorneys, members
Organizational Contact:	Russ Marane, President
Address:	PO Box 24615, St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Phone:	912-638-9185
Website:	www.sslt.org
Email:	rmarane@sslt.org

Name of Organization:	Surfrider Foundation Coastal Georgia/Low Country Chapter
County:	All coastal GA counties & SC southern coastal counties
Description of Services:	Education, outreach and advocacy related to beach recreational use (water quality, beach quality, public access); Adopt-a-Highway litter pick-ups; assisting/supporting surfing, skimboarding events and contests.
Target Audience:	General public, community members
Organizational Contact:	Chairman Joe Richardson
Address:	PO Box 31033 Savannah, GA 31410
Phone:	912-596-5362
Website:	www.myspace.com/coastalgeorgiasurfrider
Email:	joe@ceasurf.com

Name of Organization: **Tidelands Nature Center**
County: Glynn
Description of Services: A unit of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension, Tidelands provides educational exhibits and programs for the general public and local school groups. Students and visitors are provided with the opportunity to explore various barrier island ecosystems through a combination of field study programs and educational displays. Programs include beach, forest, and marsh ecology. In the Tidelands exhibit area, student and visitors are provided with the opportunity to view and explore live fish, sea turtles, crabs, sting rays, a nurse shark, and other species native to Georgia's coast. In addition, Tidelands offers public nature walks along the marsh and beach, canoe rentals on the adjacent salt pond, and a visitor favorite – guided kayak tours through Georgia's salt marshes.

Target Audience: Youth, adult, Jekyll Island visitors, local school groups
Organizational Contact: Tidelands Coordinator
Address: 100 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912-635-5032
Website: www.tidelands4h.org
Email: tideland@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **University of Georgia Marine Education Center & Aquarium (MECA), GCEG Member**
County: Chatham, but serves entire state.
Description of Services: UGA MECA provides marine science and coastal ecology education programs for school groups, teacher workshops, summer marine science camps, elderhostels, and public programs year round. Facilities include 10,000 gallon public aquarium, teaching labs, nature trails, marsh platforms, docks, boats, cafeteria, and 80-bed residence dorm. MECA serves as the education arm of the Marine Extension Service, a Public Service and Outreach Unit of the University of Georgia.

Target Audience: School year programs target Prek-12 and college groups. Seasonal programs, including those in the summer, target adult learners, elderhostelers, graduate courses and teacher workshops, and summer camps. Programs for the general public are scheduled throughout the year, including the Skidaway Marine Science Day in October each year.

Organizational Contact: Scheduling Coordinator
Address: 30 Ocean Science Circle
Phone: 912-598-2335
Website: www.marex.uga.edu/aquarium
Email: mared@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **University of Georgia Marine Extension Service (MAREX) Shellfish**

County: Chatham

Description of Services: MAREX is a Public Service & Outreach unit of UGA. It coordinates programs of applied research, advisory services, and education from offices in Athens & Atlanta and from facilities in Savannah and Brunswick to extend economic and cultural benefits throughout the state and region.

Target Audience:

Organizational Contact: Assistant Research Scientist

Address: 20 Ocean Science Circle

Phone: 912-598-2348

Website: www.marex.uga.edu/shellfish

Email: alanpower@uga.edu or tbliss@uga.edu

Name of Organization:	UGA Marine Technology and Outreach Center (MTOC)
County:	Glynn
Description of Services:	The Marine Technology & Outreach Center (MTOC) works to increase the efficiency, environmental compatibility, and sustainability of existing marine industries, to identify and help develop new environmentally sound industries using renewable and sustainable coastal resources, and to increase public awareness and understanding of coastal ecosystems. MTOC coordinates coastal research, advisory services, and education to extend economic, environmental, and cultural benefits throughout the state and region. MTOC is a branch of the Marine Extension Service, a Public Service and Outreach Unit of the University of Georgia.
Target Audience:	MTOC serves the general public, but works closely with state, federal and local agencies, academic units, NGO's and coastal stakeholders
Organizational Contact:	Associate Director
Address:	715 Bay Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
Phone:	912-264-7342
Website:	www.marex.uga.edu/advisory
Email:	kgates@uga.edu

Name of Organization: **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, GCEG Member**

County: Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, and McIntosh

Description of Services: Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex is a chain of National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) that extends from Pinckney Island NWR near Hilton Head Island, SC to Wolf Island NWR near Darien, GA. Between these lie Savannah (the largest unit in the complex), Wassaw, Tybee, Harris Neck, and Blackbeard Island NWRs. Together they span a 100-mile stretch of coastline and total 56,949 acres. The complex is administered from a headquarters office located in Savannah, GA. All of the refuges except for Tybee and Wolf Island (permanently closed to all public use) are open to the public during daylight hours, seven days a week, and there are no entrance fees. Savannah, Pinckney Island and Harris Neck NWRs are most popular with the visiting public because they are accessible by vehicle. Blackbeard Island and Wassaw are barrier islands only accessible by boat, and visitors must provide their own transportation. All of the refuges have very limited public facilities; however, Savannah and Harris Neck refuges both have restrooms. There are currently no regularly scheduled, formal education programs offered at any of the Savannah Coastal Refuges. Guided interpretive tours and EE programs for schools and civic organizations may be conducted upon request, dependent on availability of staff and/or volunteers. Requests for such tours may be made by calling the complex headquarters office.

Target Audience: All ages

Organizational Contact: Refuge Ranger

Address: Headquarters: 1000 Business Center Drive, Parkway Business Center, Suite 10, Savannah, Georgia 31405. Visit web site for locations of individual refuges.

Phone: (912) 652-4415

Website: www.fws.gov/savannah

Email: savannahcoastal@fws.gov

Name of Organization:	Wilderness Southeast
County:	Chatham
Description of Services:	<p>We specialize in educational field trips as soft adventures, leading explorations of freshwater river swamps, salt marsh, tidal freshwater marsh, maritime forest, the estuary, beaches, and wild islands as a whole. In appropriate habitats we often emphasize specific inhabitants and their adaptations, such as the alligator, reptiles in general, insects, or birds. These programs are available as weekend scheduled programs, with a different focus each weekend. We also provide customized, private field trips which are operated at the convenience of the client; these can be arranged for two people or 40. These field trips are never strenuous, but most do include some activity -- some are strolling, some hiking, some paddling on water without current, perhaps into the wind. Additionally we have developed and operate two 8-week investigative science mini-curricula; one enhances and enriches the Georgia Performance Standards in science and language arts for seventh grade, the other for fifth grade. Both use the environment of river and freshwater marshes as the integrating concept for a multitude of learnings, from creative and critical thinking strengthened by the scientific process to concepts and facts related to wetland ecology and water quality. The seventh grade program, Fish Gotta Swim, includes three field trips, one of which has students sampling the water of the Savannah River from a 45-foot pontoon boat. The fifth grade program, Wet & Wild, has been taught for the after school program of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and adds one Saturday field trip to the eight classroom and school-yard sessions. These programs are run in partnership with the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Our educators teach the program in participating schools, providing supplies from student journals and visiting native reptiles, to lab experiment materials, and on field trips where we provide binoculars and equipment to sample and analyze water and invertebrates that live in it. We are serving teachers both by reinforcing with another voice the concepts they teach, and by bringing to the public school classrooms enough equipment and helping hands to make it possible for students to perform their own experiments.</p>
Target Audience:	<p>For all programs our target audience is people with a sense of curiosity and an interest in learning while exploring wild places. For Scheduled and Private Programs, the target audience is area residents and visitors, usually from one to 6 people. Customized Programs are also offered for larger groups (usually 6-40) of Savannah visitors, whether public or private schools, scouts, or conference attendees; these usually require more advance planning.</p>
Organizational Contact:	Administrative Assistant

Address: 3025 Bull St. or PO Box 15185, Savannah, GA 31416
Phone: 912-236-8115
Website: www.wilderness-southeast.org
Email: wildernessSE@bellsouth.net