

THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY



FYE 2019

IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission Is To Protect & Conserve Georgia's Natural Resources
Through Advocacy, Engagement & Collaboration.



The Georgia Conservancy is a statewide, member-supported conservation organization. Our work for environmental advocacy, land conservation, coastal protection, sustainable growth and outdoor stewardship recognizes the connection between the environment, the economy and our quality of life.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you well and that you will continue to stay healthy in these unusual times. While the Georgia Conservancy works remotely, we continue to adapt our programs as necessary. We are fortunate to be able to offer virtual meetings, workshops, and other resources on issues that remain urgent and important despite the pandemic.

Thanks to supporters and partners like you, 2019 was an exceptional year for the Georgia Conservancy. We are proud of the work we have done, outlined on the following pages. Just as importantly, we are excited about the work planned for the coming year. The Georgia Conservancy is in a unique position to advance conservation efforts in Georgia for greater resilience and sustainability during this pandemic and subsequent recovery.

Georgia faces mounting pressures that affect us now and will for generations. With our state's projected increase in population, the protection of Georgia's critical lands, waters, and habitats means not only natural resources conservation; it requires that our built spaces - cities, towns, and neighborhoods - grow and develop more sustainably. In a state known for its natural beauty, it is essential to balance the economics of population shifts with their attendant environmental implications.

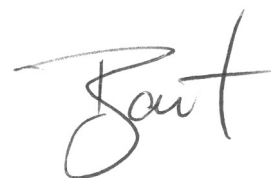
To ensure Georgia does not retreat from current protections for our lands and waters in the coming year, we continue ongoing and vigilant environmental advocacy on several relevant fronts, including:

- Rallying to protect the Okefenokee Swamp, and the headwaters of the St. Marys River, which are under significant ecological threat today from proposed mining along Trail Ridge.
- Assisting cities like Albany which seek immediate support. They require technical development and planning services for city leadership to strengthen their downtowns and address housing needs. They hope to provide greater housing diversity (rental, size, and location) and to support a varied workforce better now and in the future while being ecologically-sensitive.

Enjoy this Impact Report with the knowledge that what we achieve, together, strengthens our communities and protects Georgia's precious natural resources. Thank you for inspiring our Board of Trustees and staff, as we continue to shine a light on potential threats to our environment and our quality of life.

We understand that each of us has many competing priorities for our finances in these unusual times. Please, if you are able, help us with a gift today to the Georgia Conservancy Resilience Fund. Even in the best of times, our operational funding depends on the generosity of people like you. Whatever you choose to share, please know that we are incredibly grateful for you. Your thoughts, membership gifts, and donations make a difference.

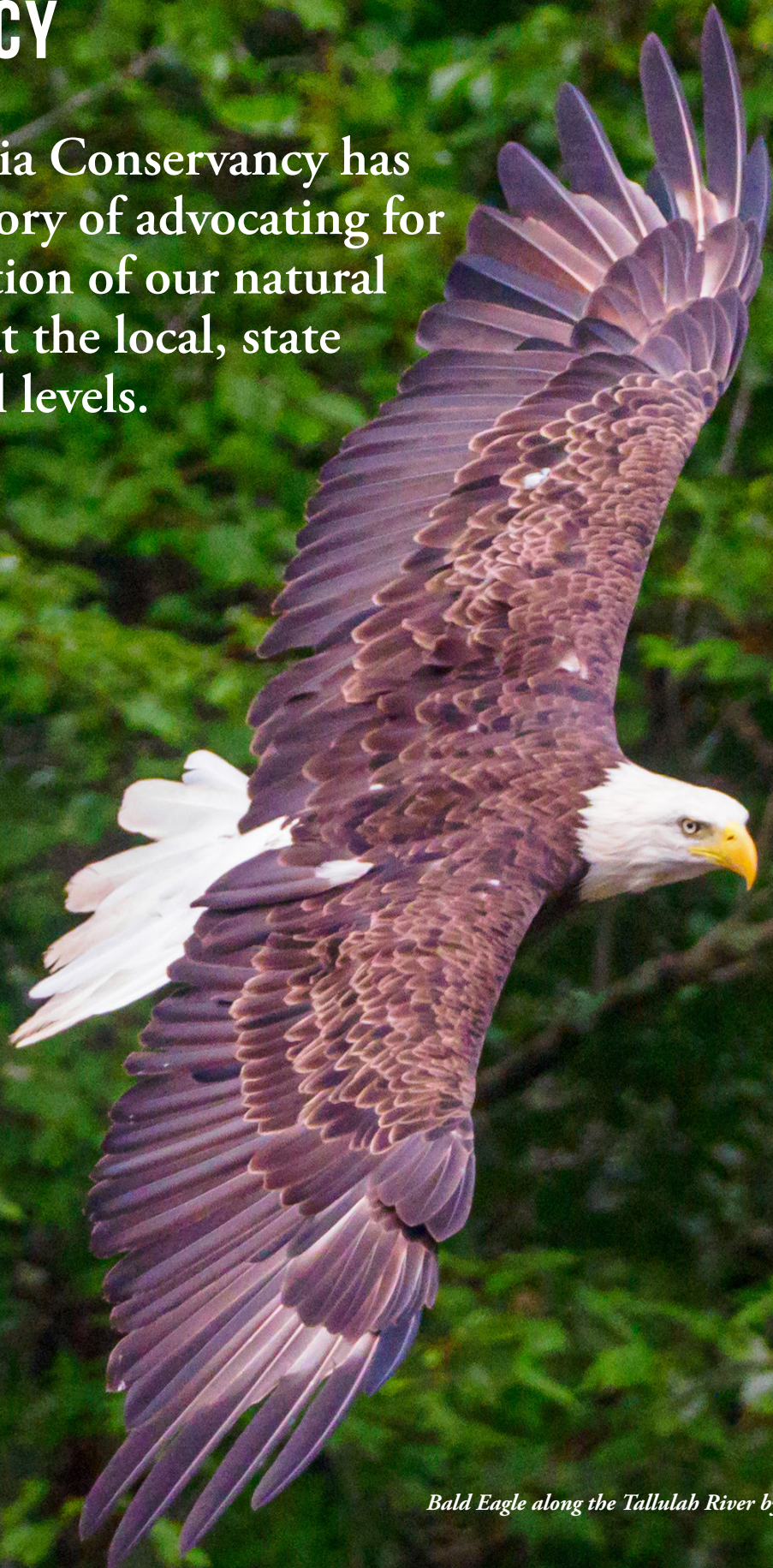
Thank you for being with us on the journey to a Georgia where people and the environment thrive, now and forever.



Bart Gobeil, President

ADVOCACY

The Georgia Conservancy has a long history of advocating for the protection of our natural resources at the local, state and federal levels.



Bald Eagle along the Tallulah River by Steve Rushing

A VOICE FOR NATURE IN FYE2019

83% VOTED “YES” ON THE GEORGIA OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP AMENDMENT

550 HOURS SPENT AT THE STATE CAPITOL DURING THE 40 DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

60 PIECES OF LEGISLATION MONITORED

The Georgia Conservancy is at the State Capitol every day of the legislative session pushing for conservation-minded measures and fighting against any roll-backs to the advancements already made.

During the 2019 Georgia Legislative Session, you supported our Advocacy program which worked on or monitored many vital pieces of legislation. Measures that we opposed included a bill that would prohibit local input for residential design standards (HB 202), legislation that sought to limit the rights of people who reside near newly established large-scale agricultural operations (HB 502), and a bill that proposed short-term surface mining on certain conservation properties. None of these legislative actions passed during the session, but each is eligible for consideration during the 2020 Legislative Session.

Legislation that garnered our support under the Gold Dome included a bill to establish a sustainable mariculture industry in Georgia (HB 501), a measure that sought greater protection of our coastal sand-sharing system through a redefinition and clarification of the jurisdictional boundary of the Shore Protection Act, and a resolution that clearly states Georgia’s opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration.

Thanks to you, our advocacy work doesn’t stop on the final day of the session. During FYE2019, the Georgia Conservancy worked with our conservation partners by providing guidance to the rule-making process for the newly-established Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, monitoring and issuing public comments on federal measures that impact Georgia’s land and water, providing information to critical legislative study committees during the between session, and educating Georgians on how to advocate for policies that protect our natural resources.

To learn more about our Advocacy Program and our efforts during the legislative session and beyond, please visit: www.georgiaconservancy.org/advocacy

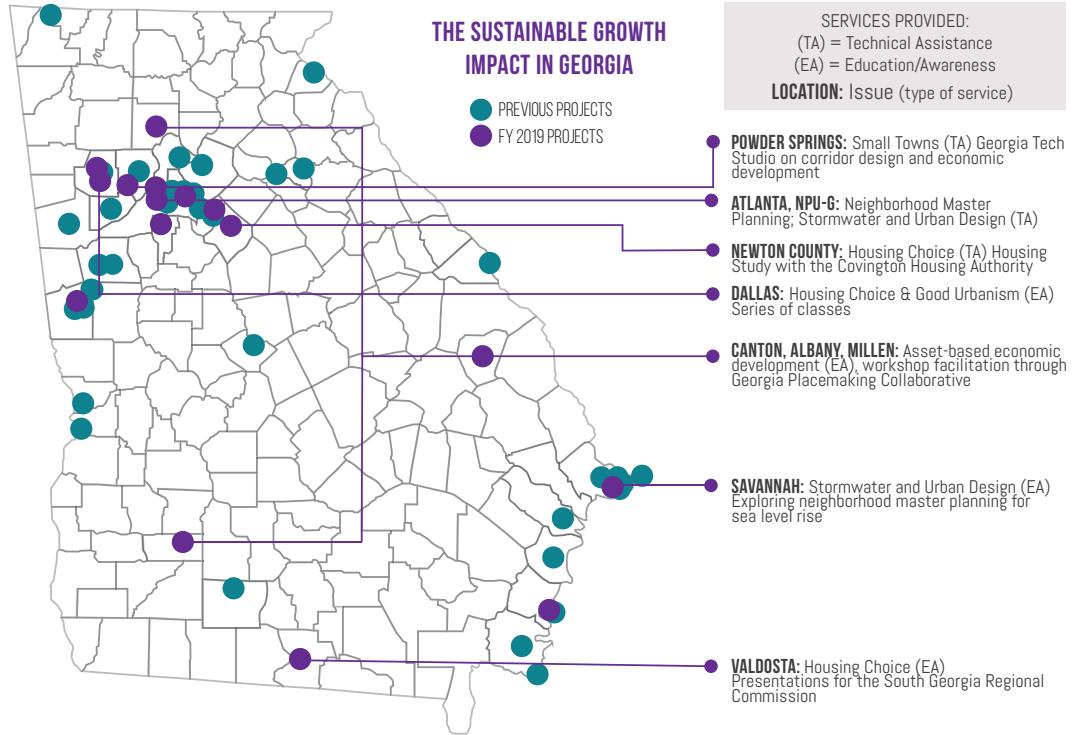
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Georgia Conservancy works to foster smart, sustainable development across the state, enabling communities to grow while using fewer resources and disturbing less open space.





IMAGINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE IN FYE2019



16 COMMUNITIES ENGAGED BY THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PROGRAM IN 14 COUNTIES STATEWIDE

42 CONFERENCE / COMMUNITY PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

93 STUDENTS IN STATEWIDE GOOD URBANISM CLASSES

During FYE2019, the Sustainable Growth Program engaged communities across the state to provide expertise on community planning, good urbanism, stormwater design, the outdoor recreation economy, and small-town revitalization. The program offered lectures, trainings, workshops, master planning and consultation, community engagement, and partnered with issue-based experts.

The Georgia Conservancy strategically broadened its outreach in 2019 to communities faced with issues concerning housing flexibility, affordability, and attainability, as the type and location of housing stock have land-use, economic, equity, and social justice ramifications for all Georgians and impacts the quality of our natural resources.

To learn more about our Sustainable Growth Program and to see where in Georgia we are working, please visit: www.georgiaconservancy.org/growth

LAND CONSERVATION

Land conservation is key to protecting our water resources, our plants and animals, and our citizens. For that reason, the Georgia Conservancy has made it a cornerstone of our work.



PROTECTING OUR LANDS IN FYE2019

28 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS CONVENED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA LAND TRUSTS

150 ATTENDEES OF THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY'S SECOND BI-ANNUAL COMMON GROUND CONSERVATION SUMMIT IN ATHENS

In FYE2019, the Georgia Conservancy, along with critical partners, founded the **Association of Georgia Land Trusts (AGLT)** to provide land trusts in the state with current news, advocacy opportunities, and best practice information on both private and public conservation strategies. AGLT also provides a platform for Georgia's land trust community to collaborate on efforts to increase the velocity of strategically conserved lands, enhance communications to the landowning public, and focus on removing state or county level barriers to conservation easements.

The Georgia Conservancy increased its essential role with the **Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative**, which seeks to protect and manage 65 viable populations in Georgia for this keystone species of the southern and coastal plain regions. In FYE2019, along with key conservation nonprofit partners in the initiative, the Georgia Conservancy began work on an outreach strategy to increase awareness of both the gopher tortoise and the initiative's conservation efforts.

The Georgia Conservancy, and a broad coalition of partners, continued to advocate for the protection of critical habitat in Georgia's coastal plain through the **Sentinel Landscape Partnership** throughout FY2019. The partnership includes Georgia-based organizations and state and federal agencies with a mission to protect vital habitat through the conservation of working and natural lands in South Georgia. The coalition works to address specific land conservation needs by enhancing habitat management in ecologically-significant areas, including the native longleaf pine ecosystem. It also supports agricultural producers while enhancing military readiness goals through conservation easements on working farms next to military lands.

Also, during FYE2019, the Georgia Conservancy convened its second **Common Ground Conservation Summit**. The summit provided attendees the opportunity to learn about funding mechanisms, land acquisitions, historic preservation, collaborations, and the marketing of various approaches taken by communities, organizations, and programs to forward a conservation and outdoor recreation-

To learn more about our Land Conservation Program and to see where in Georgia we are working, please visit: www.georgiaconservancy.org/land

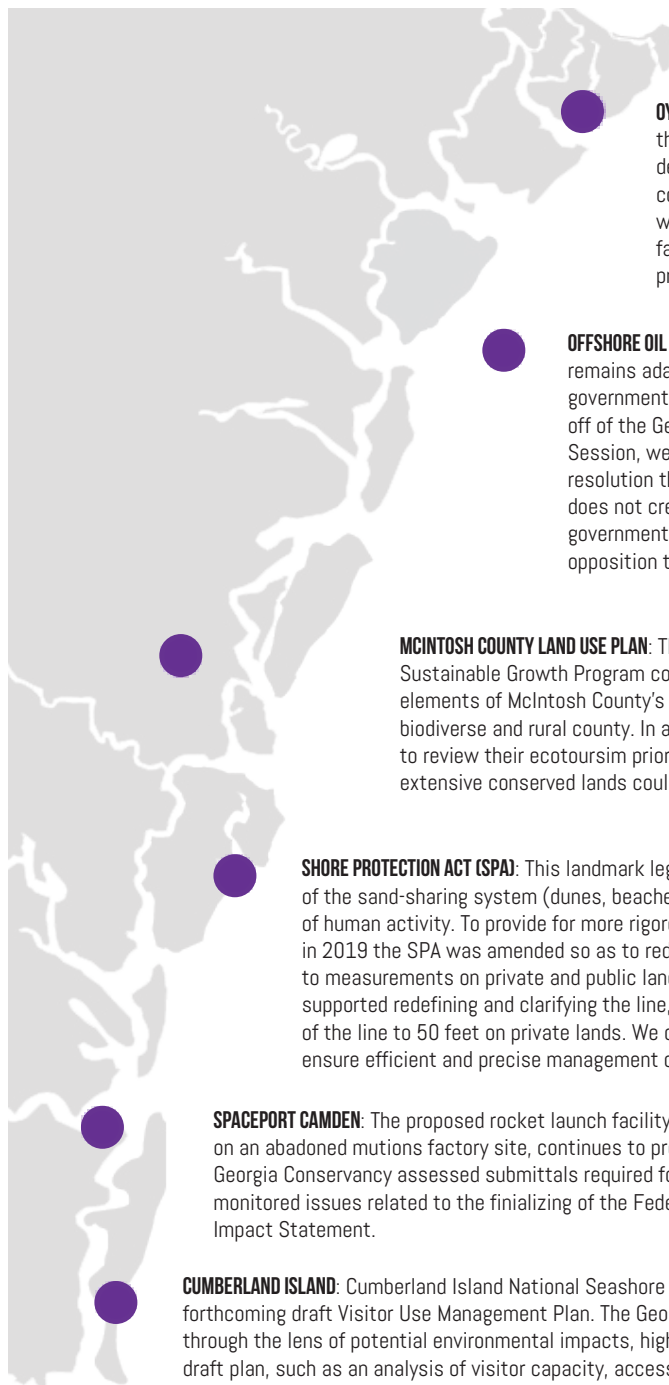
COASTAL GEORGIA



Georgia's coast stretches for nearly 110 miles and features some of the nation's most pristine beaches, remote salt marshes, and protected maritime forests. It has been a priority of the Georgia Conservancy to protect it for more than fifty years.

Photo of Sapelo Island by Brian Foster

STRENGTHENING OUR COAST IN FYE2019



OYSTER MARICULTURE: House Bill 105 passed during the 2019 Legislative Session allowing for the development of shellfish mariculture on Georgia's coast. After the session, the Georgia Conservancy worked with Georgia DNR and Georgia's oyster farmers as a stakeholder in the rulemaking process for the newly-established industry.

OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION: The Georgia Conservancy remains adamantly opposed to a proposal by the Federal government that would grant offshore oil and gas leases off of the Georgia coast. During the 2019 Legislative Session, we successfully advocated for the adoption of a resolution that opposes such leases. While the resolution does not create binding regulations, it signals to the Federal government that Georgia stands united in bi-partisan opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration on our coast.

MCINTOSH COUNTY LAND USE PLAN: The Georgia Conservancy's Coastal Program and Sustainable Growth Program completed the natural resources and infrastructure elements of McIntosh County's Comprehensive Land-Use Plan for this highly biodiverse and rural county. In addition to the CLUP, we met with county officials to review their ecotourism priorities and to help visualize how the county's extensive conserved lands could be used to enhance its economic viability.

SHORE PROTECTION ACT (SPA): This landmark legislation of 40 years has ensured the protection of the sand-sharing system (dunes, beaches, shoals, and sandbars) from adverse impacts of human activity. To provide for more rigorous application and coordination of the SPA, in 2019 the SPA was amended so as to redefine and clarify the jurisdictional line relative to measurements on private and public lands. Though the Georgia Conservancy strongly supported redefining and clarifying the line, we had preferred to see a landward extension of the line to 50 feet on private lands. We continue to work with legislators and DNR to ensure efficient and precise management of the jurisdictional line will continue.

SPACEPORT CAMDEN: The proposed rocket launch facility, located five miles west of Cumberland Island on an abandoned munitions factory site, continues to present environmental concerns. Recently, the Georgia Conservancy assessed submittals required for the permitting of the spaceport, as well as monitored issues related to the finalizing of the Federal Aviation Administration's Environmental Impact Statement.

CUMBERLAND ISLAND: Cumberland Island National Seashore solicited public comments related to a forthcoming draft Visitor Use Management Plan. The Georgia Conservancy comments, made through the lens of potential environmental impacts, highlighted issues to be addressed in the draft plan, such as an analysis of visitor capacity, access areas, and facilities updates; additional recreational opportunities; and the presence of commercial visitor services.

To learn more about our Coastal Program and to stay updated on issues affecting our coast, please visit: www.georgiaconservancy.org/coast

STEWARDSHIP TRIPS

Our goal is to create a connection between some of Georgia's most precious places and the people needed to protect them. This is your Georgia. Explore it with the Georgia Conservancy.

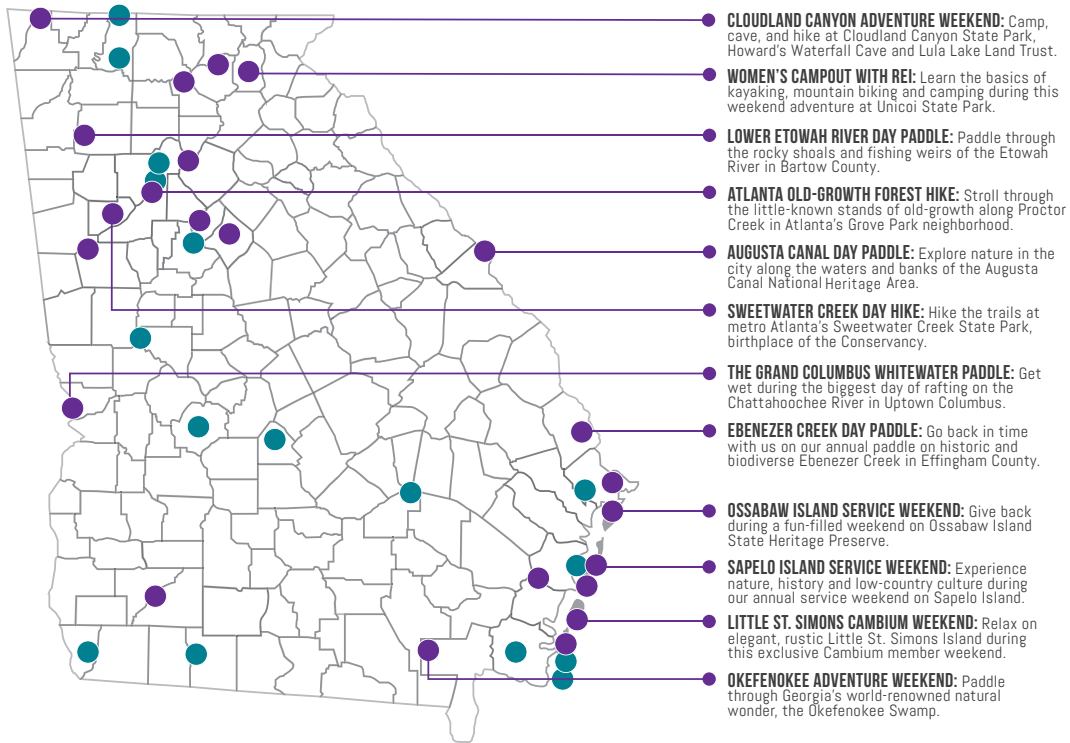




EXPLORING GEORGIA IN FYE 2019

STEWARDSHIP TRIPS ACROSS GEORGIA

- PREVIOUS TRIPS
- FY 2019 TRIPS



882 TRIP PARTICIPANTS
ON 22 STEWARDSHIP TRIPS

111 MILES PADDLED ON GEORGIA
CONSERVANCY TRIPS

1,200 RAFTERS ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE DURING THE
GRAND COLUMBUS PADDLE

36 MILES HIKED ON GEORGIA
CONSERVANCY TRIPS

931 PARTICIPANTS IN 95 GC-SPONSORED / REI-LED HIKING, BIKING & YOGA
CLASSES ON THE ATLANTA BELTLINE - WESTSIDE TRAIL

"I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a trip to Ossabaw Island with the Georgia Conservancy, and I just loved it! I would love to explore more of our beautiful state with the Stewardship Trips Program. The bottom line is that I love Georgia and I am so glad I can call it home. I would like to see its beauty and resources conserved for generations to come, which is my primary reason for supporting the Georgia Conservancy."

- Georgia Conservancy member Maureen Ratliff

To learn more about our Stewardship Trips Program and to see what trips are on our current calendar, please visit: www.georgiaconservancy.org/trips

MEMBERS AND DONORS

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

The generosity and involvement of individual members and donors are central to the success of the Georgia Conservancy. Their participation in our community and their thoughtful gifts make a tangible difference for Georgia's environment and Georgia throughout the year.

We greatly appreciate each gift given in support of the Georgia Conservancy, and we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify us of any inaccuracies or omissions by contacting lpatrik@gaconservancy.org. We regret any errors.

1967 SOCIETY MEMBERS

The 1967 Society is central to the support of the Georgia Conservancy's overall operating budget. This group honors and recognizes those who make annual gifts at the \$2,500-level and above. Daily, these leadership gifts make a tremendously significant difference in the Georgia Conservancy's ability to protect and conserve Georgia's natural resources through advocacy, engagement, and collaboration.

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AND REMEMBER**

The following donors made gifts to the Georgia Conservancy in honor or in memory of those who have inspired or affected them. Donors are listed below the honoree.

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Beth Ranney

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AND ORGANIZATION GIFTS**

Corporation, Foundation, and Organization support is deeply appreciated by the Georgia Conservancy community. These gifts significantly enhance support from individual members and donors, supporting the Georgia Conservancy's operations, programs, and services throughout Georgia.

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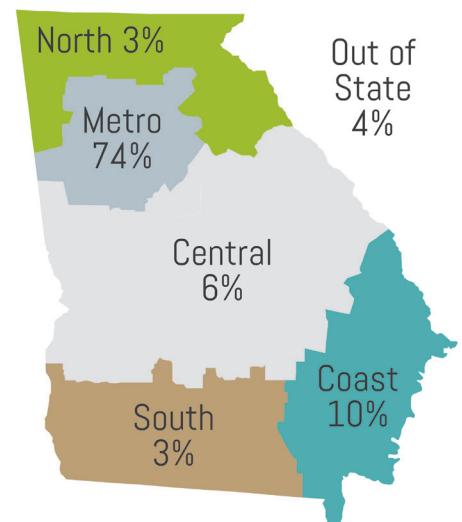
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WHERE DO GEORGIA CONSERVANCY MEMBERS LIVE?



NATURAL PARTNERS

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

The Georgia Conservancy has accomplished much in our 53 years, and we pride ourselves on being an organization that collaborates with a diverse range of partners to forward a culture of conservation in Georgia.

Our Natural Partners are some of the Georgia Conservancy's strongest corporate allies in the conservation and stewardship of Georgia's natural resources.

Natural Partners have a stake in the environmental and economic well-being of our state, and help financially support our mission throughout the year.

Learn more at www.georgiaconservancy.org/naturalpartners



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Russ Pennington*, Brookhaven, *McGuire Woods LLP*
Steven E. Pohl*, Atlanta, *Novelis, Inc., Retired*
Stacey Shailendra, Atlanta, *Ansley Atlanta Real Estate*
W. Michael Subbs, Macon, *Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble Inc.*
Charles Thomas*, Mableton, *Williams-Russell & Johnson, Inc*
Anita A. Timmons, Atlanta, *Retired Teacher and Business Owner*
Malon Wickham, Columbus, *Wells Fargo Advisors LLC*
Stephanie Teta**, Atlanta, *Interface*

*Executive Committee Member **Ex Officio Member

GENERATION GREEN BOARD (SPRING 2020)

Stephanie Teta, *Interface Board Chair*
Bruce Battle, *Burton Energy Group*
Sofia Bork, *Truist Bank*
Justin Brightharp, *Center for Transportation and the Environment*
Will Bryan, *Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance*
Mandy Cobb, *Resource Branding*
Kallen Deck, *MailChimp*
Blais Hickey, *Georgia Tech MBA Candidate*
Yeou-Rong Jih, *The Greenlink Group*
Lilly Klehr, *UPS*
Kate Lee, *Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance*
Roberta Moore, *The Conservation Fund*
Samantha Morton, *SK Collaborative*
Wendy Norena, *Center for Transportation and the Environment*
Sarah Page, *DeKalb County Government*
Eboni Preston, *Greening Youth Foundation*
Sabina Tungaraza, *Cox Communications*

GEORGIA CONSERVANCY STAFF (SPRING 2020)

Bart Gobeil, President
Katherine Moore, Vice President of Programs
Jane Zoellick, Vice President of Development
Felixsha Abram, Finance & Operations Manager
Leah Dixon, Advocacy Director
Brian Foster, Communications Director
Nick Johnson, Senior Planner
Clark Harrison, Stewardship Trips Director
Charles McMillan, Coastal Director
Liza Mueller, Development & Engagement Director
Lisa Patrick, Executive Assistant
Daneshia Louis, Membership & Donor Relations Manager

ADVISORY BOARD (SPRING 2020)

Claire “Yum” Arnold	E. Cody Laird, Jr.
Joel Cowan	Elliott Levitas
Bradley Currey, Jr.	Clay C. Long
Ann Curry	Joe Montgomery
Andrew H. Ernst	Laura Turner Seydel
Douglas R. Hooker	John A. Sibley III
	James Timmons, Jr.

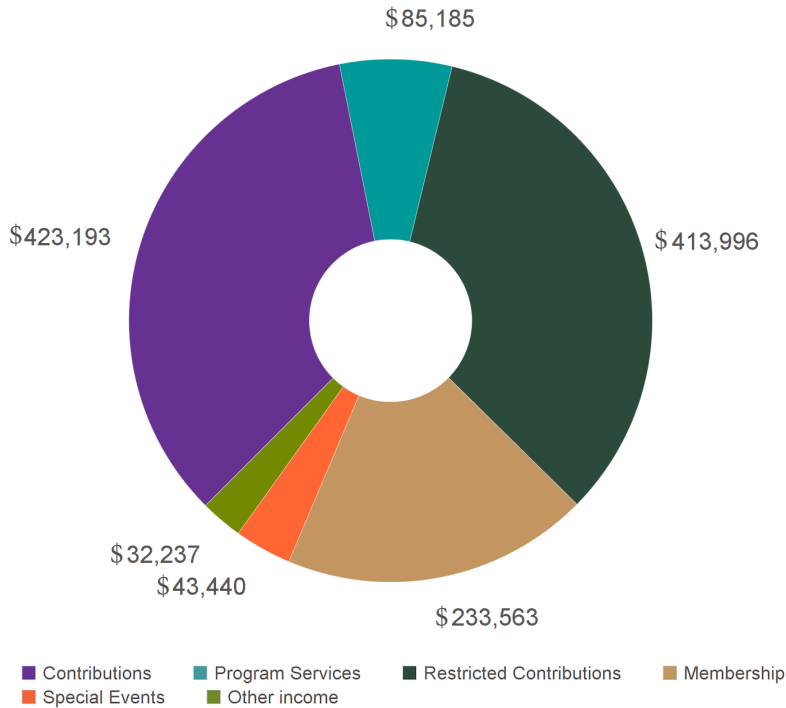


Pileated Woodpecker at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve by Steve Rushing

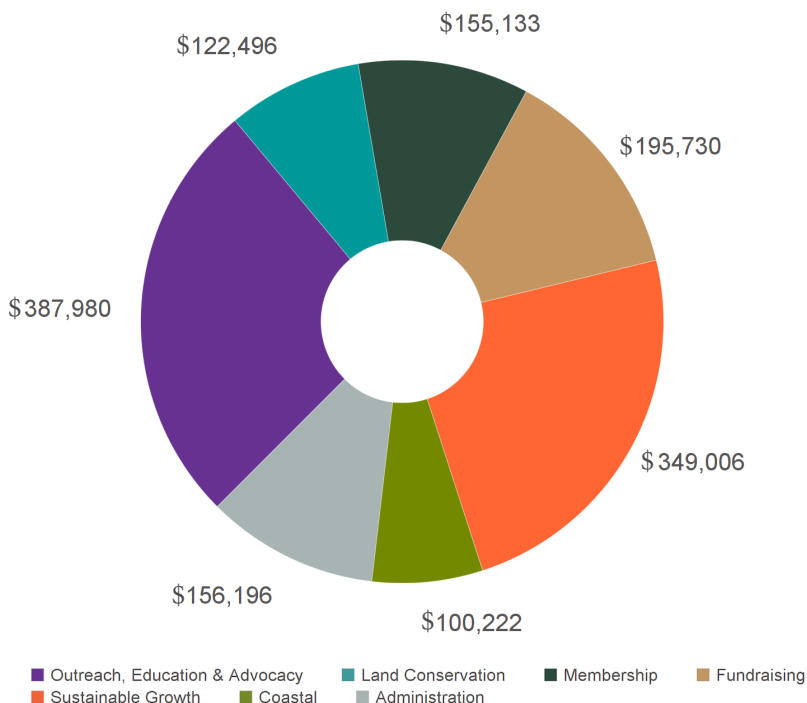
INCOME & EXPENSES

[audited]

FY2019 OPERATING REVENUE: \$1,231,614



FY2019 OPERATING EXPENSES: \$1,466,743



BALANCE SHEET	
Cash and Cash Reserve	\$615,851
Endowment Fund	\$100,000
Other Assets	\$75,498
TOTAL ASSETS	\$791,349
Total Liabilities	\$ 90,978
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$446,362
Temporarily Restricted Fund Balance	\$154,009
Permanently Restricted Fund Balance	\$100,000
TOTAL EQUITY	\$791,349

The Georgia Conservancy is a private nonprofit organization. The Conservancy's revenues come from a combination of individual memberships, unrestricted gifts, restricted grants, stewardship trip fees, special events, and the sale of merchandise. All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. A certified public accounting firm audits the Georgia Conservancy annually.

If you have any questions about our Accounting or Financing, please contact Georgia Conservancy Finance Director Felixsha Abram at fabram@gaconservancy.org



Georgia
CONSERVANCY

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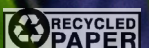
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#thisismyga



@gaconservancy

*Cover photo of Shoals Spider Lilies on the Flint River by Chris Drummond
Printing generously provided by Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta*



A GEORGIA WHERE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT THRIVE.