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For immediate release

## Low country boil a highlight of Land Trust Oyster Roast

Oysters may be the main feature at the St. Simons Land Trust's upcoming Seventh Annual Oyster Roast, but running a close second is the low country boil, a specialty of Bob Thompson.

For the fifth year in a row, Thompson will cook up his own recipe for the coastal favorite, using 80 pounds of Wild Georgia shrimp, "a zillion potatoes," corn, sausage, and maybe some rutabagas. His seasonings are a closely held secret, says Thompson. Thompson not only prepares the dish, but he donates everything but the shrimp.

How did Thompson, owner of Creative Printing in Brunswick, get involved in creating low country boil for the Oyster Roast? He had already been handling printing for the Land Trust, as well as cooking for a lot of charities and catering a tailgate event for 700 people during Georgia-Florida weekend, he says. "I like what the Land Trust is doing – trying to keep the island from being overpopulated with stuff," he says. "I've got all this cooking equipment, so I got involved in the Oyster Roast."

Thompson says he and his crew – Mark Messersmith and Carl Houston with Creative Printing, Drummond Spence, owner of Grandy's, and Thompson's brother Cal, owner of Vision Center of Brunswick – keep five cook pots going nonstop from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. the day of the event.

This year's Oyster Roast is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at Fort Frederica National Monument. The spread also includes coastal fare from leading Golden Isles restaurants.

Tickets for members are \$40; for non-members, \$45. After Nov. 6, the prices increase \$5. For more information, call 638-9109.

The St. Simons Land Trust's mission is to preserve the island's natural and scenic character and to enhance the quality of life of the island community for present and future generations. The Land Trust currently protects 72 acres of property on St. Simons Island. One of its most recent accomplishments is the purchase and landscaping of the old Chevron station property at the corner of Frederica and Demere roads.

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Photo caption: Bob Thompson (left) cooks low country boil for the St. Simons Land Trust Oyster Roast, with the help of Mark Messersmith and Carl Houston.

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Jett or Leslie Lamkin  
912-638-9053  
[jett@lamkincommunications.com](mailto:jett@lamkincommunications.com)  
[leslie@lamkincommunications.com](mailto:leslie@lamkincommunications.com)