

ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST

# PASSPORT

To PRESERVATION

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WHAT IS

# PRESERVATION?

Join us on a FUN JOURNEY across St. Simons to learn why it's important to preserve and protect the forests, marshlands, and streams where this barrier island's plants and animals make their homes. Use the map on the right to locate Land Trust properties that you can explore. **Let's go!**

COLOR IN THE  
LAND TRUST  
LOGO!



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WHO MADE THIS PASSPORT POSSIBLE!

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## LEGEND

- SSLT Protected Properties
- SSLT Properties with Public Access

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

## SSLT PROPERTIES I EXPLORED:

(Check box once visited.)

- ☐ A St. Simons Land Trust Office
- ☐ B Mildred Huie Museum
- ☐ C John Gilbert Nature Trail
- ☐ D Old Stables Corner
- ☐ E Harrington Community Park
- ☐ F Guale Preserve
- ☐ G Frederica Park
- ☐ H Alice Richards Botanical Trail
- ☐ I Cannon's Point Preserve

# WHAT IS A

# BARRIER ISLAND?

St. Simons Island is one of fourteen barrier islands along Georgia's coast. All these sandy islands have been built up by waves, currents, and winds and help protect the mainland from storms, sea level rise, and other powerful forces of the ocean. On these two pages, you'll find the different layers of a maritime forest on a barrier island and the plants and birds that live in each.



## CANOPY

**Birds:** Owls, Woodpeckers, Tanagers, Warblers

**Plants:** Junipers, Hickories, Pines, Oaks, Cedars, Maples

## UNDERSTORY

**Birds:** Mockingbirds, Bluebirds, Wrens, Doves

**Plants:** Dogwoods, Viburnums, Wax Myrtles, Saw Palmettos



These are the four most common habitats of a barrier island:

## SALTMARSH

Coastal wetland that floods and drains twice each day with incoming and outgoing tides

## MARITIME FOREST

Wooded habitat on higher ground of barrier islands that supports many kinds of plants and animals

- 1 Barrier islands protect the mainland from the effects of the ocean.
- 2 Saltmarshes contain more saltwater than freshwater.
- 3 In a maritime forest, you can find different species of oaks, palms, pines, mushrooms, Spanish moss, and more!

## QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER LEARNING

- 1 WHAT DO BARRIER ISLANDS PROTECT?
- 2 DO GEORGIA'S SALTMARSHES CONTAIN MORE FRESHWATER OR MORE SALTWATER?
- 3 WHAT KINDS OF PLANTS MIGHT YOU FIND IN A MARITIME FOREST?
- 4 WHY ARE SAND DUNES IMPORTANT TO THE BEACH HABITAT?

*(Answers can be found at the bottom of these two pages.)*

### ABOVE CANOPY

**Birds:** Vultures, Hawks, Swallows, Swifts

### MIDSTORY

**Birds:** Warblers, Jays, Vireos, Cardinals, Chickadees, Kinglets

**Plants:** Ash, Maples, Sweetgums, Hackberries, Palms

### GROUND COVER

**Birds:** Sparrows, Shorebirds, Waterfowl

**Plants:** Gramas, Bluestems, Cattails

### DUNE RIDGES

A buildup of sand and plants above the high-tide line that runs parallel to the ocean

### BEACH

Sandy area between the dunes and ocean

## ANSWERS TO FURTHER LEARNING QUESTIONS

- 4 Sand dunes protect inland areas from storm surges, hurricanes, flood-water, and wind and wave action that can damage property. They also provide nesting habitat for coastal birds, sea turtles, and small mammals.



# ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST PROTECTED PROPERTIES

The Land Trust protected properties shown here are open from sunrise to sunset with the exception of Cannon's Point Preserve which is open to the public Saturday–Monday from 9AM–3PM. Please check our website for the most updated hours of operation.



## ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST OFFICE

📍 1810 FREDERICA RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 1.42



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** This parcel of land was proposed as the site of a dollar store. The Land Trust purchased the property in 2018 and moved its offices here the following year.



## MILDRED HUIE MUSEUM

📍 1819 FREDERICA RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: .56



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** This “iconic” property was the longtime home of impressionist artist Mildred Huie and later served as an art museum.



## JOHN GILBERT NATURE TRAIL

📍 2470 FREDERICA RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 40



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** At the end of the JGNT, you can see across the saltmarsh to Sea Island. John's Tree is also one of the most famous trees on the island.



## OLD STABLES CORNER

📍 NW CORNER OF  
FREDERICA & SEA ISLAND RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 2.3



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** For decades, generations of island residents and visitors took riding lessons and rode horses from the old Sea Island Stables.

PARTNER  
PROPERTY



## HARRINGTON COMMUNITY PARK

📍 325 SOUTH HARRINGTON RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 12



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** This property is located next to the only remaining historic African American schoolhouse on St. Simons Island.

PARTNER  
PROPERTY



## FREDERICA PARK

📍 2201 LAWRENCE RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 20



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** These 20 acres of once thickly wooded land were donated by the Sea Island Company in 2008 to become the first new public park on SSI in 50 years.

PARTNER  
PROPERTY



## ALICE RICHARDS BOTANICAL TRAIL

📍 2201 LAWRENCE RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 20



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** Along this trail you can find “faerie houses” (but maybe no faeries) and many different types of native plants.



## GUALE PRESERVE

📍 110 LAWRENCE RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 258



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** This is home to many rare and threatened species of plants and animals, including the only known gopher tortoise—Georgia’s state reptile—on the island.



## CANNON'S POINT PRESERVE

📍 CANNON POINT RD.

🌳 ACREAGE: 644



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

**FUN FACT:** Along with miles of hiking trails and six miles of shoreline, you can find the remains of structures from the 18th and 19th centuries.

# BARRIER ISLAND SCAVENGER HUNT

HOW MANY OF THE FOLLOWING PLANTS  
AND ANIMALS CAN YOU FIND?



Fiddler Crab



Oyster



Flower



Pinecone



Spanish Moss



Resurrection  
Fern



Mushroom



Feather



Crab Hole



Knobbed Whelk



Acorn



Leaf

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

TAKE  
ONLY  
PICTURES

LEAVE ONLY  
FOOT PRINTS

1

If you find a **fiddler crab** by the saltmarsh, does it have one large claw? If so, that is a male!

2

If you see any **flowers**, what colors are they? Are there any pollinators nearby?

3

Do you see any **mushrooms**? If so, are they growing out of the ground or on a tree or log?

4

Do you know how **resurrection ferns** got their names? If you see any, are they green or brown? What do you think causes the plant to "die" and then "come back to life?"

5

Did you find any **crab holes** along your island journey? If so, how large was the hole and was the crab at home?

6

How many **feathers** did you find? Were they all the same color? What birds do you think they came from?





# NATIVE BIRDS

## ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND



### BACKYARD BIRDS



**Northern Cardinal**



**Brown Thrasher**

GEORGIA'S  
STATE BIRD



**Red-bellied Woodpecker**



**Black Vulture**



**Painted Bunting**

### BEACH BIRDS



**Brown Pelican**



**Osprey**



**Sanderling**



**Laughing Gull**



**Royal Tern**

### MARSH BIRDS



**Great Blue Heron**



**Great Egret**



**Green Heron**



**Roseate Spoonbill**



**White Ibis**

*Note: Many of these species can be found in multiple locations, including nearly all SSLT properties.*

TAKE  
ONLY  
PICTURES

LEAVE ONLY  
FOOT PRINTS

# NATIVE WILDLIFE

## ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND



### MAMMALS



**Squirrel**



**Armadillo**



**Raccoon**



**White-Tailed Deer**



**Bat**

GEORGIA'S  
STATE MAMMAL

### AMPHIBIANS / REPTILES



**Green Tree Frog**



**Snake**



**Turtle**



**Lizard**



**Skink**

GEORGIA'S  
STATE AMPHIBIAN

### INSECTS / SPIDERS



**House Fly**



**Mosquito**



**Honeybee**



**Butterfly**



**Spider**

GEORGIA'S  
STATE INSECT



#### MAMMAL

A warm-blooded animal that, like amphibians, has a spine but also has hair or fur and the mothers provide milk to their babies, just like humans do



#### AMPHIBIAN

A cold-blooded "vertebrate" (meaning it has a backbone) that breathes underwater with gills when it's a tadpole (or in the "larval" stage), but as an adult frog or toad breathes with lungs, just like you



#### REPTILE

Another animal with a spine that has dry, scaly skin (or scales) and typically lays soft-shelled eggs on land



#### INSECT

In the same family of animals that include spiders and "crustacea" (like crabs and lobsters) and has six legs and usually one or two pairs of wings



#### SPIDER

Spiders have no wings, have eight legs, and spin sticky webs to catch those six-legged insects

# NATIVE PLANTS

## ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND



OAKS



Southern Live Oak



PINES



Pond Pine



PALMS



Saw Palmetto



OTHERS



Southern Magnolia



Water Oak



Longleaf Pine



Cabbage Palm



Wax Myrtle



Laurel Oak



Loblolly Pine



Sabal Palm



Eastern Red Cedar



### DECIDUOUS

Trees or shrubs that shed leaves annually and that often bear fruit and acorns like those that come from oak trees



### CONIFEROUS

Trees or shrubs that bear cones and evergreen leaves or needles like those on pine trees



### EVERGREEN

Plants that retain green leaves or fronds all year long, including palms, southern magnolias, and cedar trees



### OAK

A tree that bears acorns as fruit and typically has lobed deciduous leaves



### PINE

An evergreen coniferous tree that has clusters of long needle-shaped leaves



### PALM

An unbranched evergreen tree with a crown of long feathered or fan-shaped "leaves" or fronds



# NATURE LOG



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

WILDLIFE I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANTS I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

SOUNDS I HEARD: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAWING:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

WILDLIFE I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANTS I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

SOUNDS I HEARD: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAWING:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

WILDLIFE I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANTS I SAW: \_\_\_\_\_

SOUNDS I HEARD: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAWING:

DATE: _____ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ LOCATION: _____ WILDLIFE I SAW: _____ _____ PLANTS I SAW: _____ _____ SOUNDS I HEARD: _____ _____	DRAWING:
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DATE: _____ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ LOCATION: _____ WILDLIFE I SAW: _____ _____ PLANTS I SAW: _____ _____ SOUNDS I HEARD: _____ _____	DRAWING:
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DATE: _____ WEATHER: ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ LOCATION: _____ WILDLIFE I SAW: _____ _____ PLANTS I SAW: _____ _____ SOUNDS I HEARD: _____ _____	DRAWING:
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Did you  
KNOW?



The great naturalist **WILLIAM BARTRAM** often made notes and drawings of rare plants and animals, shells, feathers, and rocks he saw on hikes. He pulled this information from his nature logs when he wrote his many books.



# GLOSSARY & GAMES

**Acorn:** The seed or "fruit" of an oak tree

**Endangered:** A species seriously at risk of extinction

**Extinct:** An animal or plant no longer in existence

**Fiddler Crab:** A small crustacean that lives on beaches, mudflats and saltmarshes and may have one large claw

**Mainland:** A large mass of land that isn't an island (for example, the city of Brunswick is on the mainland)

**Native:** A plant or animal occurring naturally in a particular place

**Oyster:** A snail-like animal with a rough, irregular, hinged shell that lives in the saltmarsh

**Pollinator:** Birds, insects, and other animals that move pollen from one flower to another to bring about fertilization

**Preservation:** Maintaining something in its original or existing state

**Rare:** A plant or animal found in only small numbers and not often seen

**Resurrection Fern:** A fern that appears dead during a drought but "comes back to life" when exposed to water and can be found on live oaks and other trees

**Spanish Moss:** A grey, draping, nonparasitic plant that can be found growing on larger trees in the maritime forest

**Spartina Grass:** A tall, smooth grass that grows in Georgia's saltmarshes and that is typically green in the warmer months and golden brown in the cooler months

**Species:** A group of plants or animals that have similar characteristics and that can breed with one another

**Threatened:** A plant or animal at risk of becoming endangered

**Wetland:** Land that is saturated with water such as marshes and swamps

T E N D A N G E R E D R W E T L A N D P  
 A H K R O E N X C J K A W D W I Q S T O  
 G H R Z L I F A P S M R G T V D B M I L  
 R S D E I S E O T R I E K L C P Q Y E L  
 A T C B A R R K Y I E W S P E C I E S I  
 S A R H X T N R T S V S B N S M A K N N  
 S C A F C R E Q M I T E E M R O T V K A  
 I V B Y P W B N A T I E C R A S Z V H T  
 R I G P J O Z Z E S K A R K V S S O V O  
 B E U P J T H P J D Q Y P O V E T O D R

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS ABOVE?

CRAB

ENDANGERED

FERN

GRASS

MOSS

NATIVE

OYSTER

POLLINATOR

PRESERVE

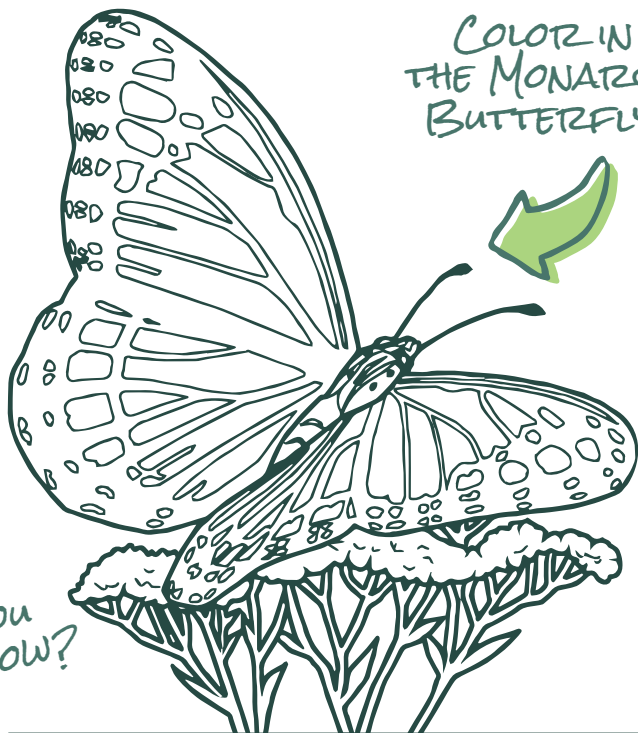
RARE

SPECIES

THREATENED

WETLAND

COLOR IN  
THE MONARCH  
BUTTERFLY!



DID YOU  
KNOW?



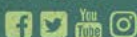
MONARCH BUTTERFLIES migrate (travel) nearly 3,000 miles from the northern United States and Canada to Mexico every year?

The mission of the St. Simons Land Trust is to preserve the island's natural and scenic character and to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.



*Thank you to all those who helped to envision, create, review, and provide input on the Passport to Preservation, including Land Trust Ambassadors, Cannon's Point Preserve Education Task Force members, local educators and students, Elegant Island Living, and our other generous 2021 sponsors. Special thanks to the designer of this passport, Clay Caldwell of Commonground Creative, and his assistant John.*

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