

# Friends of the University of Georgia Marine Institute

OCTOBER 2011

Sapelo Island, Georgia, USA

Martha Odum

## Thoughts and a Thank You from the Director

**H**ere at the beginning of fall and end of another very busy summer season at the Marine Institute, it is appropriate to sit back, take a breath, and *honestly* reflect on where we are and where we are going. As everyone with even a remote connection to UGAMI already knows, as a line item in Georgia's state budget, our funding continues to be slashed. Correcting for inflation, our new FY2012 state allocation (which began July 1, 2011) is lower than at any time in the last 30 years. In those same inflation corrected dollars, UGAMI's state allocation has been reduced by 50% since 2002, with 22% of that occurring since 2008. The state no longer provides enough funding

to pay the salary of our minimal staff with enough money left over to cover the power bill. For the first time in UGAMI's long history, we depend on visitor fees and private support to remain solvent. The lack of state support for one of its true coastal treasures is truly disheartening. We are not, however, alone in our financial crisis. Others along the coast suffer their own economic woes along with us and we must all work together while we hope for better economic days in the future.

Nevertheless, being true to that pioneer spirit that rises from times of hardship, the staff at UGAMI has continued to provide the support and friendly faces that always makes a trip to Sapelo Island and the Marine Institute one of the most special and interesting experiences in our state. I honestly am so very proud of the dedication shown by our staff and volunteers alike, as they face these trying times head on. In addressing these problems, I am happy to report that (1) UGA's Provost, Dr. Jere Morehead, has kicked off a "Marine Task Force" to develop new and innovative ways to meet the mission of Marine Programs at UGA and (2) a "Sapelo Futures" committee, lead by Sea Grant Director Dr. Chuck

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Bill Miller and Mr. Bill

Hopkinson, is meeting to define and promote UGAMI's role in the developing new undergraduate major in Marine Science. Both are tasked to present their work within the next 4-6 months. Serving on both committees, I am excited to work with others sharing my determination to ensure that marine programs at UGA are truly world class. UGAMI will certainly remain a central element of these plans.

In the meantime, we will all continue our mission to make the Marine Institute a "5-star" destination when it comes to experiencing, studying, and conducting research within that most unique and critical coastal ecosystem that UGAMI calls home. We will strive to do our best to let you do yours. Thank you for your continued support.

*Bill Miller*

# Seen on Sapelo

## Our Friends, Guests and Volunteers

The power crew Mary Rugg, Erika Lewis and Brian Carney take a work break.



Andy Lane (GE Rep), Randy Adkins (electrician H&E Electric Services), Phil Crocker (electrical engineer Shaw, Inc.) and his wife Kayte waiting to view the super moon.



Laurie and Lamar started the stump removal project at the greenhouse with help from Tom Victor, JD Daniels (back row), Linda Daniels, Mary Victor (middle), Mary Ann and Walter Mason.



Warmed by the sun Alex Gutierrez, JD and Linda Daniels, Phil Crocker, Jerry Spencer, Theresa Pinilla, Kitty Henderson, Reynolds Lassiter, front - Jim and Brenda Kitchens, Carolyn Rader and Nora Sue Spencer.



On the bench she dedicated to her parents are Cherri Disque and her friend Cliff Sapp. Standing are Mike Disque and Donna Sapp.



Ready for a great meal at Lula's Kitchen - back row - Nancy Beckemeyer, Scott Messer, Bill Miller, Thomas Hale, Susan Starr, Sheffield Hale, Reynolds Lassiter. Front row - Jennifer Messer, Barbara Millhouse, Sherry Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Hale, Mike Starr and Jackie Fleet.

# Meet Stephanie Grovner

**Island Resident is Recipient of the 2011 Friends Summer Intern Award**

**Q.** How is your job at UGAMI? What tasks are you doing?

**A.** My Job at UGAMI is really fun. I'm enjoying the different guest, projects and new summer employees. It's been a joy to come back this summer and work with well-known faces. Some of my daily tasks are making office supply orders, answer the phones, update all end of the year files, t-shirt and hat sales.

**Q.** Are you learning new skills?

**A.** Almost every day I'm doing something different. Between learning different skills on the computer, to going over monthly status reports.

**Q.** What are your future plans?

**A.** My future plans are to finish college and receive a nursing degree.



PHOTO BY BARBARA PRICE

## And, Meet Jennifer Messer

**New Development Director for UGAMI**



**Q.** Tell us about your college education and work with UGA. I understand that you did fundraising for the School of Art for many years.

**A.** I have a B.A. in History from Rutgers College and a Masters degree in Historic Preservation (MHP) from the University of Georgia. One of my earliest memories in graduate school was an overnight field trip to Sapelo with Professor Pratt Cassity's class in 1994. We spent the night in the now abandoned old dormitory. It was not a pleasant place to stay as I remember...

BUT I fell in love with Sapelo Island. After graduate school I worked in Baton Rouge and eventually returned to UGA, working for the Lamar Dodd School of Art for nine years as their first development director and now I fundraise for several areas of the Franklin College including all of the social science departments, the Georgia Museum of Natural History, and the Marine Institute.

**Q.** You've been working closely with the Marine Institute director Bill Miller to identify funding needs at UGAMI. What are the funding needs at the Marine Institute?

**A.** Funding needs are as diverse as endowed research faculty positions to lawn mowing equipment! Mainly, I think, we want to be able to offer faculty, students and visitors to UGAMI a top quality experience. Due to several years of budget setbacks, this is becoming increasingly difficult to do. Gifts to bring internationally recognized scientists to the island would be wonderful; however having a place for them to stay, conduct research, meet with students, etc. is not that simple. It's a chicken and the egg

situation. Which do you tackle first? The facilities, which are in need of maintenance and renovation or the academic mission to have more researchers and their graduate assistants on the island? We are just beginning to look at these issues and from a major gifts standpoint, assess which would be the best course of action.

**Q.** If you had one wish for the MI, what would it be?

**A.** Ideally, I want to see all of the buildings renovated so that UGAMI can host international conferences and symposiums, and have the proceedings of the conferences published. I'd like to see UGAMI return to being a vibrant and active research facility with multiple faculty members and staff working in state-of-the-art laboratories.

*Jen's efforts are focused on growing the Marine Institute Support Fund. Special thanks to Dac Crossley and Clay Bryant for their contributions to this fund.*

*Jen is hosting another weekend at the Reynolds Mansion Nov 11-13. If you'd like to join Jen please contact her for details at 706-542-0068.*

# Artists Creating the Sapelo Glow

Making a Difference for UGAMI



Caroline Montague  
at work on Sapelo.



## The Studio Group

When painter, sculptor and Studio Group member Caroline Montague was invited to spend a work weekend at the Marine Institute (March 5-8, 2010) she enthusiastically packed her bags, easel, drawing paper and pastels. She hadn't been to Sapelo Island in 30 years but she still had fond memories of her time there. In 1980 she'd been one of eleven

artists invited by Ed Chin to participate in a Georgia Sea Grant artist program that resulted in a collection of coastal artwork created for use as an educational tool (communication from Reita Rivers). This magnificent collection is housed at the Georgia Museum of Art.

Caroline took her enthusiasm back to Athens where she created stunning drawings and paintings of the greenhouse (she has since donated 2 pastel drawings of the greenhouse to the Friends - her

donation for the art auction is featured in this article). By June she was formulating an idea to have The Studio

Group, an

Athens-area artists collective, spend the weekend on Sapelo to gain inspiration from the natural beauty of this historic island setting. Their artistic talents span the spectrum of drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, photography and more, creating an amazing diverse array of art. The group agreed to go March 18-20, 2011 and it was a weekend full of

inspiration! And, a new artist-based fund raiser was created for UGAMI.

The Studio Group is having an exhibition of their Sapelo inspired work at the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation (34 School St., Watkinsville, GA) on February 24-March 23, 2012. Each artist will donate one piece of art to be auctioned off to benefit UGAMI, and additionally, if other artwork in the show is sold during the exhibit each artist has agreed to donate ten percent of the purchase price to UGAMI.

*Thank you to The Studio Group for being generous Friends. Please attend their show and support the sale of their work. Opening night is Friday, February 24 from 6-9 p.m*

*Visit [www.thestudiogroup.biz](http://www.thestudiogroup.biz)*

### *List of Artists:*

*Margaret Agner - fiber arts & lithographs  
Barbara J. Allen - metalwork*

*Nancy Carter - paper  
Anna Eidsvik - pottery  
Annette Hatton - metals & photography  
David T Lindsay - photography  
Caroline Montague - painting & sculpture  
Chatham Murray - painting  
Christie Moody - fused glass  
Jim Norton - metals  
Sarah Pattison - painting*



The Studio Group and Friends on Nanny Goat Beach for the super moon celebration. LR, Annette Hatton, Caroline Montague, Nancy Carter, Barbara Allen, Sarah Pattison, Jim Norton, Tomi Sapp, Anna and Charlie Eidsvik, Margaret Agner, David Lindsay, Chatham Murray, Paul Cassilly, Michael and Christie Moody. Missing from the photo is Michael Spronck.

## Ginger Goekjian, Sue Goldstein and Karekin Goekjian



**B**reaking Dormancy - The Sapelo Island Greenhouse Show consisted of color photographs by Karekin and Ginger Goekjian and B&W photographs by Sue Goldstein. This evocative exhibition was held at the Atlanta Botanical Garden from April 12-June 20, 2011. Karekin and Ginger used the light of the full moon to illuminate the greenhouse during the early phase of its restoration and the results are stunning. Sue Goldstein created a series of hauntingly beautiful B&W photos of the greenhouse when the structure was abandoned in the late 80s and into the 90s. Together their photographs revealed a historic glasshouse complex seemingly caught in time. They graciously allow the Friends to use their photographs to draw attention to the restoration of this magnificent structure. Prints from the show are available for purchase or if you'd like this show to come to your fair city please contact Beth Richardson [beth@plantbio.uga.edu](mailto:beth@plantbio.uga.edu) for more information.

## Alan Campbell



Estuaries - Sapelo  
26"x18.5"



Spring Tide Sunset  
24.5"x16"

**BREAKING DORMANCY**  
The Sapelo Island Greenhouse Show

Full moon photography by  
Karekin & Ginger Goekjian

Black & white photography  
by Sue Goldstein

**A**thens artist Alan Campbell has worked on the Georgia coast for many years capturing the beauty of Sapelo and the other barrier islands in his watercolors and paintings. The three prints of Alan's work shown are available for a \$200 donation to the Friends. The prints are unframed but numbered and signed by Alan. If you'd like a print in support of the Friends, please contact Beth Richardson, [beth@palntbio.uga.edu](mailto:beth@palntbio.uga.edu) or call 706-542-1790.



Spring Morning on Sapelo  
24"x14.5"

# Lloyd Dunn Is Our Volunteer of the Year!



I'm delighted to announce that Lloyd Dunn is our volunteer of the year. Lloyd is a retired botany professor from Georgia Tech and formerly UGA. He lived for many years in "the botany trailer" at UGAMI's pond circle. He and his wife Sue Bailey (a recently retired Atlanta attorney) built a beautiful home on Sapelo in the Hog Hammock Community.

Lloyd has been a member of the Friends from the get go and has worked tirelessly on the greenhouse project. He takes amazingly good care of us when we visit the island - it's a long list that starts when he meets us at the dock, hauls our gear, helps us get settled, shares meals and stories, supplies us with tools, buckets, and other work supplies. When we have to head for home, he helps us load our gear back on the ferry and conducts thorough cooler inspections before we can leave the island (he never allows beer to leave Sapelo especially Natural Light – once it's on the island it stays on the island). Lloyd has a great sense of humor and is always up to endless boyish mischief. We've learned to appreciate his philosophy in life "it is easier to ask for forgiveness than permission."



Lloyd posed by his tree art at the greenhouse. He and James Maund worked hard removing all the trees that had grown through or attached themselves to the greenhouse.

He is a proud member of the "Fiends." When the new dorm was being dedicated Lloyd stuffed a Friends brochure into the coat pocket of The Honorable Jack Kingston and during Project Sapelo's greenhouse tour he stood by the bus and handed everyone a brochure and told them it was "their ticket for the bus." He is definitely on-board as a Friend and we are lucky to have him in our group. Thank you, Lloyd!



## Got Glass?

Join the "Be a Pane" Campaign

By being a PANE you can help us finish the greenhouse project! Be a big pane for a \$50.00 donation or share your pane with a friend (\$25 plus \$25). Better yet buy glass for a whole wing or the entire Palm room and be considered a major pane.

Your \$50 donation will cover the cost of a pane of glass and the installation fee.

Spread the word and let's raise the money needed to cover the greenhouse in glass once again. Our timeline is December 2013.

Please make your check payable to The UGA Foundation, 394 S. Milledge Ave, Athens, GA 30602-5582 and earmark your donation to: The Be a Pane Greenhouse Campaign. Friends of the Marine Institute. Thanks!



# We Welcome Our New Members

## and Give Special Thanks to All Our Members for Their Continuing Support

Randy and Lori Adkins  
Margaret Agner and Michael Spronck  
Barbara Allen  
Rebecca Bailey  
Celia Barss  
Donations made in honor of Nancy Beckemeyer from the Alpharetta and Roswell Garden Clubs  
Sam Bowser and Ann Dusza  
Clay Bryant  
Venetia Butler  
Keith and Louise Calhoun  
Brian Carney and Mary Rugg  
Nancy Carter  
Paul Cassilly and Sarah Pattison  
Chris Craft  
Phil and Kayte Crocker  
Dac Crossley  
Charles and Carol Cummings  
Nancy Dalman  
Priscilla and Marshall Darley  
JD and Linda Daniels  
Patty Deveau  
Cherri and Mike Disque  
Lloyd Dunn  
Anna and Charles Eidsvik

Kara Eidsvik  
Jackie Fleet  
Chuck and Susie Garrett  
Rob Gibson and Caroline Howell  
Sheffield and Elizabeth Hale  
Dick Hanlin  
Annette Hatton  
Phyllis Hawkins  
Kitty and Steve Henderson  
Gita Hendessi  
Randall Hicks  
Julie Hogg  
Tim Hollibaugh  
Lorene Howard  
Cecil and Sandy Hudson  
Jeff Hughes  
Joe Irving  
Lucinda Johnson  
Marsh and Mary King  
Jim and Brenda Kitchens  
Rebecca Lang  
Reynolds Lassiter  
Erika Lewis  
David Lindsay  
Liz McGhee

Jennifer and Scott Messer  
Barbara Millhouse  
Jim and Ibby Mills  
Caroline Montague  
Christie and Michael Moody  
Mary Ann Moran and Ken Ross  
Chatham Murray  
Stephen Newland  
Jim Norton  
Steve Pennings  
Paul and Robin Perito  
Carolyn and Jeffrey Rader  
Beth Richardson and Sue Goldstein  
Lily Richardson  
Tomi Sapp  
John and Nancy Schalles  
Lois G. Scott  
Joanne Sharpe  
Jerry and Nora Sue Spencer  
Mike and Susan Starr  
Dekle Taylor  
Ken Thomas  
Helen and Dave Wenner  
Donald E. Wilkes III  
Paul and Martha Wolf



## Dear Friends

Thank you, dear Friends, for making 2010-2011 so fun and productive. Special thanks for all the donations and to the work gangs for all the sweat equity. At times it was super hot and a total bug fest but I truly enjoyed each and every day on Sapelo! Your good company and caring for UGAMI made all the difference.

With great sadness we note the passing of Doug Toma and Jim Henry. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Doug's wife Linda Bachman and to Jim's daughter Carolyn Rader and their family and friends. Doug and Linda brought groups of students to UGAMI for many years and they always organized a workday for the students. Giving back was always an important component of what they taught their students. Jim was a former Director of the Marine Institute and Carolyn grew up on Sapelo. You can see photos and a bit of their history at UGAMI in the March 2008 issue of the Friends newsletter that is available on-line.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new members. I appreciate you all and look forward to seeing you on Sapelo in 2012!

—Beth Richardson, President of the Friends

BR

PS - Many thanks to the Friends of Sapelo and Mary and Tom Victor for all you do!

# JIMMY AND GRACIE'S Wish List

Dear Friends, Got stuff? We need:

- **Golf carts - Club Cars, EZ-Go or Kawasaki Mules - Thanks Dac!**
- **Pickup trucks**
- **Chevy Suburbans or similar**
- **Bicycles**
- **Picnic tables - thanks GA Nature Conservancy!**
- **Weber grills, large & small**
- **Ice machines - Thanks Phil! Anyone got another?**
- **Commercial washers & dryers**
- **Heavy duty pots & pans**
- **Vacuum cleaners**
- **Propane fish fryer w/pot**
- **Freezer**

**Thank You!**

All donations are tax deductible.



Jimmy Ammons  
Facilities Manager



Gracie Townsend  
Program Coordinator



Please ask  
your friends  
to join!



## SUPPORT UGAMI ~ JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

*Yes!* Count me in as a member of the Friends of the University of Georgia Marine Institute!

\$25 Students     \$35-50 Regular     \$100 Sustaining     \$250 Patron     \$500 Donor     Other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (for our listserv) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: The UGA Foundation: Friends of the Marine Institute

Please mail your tax-deductible donation and form to:

Friends of the UGA Marine Institute  
Marine Programs  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

Thanks!



Or join and donate online: [www.friendsofugami.com](http://www.friendsofugami.com)

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