

# Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society



Spring 2025

"The mission of L.A.H.S. is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County."

## *A Word from Paul*

Hello, LAHS members!

The Society has had a good quarter this Spring, with three memorable speakers, an exciting field trip, and ten new memberships. Let's all welcome these new members when they join us at our regular monthly meetings.

Twenty-six members enjoyed a field trip last month to historic St. Marys, where they took "Molly's Tours", visiting the old town's historic buildings such as the First Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest church buildings in Georgia, and the historic Riverview Hotel where the Rockefeller's and Carnegie's stayed. They toured hangouts of smugglers, the shelter for a fleeing Aaron Burr, and a home base for Revolutionary War traitors. Members were entertained and informed in February by DNR Specialist, and LAHS Board member, Paul Medders, who spoke eloquently of the ecology of salt marshes. In March, the program was brought to us by Matthew Rowe of GDNR, who talked about freshwater mussels and the Altamaha river basin. April brought us a special treat when Board member, Eric Teal, told us of life growing up in the forests and on the beaches of Sapelo Island. He told us the inspiring story of his mother and father's groundbreaking scientific work on Sapelo, and later at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

Please note in May, at our regular meeting, we will hold the LAHS annual business meeting, where new Board members will be voted on, in addition to our usual program speaker. Also, this meeting will be my last as president of the Society, although I will remain on the Board as Treasurer. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years, leading the Board through a rebirth of sorts. Some of the goals we set have been achieved, but many remain uncompleted. I believe the improvements that the Board has achieved have significantly strengthened the organization's infrastructure for the coming decades.

*Thank you* for the opportunity to serve this esteemed organization.

Best regards,

***Paul***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Bill Barton  
President 2025-26  
615-305-1734

To Be Determined  
Vice President 2025-26

To Be Determined  
Secretary 2025-26

Paul Nix  
Treasurer 2025-27

Buddy Sullivan  
Past President  
Director Emeritus

### Directors

2025-26: Zach Crumpler, Dwight Hall, Paul Medders, Chelia Pinkney  
Martha Martin, Susan Inman

## Upcoming Meetings

- May 15: Jim Page, a Senior Fisheries Biologist will talk about Georgia's Invasive Species
- June 19: Brittney Dodge, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve: "Hydro-Logic: Reweaving Water, Wildlife, and Community in Coastal Georgia". We will explore the historical freshwater flow through our communities and why it is important to restore and maintain this hydrology for both wildlife and human ecosystems.
- July NO meeting as we have our annual picnic. To be announced

*Please note: There is now a \$5 admission fee for non-members to all monthly programs.*

## Upcoming Field Trip

October: One Hundred Miles

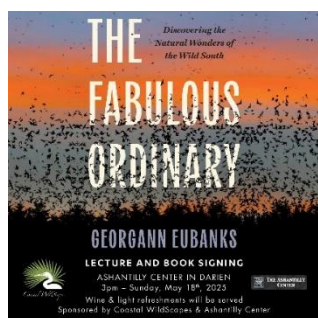


**One Hundred Miles** is a coastal nonprofit working to *protect Georgia's coast through advocacy, education, and community engagement*. We envision a future where coastal Georgia has thriving communities, protected landscapes, and secure wildlife. Led by a dedicated staff and a committed Board of Directors, One Hundred Miles works to help residents and visitors better understand the critical issues facing our coast and take action to protect it. Our efforts focus on core issues of water and wetlands, land use, changing climate, community resilience and equity, and wildlife. Hand-in-hand, our advocacy and education teams work to ensure that you have the knowledge and tools to make your voices heard for the coast you love.

## Coming Events

**All Summer: Fort King George, Darien** Many activities start in May for ages 8 and up: Archeology, Archery and Junior Ranger Day Camp. <https://gastateparks.org/FortKingGeorge>

**Thurs., Jue 19 & also June 26, 9-12 noon Hofwyl Junior Ranger Camps, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site.** A fun day of activities with our rangers. \$10:50 Ages 6-12. 912-264-7333, em: [allie.ellis@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:allie.ellis@dnr.ga.gov), or click link to register: <https://explore.gastateparks.org/events>



**May 18 @ 3 – 5 pm: The Ashantilly Center 15591 GA-99, Darien: Lecture & book signing with Georgann Eubanks**, featuring her latest book, “The Fabulous Ordinary, Discovering the Natural Wonders of the Wild South”. Enjoy an engaging discussion as Eubanks shares insights into her work. After the lecture, stay for **wine and light refreshments** while having your book signed.

## SPOTLIGHT



### Lloyd Flanders



"I, Lloyd Harrison Young Flanders am a native of Darien. I was born in Savannah March 22, 1935, and my parents, Robert A. Young, Jr. and Amanda Lloyd Harrison were prominent in the community. My mother was in the group that founded the LAHS, and my father was Tax Commissioner. His father, Austin Young, was the first elected Mayor of Darien. I have a younger sibling, Meredith Dudley Young Rogers. I attended the local schools and graduated, with Honor, from Darien High School in 1952. My Georgia History scrapbook I made in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade is in the LAHS Library. I twice served as President of the LAHS, I have degrees from Wesleyan, Mercer and Georgia Southern. Dyson Flanders, a Past President of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, and I were married for 50 years and lived on St. Simons Island for 33 years. We believed in travel and toured Europe with our two children when they were young. I have 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grands. Dyson and I taught for many years with Elderhostel =CDF, Flora and Fauna of the Golden Isles and LYF= History. We were the hosts of many group tours of Sapelo. I now reside in Magnolia Manor, in Richmond Hill, and enjoy attending LAHS programs, See you there!"

**NEW!**  
**Membership info**

### 2025 Lower Altamaha Historical Society Membership Program

*The purpose of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society (LAHS) membership program is to support advocacy and education to preserve and interpret the Lower Altamaha River corridor's valuable cultural, environmental, and historical assets. LAHS hosts monthly educational programming and special events to deepen knowledge and connection to the area's unique character and history to foster stewardship and appreciation.*

#### **Individual membership: \$50**

Individual membership benefits include free access to all monthly programs, a quarterly e-newsletter, discounted and early access invitations to special field trips, and an invitation for you and one guest to the holiday dinner and summer picnic.

#### **Family Membership: \$75 (2 adults and up to 4 children)**

All of the above benefits extended to up to two household adults and up to four household children. You can add family members for \$5 per person annually.

#### **Oglethorpe Society: \$500**

The Oglethorpe Society is an annual membership that directly supports the higher education of McIntosh County high school students who show exemplary academic and community service and a special interest in the history and environment of their hometown through the Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Program.

Benefits include those included in Individual and Family memberships and an exclusive invitation to an annual event to honor major donors and scholarship recipients. LAHS will recognize Oglethorpe Society members in the LAHS newsletter and annual meeting.



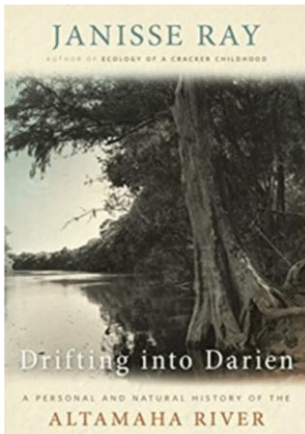
UGA's Red Barn on Tony  
Townley's farm in  
Oconee County, GA.

## Noteworthy

### Why Were Barns Painted Red?

The practice of painting barns red started in the late 18th century with New England farmers applying a protective varnish to barn surfaces to protect the wood from weathering prematurely. The barns were painted with linseed oil, which is an orange-colored oil derived from the seeds of the flax plant. To this oil, they would add a variety of things, most often milk and lime, but also ferrous oxide, or rust. Rust was plentiful on farms and because it killed fungi and mosses that might grow on barns, it was very effective as a sealant. It turned the mixture red in color. Red paint is one of the cheapest colors available to purchase. Eventually, as red paint became available, many people continued the color tradition.

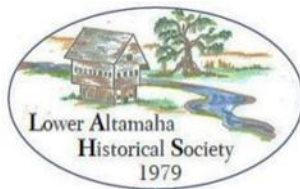
## Book of Interest



### *Drifting into Darien* by Janisse Ray, paperback, November 2015

The Altamaha is Janisse Ray's river, and from childhood she dreamed of paddling its entire *Altamaha River* begins with an account of finally making that journey, turning to meditations on the many ways we accept a world that contains both good and evil. With praise, biting satire, and hope, Ray goes looking for wisdom and finds a river. As in her groundbreaking *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Ray writes an account that includes both social history and natural history, understanding the two as inseparable, particularly in the rural corner of Georgia that she knows best.

Please like and follow us on Facebook: Lower Altamaha Historical Society



**We have 288 followers!**

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWEL

*If you haven't already, please remit your dues today.*

Join with others interested in learning more about this amazing place we get to call *home*.

### Memberships

Annual: Family - \$75 Individual - \$50 Oglethorpe Society- \$500

Pay w/credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at [www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

Or Make your check payable to LAHS and bring to the meeting.

Or Mail to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA. 31305

## Welcome New Members!

Mark Dixon, Donna McDowell, Susan Forsyth, John Peters, David & Michelle Phelps,  
Judy Phelps, Kellie Sharpe, Christina Stone & family

