



GAME 2017 Annual Conference

*Managing Georgia's Ecotones:
where the land and water
connect*



**November 3-5, 2017
St Simons Island, Georgia**

Managing Georgia's Ecotones: where the land and water connect



Georgia is a very diverse state in the variety of ecosystems found from the mountains to the coast and in the plant and animal species found in them. Did you know that Georgia ranks 6th in the nation for overall diversity? We rank 1st in the number of amphibians, 3rd in the number of freshwater fish, and 7th in the number of reptiles and vascular plants. One of the reasons for this diversity is because Georgia is a coastal state, and the transition zones between the land and water create unique habitats for many species to exist. During this conference we will explore how Georgia manages these unique places and the challenges they face.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday:

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|-----------------|--|
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Conference Registration at Best Western (St. Simons Island) |
| 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Birding and Sea Turtle Center visit on Jekyll Island – Field Trip (CDNR Headquarters in Brunswick) |
| 1:00 – 4:00 pm | DNR trawl boat trip on the RV Anna– Field Trip (CDNR Headquarters in Brunswick) |
| 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Conference Registration at Best Western (St. Simons Island) |
| 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Dinner catered by Southern Soul BBQ at Best Western (St. Simons Island) |
| 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Science Café with Rusty Garrison, DNR/WRD Director |

Saturday:

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| 7:30 – 8:00 am | Registration and Coffee at Best Western (St. Simons Island) |
| 8:00 – 8:15 am | Conference Welcome |
| 8:15 – 9:30 am | Plenary Session - Managing Georgia's Ecotones |
| 9:30 – 9:45 am | Q & A with Panelists |
| 9:45 – 7:00 pm | Silent Auction is Open |
| 9:55 – 12:15 pm | Concurrent sessions |
| 12:15 – 1:00 pm | Lunch |

1:00 – 1:30 pm	GAME Membership Meeting
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Cannon's Point Preserve tour– Field Trip (St. Simons Island)
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Low Country Boil at Best Western (St. Simons Island)
7:00 pm	Silent Auction Ends
7:30 pm - ?	Live Auction

Sunday:

9:00 – 11:30 am Field experience at Altama Plantation Wildlife Management Area (Brunswick)

REGISTRATION *Early Bird ends October 15, 2017*

FULL Registration: \$125 (\$75 for student)

Includes: One year of GAME membership, 2017 GAME conference favor, Friday Science Café with Rusty Garrison, all Saturday sessions, snacks, lunch, silent and live auction admission, Low Country Boil dinner, and Sunday's field experience at Altama Plantation Wildlife Management Area

Saturday ONLY: \$100

Includes: Saturday sessions, lunch, dinner, and silent and live auction admission.

After the October 15st *deadline* cost is \$140 per person for all registration types.

FIELD TRIPS

- ✓ **Trawling on DNR's RV Anna:** \$15/person - Come join us on the RV Anna boat where GAME members will watch and learn about the biodiversity brought up with a trawl net. Biologists on board will educate on the biodiversity caught and members will enjoy touching and learning about the organisms found in our coastal waters.
- ✓ **Birding and Sea Turtle Center visit on Jekyll Island:** \$10/person - Bring your binoculars and cameras for an exciting guided bird walk around several locations in the Golden Isles. See if you can spot one of our many beautiful and awe-inspiring bird species, such as the American oystercatcher, Roseate spoonbill, American wood stork, and many more. In addition to birding, enjoy a visit to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center to learn especially about sea turtles, as well as other reptile species. This center is a hospital for rehabilitating sea turtles, and has many great educational opportunities included.
- ✓ **Cannon's Point Preserve Tour:** Included with registration - Enjoy a private guided tour of Cannon's Point Preserve with Preserve Manager, Stephanie Knox. Cannon's Point has some of the last intact maritime forest on St. Simons Island and is rich in cultural and natural history. The peninsula has over six miles of salt marsh, tidal creek and river shore line that provide habitat for wildlife such as oysters, birds, fish, manatee and shell fish. Shell middens dating back to 2500 BCE are on the site, as are the remains of the large plantation home and slave quarters built by John Couper in the 1800s.

LODGING OPTIONS

Best Western Plus St. Simons

301 Main Street, Saint Simons Island, GA, 31522

For reservations call [912-638-7805](tel:912-638-7805) and mention GAME

OR open any browser and go to <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/groupSearch.do> Enter the group id J96VB9B1 and click on 'search.'

LOCATION

The 2017 Georgia Association of Marine Education (GAME) Conference will take place at the Best Western Conference Center on St Simons Island. The largest barrier island in the Golden Isles, St. Simons Island lies across the immortalized Marshes of Glynn, made famous by poet Sidney Lanier. Moss-draped oaks line the winding island streets, creating a picture-perfect image



worthy of a Faulkner tale. St. Simons Island is dotted with exceptional historic sites and attractions, from the [St. Simons Lighthouse Museum](#), a working lighthouse built in 1872, to the [Bloody Marsh Battle Site](#), where, in July 1742, British and Scottish soldiers protecting colonial Georgia defeated the Spanish. Other great sites include [Fort Frederica National Monument](#), which preserves archeological remnants of the local British colony and its defense against Spain, and historic [Christ Church, Frederica](#)—one of the oldest churches in Georgia, with worship held continuously since 1736—is located on the island's north end. If you have time to wander, you can search or many stumble across some tree spirits like the one shown in the picture above.