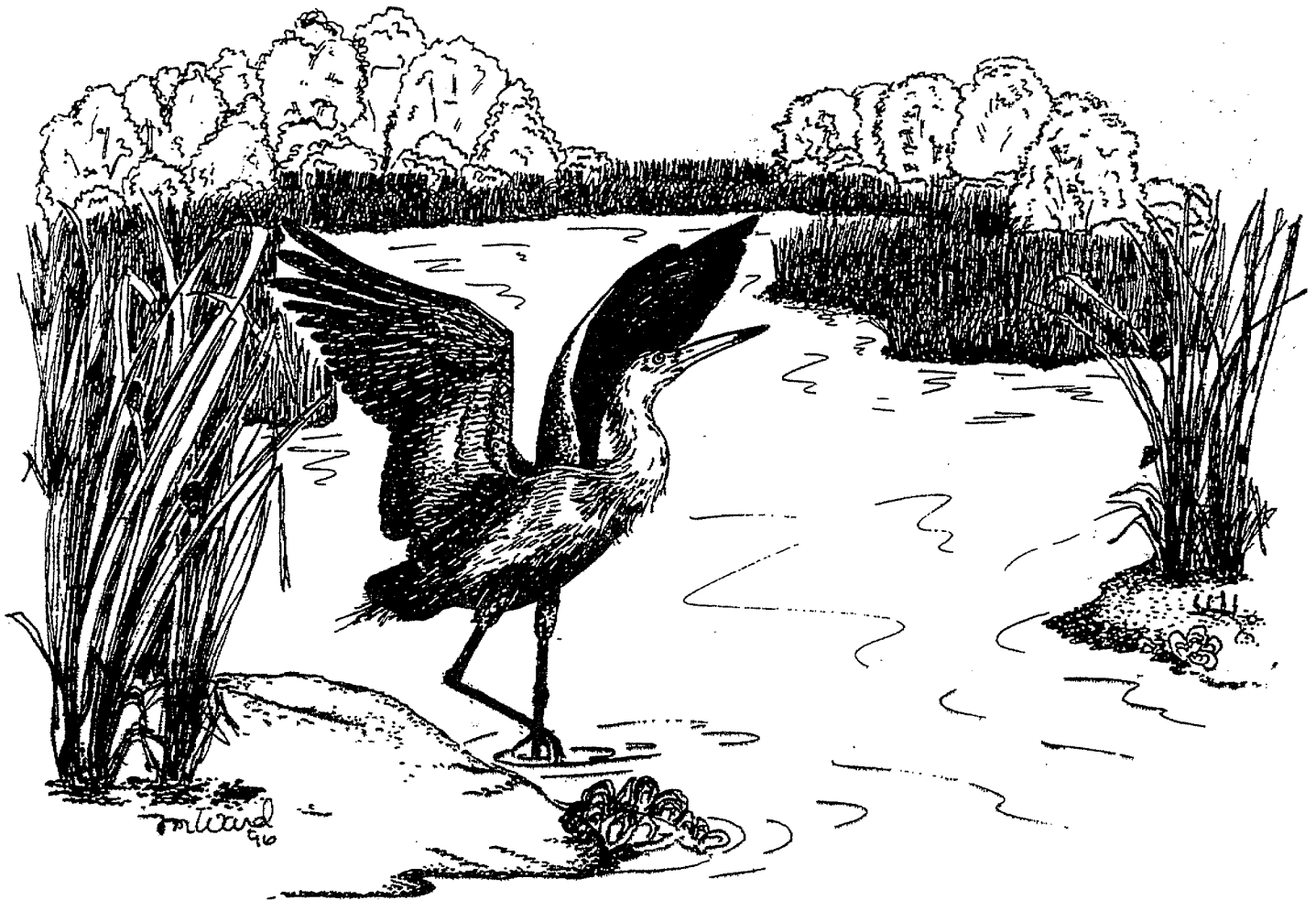


SAPELO ISLAND GEORGIA'S COASTAL TREASURE



Sponsored by:
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
and
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Written by Margaret M. Olsen, Oceanography Teacher, Woodward Academy, College Park, Ga.
Illustrated by Marsha Ward

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To all those who I have not mentioned who gave their support, encouragement and advice.

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this guide to all the students and teachers of Georgia with the following statement made by The National Science Foundation (1978).

What science education will be for any one child for any one year is most dependent on what that child's teacher believes, knows and does---and doesn't believe, doesn't know, and doesn't do. For essentially all of the science learned in the school, the teacher is the enabler, the inspiration, and the constraint.

It is my hope that this guide will enable teachers all over the state of Georgia and beyond to enable and inspire their students by providing a better understanding of the importance of preserving the wonderful but fragile habitats of our coast.

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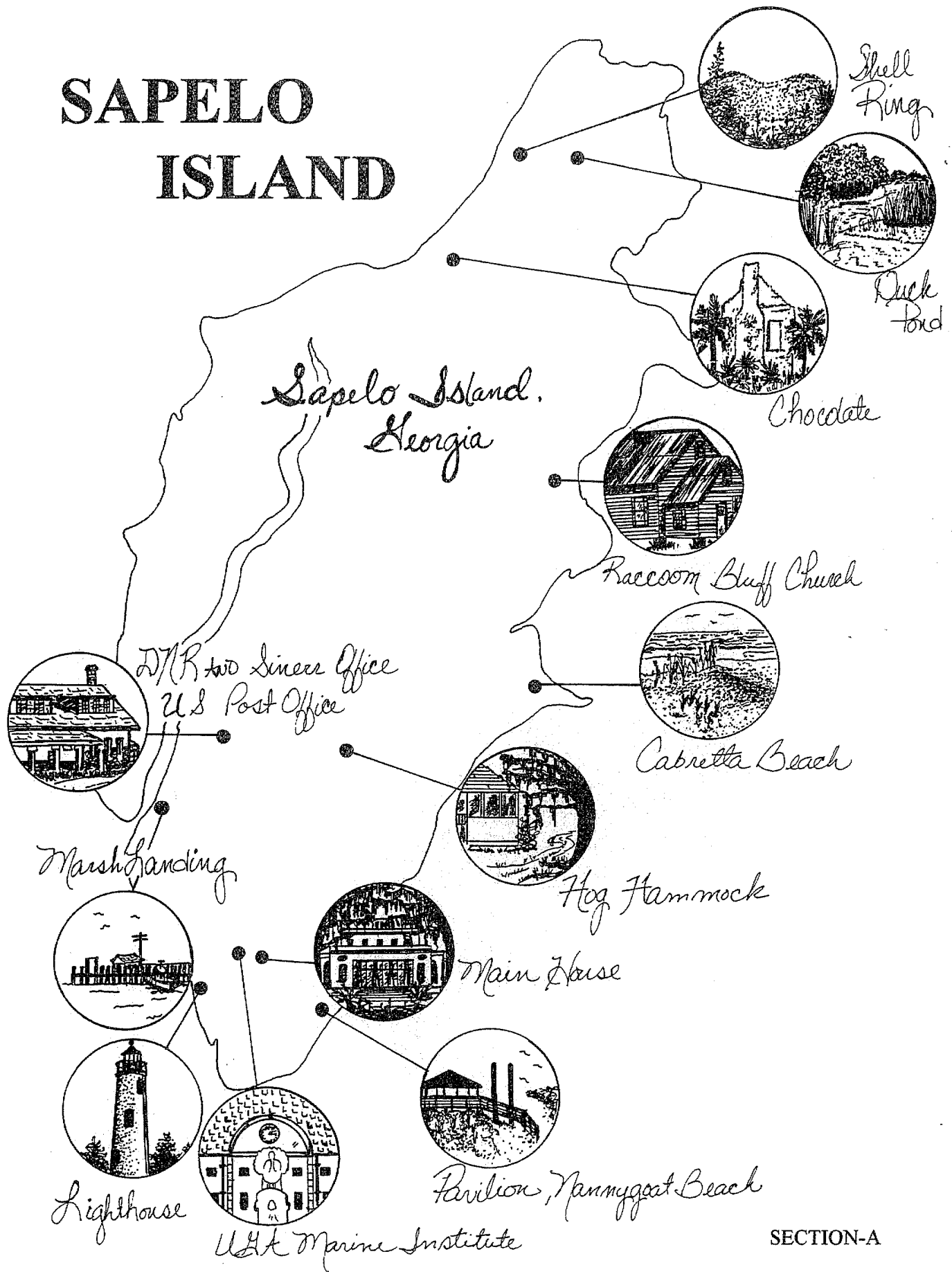
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SAPELO ISLAND



SECTION-A

SAPELO HISTORY

The history of human culture on Sapelo Island is a brief wink compared with the island's geological history, yet human occupation and use of the island have contributed significantly to its present physical condition. First inhabited by Native Americans around 4,500 years ago, Sapelo has been hunted, farmed and built upon ever since, so certain of its physical features and landmark structures are the direct result of human activity.

Sapelo has a colorful past, characterized by succeeding phases of occupation by various cultures. Spanish missionaries established small settlements and missions for the natives there beginning in the mid-1500s but were driven out within 100 years. British colonials and French nobles fleeing their country's revolution followed. Beginning in 1802 and lasting until 1969 when the state of Georgia began its purchase of the island, Sapelo was owned, cultivated, developed and cared for by a series of three American magnates. From the first Indian occupants, through its period of private ownership to its current status as a wildlife preserve and research facility, Sapelo has always been treated with respect by preservation-minded individuals and thus, fortunately, exists in near pristine condition today.

NATIVE AMERICAN ORIGINS

Research and archaeology presented by state archaeologist Dr. Lewis Larson and colleagues at West Georgia College in their Sapelo Papers offer an informative picture of Indian culture on Sapelo. Shell Ring, Bourbon Field and Kenan Field are three major excavation sites that have provided information on the native culture. Sapelo was inhabited, as were several in the chain of Georgia's barrier islands, by Creek tribes who called themselves Guale, after the name of one of their chieftains. These tribes were highly civilized and politically organized, living in permanent settlements of cabins made from poles daubed with earth, leaves or moss.

Shell Ring, located on the northwestern side of the island between Chocolate and High Point, is composed of shells from oysters, clams and whelks and is most likely an accumulation of refuse from a settlement situated in a circle around the ring. These shellfish were a large component of the Indians' diet. Indians were also known to cultivate and eat corn, beans, melons and fruit and to hunt and eat the animals indigenous to the island. They also raised and smoked tobacco. Bone pins and pottery found at Shell Ring have been dated at 3,700 years B. C., give or take 250 years. Now overgrown with live oak, palmetto, myrtle and grapevines, Shell Ring was thought to be the ruins of a Spanish Fort by older residents of Sapelo and is marked as such on some old maps. Research has since proven that the site was indeed either an Indian fortification or ceremonial enclosure. In 1872 William McKinley measured the ring at a diameter of 300 feet and a height of five to seven feet. In 1895 scientist Clarence Moore confirmed these measurements, adding that the ring is 50 feet thicker at its base. In 1950 Larson dug an excavation trench across the ring that is still visible today.

Bourbon Field, located at the north end, was a village site that has since been plowed extensively for agriculture. Occupied by Indians from around 1,000 AD. through the 1680s, the site has

produced 119 shell middens and a small earthen mound. Kenan Field was a 158-acre village occupied between about 1,000 AD. and 1,600 AD. It contains a large burial mound, a smaller mound and a long earth embankment running east to west about 500 feet south of the large mound. There is evidence there of the existence of two large buildings separated by a plaza, which were used for political and ceremonial events. Archaeologists theorize that village culture here was very structured and formal.

SPANISH MISSION INFLUENCE

Spanish missionaries first arrived at Sapelo in 1568. Jesuit priests reportedly established a small mission on the island at that time, but stayed only until 1570 when the Indians rebelled and murdered several of them. Franciscans arrived to try again in 1573 and established the convent of San Jose de Zapala. The name Zapala was later anglicized to Sapeloe, thus the name of the island. The mission of San Jose was probably abandoned at the same time as Santa Catalina de Guale on St. Catherines Island in 1686 due to unrest among colonials and natives in the area.

BRITISH COLONIZATION

When the British colony of Georgia was established in 1733, the Creeks granted all Georgia coastal lands to the English except the islands of Ossabaw, St. Catherines and Sapelo, which they reserved for themselves as hunting grounds. In 1747 the Creek chief Malatche gave the latter three islands to Mary Musgrove Bosomworth, the half-Creek, half-British niece of the Creek emperor and interpreter and diplomat in the employ of General Oglethorpe. Colonial authorities rejected Mary's claim to the islands and a 10-year dispute ensued with Mary eventually owning St. Catherines and taking money from the sale of Ossabaw and Sapelo to the English as compensation for her services to Oglethorpe.

In 1760 British land speculator Grey Elliot purchased Sapelo at auction from the British Crown for 725 pounds. Elliot then sold the island in 1762 to Patrick Mackay, a Scotsman and Indian trader, who first conducted large-scale farming there. In 1784 John McQueen of South Carolina purchased Sapelo from the Mackay estate and continued agricultural operations there, but not for long, as he lived beyond his means and was forced to sell Sapelo, Little Sapelo, Blackbeard and Cabretta Islands for a total of 10,000 pounds in 1789.

FRENCH OCCUPATION

The buyers were a group of five French noblemen fleeing the revolution in France. Of this group, one departed shortly afterward to Jekyll Island, and two died in 1794, leaving only two: Jean de Boisfeuillet and the Grand Closmesle. De Boisfeuillet lived at his Sapelo home, Bourbon, for many years until the death of his wife when he moved to the mainland to be near his daughter. He died there in 1800. In the late 1790s the Grand Closmesle's share of the island was purchased by the Marquis de Montalet, who had left Santa Domingo in the wake of the slave rebellion there. After the death in 1805 of his wife, who happened to be de Boisfeuillet's daughter Angelique, Montalet moved to Sapelo to live at High Point where he spent his time farming and enjoying gracious living.

THOMAS SPALDING

Montalet had a couple of American neighbors on the island during this time who were his close friends until he died in 1814. In 1801, Richard Leake (father-in-law of Thomas Spalding) and Edward Swarbreck had purchased a tract of the island called Chocolate, south of High Point facing Mud River and looking toward Creighton Island. Leake died in 1802, leaving his property to Thomas Spalding, who purchased 4,000 acres on Sapelo's south end in the same year.

Chocolate had been owned by Villehuchet and Grand Clos Mesle as early as 1790. It was bought in 1797 by Lewis Harrington, who then sold it to Leake and Swarbreck. Swarbreck gradually developed his Chocolate land into a profitable farming operation, constructing a group of tabby buildings between 1815 and 1819 whose ruins still stand. He continued to be a good neighbor to Montalet and Spalding until 1827 when he sold his Chocolate holdings to Dr. Charles W. Rogers, who continued operating the plantation, making improvements and acquiring more property so that by the 1830s he owned most of the north end of the island. Rogers built a two-story frame home with a tabby basement at Chocolate in the 1830s. Extensive ruins of the manor house, barns, slave houses and several outbuildings remain at Chocolate.

In 1843 Thomas Spalding bought the 7,000 acres of Sapelo's north end and gave the tract to his son Randolph as a wedding gift. Randolph and family lived at Chocolate until 1853 when the Rogers house burned. This tract included the aforementioned Bourbon Field. After the Civil War, the tract was sold by Mary Bass Spalding to John A. Griswold, who used part of the land to grow sea island cotton during the Reconstruction period. The tract was sold again to James Cassin in 1873.

Thomas Spalding (in 1835) gave 1,500 acres of the north end, including Kenan Field, to his daughter Catharine, who married Michael J. Kenan of Milledgeville, from whom Kenan Field gets its name. They built a home there in the 1850s and called it "Duplin." They grew sea island cotton and corn until 1861 when they left because of the war. In 1872 their son, Dr. Spalding Kenan, bought his family's interest in the property and lived there until 1880. The site was sold to Howard Coffin on June 6, 1912, whereupon it was leased for turpentine rights, oystering rights and raising cattle.

A group of tabby ruins from the Kenan plantation remain today at a site called Hanging Bull, so named because of a bull that was left hanging in a tree after the hurricane of 1824. The ruins consist of barns and storehouses, a slave school built by Thomas Spalding and a church dating to the 1870s. Slave quarters for the Kenan plantation were located just east of Hanging Bull.

Thomas Spalding was a politician, banker and agriculturist who led Sapelo through the only significant money-making period in its history. He sold live oak to the shipbuilding industry, planted long-staple cotton, sugarcane and corn and conducted extremely productive experiments in crop diversification and rotation. He also drained the interior of the island by a series of ditches. Spalding pioneered the sugar industry in Georgia and the tabby walls of his sugar mill on Sapelo still stand.

In 1807-1810 Spalding designed and constructed a plantation mansion, South End House, at the southern end of the island on the Atlantic. He built the house low to the ground with thick tabby walls to withstand storms. This was fortuitous, as the house endured the vicious hurricane of 1824 which sent six-foot waves over the front yard.

In 1808 Spalding sold five acres of the island's south end to the federal government for \$1, for use as a lighthouse site. In 1820 the federal lighthouse service contracted Winslow Lewis of Boston to construct a 90-foot brick tower and an adjoining house for the lighthouse keeper.

In 1809 Thomas Spalding built a cane grinding mill and sugar boiling house at a site called Long Tabby. In 1871 Thomas II and Sarah Spalding rebuilt Long Tabby sugar works and lived there until 1877 during construction of the house at south end. In 1877 William Nightingale, a close Spalding friend, bought the property and lived there for a couple of years before renting it to William Wylly. The property was later purchased by Kate Treanor, who was Wylly's sister and Mrs. Thomas Spalding II's niece. During reconstruction of the south end house from 1922-1925, Howard Coffin lived at Long Tabby, and in 1948 R.J. Reynolds remodeled it for use as a Boys Camp. Sold to the Department of Natural Resources by Reynolds' widow Anne Marie in 1969, Long Tabby now houses the offices of the DNR and the SINERR.

Thomas Spalding died in 1851 and his heirs continued plantation operations and lived on Sapelo at least part-time for 10 more years until the beginning of the Civil War. Confederate troops were stationed on the island for coastal defense but evacuated in 1862 when federal forces gained control of the Georgia sea islands. The Confederates removed the lens apparatus from the lighthouse that had been built in 1820 to prevent its use by the Union. After this evacuation the plantation and South End House fell into ruin as the island was left to Spalding's former slaves and Union naval forces.

In 1865 Union General William T. Sherman decreed that freed slaves be given land to live on and farm on the sea islands and after the war Spalding's freed slaves established their own communities on Sapelo. Over the years the Spalding heirs sold parts of their property on the island to various buyers, including a hunting club from Macon, which acquired some of the south end, including the ruined house. In 1907 the hunting club rebuilt the center section of South End House to serve as a hunting lodge.

As for the lighthouse, it was reactivated in 1868 and painted with horizontal red and white bands. A skeleton beacon light was placed near the tower, to be replaced by an iron beacon in 1877. Eventually the old brick lighthouse itself was abandoned. In 1905 a new 100-foot steel tower was built and it functioned until 1933 when it was dismantled. In 1992 the tract of land with the now 175 year old lighthouse was bought by the state. Currently, the Department of Natural Resources is raising money for its restoration.

HOWARD COFFIN

The second millionaire to own Sapelo was Howard Coffin, one of the founders of the Hudson Motor Company. He purchased the entire island except for the African American communities at

Shell Hammock, Hog Hammock and Raccoon Bluff from its various owners in 1912 and immediately set about revitalizing it.

Coffin employed Sapelo's African American population in shrimping and oyster canning. He planted long-staple cotton and food crops, built roads, raised cattle, began a sawmilling operation and sank artesian wells. The Coffin family added an outdoor swimming pool and some additional columns to South End House and began living there part-time. In 1922-1925 Coffin restored the home completely, adding a second story, indoor swimming pool and an adjacent guest house and made it his full-time residence.

Coffin was a very industrious man and many of the buildings in existence on Sapelo today were planned and built during his ownership. He created a very grand estate on the island, the epitome of style in the Roaring '20s, entertaining the likes of Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover. As much energy as he had invested in Sapelo, Coffin only stayed there a short time before throwing himself into the establishment of the Sea Island resort to the south.

The stock market crash of October 1929 hit Coffin rather heavily and he was no longer able to maintain his booming prosperity at Sapelo. In order to keep his Sea Island project solvent, he decided to sell Sapelo for a mere \$750,000.

RICHARD J. REYNOLDS

Richard J. Reynolds, then a young tobacco heir from North Carolina, purchased Sapelo in 1934. He continued farming and cattle raising activities and expanded the south end complex of buildings. He established a dairy and sold the milk it produced on the mainland.

Reynolds modernized South End House (the Big House, as it's now called) and decorated it lavishly according to his highly personal taste, as Coffin and Spalding had done before him. He was very community minded and renovated the guest house at Long Tabby for use as a summer camp for boys.

Like his predecessors on Sapelo, Reynolds enjoyed experimenting and he introduced Brahmin cattle to the island and practiced diking marshland for agriculture. He added several new buildings to the south end including the dairy complex, which surrounded a courtyard and fountain, two boathouses and seven residential houses. These buildings now house the University of Georgia Marine Institute and its faculty.

Reynolds had a keen interest in research and supported the formation of the Georgia Agricultural and Farming Research Foundation in 1949, renamed the Sapelo Island Research Foundation in 1959. He hosted and sponsored conferences in marine and estuarine science until his death in 1964.

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

After the Civil War, several settlements were established by freed slaves who were granted property on Sapelo by Union General William T. Sherman's No. 15 order of January 1865. These self-sufficient communities at Raccoon Bluff, Shell Hammock, Behavior and Hog Hammock engaged in agricultural or timber activities. Many of their citizens became indebted to financial speculators who took advantage of them. The island was eventually recovered by the Spalding family and it is thought that all blacks who were not Spalding slaves or their descendants were forced to leave Sapelo.

Raccoon Bluff, sold to freed blacks in 1871, had been part of Picot de Boisféculet's holdings and was later owned by Anson Kimberly of Darien, Ga., until he died in 1836. His heirs retained the property until 1871. Raccoon Bluff is the only part of Sapelo never to be owned by the Spalding family. The first self-sufficient community was established there in 1866. Raccoon Bluff is the site of the First African Baptist Church, established in May 1866. In 1898, community members constructed a church from lumber that had floated ashore from the ruins of the South Atlantic Quarantine Station's hospital on the south end of Blackbeard Island. The hospital had been destroyed by the hurricane of October 2, 1898. This church still stands, but the congregation built a new church in Hog Hammock in 1970.

Behavior was a large slave settlement whose site now holds a four-acre black cemetery. Shell Hammock, located at the south end, is now the Marine Institute area.

Hog Hammock, the only one of the communities still in existence, was named for a Spalding slave named Sampson Hog, who raised hogs. The site name Hog Hammock appears on the local maps from as early as 1857. Between the late 1940's and 1960, all blacks on the island were consolidated from the various communities into residence at Hog Hammock by R.J. Reynolds. The 434-acre settlement once boasted a population of over 300.

Because of its isolation, the unique African American culture that developed on Sapelo has been preserved in much the same state that it was in the last century, with the exception of modern conveniences. Electricity and television did not come to Hog Hammock until 1967. Today most of the residents live in small frame houses with tin roofs or in trailers. Some of the residents of Hog Hammock still speak Gullah, a musical language comprised of bits of many languages spoken by European colonists as well as the African dialects the slaves brought with them.

The number of Sapelo residents has declined with each generation as young people leave the island in search of jobs. The only opportunities for employment on the island are a few positions with the DNR and various maintenance positions with the University of Georgia Marine Institute. Recently, several residents have been raising clams, renting trailers and rooms to overnight guests and selling handicrafts to tourists. Today, 75 permanent residents remain.

Because of its isolation and lack of commercialism, many outsiders desire to build on Sapelo and Hog Hammock has begun to experience land speculation. The DNR and the residents of Hog Hammock have initiated efforts to curb or stop this land speculation and new development in order to preserve this unique cultural and natural heritage.

MARINE INSTITUTE

R.J. Reynolds wanted Sapelo to be utilized for marine research, so he invited the University of Georgia to propose a program for this purpose. UGA scientists George Boyd, Eugene Odum and Donald Scott prepared a proposal for a marine biology lab for research into biological productivity in the coastal waters and wetlands.

In July 1953 funds for facilities and operating costs became available and the first scientists came to Sapelo to begin research. They were housed in existing buildings at the dairy complex and the dairy barn was converted to a laboratory. This operation evolved into the University of Georgia Marine Institute, whose continuing purpose is marine and estuarine research and education.

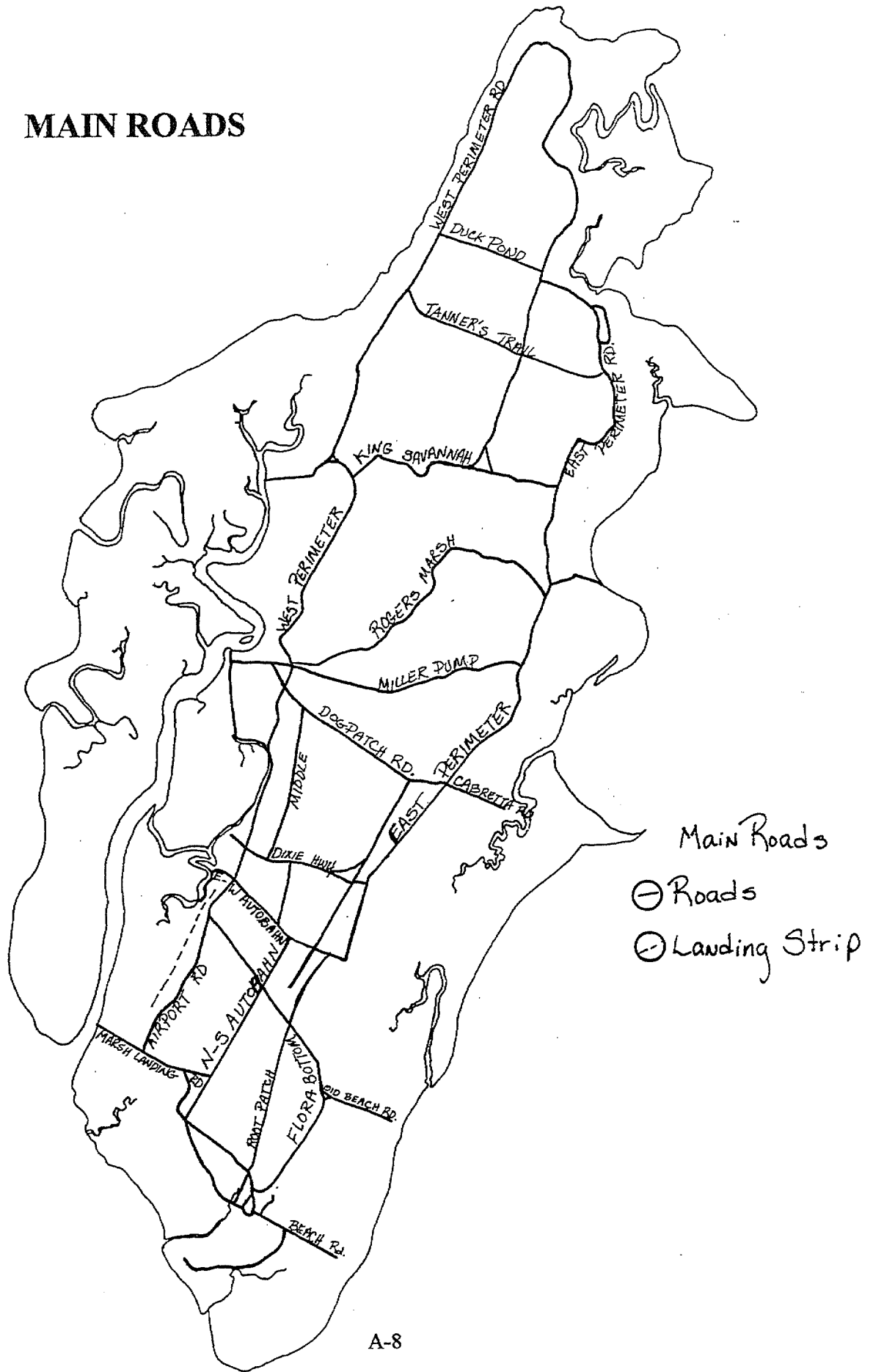
In 1969 the state of Georgia purchased the north end of Sapelo and established the R.J. Reynolds Wildlife Refuge. In December 1976, the state bought about 5,000 acres on the south end from the Sapelo Island Research Foundation, and this combined with the existing wildlife refuge was designated the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Sanctuary (now the Estuarine Research Reserve), which is currently regulated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The only part of the island not now state-owned is Hog Hammock, which still belongs to the descendants of the African Americans who have lived there since Spalding's time. The island and its facilities are wholly dedicated to marine research and preservation.

The UGA Marine Institute has lease on south end lands to conduct research and monitoring experiments. The institute does not directly control access to the island but its influence is responsible for the island's limited visitation access in order to preserve ecosystem integrity for research.

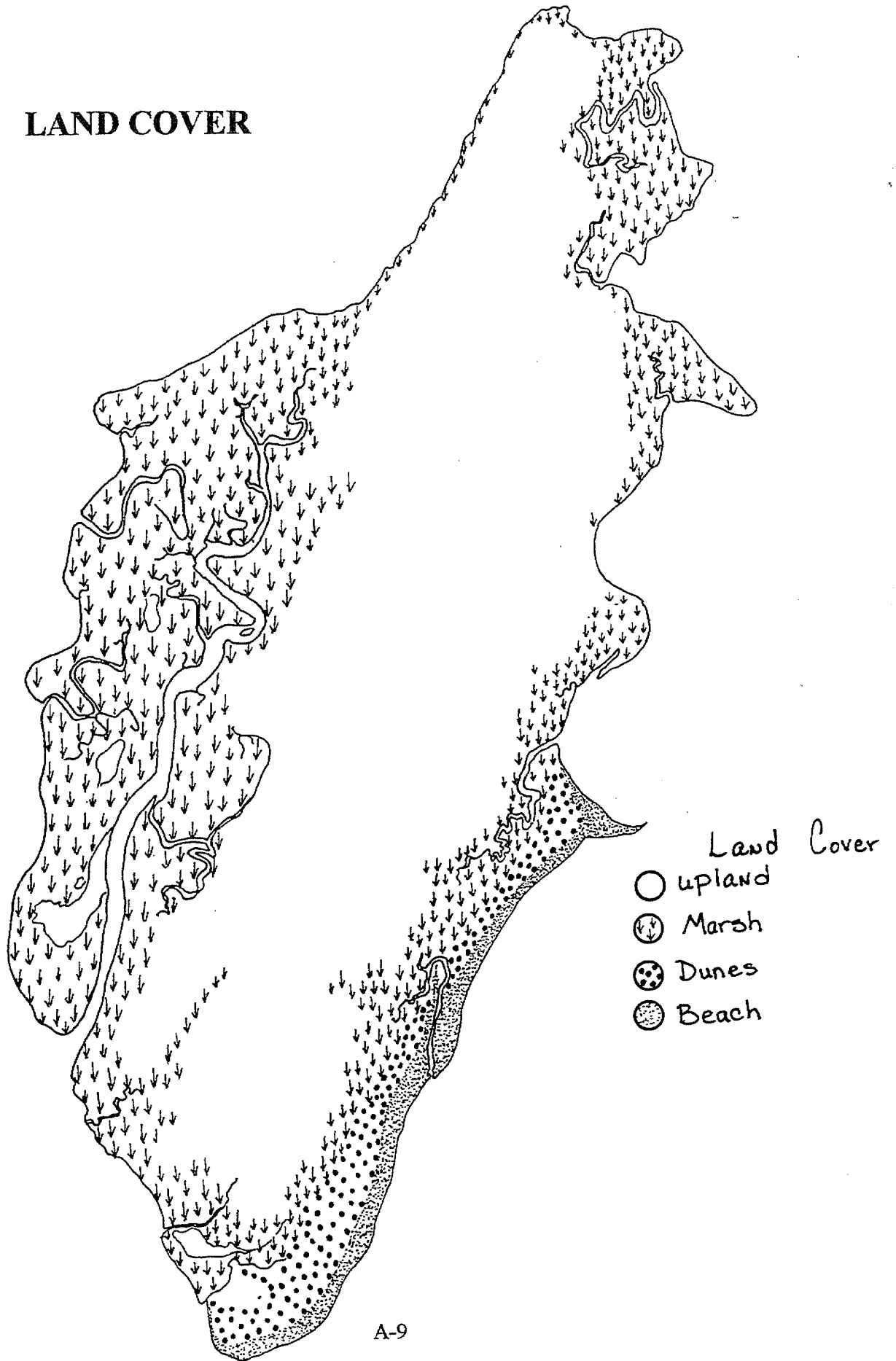
MANAGEMENT

Sapelo is now administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Wildlife Resources Division administers north end activities, the Richard J. Reynolds Wildlife Management Area, the passenger ferry system and non-game activities pertaining to eagle hacking and seasonal monitoring of sea turtle activity. The Reynolds Wildlife Management Area operates a primitive hunting camp on the island through which visitors may camp, fish from docks and hunt in designated areas. Wildlife Resources Division also manages the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Cabretta Pioneer Campground and runs the Big House as a conference center for environmental organizations, federal and state government agencies and the business and academic communities. This division conducts the educational efforts of the Reserve as well as its research and administration functions. The Reserve employs the following on-island staff: Reserve Manager, Education Coordinator, Research Coordinator, Interpretive Assistant, Office Manager. Off-island staff include the Visitors Center manager, clerk and ticket coordinator. The Visitors Center is Sapelo Island's mainland base of operations for shipping delivery and island visitation. Coastal Resources Division monitors public oyster reefs on the West side of Sapelo Island for contaminants and disease.

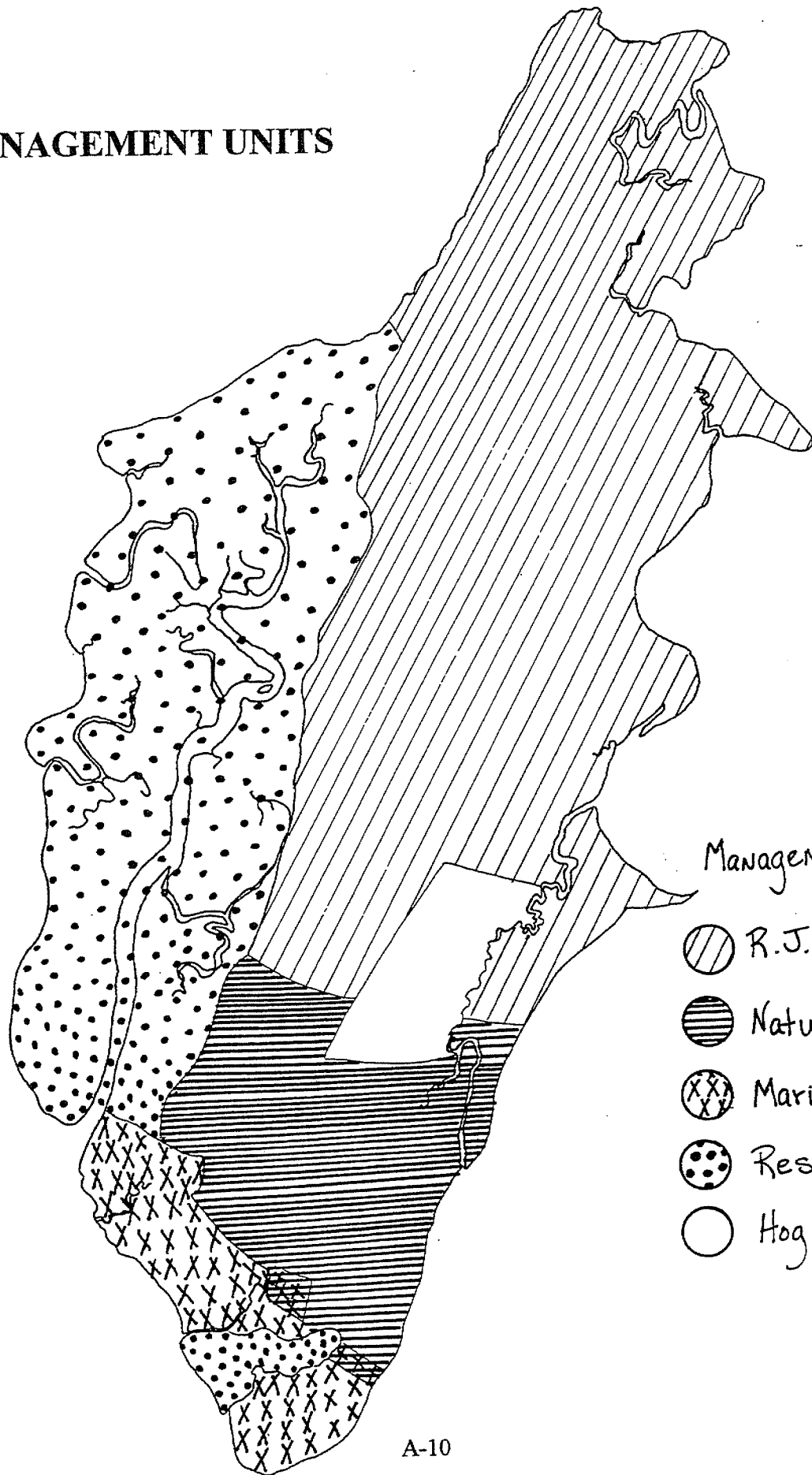
MAIN ROADS








LAND COVER



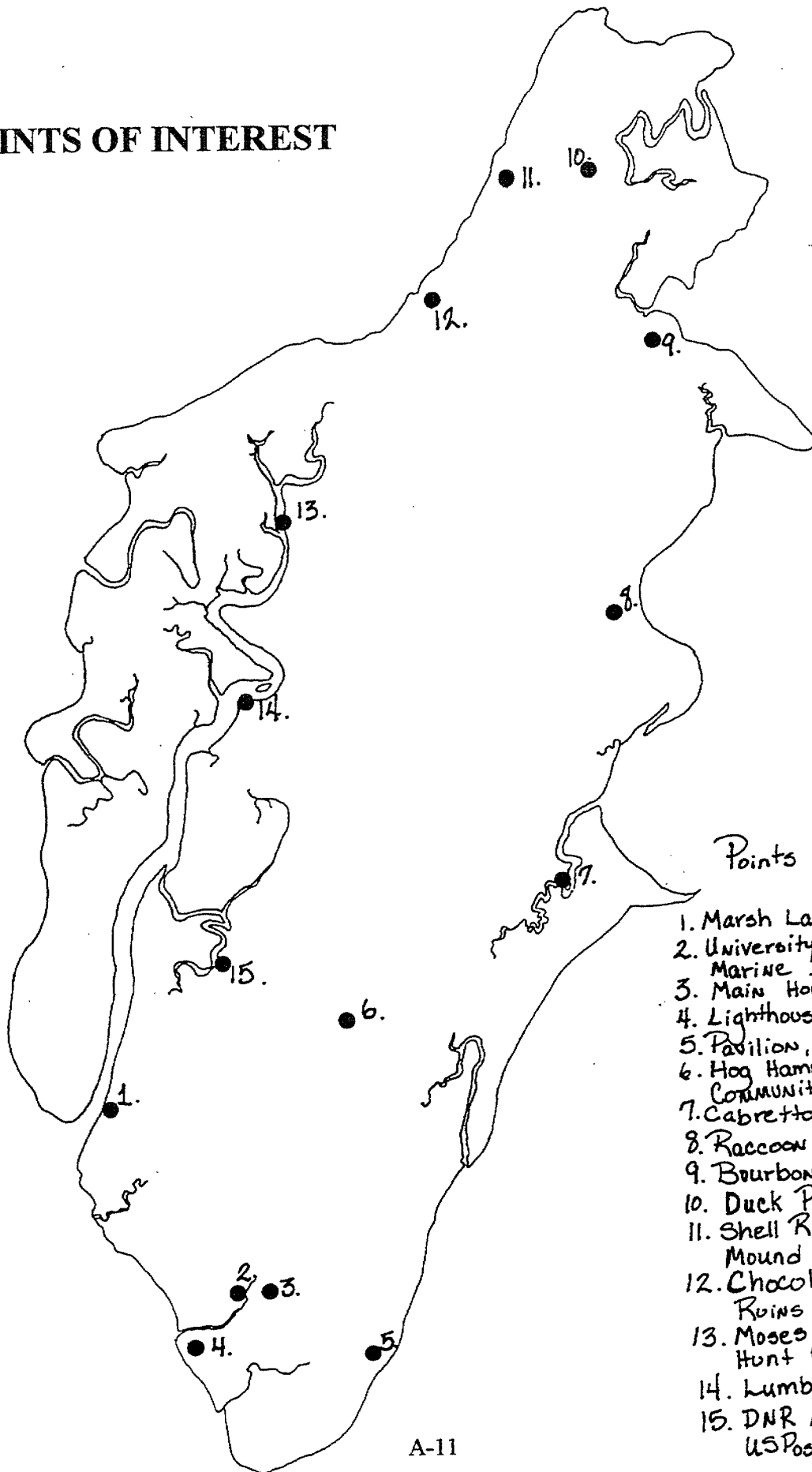
MANAGEMENT UNITS



Management Units

-  R.J. Reynolds WMA
-  Natural Area
-  Marine Institute
-  Reserve
-  Hog Hammock

POINTS OF INTEREST



Points of Interest

1. Marsh Landing
2. University of Georgia Marine Institute
3. Main House
4. Lighthouse
5. Pavilion, Nannygoat Beach
6. Hog Hammock Community Center
7. Cabretta Bridge
8. Raccoon Bluff Church
9. Bourbon Field
10. Duck Pond
11. Shell Ring - Indian Mound
12. Chocolate - Tabby Ruins
13. Moses Hammock Hunt Camp
14. Lumber Landing
15. DNR AND SINERR Office US Post Office

SAPELO: A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

OBJECTIVE: By taking part in this simulation game, the students will improve their analyzing, communicating, decision making, problem solving and valuing skills.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER:

(This activity should be conducted only after the history of the island has been studied and several of the activities have been conducted and ideally after a trip to the island. If you are unable to make a trip to the island, you may want to show the video: "The Spirit of Sapelo" which can be rented or purchased from the Department of Natural Resources)

1. Photocopy and give each student a copy of all roles.
2. Explain to the students that they will be taking part in a simulation game depicting a town hall meeting to decide what, if any, changes should take place on Sapelo Island. They will be playing a role (acting) where they present or argue a point of view that may or may not be their own. Regardless of how they actually feel, they must portray the role they are assigned.
3. Assign one student the role of Chairman of county commissioners. Discuss with this student the amount of time you will be allowing for the town hall meeting. (We recommend that you allow two to three class periods for this activity). This student is in charge of conducting the town hall meeting and the decision making meeting of the county commissioners.
4. Assign 16 other students the roles of the various interest groups: hunter, local citizen, non-native land owner, Hog Hammock resident in favor of no change, Hog Hammock resident in favor of some change, local motel owner, educator, UGA Marine Institute representative, shrimper, chamber of commerce member # 1 and # 2, bank president, land developer, Friends of Sapelo representative, DNR/SINERR representative, and DNR Game Management Section representative.
5. Assign the remaining students the role of the county commissioners.
6. Tell the students that they should study their roles and be prepared to conduct a town hall meeting where they will present the position of the interest group they represent. They may use the roles as printed or make up their own. If they make up their own it must convey a similar message as the printed role. The students should also study the roles of the other participants and be prepared to ask questions after everyone has presented their position.
7. Your role as the teacher is to mediate if necessary and to make sure the students stay on task. You may want to play "the devil's advocate" and ask pertinent questions if the students do not do so.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION:

1. Ask the students how they felt about their role. Did they actually agree with the concerns of the role they portrayed?
2. Discuss if they agree with the decision(s) of the county commissioners. Was the decision fair to all the interest groups? If not, what was sacrificed? By whom?
3. Did all groups sacrifice the same thing? Different things of equal or similar importance?
4. Discuss the difficulties of placing an economic value on certain recreational pursuits and aesthetic aspects of life.

TOWN HALL MEETING ROLES

Hunter:

I have been hunting on Sapelo for about eight years now. My fellow hunters and I really like the solitude here and our rustic hunting camp at Moses Hammock. This is our time to get away from the city and enjoy nature as well as to hunt. It is OK with us if more people come to Sapelo, but we are concerned about their safety. Someone could wander into the hunting area and get shot. If that did happen, hunting might even be discontinued on Sapelo and that would really be a shame. You do need to remember that hunting is not only a sport for the hunter but it also helps to keep the deer and turkey populations under control. Sapelo needs hunters and our needs should be considered in any plans for the island.

Local Citizen:

I am here representing a group of local citizens. We do not want to interfere with anyone, but we do want to be able to go over to Sapelo and go to the beaches. This is our state and our beaches and we want to be able to take our children, grandchildren and friends over for a day of picknicking and enjoying the beach. It certainly would be nice if transportation were offered from the dock to the beach. We do not care if it's provided by the state or the people of Hog Hammock, and we certainly do not mind paying. We just want to be able to get there. We have no intentions of bothering the scientists and their experiments or the people of the island. I'm sure if signs were put up telling where the experiments were, no one else would bother them.

Non-native Land Owner:

I represent a small group who have been able to obtain property in Hog Hammock. We obtained our land either from Hog Hammock residents, from their descendents, or through bank foreclosures. We feel that our land was obtained perfectly legally and that we have a right to build homes and live or vacation on Sapelo. Most of us have no desire to harm or change Sapelo or its people. People need to realize that if we had not bought our land, it could have been purchased by people who did not care for the island as we do. We also want to be able to let our friends use our Sapelo homes & cars when we are not on the island.

Hog Hammock Resident in favor of no change:

I represent the people of Hog Hammock that do not want more people coming to Sapelo. This is our home and was the home of our fathers and their fathers. We do not appreciate all the people coming here and interrupting our way of life. We do not want our culture and heritage destroyed by outsiders coming in. The more people that come here, the more that will want to come here and try to buy our land from us. People coming here and building homes or condos will cause our property taxes to go up and many of us will probably lose our land. We just want to be left alone. If people want to know more about us and our way of life and heritage, they can hire us to come to the mainland and speak to their groups or we'll sell them our baskets. We do not want development on Sapelo.

Local Motel Owners:

I represent the owners of local motels. We certainly hope that more people do come to our community and we hope they will stay in our facilities. If motels were built on Sapelo, that would take business away from us. We will be glad to work with school groups and give them discounts on rooms. We could arrange for our restaurants to prepare box lunches. We could even put in video arcades or work-out rooms so the students would have something to do in the evenings. And of course, we all have swimming pools. We would not be interfering with the Hog Hammock people having their trailers, but we could handle the larger groups and there would be no need to disrupt the community by building on the island. We will gladly advertise DNR tours and sell Sapelo baskets in our gift shops. We would like for the people that visit Sapelo to spend some time in the local area.

County Commissioners:

Your job is to listen to the concerns and ideas of all the interest groups. You should be prepared to ask questions of each group representative about how what they want could best be accomplished. Your task is to come to a decision with the other county commissioners that will satisfy as many of the interest groups as possible. If you cannot come to a definite decision, you can decide to form a committee or committees to study various situations further. The commissioners will then have to delay their decision until all committees have presented their reports.

Hog Hammock Resident in favor of some change:

I represent the people of Hog Hammock in favor of some changes on Sapelo. We may not necessarily like the influx of people but realize that we cannot stop people from coming to the island. If they are going to come, then we should be able to have our own businesses and rent rooms, trailers, vehicles, bicycles, etc. We know that we will need to be properly insured against liability but surely that is not too awfully expensive. We are seeking education on small business practices, insurance and money planning so we can make a living and profit from the tourists and school groups that come here. Some of us or our children could be trained as naturalists and lead tours. We could even open a cafeteria or snack bar and have the profits go to the community. Why not let us rent and drive the buses and be tour guides? This is our island and we know it better than anyone else. We could even offer classes on basket weaving and cast net throwing or how to make and use a seine net. We could make a profit for the community and at the same time preserve our culture and heritage and offer jobs to encourage our children to stay here or to return to the island. What we do not want is for outsiders to come in and build homes and motels that would raise our taxes and force us to sell our land and lose our homes.

Educator:

I represent the educators in Georgia and we would like it made easier for us to bring our students to Sapelo. We need transportation for small as well as large groups. It would be nice if there were a snack bar or small cafeteria but we don't mind bringing our own food. We would like to have some type of dorm and lab facilities available for older students. The dorms at UGA are no longer used, why couldn't they be re-opened for school groups? Some of us like to do our own teaching, but some of us are unfamiliar with the island and need a Naturalist available. We would like to see teacher workshops available, so that we can better educate our students. We would like to have people available to work with our students on science fair projects and would be willing to work with the DNR or UGA on some long term projects. There are facilities at Skidaway, Jekyll Island, and Honey Creek for us to take our students, but those are on very developed islands. If we want to preserve our undeveloped or uncommercialized islands, then the public needs to be educated on the importance of them. Before one can understand, one must experience. We as educators can help preserve our islands only if we have the opportunity to let our students experience them.

UGA Marine Institute Representative:

Most people do not realize the importance of our work on Sapelo. The Marine Institute is world renowned for its research on estuaries. It is because of our research that laws have been passed protecting estuaries and other wetland areas. These areas are not wastelands, they are very fertile lands that are a major source of food, although indirectly, for most all the organisms that live in the ocean. Also most ocean creatures spend at least part of their life cycles in the estuaries. Estuaries actually affect all of us, not just those who eat seafood. Many, many jobs ultimately depend on a healthy estuary such as truck drivers, Sea Pack workers, grocery store owners and employees, gas station attendants, etc. We really do not want a lot of people coming over to Sapelo. People just do not understand that they must stay out of the marsh and off the dunes. We have experiments going on in various places around the island and they could easily be ruined. We have even had to start locking our building because people were wandering in. We cannot risk someone disrupting an important experiment or injuring themselves while nosing around where they have no business. Sapelo is perhaps one of the most undisturbed areas along the GA coast. Our research into this area can help establish standards by which other coastal areas are measured. The more people/activity on the island, the more associated impacts and the more degradation to the natural system. This lowers the standard and makes Sapelo less effective as a standard measure. We are very busy and often do not have time to speak with groups visiting the island.

Shrimper:

I am here representing the local shrimpers and crabbers. Most of us have lived in this community all our lives as have our fathers and their fathers before them. Our business is dependent on a plentiful supply of shrimp, crabs and fish and they depend on a healthy estuary. My fellow shrimpers and crabbers add a tremendous amount of money to the economy of this community and even the state. There is already a building boom in this area and the water is becoming muddier from run-off from the construction sites. Now, we don't mind more people coming in because they buy our shrimp and my wife really likes the convenience of the new shopping center. The waters around Sapelo are very clean and a good place to shrimp. We don't want it messed up with mud from construction. We almost got put out of business over having to change our nets to add TEDS and the competition of the Florida Shrimpers coming to Georgia. We certainly don't need our fishing areas ruined by some rich people coming in and building their fancy homes and motels on Sapelo. We also don't want any more regulations on our industry.

Chamber of Commerce Member # 1:

I am here representing many of the businesses in the community. Our businesses depend on residents and tourists spending money. The more people who come here and spend money, the higher our profits. For years, this area was overlooked and many of us lived in near poverty conditions, so we are in favor of anything that attracts more people to our area. We need all the industry, motels, and housing developments we can attract to bring in more jobs and money to our people. The new outlet mall is a start and it has brought many jobs and positive recognition to our area. Sapelo is just one more resource for us to use to attract money. If a few people lose their homes, so be it. Times are changing and I for one plan to change with it and make as much money as I can.

Chamber of Commerce Member # 2:

I am here representing the local marina, small boat captains and kayak and canoe shop owners. We agree that times are changing and yes, we are benefiting financially from the people that are coming to our neighborhood. Our businesses also depend on the natural beauty of the waters around Sapelo and neighboring islands. We take people out fishing, canoeing and kayaking. We also make a lot of money on the supplies we sell. If too much development takes place here, the very thing that attracts people to this area (the fish, quiet waters and natural beauty) will soon disappear and the people I represent will lose their livelihoods. A little development is fine, maybe even necessary, but we must not overdo it. I'm sure that there is some way we can reach a compromise that will be acceptable to most of us.

DNR and Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve Representative:

I am here representing the DNR and Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR). In December of 1976, Sapelo became a National Estuarine Sanctuary and has been protected by law. SINERR and the DNR work together to ensure the preservation of the fragile ecosystems on the island. Our primary purposes are to protect the natural and cultural resources on the island, to allow and support scientists in their investigations on how the estuarine system functions and to promote and encourage public education. We conduct two to three guided tours of the island each week and encourage the public to visit the island for nature study, low intensity recreation, hunting, fishing and camping. We also provide transportation and tours for school and other educational groups. We have a new interpretive center on the mainland and a nature trail on the island. We have expanded our educational offerings with a new curriculum guide for teachers to use with their students. We encourage more school groups to come to Sapelo, although we cannot at this time offer any overnight facilities other than our newly upgraded campground at Cabretta. The "Big House" is available for small adult educational conferences. Should funds become available in the future, more facilities could be considered. Until then, the local motels are willing to work with school groups that want an extended visit to the island. In 1994, over 6,000 people attended programs or public tours on Sapelo. Although we encourage more people to visit and experience what Sapelo has to offer, our job is to protect the land and waters from stress and alteration. We cannot and will not encourage any development that would harm the fragile habitats or the integrity of Hog Hammock.

DNR Game Management Section:

I am here representing the Game Management Section of DNR. Our job is to manage the Ferry, hunts, law enforcement and essential services such as water, sewage, and trash removal. The ferry runs several times a day and we make special or additional trips for special occasions and church services. The trips we currently make are sufficient at this time to handle additional passengers. The cost to passengers is only \$1.00 per trip. We offer eight hunts on the island each year. These are well received and the hunters have use of the hunt campground at Moses Hammock. We also have refrigeration facilities for the deer and turkey they kill. The water system on Sapelo is already inadequate and costly to maintain, with more hook-ups we will likely see the need to replace the system. Water availability and quality are huge concerns for the barrier islands and in the future it is going to be more expensive for us to supply that water. The dumpsters we have for trash collection are almost filled to capacity considering our current barge schedule (we barge the dumpsters off the island). I guess what I am saying is that we can handle the amount of people that we have on and visiting the island now, but with our present funding and staff, we can not handle any more people on Sapelo. At the present time crime is moderate although we do now have a law enforcement officer. If we have a large influx of people coming to Sapelo, it may be necessary to increase enforcement.

Bank President:

Well, I think we all need to be realistic about this matter. Everybody here in one way or another uses my bank or some other bank. It is my job and that of other bank presidents to provide services for the people of the community, but the bottom line is: we are in business to make money. One thing we all have to realize is that times are changing and we have to change with the times if we are going to survive financially. We need to attract more industry and business to this area so that we will have jobs for everyone and so my bank can make money. I do not see a thing wrong with more building on Sapelo. Why Sapelo could be another Hilton Head and just think of the tourists and business it could attract to our community. We could build a lot of buildings on Sapelo and still have it be a nice 'natural' setting. We are missing a huge opportunity to develop this island! I say, if we do not change with the times and take advantage of the opportunities we have to make money, we will all live to regret it.

Land Developer:

I'm not sure that you in this community realize what a gold mine you have here. Sure, I know most of the island is owned by the State or the Reynolds Foundation, but, Hey, you've got over 400 prime acres in Hog Hammock just crying to be developed. Sure, I know that there are people living there, but most of them are old and with the money that the companies I represent could pay them for their land, they could live in style for the rest of their lives. Why, we would even hire some of the younger ones to work for us. If you would just let us, we could turn the interior of Sapelo into a real showcase. People would be falling all over themselves to come here. The people we would attract would, of course, spend a lot of money on the mainland also. Of course, we would have to cut down some trees and widen some roads to handle all the traffic. We would have to dredge some of the tidal creeks so that they would be deep enough for our tour and party boats. Some of the natural areas would be harmed or destroyed in the process, but such is progress. We could make this island rival anything on Hilton Head, St. Simons or Sea Island. It would be great for the economy of this area. I have a staff of people just chomping at the bit to work on the designs for this island and backers to buy the property. All you have to do is say the word and our people will start buying up the land.

Chairman of County Commissioners:

Your job is to conduct the town hall meeting. First, discuss with your teacher the length of class time to be allotted for the town hall meeting. You should arrange the room for the meeting. You should call the meeting to order, state the purpose of the meeting, and tell each interest group how much time they have to present their views. You should also allow time for the county commissioners to ask questions of each interest group. Each group should also be allowed to ask questions of each other. You should call time on any group that goes over their allotted time and mediate any arguments that arise. After each interest group has presented their views and the county commissioners have had time to ask questions, instruct the county commissioners to retire to their meeting room (another area in the classroom) to make their decision or recommendations. As chairman, you also lead this meeting. Remind each commissioner that it is their duty to make a decision that will be in the best interest of everyone or as many of the interest groups as possible, as well as for Sapelo. The decision or recommendations of the county commissioners should be presented to the entire class along with reasons to support each decision or recommendation.

Representative from The Friends of Sapelo:

As a member of the volunteer group "Friends of Sapelo," I am concerned about preserving the natural and cultural uniqueness found on Sapelo Island. Most of us are volunteers because we love nature and we love coming to the island to help out with programming or improvement projects. The 'Friends' want to be sure that we are granted continued access to the island. The SINERR coordinates our activities but we undertake projects that benefit the island as a whole. Too much access to the island might mean that access is denied to groups like us who are trying to be a positive impact on the island. We are opposed to activities that would inhibit the educational and research projects on Sapelo. As Sapelo continues to grow, we are working to make sure that the community of Hog Hammock and the unspoiled beauty of Sapelo are preserved.