



Georgia Shorebirds Conservation Teacher Workshop January 17-19, 2020

In October, 2017, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Hemispheric Council voted unanimously to approve the designation of the Georgia Barrier Islands as a **Landscape of Hemispheric Importance!**

Shorebirds.... yet another chapter in the story of our everchanging planet. As temperatures rise, shorelines change, and habitats are lost in one location and gained in another, these winged globetrotters respond remarkably and adapt as they have throughout time. Unfortunately, their response to these changes is often interrupted by human interactions. Join biologists and birding experts from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative-MANOMET, and the Sapelo NERR for the annual Shorebirds Conservation Teacher Workshop to explore who these birds are, the integral role the estuarine habitat plays in their migratory pathway between feeding and breeding grounds, as well as the many conservation and management efforts in place to ensure their continued survival. With Georgia's estuarine habitat comprising nearly 400,000 acres of salt marsh, five major river systems, and a vast tidal range, we will boat to Egg Island for winter shorebird observations and invertebrate sampling. We will venture out to pristine stretches of Sapelo's beach and marsh to observe feeding behaviors, and probe the sediments as the birds do to identify their food sources. You're sure to depart on Sunday with an appreciation for the estuarine habitat and for these birds, in addition to classroom resources to educate your students in becoming good stewards of the earth! The Georgia Shorebirds Conservation Workshop is open to actively teaching formal and non-formal educators of all grade levels. Participants should be in good physical condition and able to walk approx. 1m. Record of attendance, formerly PLU credit, is available.

TOPICS INCLUDE: birding adaptations, migration, shorebird conservation, the importance of estuaries to humans and wildlife, and the intricate connections it has with the ocean and climate systems; corresponding activities from the USFW Shorebird Sister Schools Program and Estuaries 101 **ACCOMODATIONS** on Sapelo Island: dorm style facilities with 2 beds per room, central heat; transportation on Sapelo via open flatbed trucks with bench seating. **TIME:** 5pm, Friday January 17- Sunday January 19, 4:30pm **COST:** \$215 includes meals, curriculum & resource materials, island accommodations, & ferry

For questions please contact: Georgia Graves at georgiabeachwalk@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS December 30, 2019



REGISTRATION FORM
January 17-19, 2020
Georgia Shorebirds Conservation Teacher Workshop

Name:

Male: ___ Female: ___

E-mail Address:

School: Name:

County:

State:

Grade Level(s):

Subject(s) Taught:

Approximate number of students you will teach this school year:

Home Mailing Address:

City and Zip Code:

Primary Phone#:

Secondary Phone#: None

Emergency Contact:

Birding Experience: Beginner: _____ Intermediate: _____ Advanced: _____

Make check for \$215 payable to: Friends of Sapelo

and mail along with your registration form to:

Attn: Friends of Sapelo

P.O. Box 22159

St. Simons Island, GA 31522

ATTN: Shorebirds Teacher Workshop

Fee is due at the time of registration:

payment confirms your reservation.

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Shorebirds Conservation Teachers on the Estuary Teacher Workshop Agenda Highlights

Friday, January 17

4:30: arrive at Meridian Dock for ferry ride to Sapelo Island

5:30: Ferry departs for Sapelo, approx. 20 minutes to island, Pre-Test

Dinner

Lecture: Introduction to shorebirds: Identification, Conservation, and Management strategies along the Georgia Coast

Curriculum Activity: How To Build a Shorebird! : morphology & feeding characteristics for long distance migration and feeding strategies

Saturday, January 18

Breakfast

Binoculars 101! Tips for manipulating binoculars and for spotting shorebirds, for beginner birders, but all welcome! Curriculum Activity: Shorebird Profiles

Low tide birding at Nannygoat sandy beach habitat to observe migratory shorebirds; we will also look at available food resources and how birds feed etc.

Noon: Lunch

Depart for boat excursion through Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Regional habitat at the Atl Delta and to Egg Island

Exploration of Protected Shorebird Wintering and Stopover Sites:

Free Time

Refreshments then Dinner

Lecture: The Constraints of Flight: Anatomy and Physiology - Birds Inside and Out & The Freedom of Flight: Migration and Navigation

Curriculum Activity: The Incredible Journey

Sunday, January 19

Breakfast

NOAA/NERRS/SINERR history and overview of Georgia's Estuarine Habitat and

NERRS Estuaries 101 Curriculum Overview Activity: What Do Tides Have To Do With It?

Lecture: Shorebird Feeding Behaviors & Food Resources in the Estuarine Habitat, the "All You Can Eat Buffet" The three key habitats that shorebirds rely on for feeding will be addressed: the sandy beach, mud flat, and rocky shore habitats, along with invertebrates specific to each habitat and limiting factors for their survival.

Curriculum Activity "What Can I Eat With This Beak" Bird ID and Observations,

Depart for SINERR lab for mud flat and "rocky shore" habitat sampling and invertebrate identification

Lunch, wrap up & pack up gear

4:00 Ferry departs for mainland, farewells and safe trips home!