



# The Landings Community Sustainability Roundtable

April 23, 2013

## Program

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| 4 p.m.   | Welcome<br>Community Sustainability Leadership Presentations   |
| 4:45p.m. | Introduction of Audubon International Sustainable<br>Communities Manager<br>Joanna Nadeau Presentation |
| 5:30p.m. | Reception  |

## Community Sustainability Roundtable

### The Landings, A Quick Look into this Extraordinary Community, Environmental Manager Sean Burgess

A largely undeveloped island until 1941 when Union Camp paper company bought 5000 acres, the paper company first logged on the island and subsequently built a drawbridge and began The Landings development through a subsidiary, the Braniger Corporation, in the early 1970s. In 1986, Braniger won what is the equivalent of real estate's Oscar, the Urban Land Institute Award for Excellence, for its dedication to the preservation of the island and its natural beauty. Among the unique solutions to development challenges were natural buffers at marsh edges and no docks; a interlocking drainage system in the central lagoon network; protecting tree cover and providing boat access with minimum impact on marshes. Braniger, and subsequently The Landings Association, was dedicated to protecting the natural environment and finding ways to live in harmony with the abundance of wildlife and plant life already here.



### Sparrow Field, Oversight committee leader Dot Bambach

Only open field environment at The Landings attracts unique birds. In 2004 field began to be managed for birds and wildlife. Today this wildlife sanctuary boasts a pollinator berm garden that has received widespread recognition and serves as a UGA study site for monarch butterflies. Collaboration with The Landings Club, assistance from Boy Scout Troop, donations from garden clubs, Landlovers and residents continue. **30+ volunteers**



### CCA Skidaway, Joe Tyson, President Skidaway Chapter CCA

Over the last 14 years, CCA has worked with The Landings Association to develop outstanding fishing in 151 fresh and saltwater lagoons. The group has provided money and manpower (100 volunteers) to implement a fishery management program, invested significantly in lagoon shoreline beautification and is involved in current testing of plants following recent draught. An 18<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Fishing Derby will be held in May. Skidaway Chapter is part of CCA GA which is committed to coastal marsh conservation and oyster reef restoration and part of the even larger CCA membership of 100,000 on three coasts dedicated to the conservation of marine life. **496 members**



### Chinese Tallow Tree Removal, Founder Ann Fenstermacher

From a couple of committed residents, this project has grown since 2007 to involve or touch an estimated 1600 people. The core volunteer group includes 15 who hatchet and poison trees left to die in place (Hack and Squirters) and 19 who cut down trees with chain saws (Tallow Terrors). Working in collaboration with the Association on common property, and with the club on club property and in water reclamation areas with the help from our water utility, UIG, they have killed approximately 30,000 trees. **34 volunteers**

*The 2012 Outstanding Civic Organization Grand Award from Georgia Urban Forest Council went to Skidaway Audubon for this project.*



### The Landings Garden Club, President Anne Guira.

Founded in 1986, "to aid in the protection of forests, marshes, native plants, wildflowers and birds." Member of The National Garden Clubs Inc. Adopt-A-Highway Litter Control on Diamond Causeway monthly pick up, support and maintain a butterfly garden and native plant trail at Skidaway Island State Park. **82 members**

*The Landings is first planned community to earn a Garden Club of Georgia Certification in the Community Wildlife Project's Neighborhoods/Subdivision category.*



### Skidaway Farms, Head of Development Committee Blake Caldwell

A former sod farm of The Landings Club identified as ideal site for a community garden on Skidaway Island, open to all residents. Multi-year project took **40-50 volunteers to launch** with partnerships and professional participation from staff at The Landings Association and ValleyCrest. Gates opened in early 2011. Today enjoy a children's garden, partnership with club chefs, **180 farmers**.



### Green Thumb Garden Club, President Pat Barry

Started in 1986, under the auspices of the Landings Landlovers, an umbrella organization for numerous and varied activities at the Landings, Green Thumb meets monthly providing programs that offer pathways to nature conservancy and appreciation of the Southern lifestyle. A bi-annual garden tour on island, with 6 or 7 private gardens open to residents, allows the club to gift to numerous groups and projects -- most recently the complete landscape renovation surrounding the Sunset pavilion at Delegal Marina. **112 members**



### The Landings Lagoon System, Environmental Manager Sean Burgess

Primarily serving as storm water retention for the community, we have 151 mostly man made lagoons. Half are fresh water, half brackish. Maintenance on a ten-day cycle for each lagoon focuses on aquatic plant growth and algae bloom. Twice a month six freshwater lagoons are tested for water quality, serving as indicators for water quality in the community. A shoreline restoration program is in progress for freshwater lagoons, affected by recent drought, with multiple volunteer organizations working with Association staff. Results of a pilot program developed with CCA in fall 2012 will be evaluated this Spring.

### **Dave Scott Bluebird Trail, Co-chair Betsy Flaherty**

More than 20 years ago, a resident envisioned the development of a bluebird trail along the Landings Club golf courses in order to provide nesting site for these cavity nesters. With support from the golf maintenance staff, volunteers manage the trail, build and mount the boxes. Another 12 volunteers, one for each of nine holes on the six courses, monitor the eggs, chick and fledges, and keep the boxes clean. In 2012, 988 bluebirds, 71 chickadees, 32 nuthatches and 5 tufted titmice were fledged. **30 volunteers**



### **Recycling Center, Environmental Manager Sean Burgess**

Opened in 2008, the center provides a place for residents to recycle mixed paper, plastic and cardboard. Aluminum is also recycled, with those profits going to the Boy Scouts. While not a profit center, the center continues to run near to cost neutral, in part thanks to a collaboration with Goodwill Industries that staffs a small donation center at the site, cutting costs of providing manpower to operate the facility. Enthusiasm among residents for recycling is steady with continual growth in each area. First quarter 2013 the amount of cardboard dropped off is triple what it was at the inception of the program.



### **Skidaway Audubon, Chair Mal Welch**

In 1997 Skidaway Audubon began a relationship with Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. By 2002 all six Landings Club courses met the rigorous requirements to be certified. Today the not for profit is engaged in collaborative efforts on many fronts, among them recycling on the courses and water conservation education, to conserve and enhance the natural environment on Skidaway Island. An annual golf tournament raises money and awareness. Support for the 2013 tournament and net proceeds broke all records. **20 volunteers**

*In 2007, The Landings Association was awarded a Neighborhood for Nature Award by Audubon International.*



### **Bottle Brigade, Founder Caryl Warner**

Formed in 1988 to pick up and dispose of litter within The Landings' gates and on Skidaway Island roadways, this group of volunteers works closely with the Security Department of The Landings Association and with ValleyCrest. Each member is assigned to a particular section of the community to patrol weekly. Trash is recycled when it can be. **66 volunteers.**



### **Diamondback Terrapin Hatchery, Founder Carolyn McInerney**

Under a sub permit from Georgia DNR, volunteers relocate terrapin eggs laid in marsh side sand bunkers on Plantation to the safety of nearby nest boxes designed and built by Golf Maintenance personnel. Once hatched, the turtles, a "species of concern," are then released into the marsh. Golfers are increasingly involved, covering nests with wire baskets and calling pro shops to alert them to new nests. Release parties with children are on the increase. A third box has been added in 2013. **8 volunteers**



### **The Landings Club, Director of Golf Maintenance South Chris Steigelman**

Water conservation and sustainability is a focus for the club. Two water sources, surface water collected in a lagoon system and a unique shallow well system, supply the courses, allowing water from two deep wells to be used only for emergencies. Irrigation efficiency is the backbone, with renovated systems operating at rates deemed in the "excellent" category, as rated by USGA. Our Directors of Golf Maintenance share their expertise with the community: serving on water conservation panels, presenting to the garden club, co-hosting a water conservation booth at a recent home renovation expo, offering residents to chance to follow their lead on whether or not to irrigate by accessing data from the Georgia weather station on Skidaway.



### **TLA Water Conservation, Public Works/Community Development Director Paul Kurilla**

In response a decade of drought and the recognition that water is a precious resource, TLA upgraded the existing irrigation system, removing and replacing 7 of 11 major systems, installed drip in all bedded areas, used native and drought resistant plants and separated irrigation zones by water needs. These examples of xeriscaping help save water, and money on future maintenance. Technology was employed with the installation of solar water sensors that use evapotranspiration data to determine watering requirements, with an estimated 15 to 25% reduction in water use. Monthly inspections of all irrigation systems insure that small leaks are detected and repaired. Low-flow toilets and insta-hot water heaters are among the changes at facilities that the Association is including in its ongoing determination to conserve water.



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