

The Sapelo Foundation promotes progressive social change affecting, in particular, rural communities and the natural environment in the state of Georgia.

The Sapelo Foundation:

- Takes risks in grantmaking and encourages others to do so.
- Works to empower people who are powerless or marginalized.
- Encourages networking and cooperation, particularly among groups with differing racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- Is strategic in its funding and leverages financial resources.
- Acts as a catalyst in promoting change through affecting public policy.
- Shares experiences with foundations and other potential partners.

Foundation Priorities

From May 2002 through May 2005 the foundation will concentrate its grantmaking on the two program areas indicated below.

The Environmental Protection Program

addresses such issues as water and air quality, sprawl and sustainable development, corporate effects on rural communities, and the protection and management of natural resources. **Currently, the primary focus is a strategic campaign addressing water resource**

The Social Justice Program

addresses such issues as civil rights, voting rights, workers' rights, judicial system reform, school reform, and the building of progressive coalitions for social change. **Currently, the primary focus is creating a progressive multi-racial coalition in Georgia, with particular emphasis on promoting working relationships between African-American and Latino/a community leaders.**



GRANTS LIST

Focus Area: New Coalitions

Coastal Area Rape Crisis Center
General support for the So Sa project and its work with the Latino/a community in Glynn County. — \$ 15,000

Fund for Southern Communities
To assist the Center for Children and Education in establishing its Hotline and Parent Support Network. — \$ 30,000

Fund for Southern Communities
To support the Ex-Felon Re-Entrancement Project of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit. — \$ 15,000

Mexican Americans Legal Defense and Education Fund
First grant in a two-year commitment to become an active partner in the Georgia Partnership Network, a multi-racial coalition-building initiative. — \$ 25,000

National Network of Forest Practitioners
To support the Cultural Diversity Program in Georgia by building a multi-racial coalition of forest workers and under-served landowners to increase their economic opportunities. — \$ 20,000

Southern Regional Council
The second in a two-year commitment enabling the Council to serve as a coordination center for the Georgia Partnership Network. — \$ 50,000

Valdosta Project Change
For organizational development and participation in the Georgia Partnerships Network. — \$ 15,000

Focus Area: Water Resources

Altamaha Riverkeeper
To protect the environmental integrity of the Altamaha River and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 30,000

Canochee Riverkeeper
To protect the environmental integrity of the Canoochee River in Southeast Georgia and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 15,000

Center for a Sustainable Coast
General support and participation in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Center for a Sustainable Coast
For support of the Georgia Water Resource Policy and the Coastal Environment Project and for participation in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Chattahoo Conservancy
General support for ongoing programs and participation in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 18,000

Chattahoo Open Land Trust
To improve water quality in Georgia by protecting 6,000 acres along waterways and to allow participation in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Conservation Research Institute
To publicize and fund research for the Georgia Water Coalition by speaking to civic groups and promoting its message in rural communities in Georgia. — \$ 20,000

Cosco River Basin Initiative
To protect the environmental integrity of the Cosco River and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 15,000

Emory University
For the Turner Environmental Law Clinic to hire an attorney with expertise in water law, thereby enhancing the efforts of the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest
For reducing the illegal volume of pollutants flowing into Georgia's waterways by using basin-specific litigation and promoting state-wide policy and regulatory changes. — \$ 30,000

Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest
To pay experts in the field of water testing and analysis on behalf of three citizens, Altamaha Riverkeeper, Canoochee Riverkeeper and Cosco River Basin Initiative. — \$ 30,000

Georgia Conservancy
As a partner in the Georgia Water Coalition, to develop and deliver consistent messages to the public about improving water quality, biodiversity, and water management in Georgia. — \$ 40,000

Georgia Environmental Council
To significantly extend the reach of the Georgia Water Coalition communications by utilizing the Council membership. — \$ 12,500

Georgia Legal Watch
To protect the environmental integrity of Georgia's waterways and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 30,000

Georgia Poultry Justice Alliance
To continue work on water quality protection and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Georgia Public Interest Research Group Education Fund
To build the case for a state-wide water-user fee program that will generate financial support for the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 15,000

Georgia Wildlife Federation
As a partner in the Georgia Water Coalition, to provide, among other things, the following: locations and facilitation of meetings, recruitment and ongoing communications among members and the press, and a status report. — \$ 40,000

Georgians for Clean Energy
To be an active participant in the Georgia Water Coalition by helping to shape its policy recommendations regarding the large amounts of fresh water required for energy production in Georgia. — \$ 40,000

Savannah Riverkeeper
To increase volunteer water sampling and monitoring and to participate in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 20,000

Southern Environmental Law Center
As a partner of the Georgia Water Coalition, to provide legal analysis of both current law and industry proposals, to draft legislation for the Coalition, and to clarify critical legal issues in water management, allocation and supply for Coalition members. — \$ 40,000

Southern Environmental Law Center
Second grant in a two-year commitment to provide legal counsel to nonprofits that focus on water protection and to initiate efforts at enforcing environmental water laws in Georgia. — \$ 40,000

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Fund
As a partner of the Georgia Water Coalition to participate in meetings, develop and implement strategies, conduct legislative advocacy, and enhance Coalition communication on legislative matters. — \$ 40,000

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Fund
To support the 2003 Water Policy Campaign in Georgia by making statewide water policy a priority through its participation in the Georgia Water Coalition. — \$ 15,000

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Biowater Network
For the Georgia portion of the Scorched Earth Campaign, a project addressing the causes and effects of global warming on public lands. — \$ 20,000

Forest Trust
For Building Conservation Forestry in Georgia, a project of the Forest Stewards Guild that connects foresters committed to advancing the science and art of sustainable forestry while promoting these practices with private landowners in Georgia. — \$ 20,000

Fund for Southern Communities
To support Georgians Against Nuclear Energy in its efforts to halt the permit for a nuclear fuel processing facility at the Savannah River Site. — \$ 20,000

Georgia Forestwatch
Second grant in a two-year commitment to protect and preserve the fragile ecosystems and vast biodiversity within the National Forests of Georgia. — \$ 25,000

Glynn Environmental Coalition
To inform the public about human health risks associated with exposure to toxic substance and to address the clean-up of hazardous chemical sites in Glynn County. — \$ 20,000

Land Trust All Alliance
To expand training and resource development for land trusts by convening seminars in Georgia and providing scholarships to the annual national conference. — \$ 20,000

South Wings
For innovative methods of environmental education through the use of volunteer pilots and aircraft. — \$ 10,000

Trust for Public Land
For the purchase of the historic African-American Harrington School site on St. Simons Island. — \$ 20,000

Fund for Southern Communities
To support the organization of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit project website and email "action alert" network during the coming year. — \$ 10,000

Wilderness Watch
Support for the Cumberland Island Wilderness Defense project in its efforts to preserve the designated Wilderness Area on Cumberland Island. — \$ 18,000

Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund
To support the Atlanta office and its work addressing nuclear issues arising from the Savannah River Site. — \$ 20,000

GENERAL RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (this program area has been discontinued)

Colquitt Millier Arts Council
For the New Life Learning Center to create micro-enterprise opportunities and increased employment skills among low-income residents of Miller County. — \$ 20,000

Georgia Legal Services Program
Second grant in a two-year commitment for a rural economic development program providing legal counsel and technical support designed specifically to assist rural community-based organizations. — \$ 30,000

McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development
Second grant in a two-year commitment for general support of ongoing work to stimulate economic development while protecting the natural environment in coastal McIntosh County, Georgia. — \$ 30,000

McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development
To provide organizational development funding for the creation of a rural economic development collaborative in Georgia. — \$ 10,000

Rural Outreach Resources Center
To hire an affordable housing-development coordinator, to develop a technical assistance and training plan, and to expand partnership with other service providers and housing groups. — \$ 30,000

Sams Memorial Community Economic Development
Second installment in a two-year commitment to launch a 40-unit multi-family housing project and to develop micro-enterprise businesses in the Multi-Plus Center of Darien, Georgia. — \$ 53,000

GENERAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

American Forum
For the Georgia Forum advocating for environmental protection, social change and other democratic ideals through the use of media tools. — \$ 30,000

Community Connection of Northeast Georgia
For the Athens Justice Project to assist indigent people accused of crimes to achieve their goal of becoming productive, law-abiding citizens. — \$ 20,000

Environmental Community Action
For support of Training the Trainers Series, a year-long leadership development initiative. — \$ 20,000

Georgia Community Loan Fund
To promote equitable and sustainable communities throughout Georgia by providing funding and technical assistance to individuals and organizations currently under-served by traditional sources of capital. — \$ 10,000

Greater Atlanta Presbytery
For the Prison & Jail Project, a ministry of this church that monitors the judicial system in Southwest Georgia and acts on behalf of the disenfranchised. — \$ 12,000

Isle of Hope Historical Association
To assist the Sapelo Community Preservation Project in providing its historic African-American community in Savannah. — \$ 5,000

Sapelo Island Cultural & Revitalization Society
First grant in a two-year commitment to general support of this organization and its goals. — \$ 25,000

Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council
To leverage private funds against federal funds for investigating and monitoring housing discrimination through the use of mixed-pair fair housing listings. — \$ 34,735

Smithville Neighborhood Freedom Center
To empower the African-American residents of the Smithville community in Southwest Georgia by providing youth programs, court monitoring, and opportunities for participation in city government. — \$ 15,000

Southern Center for Human Rights
To promote a state-funded public defender system in Georgia. — \$ 20,000

Southern Technical Advocacy Resources Foundation
To provide computer training for low-income residents in South Georgia and to assist local businesses in developing this untapped workforce. — \$ 15,000

Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education
To support the Southern Rural Black Women for Economic and Social Justice Project and its organizing and fund raising efforts. — \$ 15,000

Sparta-Hancock Alliances for Revitalization and Empowerment
For organizational and board development as well as ongoing participation in the Sparta-Hancock African-American Museum. — \$ 8,000

St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition
To provide start-up funds for organizational development and strategic planning through the year. — \$ 5,000

Special Initiatives, Conferences and Ongoing Programs

Georgia Rural Philanthropy Initiative
North Georgia Community Foundation to assist the Northeast Network Project at meeting a challenge grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation for core operating support of nonprofits in a 15-county region of North Georgia. — \$ 20,000

Musgrove Conference
Georgia Wildlife Coalition conference at Musgrove in May 2003. To convene a Georgia Water Coalition conference at Musgrove in May 2003. — \$ 15,000

Ongoing Programs: Organizational Development Fund
A trustee-advised fund for Foundation grantees to access training and organizational support. — \$ 28,246

Richard J. Reynold, Jr. Scholarship Program
For Sapelo scholarships to colleges and universities on behalf of qualifying students residing in McIntosh County, Georgia. — \$ 95,025

Special Grants
Council on Foundations support for ongoing services to its foundation members. — \$ 3,530

National Network of Grantmakers
Support for ongoing services to its foundation members. — \$ 2,000

McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development
To plan and implement a banquet for the alumni of the Richard J. Reynolds, Jr. Scholarship Program. — \$ 8,000

University of Georgia Research Foundation
For sponsorship of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island. — \$ 15,000

History

The Sapelo Foundation grew out of Richard J. Reynolds, Jr.'s interest in Sapelo Island, one of the many barrier islands along the Georgia coast. This coastal region, rich in culture, history and natural resources, captured the interest and imagination of the young tobacco heir upon his first visit in the early 1930's. Over his lifetime, Mr. Reynolds developed a deep appreciation for the beauty, history and culture of Sapelo Island. He was especially intrigued by the vast saltmarsh ecosystem separating Sapelo from the mainland. In 1953, he created the Sapelo Island Marine Institute as a research affiliate of the University of Georgia. The Sapelo Foundation served as the vehicle for the development and operation of the Institute until 1976 when the University of Georgia took charge and the foundation turned towards funding charitable activities.

Over the years, the Sapelo Foundation has become one of the more progressive foundations in Georgia and the greater South. Through its broad grantmaking program, it furthers Mr. Reynolds' philanthropic goals, still dear to the family, of promoting positive social change and natural resources protection for the benefit of all Georgians.

Ongoing Programs

The Richard J. Reynolds, Jr. Scholarship Program awards scholarships, based on financial need and academic standing, to accredited colleges and universities on behalf of residents of McIntosh County, Georgia.

Musgrove Conferences provide the opportunity for a small group of participants to engage in open discussion and stimulating debate on timely and pivotal issues. Each year grant funds are allocated for a selected organization to convene a conference at Musgrove, the private retreat of the Bagley family. Invited grant proposals must be submitted during the two annual grant cycles, although the conference may be held at any time during the year.

The Organizational Development Fund provides limited funding to existing grantee organizations that have received a grant within the past three years. These funds enable grantees to attend training programs, conferences and workshops on fundraising and organizational development.

The Georgia Rural Philanthropy Initiative brings nonprofits and funders together to build relationships, strengthen the nonprofit sector, and help funders identify new projects. The Southeastern Council of Foundations, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits, and the Georgia Rural Development Council partner with the foundation on this new initiative. Each year the Initiative selects a rural region of Georgia and assists its nonprofit organizations in hosting a funders' event that highlights the special character and needs of that region. The first event, the North Georgia Philanthropy Forum, held in October 2001, has raised \$1.2 million in new grants.

Grant Application Process

For updated information concerning funding priorities and application procedures, please visit our website or contact the office: www.sapelofoundation.org, 912-265-0520.

Financial Information

The foundation operates on a June 30 fiscal year. These figures are for the end of each year.

	2003	2002	2001
Net Assets	\$32,401,141	\$33,541,533	\$34,167,060
EXPENDITURES			
Administration	\$ 274,548	\$ 295,787	\$ 201,422
Assets Management	\$ 79,714	\$ 87,843	\$ 90,468
Taxes	0	\$ 40,616	\$ 42,104
Grants	\$ 1,728,553	\$ 1,537,031	\$ 1,687,819

Officers, Trustees, and Staff

*Reynolds family members continue to play an active role in the foundation

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Coastal Marsh Hammocks

Along the Georgia coast, small islands rise out of a lush carpet of seemingly endless marsh grass. Locally referred to as marsh hammocks, these islands provide a secluded sanctuary for wildlife. Few places along the eastern seaboard retain such a vast and wild character. The late

Dr. Eugene P. Odum, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, believed that marsh hammocks are an integral part of the coastal saltmarsh ecosystem. He felt that

together, the hammocks and surrounding marshes function as one continuous ecological system. Many Georgians feel a sense of urgency to protect these extraordinary places as the number of permits for construction of bridges providing access to hammocks for new development increases.

Illustrations portray species indigenous to marsh hammocks

FRONT COVER: male painted bunting on beauty berry; INSIDE COVER: trumpet vine and ruby-throated hummingbird; INSIDE PAGES: saw palmetto; BACK COVER: natural and developed marsh hammocks.

Credits

Illustrations by Jennifer Smith; produced by Bluemoon Publishing, Brunswick, Georgia.

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