

# Altamaha Echoes



Lower Altamaha Historical Society

Summer 2024

“The mission of L.A.H.S. is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County.”

## A Word from Paul

Hello, LAHS members!

LAHS presented several fascinating and informative programs at the Fort over the last few months. For our May meeting, coastal historian Lucy Hatcher of Mosaic, a museum on Jekyll Island, spoke on the story of Native Americans on our coastal islands.

In June, LAHS hosted our annual LAHS Summer Picnic! Hospitality director Nathan Johns brought trays of fried chicken while his wife Kimberly did her usual fantastic job decorating the room and tables and arranging the buffet of scrumptious dishes brought by members. What a fun night! Also, in June some of us attended the GA. Historical Society’s dedication of a new Marker to commemorate Tunis Campbell in Inverness Square in Darien.

In July, DNR’s Paul Medders (our newest Board member), presented details of the lower Altamaha, specifically, the region’s oysters and habitat restoration. The following Saturday Paul took members out on his boat, “Delta Belle” (Ga. Tidewater Outfitters).

The LAHS Board had several significant accomplishments this quarter, approved by the membership, including revising the LAHS Bylaws and expanding the Board to 9-11 members, thereby strengthening the Board both by adding to its numbers and increasing diversity.

We also awarded the LAHS Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Award to Hayden Thomas, a senior at MCA for \$1000. It’s been a very busy three months! We have an incredible 110 followers on Facebook and welcomed 11 new members (and counting!). Fall promises even more exciting events. I hope you will join us!

Best regards,

*Paul*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Paul Nix  
President 2022-24  
770-378-7268

Bill Barton  
Vice President 2023-24

Maria Hane  
Secretary 2023-25

Chip Lewis  
Treasurer 2023-25

Buddy Sullivan  
Past President  
Director Emeritus

### Directors

2023-24: Martha Martin, Nathan Johns  
2024-26: Zach Crumpler, Dwight Hall, Paul Medders, Chelia Pinkney

## Upcoming Meetings

- Aug. 15: McIntosh County's own Kieran McMullen will present his program on the History of the Irish in Georgia. Kieran is the author of many books about the Irish, including "*Weapons of the Easter Rising*" and "*Sherlock Holmes and the Irish Rebels*". We are honored to have Kieran visit us, so please show him our appreciation with a special LAHS welcome.
- Check our website/Facebook page for our September and October programs.

## Upcoming Field Trips

- November: Nov 8: Little St. Simons Island tour: Scott Coleman, Center for Coastal Conservation. A day tour of LSSI, departing from Hamilton Point on north SSI.
- We have several exciting field trips in the planning stages. In early Fall we will visit Jekyll Island's Mosaic Museum, along with a Trolley Tour of the Village and tour one of the Millionaire's Cottages. We are also planning a Fall trip to the 250-year-old historic town of St. Marys, where we will embark on a tour of the town with special access to the town's iconic landmarks, including the First Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest church buildings in Georgia. We will also visit the Submarine Base Museum, and the McIntosh Sugar Works, John Houstoun McIntosh's tabby sugar mill built in the 1820's.



## Coming Events

**The Return of the Churn** Sept. 1: 4-6pm Ashantilly Center, 15591 GA-99, Darien: \$5 entrance fee This family-friendly event includes homemade ice cream, live music, a raffle of local McIntosh items, FREE lemonade, water, and popcorn! Bring your chairs and some cash. Vote with your ticket stubs and choose the winners! **If you would like to participate:** Call (912) 437-4473 or email us at [ashantillycenter@gmail.com](mailto:ashantillycenter@gmail.com) for more information and to register to participate.



**Annual Coastal Wildscapes Fall Native Plant Sale** Sept. 21: 9am-1:pm Ashantilly Center, 15591 GA-99, Darien: We will have four native plant vendors on site. • Florabundance Gardens • Victory Gardens • Naturescapes • GA Native Plant Society Coastal Plain Chapter

**Annual Bluegrass and BBQ Event** Oct. 5: 6-8pm Ashantilly Center, 15591 GA-99, Darien: Ashantilly's annual fundraiser will again include Rick Caldwell's delicious BBQ, beer, wine, and sweet music by The Jackson Bethune Bluegrass Band.

Just \$45 per person. Includes a plate of barbecue, drinks, dessert and delightful music!



**Laborer's Day** August 31: 11am-3pm Fort King George, Darien: Celebrating the history of colonial trades and crafts folk, including woodworking, wool-spinning, and pottery throwing.



## Coming Events, cont.



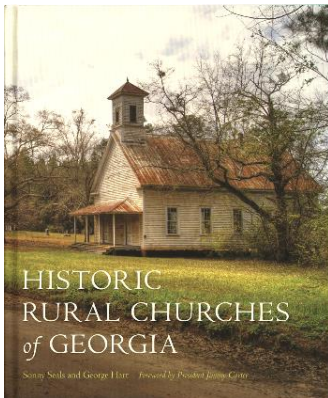
**Candle Lantern Tour (Echoes on the Altamaha)** Oct. 18: 6:30pm-10pm Fort King George, Darien: Those daring folk who left their mark on Darien's legacy, come alive to tell you their tales, under the full moon and stars. A guided candle-lit tour throughout the grounds. A truly unique experience!

**Ophelia's Classic Car Challenge** Oct 19: 9am to 12:30pm Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site, 5556 US 17, Brunswick Classic cars from all over SE Georgia will be on display vying for the championship in the annual car show. Admission: \$5.50 to \$8.75 <https://explore.gastateparks.org/info/220831?c=29055190>



## Book of Interest

**Historic Rural Churches of Georgia** by Sonny Seals & George S. Hart, Hardcover, Sept. 1, 2016



This book is a project of the Historic Rural Churches of Georgia organization, whose mission is the preservation of historic rural churches across the state and the documentation of their history since their founding. It presents forty-seven early houses of worship from all areas of the state. Nearly three hundred stunning color photographs capture the simple elegance of these sanctuaries and their surrounding grounds and cemeteries. Of the historic churches that have survived, many are now in various states of distress and neglect and require restoration to ensure that they will continue to stand. Available on Amazon

**FRIENDS OF FORT KING GEORGE:** In May, the Friends bought a solar light for illuminating the flag in front of the Visitor's Center. They are also working with Ranger Michael repairing the fencing outside the Visitor's Center. The Friends meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Fort. But one thing is missing, and that's *YOU* as a member of the Friends of Fort King George! Please sign up here: [Be a Member | Friends of Georgia State Parks \(friendsofgastateparks.org\)](#), or by contacting Christine McMullen at: [cmcmullen1916@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmullen1916@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWEL

*If you haven't already, please remit your dues today.*

Join with others interested in learning more about this amazing place we get to call *home*.

### Memberships

Annual: Family - \$25 Individual - \$20 Student - \$5

Lifetime: Family - \$400 Individual - \$250

Pay w/credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at [www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org)

Or Make your check payable to LAHS and bring to the meeting.

Or Mail to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA. 31305

## Welcome New Members!

Jim Bately, Francis Cronley, Zachary Crumbler, Jan Finegan, Tom Fitzsimmons, Isaac Henry, Barbara Jennings, Peter Lyle, David McIntosh, Paul & Kim Medders





## Nathan Johns

“I was born and raised in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, GA and received a good public-school education. Hawkinsville is a small town, so many of my teachers were aunts and great aunts. My mother was a teacher, and my father was a civil service tool-and-die maker at nearby Robins Air Force Base. I earned an engineering degree from GA Tech in 1973 and did additional course work there from 1979 - 1981. At one time I was a Licensed Professional Engineer in 24 states and 1 US territory. In addition, I held certifications as a voice and data infrastructure designer. For 37 years I worked with Architects, other Engineers, and Contractors designing engineered systems for building facilities of various kinds and types. My project locales included work on college and university campuses, U.S. Army posts and U.S. Air Force bases (domestic and abroad), and Federal Government food and drug research facilities. Also, private sector hospitals and corporate headquarters' campuses. I also served the Government Services Administration as consultant to the FBI's terrorist screening facility (electrical infrastructure and quality control). I am retired and my wife, Kimberly Hardy-Johns, and I are full time residents of Darien. Our married daughter, Rachael, lives in La Mesa, CA. We have three grandsons in Atlanta. Together we enjoy travel, and I very much enjoy golf. Presently, I serve on the LAHS Board and direct hospitality.”

## Noteworthy

### *Hidden in Plain Sight!*

#### **Retreat Plantation Slave Cabin, 1550 Frederica Rd., St. Simons Island**

This restored tabby slave cabin, built in 1805 was one of eight built for the enslaved who labored at the part of Retreat, called New Field. It is in its original location, tucked away, at the roundabout, at the edge of the golf course. Each of the cabins was 48' by 18' with a partition and a chimney in the center and housed two families. Renamed The Tabby House, it has been leased since 2004 by a lovely lady, Judy Shadron. It is filled with delightful gifts, charming and unusual items. Stop by and see this important historic restoration, hiding amongst the bustle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Open Mon.-Sat.: 9:30-5:30.



We have a **facebook** page!

Please **like and follow** us at **Lower Altamaha Historical Society**

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING, ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING GEORGE,  
is open by request. Call 770-378-7268 to access our records.

