



Thank you for being a **FRIEND** of the **UGA AQUARIUM.**

Your support says that you are committed to marine science and coastal ecology, and with your help this year, we have raised public awareness of coastal ecosystems and provided educational experiences that instill curiosity and wonder in adults and children.



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

- A new endowment has been established at the UGA Aquarium. It will be available for an undergraduate college student who will spend the summer working with aquarium curators and gaining new skills in animal husbandry.
- The UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium's research vessel, the Sea Dawg, and the fleet of educational skiffs will be outfitted with new safety equipment and scientific tools that will improve student research on coastal waters.
- The Shellfish Research Lab has added a summer intern position to work in the UGA Oyster Hatchery and help with field research.
- Family field trips to the Marine Education Center and Aquarium are being provided to local residents from underserved neighborhoods in partnership with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.



More than 4,900 students visited the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium to learn about the importance of our coast



Roughly 22,700 visitors explored the UGA Aquarium and learned about marine species that are native to Georgia



More than 82 different school groups from across the state visited our facilities and left with a greater appreciation of our coastal resources



42 new public programs were offered in Savannah and Brunswick that focused on topics such as sustainable seafood, coastal stewardship, birding and more



OYSTER SOUTH SUPPORTS THE GROWTH OF OYSTER AQUACULTURE IN GEORGIA

Oyster South is a network of oyster farmers, restaurants, retailers and researchers who support successful oyster farming and healthy waters. They are committed to raising awareness about the oyster industry in the southeast, which has the potential to become the leader in oyster aquaculture, producing some of the best tasting oysters in the U.S.

This year, Oyster South hosted Landlocked, an event which featured handcrafted oysters from across the south, served on the half-shell by the shellfish growers that raised them. The event raised over \$20,000 for Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant's Shellfish Research Lab.

Oyster South also served as the presenting sponsor for this year's Oyster Roast for a Reason, joined by 24 other sponsor companies and organizations. The event was attended by over 300 people and raised roughly \$50,000 that will go towards expanding aquaculture research at the Shellfish Research Lab.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Many of our Friends volunteer their time at the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, assisting with education programs, animal care and outreach. Their contributions increase the quality and quantity of the programs we offer. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, please visit our website at gacoast.uga.edu to learn more.

"Why do we give? By supporting the incredible people and programs of UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, we hope to help instill a love and respect for our coastal ecology in the hearts and minds of the younger generation and teach them how to protect and preserve our coastal environment long after we are gone."

- MICHAEL SEIGEL, Friend of the UGA Aquarium

OUR MISSION

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provides research, education, training and science-based outreach to assist Georgia in solving problems and realizing opportunities for its coastal and marine environments. Through information sharing and educational experiences, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant hope to develop the public's understanding and appreciation of Georgia's coast, and to foster respect for the beauty and complexity of these ecosystems.



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

