

The Secret Seashore --- Georgia's Barrier Islands

AERIAL VIEW OF THE COAST WITH A
DISTANT ISLAND HALF HIDDEN IN
MORNING FOG ...

DIS TO BEACH W/ WAVES CRASHING,
ISLAND INTERIORS VEILED IN FOG:
MEADOW WITH ONE TREE, POND
MIRRORING THE SKY, SUN
BREAKING THROUGH THICK
CLOUDS. NAT SND, EFX & MUSIC
ACCENTS THE THEMES ...

FADE UP TITLE: THE SECRET
SEASHORE --- GEORGIA'S BARRIER
ISLANDS OVER AERIAL OF OCEAN
AND BEACH AT SUNRISE.
THEN FO TITLE AND DIS TO:

OCEAN AND BEACH IN FULL SUN,
SURF ROLLING ASHORE ... FOREST,
SUN PLAYING ON PALMETTOS ...
MARSH WATERS AT HIGH TIDE ...

Georgia's barrier islands ... secluded ... hidden ...
shrouded in secrecy for hundreds of years.

The islands themselves reveal their stories ... of
prehistoric Indians living off the land ... explorers
searching for gold ... notorious pirates hiding their
bounty ... of wars and marshes stained red with
blood ... and millionaires creating their own personal
paradise.

This is the secret seashore.

The heartbeat of an island is heard in the rhythm of
the surf ... her soul discovered deep in her maritime
forest. Her lifeblood? --- the tidal waters that flow
through her marsh ...

CUT TO AERIAL, SWEEPING LOW AND FAST OVER THE MARSH ... BIRDS FLY UP. MUSIC FULL, THEN UNDER FOR NARRATION:

The islands are living, growing , changing ...

As the fishcrow flies, the coast of Georgia is only 100 miles long ... but it offers over 800 miles of serpentine shoreline ... thousands of acres of grass covered marsh ... and seventeen barrier islands.

SUPER A MAP OF GA COAST HIGHLIGHTING ISLANDS ...

These barrier islands provide the first line of defense for the coast against the ravages of storms ... and also serve as a barrier to the outside world for those who discover her quiet isolation ...

At the turn of the 19th Century, millionaires owned many of the islands, protecting them from development. Today, only four of Georgia's seventeen islands are developed and accessible by bridge, leaving the others wild and natural ... as if mankind never stepped ashore ...

SLOW FTB.

FADE UP. A SERIES OF SHOTS
W/ NAT SOUND FULL: SUNRISE ON
THE BEACH, CU SEA OATS SET
AGAINST RED FIRE OF SKY, BIRD
SINGING IN TREE, DEW ON WILD
GRASS BLADES, ALLIGATOR IN
POND, WS POND AND DUNES, WILD
HORSES

Day break ...

Cumberland Island ...

Georgia's southernmost barrier island welcomes a
new day ... and everything seems as fresh and vibrant
as a new creation ...

MORE NATURE SHOTS W/ NAT
SOUND. INTRODUCE MUSIC, THEN
NARRATION V/O RETURNS ...

For thousands of years people have lived on
Cumberland Island, yet her landscape has never been
permanently altered. A young maritime forest
conceals the fact that her fields were once cleared to
raise cotton ... her trees cut down to build ships.
Cumberland Island has regenerated herself, time and
again.

AERIAL VIEW, FLYING LOW OVER
THE BEACH ...

Today, a pristine beach --- sprinkled with sea shells --
- runs the length of Cumberland's 18 miles of Atlantic
shoreline ...

BRIAN PETERS, NPS CHIEF RANGER.
AUDIO PRECEDES ON CAMERA,
THEN V/O:

Cumberland Island has a tremendous feel to it, of quiet isolation and when I walk out onto the dunes, the sky above and the sound of the ocean, even though it's so broad, still adds to that sense of solitude.

NARRATION:

The largest sand dunes on the east coast --- some over forty feet high --- rise up from Cumberland's beach. Their crowning glory -- sea oats ... golden rods swaying in the breeze. They're not only beautiful, but functional. The sea oats' root systems bury deep into the sand, and help the dunes resist high winds. Dunes provide inland protection by fortifying a ridge of oak trees, gnarled and shaped by the winds that sweep through them.

BRIAN PETERS, V/O:

Some places the dunes and the forest actually intermingle because the dunes are constantly moving especially where there's little vegetation. So, you can actually be standing on sand dune one step, the next step you're in the top of an oak tree.

FOREST CANOPY, NAT SOUND
TRANSITION, THEN NARRATION:

Oak trees are the heart of a maritime forest that dominates Cumberland's interior. Moss draped limbs

twist and turn and intertwine, forming green canopies so thick they almost block out the sun. The fan shaped leaves of Palmettos add a tropical feeling. All of this has grown since the end of the Plantation Era in the late 1800's.

MITTY FERGUSON ON CAMERA,
THEN V/O FOR TREE SHOTS:

My grandmother can remember standing in the middle of the island looking east and west and seeing beach and river ... in the middle of the island. And so in that sense .. the island just has a magnificent / maritime forest.

FOREST, WOODPECKER, WILD
HORSES GRAZING

Nat sound/Music sequence

WILD HORSES IN THE DUNES, AERIAL
HORSES RUNNING ALONG BEACH ...
NARRATION:

Wild horses have roamed on Cumberland since the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century. They live in herds, grazing mainly near the areas that were once populated by people, where the grass is plentiful. Strong at rest, graceful in motion, the horses capture a romantic side of Cumberland.

NARRATION V/O:

The job of protecting Cumberland Island is carried out by the National Park Service. Cumberland became a National Seashore in 1972. The Carnegie family, who purchased the island in 1880, arranged

ART FREDERICK, SUPERINTENDENT
C.I. NATIONAL SEASHORE

for most of the island to be transferred from private ownership to public park.

There was a pivotal time in the history of the island, back in the mid to late sixties when there were plans to develop certain parts of Cumberland Island. Ah, the family, ah, the Carnegies galvanized themselves into a unit that saved the island, they joined forces, made contact with the National Park Foundation and through their efforts / the park was established in 1972.

NARRATION V/O:

While much of Cumberland is returning to wilderness, mankind's fingerprints are still visible.

SHELL MIDDENS AT TABLE POINT,
STACIA HENDRICKS PICKS THRU THE
PILE OF BONES AND SHELLS ...

Shell middens, or garbage piles, provide clues to Cumberland's earliest inhabitants, the Paleo-Indians, who used the island for hunting and fishing thousands of years ago.

STACIA HENDRICKS, NATURALIST.
BLEND OF V/O AND ON CAMERA:

These shells and bone fragments are really great indicators as to what they used as food during their times here. Things such as oysters, which are very abundant in the marshes of these barrier islands.

NAT SOUND TRANSITION: CU OF
ARCHAEOLOGIST SHAKING SIEVE
SCREEN. THEN NARRATION:

Archaeologists from the South East Archaeological
Center --- SEAC --- search for clues to Cumberland's
hidden past.

NAT SOUND/DIALOGUE JOHN
ERANHART AS HE WORKS ...

Cut nails and a small piece of pottery ... aboriginal
pottery ... (sounds of sieve work)

WS TABBY BLD, WORKERS. NARR:

This structure is one of the few intact buildings from
the Stafford Plantation of the 1800's, which at its
peak had 348 slaves working its fields.

Archaeologists believe it may have been a slave cabin
adjacent to the main house. They hope to uncover
information about the differences between house
slaves and field slaves.

LOW ANGLE LOOKING UP THRU
SIEVE SCREEN AS JOHN WORKS

(Nat sound fades out)

CHIMNEYS, EARLY MORNING LIGHT

Nearby, 24 chimneys mark the site of a major slave
community. Archaeologists hope that artifacts from
the site will help them reconstruct the social order of
the community.

NARRATION V/O:

The largest ruins of Cumberland are on the south end where Dungeness mansion rises up on its granite and brick skeleton. This is the third Dungeness. The original was a hunting lodge built by English General James Oglethorpe, who in 1733 founded the Georgia colony. The second Dungeness was a home designed by Revolutionary War hero, Nathaniel Greene.

STACIA HENDRICKS

After the end of the plantation era / the island went into a period of quietness. The forest began to succeed from field and in the 1880's the Carnegie family, Thomas Carnegie, the great industrialist from Pittsburgh came to Cumberland and purchased an estate / and began building their home on the foundation of an original plantation.

NARRATION V/O:

Dungeness offered 59 rooms, featured turrets and a tower a hundred feet high. The estate required a staff of 200.

SHOT OF LUCY AND 9 CHILDREN ON STEPS OF DUNGENESS MANSION, THEN SHOTS OF STAFFORD & PLUM ORCHARD

Thomas Carnegie's wife, Lucy, and her nine children eventually owned ninety percent of the island. Lucy built several more houses for her children: the

SHOTS OF GREYFIELD

mansions of Stafford and Plum Orchard lie in the middle of the island.

Greyfield Mansion was built at the turn of the century for daughter Margaret. Her daughter Lucy Ferguson converted it to an inn ... the only one now on Cumberland.

In 1959, the Dungeness house burned to the ground. Its remains stand as a testament to its former grandeur.

FERRY BOAT PULLING INTO CUMBERLAND DOCK, PEOPLE GETTING OFF, OTHER WAITING TO BOARD FOR RETURN TO MAINLAND

The National Park Service controls the number of visitors to the island, restricting it to 300 people a day ... all coming and going on the *Cumberland Queen*.

NAT SOUND PLAYS UP OVER SHOTS OF PEOPLE BICYCLING, RESTING AT THE BEACH, CU SEAGULL WALKING, ARMADILLO, GATOR JUMPING FROM BANK INTO POND.
MITTY FERGUSON, V/O:

It's odd, people ask me all the time, well, what's the future of the island? I guess not knowing that the Park owns 97 percent of the island, or 98 percent, and it's locked up. Ya know, it'll never be developed.

LAST SHOT IS SUNSET OVER MARSH.
FTB.

MUSIC CHANGE WITH FADE UP ON
AERIAL OF LITTLE CUMBERLAND
ISLAND, SWEEPING ALONG SHORE
AND INLAND TO LIGHTHOUSE

Two creeks separate Cumberland Island from Little
Cumberland Island, the next island to the north.

(pause for music fill)

Two and a half miles of beach curve around sixteen
hundred acres of maritime forest. Privately owned by
an association of homeowners, Little Cumberland
Island is protected as part of the Cumberland Island
National Seashore.

The homes of the landowners are nestled discretely in
the forest interior. Peeking over the tree tops is St.
Andrews Lighthouse, Georgia's southernmost
beacon.

(pause for music and visual change)

DIS TO AERIAL VIEW OF CAUSEWAY
SLICING THRU MARSH

East of Brunswick Georgia, a marsh lined causeway leads to Jekyll Island ... one of only four Georgia islands accessible by car.

AERIAL OF HISTORIC DISTRICT AND CLUBHOUSE

Now owned by the state of Georgia, Jekyll Island was once the playground of northern millionaires who used it as a winter retreat.

In 1886, they created the Jekyll Island Club which boasted membership of the wealthiest and most powerful families in America ... with names like Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Morgan and Pulitzer.

JUNE HALL MCCASH ON CAMERA,
THEN V/O:

"Certainly America's wealth was concentrated here. I think you could certainly say that without any hesitation. / From 1886 until the Club finally closed, its final season in 1942, it was / the most elite social club in the United States, perhaps in the world.

ARCHIVAL JIC ACTIVITY SHOTS
NARRATION:

Initially, the Club was designed as a hunting club and the New York millionaires would come not only to hunt, but to escape northern winters and the harried business world. The center of Jekyll life would be the clubhouse.

DETAIL SHOTS. MCCASH V/O:

"It was designed to meet the whimsy of the Victorian taste. You'll see towers and balconies and rounded porches here and there. But, the Victorians loved that.

ARCHIVAL SHOTS OF COTTAGES

Cottages soon sprung up all around the Clubhouse, reflecting a range of styles and individual taste.

JUNE HALL MCCASH V/O:

"Simplicity was a keynote for the Club. And you often hear in later day stories about the Club, how the streets were paved with gold and there were diamonds for door knockers, that sorta thing. Poppycock. That was never the case here. Simplicity was the keynote. They sought to build cottages that by their standards were simple and if you compare them to the cottages or houses that they had in the Northeast they were simple and relatively small."

MUSIC CHANGE ... ARCHIVE PHOTOS

For decades the Jekyll Island Club maintained its reputation as the most exclusive club in the world. But, all things change. The 1929 stock market crash, the Great Depression and the Income Tax Act all had a hand in closing the Club. W.W. II forced the doors shut for good.

AERIAL

AERIAL FORESTS

In 1947, the State of Georgia stepped in and purchased Jekyll for \$675,000 including all improvements and the island became a public park.

Georgia law says 65% of the island must remain undeveloped, or natural.

BILL DONOHUE, DIRECTOR JIA,
VOICE OVER THEN ON CAMERA:

"So what you see on Jekyll Island today is about 32% development. So what that means is what you'll see ten years from now is basically about the same level of development."

BIKERS ON TRAIL, HERONS IN
MARSH, PEOPLE ON BEACHES

Today, twenty miles of trails meander through Jekyll Island, allowing bikers and hikers to experience first hand the beauty of the forests, marshes, and beaches ... to see wildlife in their natural habitats ... and touch some of the island's early history.

W.S. HORTON HOUSE, DETAIL
WINDOWS, DETAIL OF TABBY ...

The Horton House, built in 1742, was the home of Major William Horton, second in command of British forces under General James Oglethorpe. The two-story home is one of the oldest in the State and depicts the tabby style of construction: a combination of lime, shells, sand and water ... the concrete of its day.

SUNRISE ON BEACH, REFLECTION IN
WET SAND, WAVES BREAKING.

Just before dawn, one morning in 1858, the ship
Wanderer unloaded its cargo of 490 African slaves
onto the beach. Importation of slaves was illegal at
this time. They were the last slaves to land on
American soil.

NAT SOUND HORSE CLOPPING AND
CU HOOFS, TILT TO HORSE AND
CARRIAGE, CUT TO WS CARRIAGE
PASSING COTTAGE FRAMED BY
TREES. NARRATION:

The past still echoes through Jekyll's streets ...
inviting history and nature lovers to discover the
island paradise that is Jekyll.

SHOT DISSOLVES TO BLACK AND
WHITE, THEN FTB AND UP ON
AERIAL OF ST. SIMONS ... MUSIC
CHANGE ...

BEACH HOUSE, FISHERMAN IN
MARSH, SAILBOAT IN BAY, KIDS
PLAYING ON CANON, GOLFERS,
BEACH SCENES ...

To the eyes of the Guale Indians who once fished
along St. Simons' shoreline, or the European colonists
who spilled their blood in its marshes, St. Simons
today would be unrecognizable.

St. Simons has become a bustling community and
resort, joined to the mainland by a causeway. And

LIVE OAKS

yet it still has secrets to share with those anxious to explore its history and natural beauty.

Live oaks that have stood for hundreds of years bear witness to joys and sorrows that St. Simons has known. One ancient tree, over three hundred years old, sheltered John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, as they preached to the early British settlers.

AVENUE OF OAKS

Other oaks offered shade to slaves toiling on the cotton and rice plantations that dominated St. Simons for almost a century.

TREE SCULPTURES

And some of the trees are windows to a more contemporary story --- St. Simons' lively artistic community.

LIGHTHOUSE SHOTS, ARCHIVAL STEAMSHIP, DAY-TRIPPERS

The growth of St. Simons as a resort is rooted in the years following the Civil War when steamships began to carry day-trippers to the island.

JACK CARMICHAEL, V/O THEN ON CAMERA:

People began to come as excursionists, they called them. They're not tourists, excursionists, who came over to sea bathe.

HISTORICAL SHOTS OF HOTELS, COTTAGES, SEA BATHERS

DIS TO OCEAN AS KAYAKS CUT
THROUGH WATER, GOLF, LADY IN
BEACH CHAIR DIPPING FEET IN
WAVES

Hotels sprang up, and then summer cottages. The island was considered so charming that people insisted they would rather go to St. Simons than to heaven.

For the million or so tourists who visit St. Simons each year, the island still offers a taste of heaven.

SLOW DIS TO AERIAL VIEW
APPROACHING SEA ISLAND FROM ST.
SIMONS, OVER RIVER INLET TO
REVEAL THE CLOISTER ... MUSIC
PLAYS UP FULL, THEN UNDER FOR:

Due east of St. Simons ... over a causeway bridging the marsh, lies Sea Island ... internationally recognized for its resort hotel, The Cloister.

Since 1928, this seaside getaway has been entertaining the rich and famous from around the world.

On the north half of the island, a residential community of grand estates and elegant homes lines Sea Island drive ... earning the nickname, Millionaire's Row.

AERIAL SWEEPS ACROSS SEA ISLAND
HOMES, THEN DISSOLVES TO
POV SHOT OF MARSH FROM A
MOVING BOAT. CUT TO SHOT OF
BOAT PILOT, PAN TO SHORELINE
AND TREES. NARRATION:

To the north of Sea Island, through the marsh, is
Little St. Simons Island. The only way to get there is
by boat.

DIS TO AERIAL LSSI

Little St. Simons is Georgia's only remaining family
owned island. Family possession has been the key to
the island's protection for the last 250 years. In all
that time, she's had only three owners, the last taking
control in 1908.

BO TAYLOR, LSSI LODGING
MANAGER. V/O TRANS, THEN ON
CAMERA, THEN CEDARS, AND
FAMILY PHOTOS: 18:22:02

Phillip Berolzheimer, a politician from New York
purchased the island in hopes of harvesting the
natural cedars here for pencil manufacturing. When
he finally looked at the cedars he decided they were
too salty and too gnarly for pencil manufacturing.
However, he fell in love with the island and / decided
that he was going to enjoy the natural resources and
the natural habitat here for family use.

PEOPLE WALKING THRU MEADOW

ERIC KELLON CRANKS UP TRUCK,
DRIVES OFF.

In 1980, the family opened up the island for overnight guest use and day visits ... and dedicated the island as a refuge for wildlife.

ERIC TALKS WHILE DRIVING

Eric Kellon is the island naturalist. He oversees the nature tours and keeps a close eye on the wild side of the island.

My favorite area is the northern part of the island up on River Beach. There's so many neat interactions going on up there and the more we learn about that area the more special we realize it actually is. You have the Altamaha River which drains the largest area in Georgia and brings lots of sand and sediment and nutrients important for the food chain ... very productive area for our shore birds.

NARRATION V/O:

And birds are what put Little St. Simons Island on the map. Shore birds, wading birds, song birds. Some 220 species visit the island each year. Several pair of American oyster catchers have come to the beach to nest, but they're not having much success because racoons raid the nests.

Black skimmers fly low over the water scooping up treats of small fish.

NAT SOUND OF GULLS ECHOES OVER
DIS TO FOREST INTERIOR, THEN VO:

And then there's always terns and sea gulls.

HERON ROOKERY, MUSIC FILL, THEN
NARRATION RETURNS

Because the island's forests have never been
harvested, they support a wide range of habitats that
also attract birds. (bird in tree singing)

MUSIC TRANSITION, DIS TO AERIAL
OF ISLAND AS VO RETURNS:

Hérons always nest in the trees over water, which
helps protect their eggs from raccoons and other
predators.

NARRATION V/O. DEER SEEN IN
WOODS, CLEARINGS, IN GROUPS ...

While most of Georgia's islands lose their north
beach and build up their south end because of ocean
currents and tidal action, Little St. Simons Island
continues to grow, adding several feet of shoreline
each year. This is the result of sand and sediment
deposited by the Altamaha River.

ERIC V/O: 19:09:17 / 19:09:46+

Another special feature of Little St. Simons is the
island deer. They're European stock --- not the
typical Virginia white-tails normally found on
Georgia's islands.

The fallow deer on Little St. Simons were brought
here between 1915 and 1920 by the Berolzeimers to
augment the hunting on the island. / We have the

SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE, THEN:
LAURA BEROLTZEIMER NEL, ON CAM
& V/O. ENDING ON BEACH SUNRISE,
DOLLY ALONG SMALL DUNE ...

white deer, brown spotted deer and a dark chocolate
color.

It's natural, it's wild. / Just the nature itself is
overwhelming and the amount of wildlife here
compared to other places where you might see a bird
but then you have to drive on pavement to get there.
And here it's just the sand and the wind and the salty
taste in your mouth and the wonderful feelings and
senses that you get that are really powerful.

FTB

FADE UP ON HIGH AERIAL VIEW OF
WOLF ISLAND

North of Little St. Simons, Wolf Island offers its
narrow beach and broad salt marsh as refuge to
migratory and nesting shorebirds. In 1972, Wolf
Island National Wildlife Refuge was established to
protect three islands, Wolf, Egg and Little Egg.

AERIAL OF LITTLE EGG DISSOLVES
TO AERIAL OF SAPELO ... DISSOLVES
TO PAN OF FOREST CANOPY ...

MUSIC CUTS IN UP FULL OF
MCINTOSH COUNTY SINGERS. CUT
TO THE BEAT ARE SHOTS OF AN OLD

BUILDING, THEN CU BLACK MAN
SINGING OLD AFRICAN SONG. VS.
SHOTS OF OTHER GROUP MEMBERS
SINGING & DRUMMING & DANCING.
CROWD GETTING INTO THE GROOVE.

NARRATION V/O:

The voices and rhythms recall an earlier time on
Sapelo Island ... and before that, Africa, where the
music originated.

THEN UNDER FOR NARRATION.
SHOTS OF PEOPLE IN AFRICAN GARB,
PEOPLE COOKING FISH, GREETING,
ETC:

Today, is Culture Day on Sapelo ... a time when those
who live on the island and those who've left, come
together ... to celebrate their unique connection to the
island and to the Geechee community called Hog
Hammock.

Their roots grow deep in the soil here. All the way
back to the cotton fields their ancestors worked as
slaves, 200 years ago.

Some go back nine generations to a slave named
Bilali, the head driver of plantation owner Thomas
Spalding's 400 slaves. An educated man from West
Africa, Bilali spoke four languages and is credited
with writing the earliest known document written by a
slave ... an Islamic prayer book.

HOG HAMMOCK SIGN, POP 88.
PEOPLE ENTERING BJ'S STORE, KIDS
WALKING ROAD ...

Hog Hammock is the last intact Geechee community on the Georgia coast. And while life on the island continues to change, the people of Hog Hammock still proudly refer to themselves as Geechee, a name once thought to be derived from the Ogeechee River and its plantation system.

CORNELIA BAILEY ON CAMERA:

"So the newest scholars are now saying it probably came from the word Geezee, from one of the tribes that ah, would professionally plant rice. They were professionals. They planted rice in North Africa, so we probably came from that tribe of people the Geezee. Which over the years has now been pronounced Geechee."

PEOPLE

Today, only a small number of Geechees still live on Sapelo, most having left for jobs on the mainland.

EARLY MORNING SHOT OF DNR DOCK AND THE "SAPELO QUEEN." NAT SOUND TRANSITION AS DECK HANDS CAST OFF, PASSENGERS MINGLE, AND CAPT IREGENE GROVNER TAKES THE HELM. NARRATION:

Iregene Grovner is Captain of the *Sapelo Queen*, the boat operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. It's the main way to get on and off the island. Iregene was born and raised on Sapelo ... was

IREGENE IN PILOT HOUSE, ON CAM:

educated on Sapelo, in a school that no longer exists.
The community is too small to support one.

"The population started to drop off about fifteen years ago. The kids begin to finish high school and / there wasn't no job over there, no job opportunities. So most had to move off so far. I was one of the lucky ones, I guess, to get a job and stay over there."

PASSENGERS ON THE BOAT

The passengers on the *Sapelo Queen* are a mixture of commuters going back and forth to jobs on the mainland, contractors with projects on the island, and visitors ... tourists wanting a taste of Sapelo life.

NAT SOUND YVONNE GROVNER
WITH DNR TOUR GROUP
DEMONSTRATING NET CASTING
FROM MARSH DOCK ...

The best time to go cast fishing is high tide ...

CORNELIA BAILEY V/O AS WE SEE
YVONNE PULLING IN NET FULL OF
FISH ... THEN CORNELIA ON CAM:

I've seen the old way of fishing gone, I've seen the old way of planting just about gone, ah, a lot of stuff has almost disappeared because like I tell folks, why plant tomatoes a lot of times when you can get three cans for a dollar? (laughs)

B/W PHOTOS OF OLDER FOLKS

The old ways and traditions are disappearing, in part, because most of the old folks have died, those only a

generation or two removed from the slave days ... like Allen Greene the basket maker. Still, some of the culture is being kept alive ...

NAT SOUND YVONNE SITTING AT RACCOON BLUFF, TURNING SWEET GRASS AND SAW TOOTH PALMETTO INTO A BASKET. INTRO YVONNE VO:

"This is a tradition that came from Africa. And I learned from Allen Green. / He passed away about two years ago. / And this is a dying art here on the island of making sweetgrass baskets."

NAT SOUND, YVONNE STRIPPING PALMETTO BLADES, THEN WORKING STRANDS INTO THE BASKET. V/O:

"In the slave days they used to make these baskets for working in the fields / and they used to have a basket called a rice fennel. It's kinda flat shallow basket. What they used to use to fan the rice so the wind could blow the chaff out, the rice would fall back in the basket. / And they had another basket called a / market basket for carrying stuff to the market on top of their heads. But the basket / we make here on the island would be a much smaller basket than they used to use a long time ago."

WS YVONNE W/ MARSH & RIVER IN VIEW, CU WATER SWIRLING, GRASS BENDING. PAUSE, THEN NARR:

Only fifty years ago, Sapelo supported many Geechee communities ... Chocolate, Hanging Bull, Raccoon Bluff, Shell Hammock, Belle Marsh. Today, all are gone. Only Hog Hammock remains.

NARRATION, SCENES AROUND H.H.

The community has rallied to undertake several projects ... the restoration of the First African Baptist Church, founded in 1866 by the freed slaves of Sapelo ... development of a cultural village ... and a land acquisition plan to protect the Hog Hammock holdings for the future.

AERIAL AND GROUND LEVEL SHOTS
OF LIGHTHOUSE, NARRATION V/O:

While Sapelo slaves were working the plantation of Thomas Spalding, the island's most visible symbol was constructed ---the Sapelo lighthouse. Completely restored in 1998, the lighthouse first cast its beacon out over Doboy Sound in 1820, helping make nearby Darien a large commercial shipping port.

BUDDY SULLIVAN, ON CAM & V/O:
POV FROM LENS. END ON SUNSET ...

"The lighthouse operated continuously, except for a brief period during the Civil War, until 1905. / Its been repainted with the alternate red and white stripes that marked the original tower. / And so it was relit for the first time in 93 years. And it is now an actual working lighthouse once again."

WS SOUTH END HOUSE, VS VIEWS,
THEN DRAWING OF SPALDING
HOUSE

Nearby, South End House sits nestled among stately live oaks. Its 200 year history spans the three millionaire owners of Sapelo, starting in the early

HOWARD COFFIN PORTRAIT

1800's with Thomas Spalding whose version of South End House stood until the Civil War.

NEW SOUTH END HOUSE, INTERIOR
SHOTS OF MAIN ROOM, SOLARIUM.

In 1911, Howard Coffin, famous automobile designer for the Hudson Motor Company, came south for the automobile races in Savannah and fell in love with the Georgia coast.

B&W PICS

A year later he purchases Sapelo and created a new South End House.

NARRATION, RJR PORTRAIT

Sapelo became the talk of the South. Charles Lindbergh visited shortly after his transatlantic flight, and President Calvin Coolidge loved hunting Sapelo's wild turkeys.

SOLARIUM MURAL, CU OF OWL,
CIRCUS ROOM, LION. NARRATION:

Richard Reynolds, the North Carolina tobacco heir, bought the island in the 1930's.

AERIAL VIEW OF UGAMI

During the Reynolds years, South End House took on more of a playful atmosphere. Wildlife murals and circus themes greeted visitors.

But, Reynolds' greatest contribution to Sapelo came in 1953, when he invited the University of Georgia to establish a marine institute on the island.

DAIRY BARN BLDS, WORKERS
ENTERING AND EXITING ...

Today, the Marine Institute operates out of Reynold's
old dairy barns.

JON GARBISH, ON CAMERA THEN V/O
FOR AERIAL OF MARSH

While we have a building that has labs in it with the
classic test tubes and photospectrometers and all of
that, the true lab is the marsh.

AERIAL CLIMBS TREE LINE TO
REVEAL MARSH, NARRATION V/O:

This outdoor lab covers 378,000 acres between
Savannah and the Florida border, representing one-
third of all the marshes on the eastern seaboard.
Georgia's marshes are more productive than any other
area on the east coast. And the marsh at Sapelo
Island is the best there is.

NAT SOUND RESEARCH WORKERS
ON MARSH PLATFORM, THEN
NARRATION:

The Marine Institute studies the marsh ecology, how
everything interacts, the micro-organisms, plants,
fish, crabs and shrimp.

SHRIMP BOAT, ACTION ONBOARD,
LOW AERIAL OF MARSH

Sapelo's marsh provides shrimp with important
breeding and feeding grounds ... and researchers with
a standard by which to judge changes along the coast.

DIS TO MARSH AT HIGH TIDE.
JON GARBISH V/O, THEN ON CAM:

Basically, you need a / standard example of marsh to start from, if you're going to ask a question anywhere else in the coast, 'Has increased population affected this coastal area?' And you can't really ask that question without a place like Sapelo to start from.

NAT SOUND SEQUENCE: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING OVER MARSH, CU RAIN DROPS HITTING POND, RAIN PELTING LEAVES, ALLIGATOR, BIRD FLUTTERING OFF WETNESS, THEN SUN FINALLY BREAKING THRU TREE COVER LIKE LIGHT FROM HEAVEN ...

:16 montage sequence

CU SUN SETTING AS ORANGE BALL OVER THE MARSH

ECU OF PALMETTO LEAVES, DIS TO MS PALMETTO PATCH, THEN WS FOREST. NAT SOUND UP, THEN UNDER FOR NARRATION:

Stories of buried treasure surround this remote island north of Sapelo. Legend has it, Blackbeard Island was once the hide-a-way of the most infamous and feared pirate of the 18th century, Edward Teach ... better known as Blackbeard.

HISTORIAN BUDDY SULLIVAN:

Edward Teach was very active on the Georgia coast. He frequented these sea islands from between the Carolinas and upper Florida because he liked the places to hide along the coast. The creeks and the inlets and the sounds provided ideal hiding places from the English navel authorities. / And so the myth is there's always been buried treasure on Blackbeard Island. / There have been people who have tried to find treasure and dug on the island without any success at all, so if the treasure is there its been well hidden.

FOREST INTERIOR, BEACH.
NARRATION:

But, maybe the real treasure ... is the island itself. (pause) Fifteen miles of wilderness trails and roads meander through lush forests ... and an unspoiled beach offers nine miles of white sandy shoreline with only the occasional footprint. Blackbeard is a barrier island gem.

NAT SND TRANS TO RANGER MATT
BRYANT AT HELM OF BOAT. NARR:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife rangers are the only inhabitants of Blackbeard and have the task of protecting and preserving the island.

MATT BRYANT V/O, ESTABLISH THEN
DIS TO MATT ON CAMERA, THEN DIS
TO NATURE & WILDLIFE SHOTS ...

Ya know on a given day you could walk through the trails of Blackbeard with the Spanish moss hanging down and the breeze rustling the palmettos that grow pretty thick here amongst the sand dunes, and see Painted Buntings and Scarlet Tanagers flying back and forth. You'll see cattle egrets and your herons and occasional wood stork / and you'll see plenty of alligators, too.

DIAMONDBACK CRAWLING ALONG.
NAT SND RATTLE, THEN NARRATION:

And rattlesnakes. Blackbeard Island has a reputation for supporting large numbers of Diamondback rattlesnakes. King Rattler, as Dr. Bruce Means likes to refer to them. He's been studying these often misunderstood reptiles for over twenty-five years.

DR. MEANS IN ACTION, FINDING A
RATTLESNAKE, BRINGING HIM OUT
INTO THE OPEN, PICKING HIM UP ...

Whoa, there's one! Ah, right exactly in the habitat where I expected to find one. Still not rattling. Here's a pretty good size rattlesnake. (drags him out into open) Look at that beautiful creature. Hey guy. He's a little nervous, he's never been handled before. What a beautiful creature! / It's good to work with them. Let's do this, without traumatizing him too much. Be still. There ya go. Now we got this guy. (picks him up) Ha, ha, ha ... look at that, the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, a beautiful creature, an

icon of the United States, I think, as much as the Bald Eagle. This is the world's largest rattlesnake species, reaches seven, sometimes seven and a half feet in length. This is only about four feet long. And let's see now, let me get a good grip on him, make sure I got that head secured. It is the most dangerous snake in North America, ah outside the tropics, because it has a huge volume of very toxic venom. It doesn't have the most toxic venom, but it's such a big snake it delivers a lot of venom when he bites. Now most people would think that this is a big snake. They come a LOT bigger. (Cut to WS Bruce & snake) So-o-o-o a snake three to four times larger than this is possible right here on Blackbeard Island. (pause) Ah, this snake is very colorful when you hold him up like I'm doing in the air column, but as soon as I put him on the ground that diamond pattern, that mixture of black and lighten color, when it blends with the grass, makes him almost imperceptible.

CU SNAKE IN THE INTERDUNE. THEN DIAMONDBACK SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN, HEAD HELD HIGH AS IF SEARCHING FOR A DISTANT SHORE.

The Eastern Diamondback is very interesting because of all the venomous snakes in North America, it is the one with the greatest propensity for swimming across large bodies of water. It's not uncommon to see an Eastern Diamondback miles off shore. / Why it does

SNAKE PUSHES HEAD INTO CAMERA,
RATTLE SOUND UP FULL. DIS TO
CREMATORIUM & NAT SND FOREST

that I don't know. But, its the reason that the Eastern
Diamondback is so common on barrier islands / from
North Carolina to now Mississippi.

THEN ARCHIVAL PHOTOS

The northern end of Blackbeard holds evidence of
one of the islands more unusual periods. This brick
structure is all that remains of a crematorium used
when the island was the South Atlantic Quarantine
Station for yellow fever.

NARRATION V/O:

From 1880 to 1912 all vessels had to first stop at
Blackbeard to be inspected before continuing on to
their destination.

If a turn of the century hurricane hadn't destroyed
most of the quarantine station, a hundred years of
tidal action would have.

AERIAL OF BEACH. DIS TO SHOTS OF
BONEYARD TREES. NARRATION:

Near where the quarantine station once stood,
Blackbeard's beach displays a classic example of
barrier island ecology: On the northern end of the
island, tide action is undercutting the forest, bringing
down the live oaks ... one tree at a time ... stripping
them and burying them on the beachhead ... creating a

MATT BRYANT, ON CAMERA THEN
V/O AS WE SEE COLORFUL BOTTLES

dramatic looking boneyard beach. And a perfect spot
for beachcombing ...

Beachcombing is a favorite activity for a lot of people
that come to Blackbeard. Bottles have been found on
the beach through out Blackbeard's history. Several
have been stored on the mantle piece at the
Blackbeard ranger station, and attempts to read the
messages were made at one time. However, the paper
crumbled at the touch. So we've left the bottles on
the mantle piece, and the allusion of what the
message may say is left up to the imagination.

MUSIC CHANGE, CU BLUE FLOWER,
SPIDER SPINNING IN NEST, GRASSY
KNOLL, BEACH AND SEA OATS.
NARRATION:

There may not be any pirate treasure on Blackbeard
Island, but there is certainly a wealth of wildlife,
protected wilderness, and breathtaking beauty.

AERIAL ST. CATHERINES ISLAND. DIS
TO EXOTIC ANIMALS IN CLOSE-UP,
THEIR FACES FILLING THE SCREEN.
NARRATION:

Grevy's zebras ... Ring tailed lemurs ... Wildebeests.

WIDER SHOTS SHOWING ANIMALS
AND ENVIRONMENT

Not what you'd expect to find on a Georgia island.

Yet here they are, a few miles off the Georgia coast ...
together with other wildlife species from Africa, Asia,

South America, and Europe ... all living on St.
Catherines Island.

Some of this exotic wildlife has been here since 1968,
the focus of research programs for over thirty years.

MS ROYCE HAYES CRANKING
POPEMOBILE. W.S. OF FIELD AS
POPEMOBILE EMERGES FROM
DISTANT TREES ALONG A DIRT
ROAD. CU ROYCE DRIVING.

Royce Hayes is St. Catherines' on site manager. He's
been here for over two decades overseeing the work
supported by the St. Catherines Island Foundation.

DIS TO ROYCE ON CAMERA, THEN
COVER WITH VARIOUS NATURE AND
ANIMAL SHOTS.

St. Catherines Island does not actually do any of the
programs, but people are invited to come here and do
different things, such as the Wildlife Conservation
Society of New York manages the Wildlife Survival
Center where there are over 300 animals from around
the world being bred here. And that main purpose of
that is conservation, to protect these animals, to
preserve their gene pool, keep them from going
extinct.

LEMURS. NARRATION V/O:

Ring tailed lemurs were released on St. Catherines in
1984. This initial group of six adapted quite easily.

LEMUR SHOTS PLAYING.
BOB LESSNAU ON CAM, V/O:

Today we manage four groups of forty-nine individuals. We rotate our males from other zoos to promote genetic diversity, but the most part was to see if you could condition captive bred Lemurs to a free ranging situation. Could they adapt, could they forage, could they interact naturally like wild populations. And we've pretty much seen that over the last sixteen years ...

NARRATION V/O:

The lemurs are checked daily and offered a supplemental diet.

BOB LESSNAU V/O:

We have documented over the years that these animals can forage naturally on the island. There's been over thirty different species of natural foods that they feed on, so they could sustain themselves naturally ah, but we do this as a management practice.

LEMURS PLAYING. NARRATION V/O:

Researchers in the lemurs' home land of Madagascar, fear that the wild population seems to be declining.

BOB LESSNAU V/O:

If that population is threatened as they think it is, then St. Catherine's would play a major role in a possible reintroduction program because we've been dealing with these guys for sixteen years now.

DIS TO WS BLUFF, NARRATION V/O:

Standing on this bluff, overlooking the eastern edge

of the island, its easy to understand why the Guale Indians of the 16th century chose St. Catherines as the site for their largest village.

PAUSE FOR NAT SOUND OF BLUFF

When the Spanish came to Georgia in 1566, they selected St. Catherines as the location for their first mission.

AERIAL VIEW OF MISSION, DIS TO ROYCE HAYS, THEN 1985 DIG ...

This is the site of Santa Catalina de Guale, a Spanish mission that was abandoned in 1680 and ah, lost and not rediscovered until 1982 when the team from the American Museum of Natural History / found it, after / four years of searching.

DIG SHOTS: SKULLS DUSTED, BONES UNEARTHED

They discovered over 400 skeletons buried in the floor of the church ... Guale Indians who embraced Christianity during the hundred years of Spanish mission efforts on the island.

PALM TREES, ROYCE HAYES:

The palm trees were planted to mark the outline of the church and we thought also, as a memorial to the Indians and the priests who died here and who lived here.

PALMS, THEN TILT OAKS TO HOUSE.
GWINNETT PORTRAIT, SIGNATURE.
NARRATION V/O:

The island vegetation had already reclaimed the church's hallowed ground by the time Button Gwinnett built his house on the marsh side of St. Catherines almost a century later. Gwinnett was one of three Georgians to sign the Declaration of Independence. He lived on St. Catherines only a short time and was later killed in a duel with military rival General Lachland McIntosh.

Some fifty years later, these tabby houses were built for slaves who labored in the island's cotton fields. After the Civil War, they became homes for one of the South's first self-sustaining, free black communities.

EXOTIC WILDLIFE, ISLAND SHOT W/
BOAT, WILDLIFE. NARRATION:

Long before exotic animals from around the world appeared here ... even before people came to the island, St. Catherines was as it is today --- a haven for Georgia wildlife.

BIRD FLYING ACROSS A BLUE SKY.
DISSOLVE TO AERIAL VIEW OF
ISLAND AS IF THE BIRDS' POV.

DNR TECHNICIAN ANDY MEADOWS
V/O AND ON CAMERA:

Most of these barrier islands are all pretty much the same, but each island has some unique feature about

AERIAL VIEW OF SPLIT ISLAND.
NARRATION:

NAT SOUND OF MARSH WITH POOLS
OF WATER AND CLUMPS OF GRASS,
ALLIGATOR IN WATER, BIRDS
FLYING, LINE OF PALM TREES ...

FOREST INTERIOR,
THEN JERRY MCCOLLUM:

WILDLIFE MONTAGE SEQUENCE,
MUSIC OR NAT SOUND UP FULL ...

ANDY MEADOWS VOICE-OVER:

it. And Ossabaw's unique feature is that it's really two islands in one. It's / kinda V-shaped.

The two fingers of this V point Northward, embracing a marsh.

(Nature Sequence)

We don't think about it when you're drivin' some of these roads or walkin' the beach that um, there were many, many slaves here working fields, and it was mostly denuded and just was a few giant trees in the wetlands / and shade trees for field hands. /But now there're none of those fields, there're none of those crops. / The island has largely returned to a natural state.

(approximate :12 music interlude)

All the wildlife are protected. We do do some hunts out here, just as a population control on our deer and hogs. But that's the only hunting of the wildlife here on the island.

SHOTS OF TORREY MANSION, OLD
FILM OF DR. TORREY FISHING.
NARRATION:

In the shade of moss-draped oaks, on the Northeast corner of the island, the Torrey home has stood for over 75 years. Back in 1918, Dr. H.N. Torrey, a surgeon living in Michigan, owned a second house in Savannah. When it was destroyed by fire, realtors tried to persuade the Torreys to purchase Ossabaw, which at that time was being used as a hunting club.

SANDY WEST V/O THEN ON CAM:

Dad sort of brushed them away for quite a long time. And then he went away for a week and mother said, 'What do I tell these people that keep coming and wanting us to buy Ossabaw, I don't know.' And so he said, 'I'll tell you what you do, you offer them the stupidest price that you can think of and that'll get rid of them for good.' So, you had guessed it, when dad came home mother had bought Ossabaw Island for \$150,000.

SANDY ENTERING BACK PATIO THRU
GATE. VS SHOTS. NARRATION:

Sandy West still lives on Ossabaw at the Torrey estate, the home her family built in 1924.

SANDY V/O THEN ON CAMERA:

One of the magical things about Ossabaw is that it makes you like a child again. And I'm not talking about slopping your oatmeal, I'm talking about imagination and experimentation.

DIS TO SANDY ON PATIO, THEN
ISLAND VIEWS ...

When Sandy inherited Ossabaw in 1960, she invited people from around the world to share the well spring of creativity that flowed from Ossabaw. From biologists to bankers, CEO's to sculptors ... people came to study, create art, and exchange ideas --- all under the influence of Ossabaw.

SUNSET OVER MARSH, FRAMED
THRU FOREST TREES, NARR V/O:

But expenses and taxes eventually made private ownership of Ossabaw impossible.

SANDY WEST V/O:

I knew the time had come. We had to sell the island because / we couldn't possibly afford it, and / I had to find a proper landlord for it.

AERIAL DIS TO HERITAGE PRESERVE
SIGN. NARRATION:

The new landlord came in the form of the State of Georgia. Governor Jimmy Carter began the process that would turn Ossabaw Island into Georgia's first Heritage Preserve.

JERRY MCCOLLUM VOICE-OVER:

What that did is allow the / State of Georgia, in the name of the citizens here, to own the island.

AERIAL STARTING OVER FOREST
AND SWEEPING LOW OVER BEACH.
ANDY MEADOWS V/O:

There's really nothing here except wilderness, what's suppose to be here. And that's what we're

preserving, / a very unique glimpse at an intact barrier island. What one should look like.

WATER RUSHING PAST BOW OF BOAT, TILT TO VIEW OF MARSH AND DISTANT ISLAND. VS SHOT CHARLIE MILMINE AND POV. C. MILMINE V/O:

I don't think that the excitement of coming to Wassaw has changed one bit during my whole lifetime. I can remember as a youngster coming out here in a much slower boat, hearing the birds in the marsh flying away in front of us. I can remember the smell of the marsh, and I can still enjoy those same sensations and feelings when I come out here. /
When you get out on an island there really is a feeling of being remote, away, and you think differently ...

WS CHARLIE WALKING THRU FOREST, CU AS HE RAISES BINOCS. DIS TO PORTRAIT OF PARSONS.

Charlie Milmine has a family history on Wassaw that stretches back to the Civil War era. In the 1840's, his great grandfather George Parsons came to Savannah from Maine and made his fortune selling cotton. In 1866, he purchased Wassaw Island.

CHARLIE ON CAM, THEN V/O ISLAND SCENIC, THEN PARSONS PHOTOS

His intentions originally were to investigate the possibility of doing some agriculture out here, / but

he really couldn't get anything going and it wasn't even probably a good idea and so about the mid seventies, I think, he finally threw up his hands / and he gave it to his wife and said, 'it's gonna be recreation from now on.'

ISLAND VISTAS OR AERIAL, V/O::

Wassaw Island has been untouched ever since. Six miles of flawless beach and 1,900 acres of virgin maritime forest are two big reasons why many people consider Wassaw the most pristine island in the Georgia chain.

In the mid 1950's and 60's, its beauty attracted the attention of developers. And there were rumors that the state of Georgia might condemn it to obtain public access.

ISLAND SHOTS, THEN WASSAW
ISLAND SIGN. NARRATION V/O:

In order to insure the island's preservation, the Parsons' heirs secretly sold Wassaw to the Nature Conservancy, who then transferred it in 1969 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where it would be Federally protected.

PETER WALKING THRU FOREST.
THEN SHOTS OF PAINTED BUNTINGS.

Today, rangers manage Wassaw and support various research programs. One of these is MAPS, a nation-

SHOT OF PALMETTOS, TILT UP AS
PETER RANGE WALKS THRU SHOT ...

PETER WALKS UP TO A MIST NET &
BEGINS TO UNTANGLE A BUNTING ...

NARRATION V/O AS PETER WORKS
TO FREE THE CAPTURED BIRD ...

PETER FREES THE BIRD AND PLACES
HIM IN A MESH BAG ...

16:02:10 CUT TO W.S. AS HE FINISHES
TYING KNOT IN BAG AND WALKS
OFF

wide effort to gather data on birds living across North America.

Peter Range is the biologist and ranger responsible for overseeing Wassaw and studying everything from Carolina Wrens to Painted Buntings.

Oh, we got one. Looks like a nice male. Oh, he's not to badly entangled. Sometimes they get really tangled up, but he looks like he's going to be pretty easy to get out.

Mist nets capture the birds. These nets are so finely threaded that they disappear against the background of the forest. The birds fly into them and become harmlessly entangled.

I like to use to use these produce bags cause they're ventilated so well. And with the hot humid weather we have out here on Wassaw, it keeps the bird much cooler.

CUT TO MS MIST NET WITH FEMALE
PABU CAUGHT IN IT. PETER ENTERS
FRAME AND WORKS TO FREE IT ...

When the temperature hits 85 degrees Peter will start
shutting down the station for the day. Until then, he
checks the nets every forty minutes.

CUT TO WS PETER HOLDING FREED
PABU, THEN CU TO SEE BIRD & BAND

Well, it looks like we caught one of last years' birds.
I'm just going to take this top trammel down. Easy
darlin'.

Just grab her like this and I can pull the netting up
over her.

NARRATION AS PETER DISPLAYS THE
BAND

There we go. As you can see she's got last year's
color band on her. It's a split white over red, which
signifies it was banded last year.

DIS TO PETER AT HIS STATION
WORKING W/ A BUNTING

Color bands help track the birds ... from year to year,
and site to site.

16:17:40 PETER HANDLING MALE
PABU, HOLDS IT UP IN THE AIR

At a work station, Peter measures everything from
beak to tail ... examines the condition of the bird's
plumage ... determines its age ... and also weighs it.
This information will help determine the breeding
productivity of the site.

PERCHED ON HIS FINGER, IT LOOKS
AROUND ...

PAINTED BUNTING FLIES AWAY
WITH A RUSH OF WINGS. 16:18:08
DIS TO LATE EVENING SHOT OF
OCEAN AND BEACH. CUT TO LINE OF
BIRDS FLYING ACROSS VERY BLUE
SKY. THEN CU WAVES BREAKING.

DIS TO SUNSET SILHOUETTE OF
CARETTA RESEARCH PROJECT
MEMBERS LOADING INTO ÔMULE.Ó
NAT SOUND, THEN MIKE FRICKE V/O:

15:02:53 DISSOLVE TO WORKERS
MANOEUVRING AROUND A TURTLE
AS SHE LUMBERS BACK TO SEA.
NAT SOUND & MIKE TALKING AS HE
TAKES MEASUREMENTS ...

One of the exciting things that we're finding from the MAPS program is that some of the birds that I color banded last year are showing back up at our station, and none of the birds have shown up at the north end where another researcher is doing work / and none of his birds have shown up down here. So they're sticking really close to the neighborhoods where they were banded.

Birds are not the only animals that are being studied on Wassaw. Loggerhead sea turtles have been swimming ashore to lay their eggs for thousands of years, and today are a threatened species.

Our routine generally begins at night when the sun sets, / since that's the time the nesting female turtles come up. And we patrol all the way until dawn.

Local researchers and volunteers monitor the 300 pound nesting female turtles from May to September and protect their nests.

NAT SOUND AND SYNC:

One hundred and two point five centimeters ...

NARRATION V/O:

Between May and September, these 300 pound turtles swim ashore, crawl up the beach and lay their eggs.

A TURTLE HEADING TO THE SEA

Workers discover this turtle while she is returning to the ocean. Some sea turtles lay their nests too close to the high-water mark.

FRICKE NAT SOUND

The hole is too deep ...

NARRATION

If waves wash over it, saltwater can seep into the eggs and kill the baby turtles. To avoid that, workers move the nest higher up into the dunes.

WORKERS PLACE EGGS INTO A NEW HOLE AND COVER IT WITH SAND

Loggerhead sea turtles will lay between three and six nests in a season, and each nest will have approximately 120 eggs.

MIKE FRICKE SCOOPS SAND OVER THE NEST WHILE HE EXPLAINS

Now our goal is to make this area just like it was before we relocated the nest, so we do like the turtle,

we come where the dry sand is and scoop the dry sand back on top of the wet sand and make the incubation environment almost identical to the nest that the mother originally laid. It's just in a safer location now.

NARRATION V/O:

Safe from the ocean, that is. Predators like racoons and ghost crabs are a threat to the nests, and even when the baby Loggerheads hatch they make tasty morsels for birds and fish. The goal is to have as many turtles as possible survive to make it back to the ocean. And the hope is at least one hatchling will grow to be an adult.

SUNRISE WITH MULE VEHICLE
RUNNING DOWN THE BEACH,
HEADING BACK TO CAMP.

NAT SOUND TRANSITION. VS SHOTS
FORT RUINS AND BONEYARD TREES

On the north shore of Wassaw, the ruins of a Spanish-American War fort resist the pull of time and tide. The island's boneyard beach begins here ... trees silvering in the sun and surf.

BEAUTY SHOT, FLOWER, GOLDEN
ORB SPIDER, ETC ...

All in giant contrast to the rest of the island ... the primitive wilderness, rich natural habitats and diverse wildlife that define Wassaw.

LOW SWEEPING AERIAL

Four miles north of Wassaw, the youngest island in the Georgia chain is providing an example of how islands form. Williamson Island didn't even exist thirty years ago. It is forming from sand swept away from Tybee Island to the North ... in much the same way that her neighbor Little Tybee was created four thousand years ago.

Little Tybee's marshes were once slated for phosphate mining. Now they are protected by the State of Georgia, as are all of Georgia's valuable marshes.

ACTIVITY ON TYBEE BEACH, PEOPLE WALKING, SURFING, SUNBATHING ...

Tybee Island has been called The Redneck Riviera of the South, The Truckstop by the Sea, Tacky Tybee --- and that's by people who *love* her. Others claim these names don't paint a true picture of Georgia's most densely developed barrier island ... nor do her justice.

VIEW OF ISLAND FROM LIGHTHOUSE,
THEN GEORGE SPRIGGS, OWNER
NORTH BEACH GRILL.

I tell / everyone that I run into that Tybee is a place
that you come to be and not a place that you come
to do.

WS CROWDED BEACH, POOL AREA,
BATHING SUIT CONTESTANTS

Whatever the reason, people come to Tybee ... and
have since its earliest days as a beach resort.

JAZZ MUSIC, 1930'S BEACH PICS

In the early 1930's, as many as 20,000 people hit the
beach each weekend. They came to swim, stroll the
boardwalk, and relax at ocean's edge.

TYBRISA PIER

The beach was the focus of island life during the day,
but at night the Tybrisa Pavilion took over.

NAT SOUND 30'S BIG BAND MUSIC,
THEN GRACE WEAVER:

My sister would be at the dance, and we would go
under the, the Pavilion and listen to the music. And it
was fun. Maybe we'd dance a little bit on the sand ...

NARRATION:

Music and romance mixed in the night time air as
naturally as saltwater and sand on Tybee's beach. For
decades, Tybee was one of the busiest seaside resorts
in the Southeast.

GALS IN SKIMPY SUITS SUNBATHING,
OLD MAN RIDING BIKE ON BEACH,

COLORFUL UMBRELLAS SHADING
PEOPLE.

Today, the beachwear has changed, but Tybee's
appeal is timeless --- its an island getaway where *just
being* is enough.

DIS TO AERIALS OF BEACH AND
MARSH, THEN DUNES CROWNED
WITH SEA OATS, FOREST INTERIOR,
WAVES WASHING ASHORE. FINAL
SHOT IS BEACH AERIAL FOR
CREDITS.

From the playgrounds of Tybee ... to the unspoiled
shoreline of Cumberland Island, Georgia's barrier
islands are pearls of the Atlantic ... an American
treasure.

As the islands change with the tides, they reminds us
that their secrets are never ending ... there is always
something new waiting to be discovered when the sun
breaks through the clouds ... when the breeze stirs the
palmettos ... when the next wave washes ashore.

ROLL CREDITS

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