

# LANDMARKS

PUBLICATION OF THE WORMSLOE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY



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# LANDMARKS

PUBLICATION OF THE WORMSLOE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

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LANDMARKS is published bi-annually by  
The Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.

COVER PHOTO: View of Jones' Narrows and Long Island beyond at the  
University of Georgia Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe.  
*Photograph by:* KEELI M. WINDHAM

Seasons of change are the natural milestones of life. Like the rise and fall of the tide, seasons come and go, ultimately creating opportunities for new achievements, in other words *landmarks*.

It is gratifying to reflect on the triumphs that Wormsloe has experienced over the past few years: the construction of the Experiential Learning Center in 2023 provided a much needed research and laboratory facility for students and scholars at the University of Georgia Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW); the removal of vehicular traffic from Oak Avenue ensured the protection and preservation of the *Quercus virginiana* which stand resolute as enduring icons of Wormsloe; the grand opening of the Wormsloe State Historic Site Visitor Center at the beginning of 2024 offers hospitality to the 185,000 patrons that stop by to explore and marvel each year; the installation of the Laura Barrow McIntosh Memorial Garden honors and memorializes the incredible achievements of the life-long environmental activist while providing research opportunities for native plant study; and, most recently, the hiring of Dr. Mary Socci as the new CREW executive director who will undoubtedly lead the campus into a new era of scholarly excellence. In reflecting on these great achievements of late, it is apparent that Wormsloe has entered into a new season of life, and one that is already dominated by *landmarks*.

It is truly thrilling to imagine the infinite opportunities for success that await Wormsloe in the years to come.

LANDMARKS is a publication to celebrate all of the significant achievements – the *landmarks* - of Wormsloe that continue to impact its development and growth as one of the most important cultural and historical sites in the United States.

In this inaugural issue dedicated to seasons of change, I am delighted to share with you a note from Craig & Diana Barrow expressing their enthusiasm for Wormsloe's great partnerships and bright future, a letter of greeting from Dr. Mary Socci in which she outlines some of her tremendous plans for UGA-CREW in the coming months, informational writings from Wormsloe Fellows Taylor Pearson and Courtney Balling conveying their remarkable research findings to date, and a timely recognition of Craig and Diana Barrow's extraordinary achievements resulting from their tireless devotion to Wormsloe written by Dan Nadenicek.

We welcome you to join us in the discovery and celebration of new *landmarks* at Wormsloe. I hope that you enjoy this very special issue.

With gratitude,

*Keeli M. Windham*





The iconic Live Oak Avenue at Wormsloe. 2024.  
*Photograph by: KEELI M. WINDHAM*



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To our Wormsloe Friends,

The first six months of this year has had some very positive happenings at Wormsloe: the hiring of Dr. Mary C. Socci as the executive director of The University of Georgia Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW), the selection of Keeli Michael Windham as president of the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, the completion of the installation of the Laura Barrow McIntosh Memorial Garden, the marvelous new Wormsloe Historic Site Visitor Center, and most importantly the removal of the tourist automobile traffic off the avenue of live oaks.

We were so fortunate that the University was able to hire Mary. She has already made a huge impact at Wormsloe.

Keeli is completing a much needed master plan for the UGA campus at Wormsloe, she designed and supervised the installation of Laura's garden, and is the editor of LANDMARKS.

We all have worked very hard to create a great partnership with UGA under the leadership of Toby Graham, head of the UGA libraries, with DNR under the leadership of Angie Johnson, director of state parks, and Gretchen Greminger, Wormsloe Historic Site manager, and all the people involved with Wormsloe. We strongly believe that this unique partnership bodes well for the future of Wormsloe for many years to come.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the articles and comments in this issue of LANDMARKS, and that you will be encouraged to make arrangements to visit the site and to meet Mary and Keeli in the very near future.

If you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to call us.

Sincerely,

*Craig and Diana Barrow*



“WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT  
THIS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP  
BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE  
OF WORMSLOE FOR MANY  
YEARS TO COME.”



# MEET THE NEW LEADER OF UGA's CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AT WORMSLOE

The University of Georgia Libraries welcomes archaeologist and researcher Mary Socci as executive director of the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW), an interdisciplinary research site on the Georgia coast.

In her position, Socci will facilitate research, education and public outreach at one of Georgia's most ecologically and historically significant sites. CREW, a unit of the UGA Libraries, supports the work of students and faculty who investigate a host of questions in a broad range of disciplines, including ecology, archaeology, history, geology, landscape architecture, historic preservation, environmental planning, and others.

With expertise in the archaeology and history of the coastal Southeast, and experience in ecological research, Socci previously served as assistant director of the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy and as cultural resource manager for Palmetto Bluff. Her career includes work in history, archaeology, and ecology. She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Princeton University, and a master's degree and PhD in anthropology from Yale University.

"Dr. Socci brings highly relevant experience and educational background, along with dedication to researching and preserving the history and environment of the coastal Southeast," said Toby Graham, UGA associate provost and university librarian. "We look forward to a bright future for CREW under her leadership and with the support of the Wormsloe Foundation."

In addition to partnerships with academic units across UGA, Socci will work closely with Keeli Windham, president of the nonprofit Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.

CREW benefits from the generous and longstanding support of the Wormsloe Foundation and from Craig and Diana Barrow, who donated 15 acres on the Isle of Hope to create the Center in 2012.

"Being part of the University of Georgia and the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe is a tremendous honor. I'm already enjoying getting to know the Barrow family who have been stewards of Wormsloe for generations and the graduate students and faculty who are exploring Wormsloe's natural and cultural environments," Socci said. "I am excited about being able to build new institutional partnerships and to develop and widely promote the research that takes place here at CREW."

*Article reprinted with permission from Author Camie Williams and the University of Georgia Libraries.*





Dr. Mary Socci in front of the UGA Main Library.  
*Photograph by: THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA*

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DEVELOP AND WIDELY PROMOTE THE  
RESEARCH THAT TAKES PLACE HERE AT  
CREW.”



# DEAR FRIENDS,

When I first visited Wormsloe nearly a decade ago, I was enchanted by the intense beauty of its maritime forest, marshes, and tidal waters and by the extraordinary history visible in the avenue of live oaks, historic structures, and shell middens. But what was equally impressive was Craig and Diana Barrow's love for Wormsloe and their visionary dedication to preserving, understanding, and sharing this natural and cultural treasure. Their generosity, augmented by that of the supporters of the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, was foundational in creating the University of Georgia's Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW). Over the last sixteen years, students and faculty from the University of Georgia and other universities have made CREW their base to explore Wormsloe's history and environment and to answer questions of regional, national, and global significance. The University of Georgia has awarded more than 20 master's and doctoral degrees to scholars whose research had roots at Wormsloe (sometimes quite literally, as in the case of Ania Majewska's studies on pollinator gardens and butterfly populations!) and whose projects were supported by generous grants from the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.

Each time I came back to Wormsloe after that first visit, I saw new and exciting changes created through the University of Georgia's partnerships with the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History and the Barrow family: new graduate students, new avenues of study, new facilities, and new discoveries. (I must admit that each visit made me a bit more envious of those fortunate enough to be part of this remarkable place!) Today I am honored to be one of the changes at Wormsloe myself—the new executive director of CREW.

In the months ahead, I will be working to expand some of the research and educational opportunities at CREW while continuing to provide support for recipients of the Wormsloe Fellowship, one of the University of Georgia's premier scholarships for graduate study. Other projects will include collaborating with local universities, establishing an archaeological field school, and developing outreach programs with the Wormsloe State Historic Site. Please stop by for a tour of the campus or to meet some of our researchers. I think you will be as excited about the future of Wormsloe as I am.

Warm regards,

*Mary*





Swamp lilies at Wormsloe.  
*Photograph by: MARY C. SOCCI*



“CREW HAS MULTIPLE  
UNDISTURBED HABITATS AND  
SITES CONSTANTLY USED BY  
WILDLIFE AND VISITED BY  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS,  
GIVING RISE TO EXCELLENT  
FIELD RESOURCES FOR TICK  
COLLECTIONS AND OUTREACH  
OPPORTUNITIES.”





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# TAYLOR PEARSON

## WORMSLOE FELLOW

As a Wormsloe Fellow,  
my research aims to examine the  
ecology of ticks and tick-borne  
pathogens in coastal Georgia  
communities and to educate  
others on the importance of tick  
safety.

Taylor caught a Painted Bunting at CREW and performed a wellness exam to check for ticks and other ectoparasites.

*Photograph by:* TAYLOR PEARSON





Left: This Five-lined Skink from Jekyll Island had a high tick burden, and the SCWDS research team removed these ticks for further pathogen testing.

*Photograph by:*  
TAYLOR  
PEARSON

Right, top:

Taylor is examining a retrieving dog at a local hunting facility in Liberty County, Georgia.

*Photograph by:* TAYLOR PEARSON

Right, bottom left:

Taylor and her research team taught a class on tick safety to Junior Rangers at Wormsloe, using microscopes to show tick biology and behavior.

*Photograph by:* TAYLOR PEARSON

Right, bottom right:

Taylor is trapping songbirds and examining them for ticks at CREW and on many of the Georgia barrier islands.

*Photograph by:* TAYLOR PEARSON





Working at the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW) has provided many unique opportunities for investigations into the coastal habitat. CREW has multiple undisturbed habitats and sites constantly used by wildlife and visited by community members, giving rise to excellent field resources for tick collections and outreach opportunities.

From giving talks to Junior Rangers about tick safety to trapping migratory passerines and examining them for ticks, I have thoroughly enjoyed the field experiences during my first year of research at CREW. The Wormsloe Foundation has been incredibly supportive of my investigations, and I look forward to continuing work at Wormsloe and CREW.

- Taylor Pearson







*Photograph by:* COURTNEY BALLING

"I APPROACH MY  
RESEARCH THROUGH A  
LENS OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE, FOCUSING ON  
ADAPTATION STRATEGIES  
THAT ENSURE ACCESS TO A  
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR  
ALL."



# COURTNEY BALLING | WORMSLOE FELLOW

My name is Courtney Balling, and I am a PhD candidate in the University of Georgia's Integrative Conservation program. I also received my master's degree from UGA and have been researching sea level rise adaptation strategies on Georgia's coast since 2016. I am a second year Wormsloe Fellow.

My current work is focused on the adverse effects of sea level rise to coastal septic systems and thus, water quality. I approach my research through a lens of environmental justice, focusing on adaptation strategies that ensure access to a clean environment for all.

At Wormsloe, I've been able to test a pilot study tracking the horizontal flow of wastewater between the research housing septic drainfield and the marsh. You may notice PVC tubes sticking out of the ground at CREW- those are placed up to eight feet in the ground and are perforated to allow groundwater to flow in and be sampled. Water samples are then tested for bacteria that indicate the presence of wastewater. I am happy to report that unlike many of my other study sites the Wormsloe septic system appears to be functioning exceptionally well and no evidence of wastewater has been found in either the groundwater or the surface water in the adjacent marsh.

- Courtney Balling

# PRESERVING ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT LANDSCAPE TREASURES

Although, this issue is dedicated to “seasons of change” and the bright future expected under Mary Socci and Keeli Windham’s leadership, it is important to call attention to Craig and Diana Barrow’s significant accomplishments and recognitions, which provide the armature upon which future accomplishments will be constructed. At the most basic level, the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW) would not exist without Craig and Diana’s amazing foresight in conceiving and facilitating the 15.5-acre land gift that became the CREW site. From CREW’s earliest days, they supported a broad array of research at all Wormsloe sites that in one way or another included nearly all UGA’s colleges.

Even while that land transfer was in progress, Craig and Diana, the Wormsloe Foundation and the Wormsloe Institute funded an initial design charrette that provided a future direction for all of Wormsloe. That charrette generated two significant recommendations—removing car traffic from the live oak allée and relocating the visitor’s center from its interior site to Skidaway Road. After years of lobbying at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources by the Barrows, those recommendations were accepted by the state and have been implemented. Due to the success of that early charrette the Barrows are interested in sponsoring another charrette intended to guide the State Historical Park and CREW over the next several years. The 2010 charrette also led to Wes Ryals’ American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Honor Award.





Craig and Diana Barrow in front of  
the DeRenne Library at Wormsloe.  
*Photograph by: THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA.*





Dan Nadenicek, Jeanne Nadenicek, Craig Barrow, Diana Barrow, Keeli Windham, and Taylor Knight at the University of Georgia Alumni Awards 2024.  
*Photograph from: KEELI M. WINDHAM*



While Craig and Diana did not seek acclaim for their ongoing contributions at Wormsloe several nominations were submitted by supporters who would not let their work go unrecognized. The Library of American Landscape History (LALH) grants several awards for publishing and stewardship. In 2014 the LALH board of directors selected Craig Barrow to receive its coveted Preservation Hero Award for his ongoing stewardship of the Wormsloe landscape. A decade later he received a UGA Alumni Merit Award for supporting and funding Wormsloe research, granting the land to establish the CREW site and assisting the University of Georgia in numerous other ways.

For several years Craig and Diana, the Wormsloe Foundation and the Wormsloe Institute supported cutting edge Geographic Information System (GIS) research and Geodesign practices for all Wormsloe sites. In 2015 they were joined by UGA researchers to receive an ESRI Award in San Diego, California. ESRI is far and away the global leader in the GIS software, location intelligence, mapping and geospatial analytics.

And in 2017 the Trustee's Garden Club of Savannah nominated Craig and Diana for a national Garden Club of America Award for establishing the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, demonstrating superior landscape stewardship and conservation practice and engaging in significant environmental education practices across all Wormsloe sites including the State Park, the CREW site and their personal property. For those accomplishments they were granted the highly prized Margaret Douglas Medal in 2018.

As new development and massive landscape change continues along the Georgia coast and across the state, Wormsloe is a beacon of hope because of Craig and Diana Barrow's tireless energy and endless contributions to preserving one of America's great landscape treasures.



Wormsloe's unofficial mascot: Noble. Fall 2023.  
*Photograph by: KEELI M. WINDHAM*





At the Experiential Learning Center, students of UGA's College of Environment + Design hear from Professor Dan Nadenicek and Craig Barrow before heading out for a full day of field-work at CREW. Fall 2023.  
*Photograph by: KEELI M. WINDHAM*





Controlled burning of the Wormsloe longleaf pine stand. January 2024.  
*Photographs by: KEELI M. WINDHAM*







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