

100 MILES

One Hundred Miles Annual Report

How We Conserved our Coast in 2017



With your help, One Hundred Miles is protecting, preserving, and enhancing the thriving communities, treasured landscapes, and diverse wildlife of Georgia's 100-mile coast.

2017: A Year for Taking Action

All across our coast—from Savannah to St. Marys—2017 was defined by the unprecedented number of people willing to make their voices heard. On issue after issue, whether offshore drilling, federal budget cuts, coal ash, or proposed changes to the Shore Protection Act, our advocates stood together to ensure Georgia's coast was protected.

In 2017, we spoke out and spoke loud. Our momentum began with our first annual Choosing to Lead conference in January. By the March for Science in April, when more than 750 coastal advocates joined together at Earth Day events in Savannah and Brunswick, it was clear that this wouldn't be just any ordinary year. The groundswell continued throughout 2017, as thousands signed petitions against proposed budget cuts and called their legislators to advocate for stronger coal ash legislation. At One Hundred Miles, we worked to provide our citizens with the knowledge and tools to take action by launching new education programs for all ages and interests.

Thank you for helping to make this progress possible.

Taking action means standing up for the coast you love—the one you want to preserve for generations to come.

Here's how you helped us stand up for our coast in 2017.



**TAKING ACTION...
to protect our shoreline**

All of us who know and love Georgia's coast owe a debt of gratitude to the visionary leaders who passed the [Shore Protection Act](#) in 1979. Over the decades, this landmark piece of legislation has protected our habitats and the wildlife and residents that live along our fragile coastline.

In early 2017, Representative Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah) introduced HB271, a bill that would have changed key definitions in the law and the methodology for determining where homes and structures can be built. Ultimately, [this revised language would have allowed new construction only 25 feet from sand dunes, sea walls, or the ordinary high water mark.](#)

With the backdrop of increased coastal flooding and storm activity, Representative Petrea's proposed changes to the SPA would have put our coast, our wildlife, and our people at risk. In response, [OHM and our partners launched a campaign in opposition.](#) Advocates sent hundreds of emails to our state representatives, and OHM's staff and members testified in hearings at the Capitol. As a result of this public outcry, the Senate Natural Resources killed the bill. Since then, we've continued our work to ensure new amendments uphold the spirit of the original law and protect our coast.



**TAKING ACTION...
to preserve our history**

As one of four "Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers" in the state of Georgia and a national natural landmark, [historic Ebenezer Creek is a blackwater wonderland.](#) Coastal enthusiasts flock from hundreds of miles away to float down its majestic waters, providing an important economic driver for the City of Springfield.

Last spring, DRTA America (DRTA), a privately-held French company specializing in distilling rosin and turpentine, applied for a permit to pipe treated wastewater into the Springfield sewage treatment facility. [Residents and visitors feared that turpentine and other unknown chemicals would pollute Ebenezer Creek and neighboring tributaries.](#) Despite overwhelming community opposition, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division granted the permit in June 2017.

OHM sprang into action, helping to build the Friends of Ebenezer Creek citizens group, sharing concerns with elected officials, and helping community members organize opposition. [Our voices paid off: in November, the Springfield City Council unanimously rejected DRTA's permit to discharge wastewater into the community.](#)

OHM is monitoring DRTA's next steps and remains ready to respond to future threats to our beloved blackwater resource.



**TAKING ACTION...
to celebrate our species**

Georgia's coast is for the birds! That was the message from the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), who last fall [designated our barrier islands as a 'Landscape of Hemispheric Importance' for shorebirds.](#)

This prestigious designation is a testament to our coast's global significance for shorebirds and other wildlife. Appropriately, the barrier islands of Georgia's 100-mile coast were recognized as the 100th WHSRN site.

In its announcement, the WHSRN Council highlighted the vital support our island habitats provide to red knots, piping plovers, American oystercatchers, and many other species every year.

[One Hundred Miles submitted the nomination along with our partners at the Georgia Shorebird Alliance and shepherded it through the months-long process.](#) Since the designation, we've worked to educate community members about shorebird conservation and partnered with local elementary schools to create art for an international shorebird 'friendship quilt.'

The WHSRN designation will introduce our coast to new audiences from across the globe, providing meaningful opportunities for conservation.



**TAKING ACTION...
to empower our citizens**

At One Hundred Miles, we're committed to broadening what it means to be an advocate and giving our citizens the tools they need to make their voices heard. That means providing trainings and resources and recognizing that advocacy isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. Because if we are going to achieve our goal of preserving Georgia's 100-mile coast, we need an army of advocates capable of sharing their passion in every different way possible.

[Last year, we took an important step forward in building this army by launching our inaugural Coastal Conservation in Action: Choosing to Lead conference.](#) More than 200 participants of all walks of life—brought together by a shared love for our coast—gathered on Jekyll Island for a full day of interactive workshops, panel discussions, and networking on everything from coastal history to wildlife and art. [Most importantly, our conference gave both new and seasoned advocates alike inspiration for putting their projects into action.](#)

Choosing to Lead immediately became one of our favorite days of the year. We spent the rest of 2017 planning our 2nd annual event (held in January 2018). And we're excited to announce that our 3rd annual conference will return next spring—bigger and better than ever!



In order to preserve and protect our coast, we must first share a love for our resources and an understanding of what's at stake. Forging that connection was at the heart of our two new education series, *Naturalist 101* and *Nature of the Arts*, which we launched last spring.

Nearly 500 people took part in our monthly lectures, field trips, and natural art courses in 2017. Among many adventures, participants studied barrier island dynamics on Sapelo, encountered a loggerhead sea turtle nest hatching on St. Simons, and went behind the lens during an early morning photography workshop at Wormsloe State Historic Site in Savannah.

We hope you'll join us for our all-new slate of programs in 2018! Learn more at OneHundredMiles.org/Naturalist101 and OneHundredMiles.org/NatureAndTheArts.

THE Passport to the Georgia Coast

What's on your coastal Georgia bucket list?

There's so much to discover right here, in your very own backyard! From rich history and culture to our extraordinary wildlife and wild places, Georgia's 100-mile coast has it all. That's why we partnered with 16 other organizations in 2017 to create our *Passport to the Georgia Coast*—an interactive activity guide that helps families and visitors explore the incredible treasures across our coast. Funded by a generous grant from the M.K. Pentecost Ecology Fund, the Passport includes an insider's guide, scavenger hunt, and special stamp for every "destination." There's even a Coastal Georgia Bucket list to help you experience all that our 100 miles have to offer. Start your adventure today: learn more at OneHundredMiles.org/Passport.

Dear friends,


Our work to preserve and protect Georgia's 100-mile coast cannot be done in isolation. To truly effect meaningful change, we must work collaboratively to drive innovation and realize ambitious goals—from safeguarding our wildlands and wildlife to ensuring thoughtful development that benefits our coast's quality of life.

As I reflect back on 2017, I am struck by the number of advocates willing to stand up and ensure their voices were counted for our coast. Person by person, in coalitions and in communities all across our 100 miles, we are growing our impact and leading transformational change.

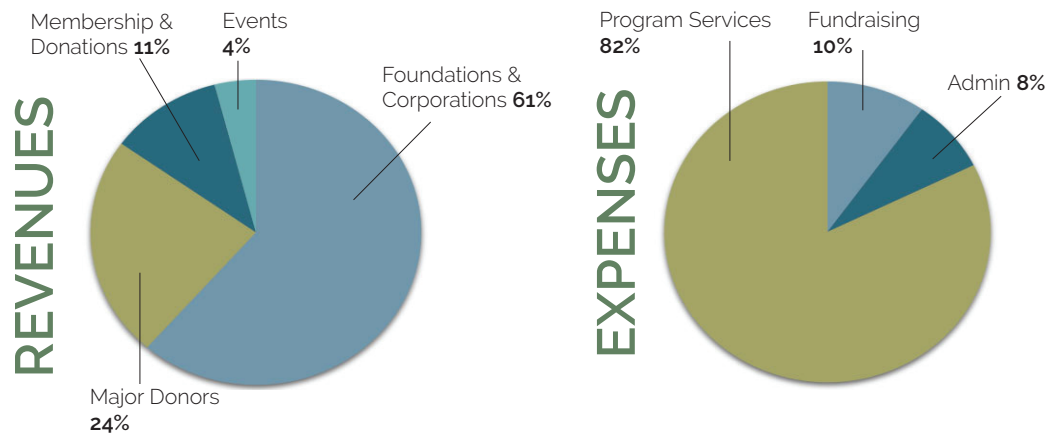
Without you, none of this would be possible. Your voices, your passion, and your commitment are helping us create the future we want to see for our coast.

As One Hundred Miles enters our fifth year, I'm proud of the organization we've built and the hard-working team of conservation professionals and volunteer advocates we've assembled. Together, we are tackling the big issues facing our 100 miles and creating a lasting legacy for the coast we love.

I hope you'll take some time to consider this 2017 report and the progress your support has made for our coast. I am grateful that we can count on you.

Sincerely,

Megan Desrosiers

2017 Financial Snapshot



We are committed to honoring our donors' investments through sound management of our fiscal resources. In 2017, we continued our work to diversify our fundraising portfolio, add new sources of income, and increase our strategic operating reserve.

82% of One Hundred Miles' expenses were allotted to our mission-related programs in 2017. This percentage more than exceeds the standard upheld by organizations that monitor the work of nonprofit charities.

This summary is derived from our December 2017 financial statements. Once completed, copies of our audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms will be available by request.

Thank you to our valued members.

For a complete listing of 2017 donors, please visit OneHundredMiles.org.

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Action = Impact

2017 by the numbers!



Annual Report
2017
100 MILES

