

An Experiential Learning Experience: Biological and Cultural Aspects of the Georgia Coastal Plain “--and the Beach”

William Glider, Joe Garbisch and Grace McManaman

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Biological Sciences, Manter Hall 402
Lincoln, NE 68588-0118 , USA
(wglider1@unl.edu)

Experiential learning experiences in the form of field trips can provide very impactful educational experiences for students when constructed to include reflection, conceptualization, and activity. We offered a mini-course during Spring Semester 2019, which culminated in a one week excursion to the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, Georgia. The students explored the biodiversity, geology and the cultural heritage of the Island. This excursion was offered at a very reasonable cost to students by partnering with the UNL Cedar Point Biological Station. Students met once weekly on campus with the instructors to become familiar with the requisite information they would need. The class traveled by van to and from Sapelo Island, stopping at various campsites for eating and sleeping. The “road trip” provided time for students to bond with each other and learn how to work as a team. One of the most enjoyable activities undertaken by the students was a trawl from the RV *Spartina* in Doboy Sound as part of the Institute's long term data collection. A representative assortment of organisms collected and placed in the sea tables for further observation. Other activities included observation of a beach transect from intertidal to maritime forest, salt marsh ecology, and fiddler crab behavior. In addition, the remains of human activity through the centuries were visited including a Shell Ring thought to have been left by the Guale Indians who inhabited the Island from 2500-1000 BC. The course grade was based on participation and evaluation of written journals.

Keywords: Experiential learning, field trip

Mission, Review Process & Disclaimer

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with teaching biology in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises. For more information about ABLE, please visit <http://www.ableweb.org/>.

Papers published in *Advances in Biology Laboratory Education: Peer-Reviewed Publication of the Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education* are evaluated and selected by a committee prior to presentation at the conference, peer-reviewed by participants at the conference, and edited by members of the ABLE Editorial Board.

Citing This Article

Glider W, Garbisch J, and McManaman G. 2022. An Experiential Learning Experience: Biological and Cultural Aspects of the Georgia Coastal Plain "--and the Beach". Article 60 In: Boone E and Thuecks S, eds. *Advances in biology laboratory education*. Volume 42. Publication of the 42nd Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE). <https://doi.org/10.37590/able.v42.abs60>

Compilation © 2022 by the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, ISBN 1-890444-17-0. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. ABLE strongly encourages individuals to use the exercises in this volume in their teaching program. If this exercise is used solely at one's own institution with no intent for profit, it is excluded from the preceding copyright restriction, unless otherwise noted on the copyright notice of the individual chapter in this volume. Proper credit to this publication must be included in your laboratory outline for each use; a sample citation is given above.