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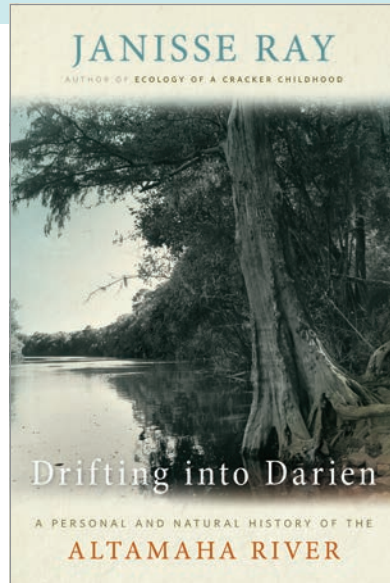
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS

FALL 2011



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We All Have a River

LAURA SUTTON

“Other rivers are as wide, and as dark, and as long, and as deep, and as bendy. Others are as well loved. Others are as wild. . . . But the Altamaha is mine, its water my blood, its history my own.”—Janisse Ray, from the preface to *Drifting into Darien: A Personal and Natural History of the Altamaha River*

BEHIND THE BOOK

JANISSE RAY burst onto the literary scene in 1999 with the publication of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*. That book was hailed by critics including the *New York Times*, which compared it to Rachel Carson’s landmark *Silent Spring*. In an era when the personal memoir was popular among critics and readers alike, Ray’s work stood apart for its emphasis on the natural world. Specifically, *Ecology* introduced readers to the imperiled beauty of the longleaf pine ecosystem of Ray’s native South Georgia. The book won several literary awards, including the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and the American Book Award, as well as the Southern Environmental Law Center Book Award. To date, some 150,000 copies of *Ecology* are in print, and it continues to win new fans every year.

Now, with *Drifting into Darien*, Ray attempts to do for the mighty Altamaha River—the largest free-flowing river on the East Coast—what her first book did for the longleaf pine forest. “*Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* brought flat woods to the attention of the public, so it is possible this could do the same for the swamps,” Ray says of her latest work. “In my mind, the two are companions.”

The first half of *Drifting into Darien* describes an eight-day kayaking trip that Ray and a small group, including her husband, Raven, took from Murdock McRae’s Landing in rural Telfair County, Georgia, to Darien on the Atlantic coast. The 145-mile journey begins on the Ocmulgee River and is mostly spent traversing the Altamaha, which looms large in Ray’s personal history and imagination. In the second half of the work, Ray explores her beloved river and its flora and fauna, describing the surrounding forest and marveling at the diversity of fish found in the river. She recounts earlier trips on the river, including a fishing expedition with Republican state senator Tommie Williams (“We have been friends a long time now, but that doesn’t stop us from fighting.”) and another with her son, Silas. She also writes about the Hatch Nuclear Plant, built just miles from her hometown of Baxley. Ray believes toxins from the plant led to her mother’s fatal lung and breast cancer and are a major threat to the health of the Altamaha.

Ray says that her intention for this book, as with all her writing, is to inspire her readers to be better stewards of the natural world. “Every book I write, I’m trying to get us to a place where we recognize that we are the earth, we are part of the landscape, that what we do to it matters,” Ray says. “The intention is to answer the question, ‘Are we going to save ourselves or not?’”

The Altamaha River is North America’s third

Janisse Ray at the Ochoopee River, April 2011



Nancy Marshall

cont’d on page 2

BEHIND THE BOOK

"We all have a river"
cont'd from page 1

largest contributor of fresh water to the Atlantic Ocean, and its floodplain, which is home to at least 139 species of rare plants and animals, has been designated as one of the Nature Conservancy's seventy-five Last Great Places. It supports some of the last remaining hardwood bottomlands and cypress swamps in the South and the only known example of old-growth longleaf pine and black oak forest in the United States.

For all its importance, however, little is known about the Altamaha, perhaps because its banks flow through sparsely populated areas. While Ray the activist hopes that her river will one day be as recognizable and as well protected as, for example, the Hudson River, which has achieved prominence and protection through the work of Bobby Kennedy Jr. and the Hudson Riverkeeper, Ray the preservationist and nature lover wants the Altamaha's pristine beauty to remain undiscovered. "It's the third largest waterway flowing into the Atlantic and nobody knows about it," she



Photos: Nancy Marshall



says. "When you see how wild it is, you don't want anybody to know."

In writing *Drifting into Darien*, Ray employed all of the literary devices at her disposal, including the use of dialogue, developing people as "characters," and building suspense into the narrative. This, she says, is essential to hold the attention of a twenty-first-

century reader bombarded by technology and sundry distractions. She also believes it is essential for today's nature writers to go beyond merely reporting what they observe and to interpret what it means for the reader and for the environment. Ray's interpretation of what she sees happening to her beloved Altamaha and its surrounding forest is crystal clear: "Folks, we have us a problem. Scientists have spent a long time studying and deduced a fact

that any of my neighbors could have told them already—a river is only as healthy as the forests along it. That means the Altamaha is in trouble. Because we are cutting its forests to death."

Ultimately, Ray hopes that *Drifting* will inspire readers to find their own river to love as much as she loves the Altamaha and in turn to look for ways to protect and preserve the world around them. "I'm passionate about my place," she says. "I don't mean everyone should fall in love with the Altamaha because it's my river. But what I do mean is that we all have a river. We all have a place, and the river is a metaphor for our human movement through time."

JANISSE RAY is the author of three works of nonfiction, *Pinhook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land*, *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home*, and the bestselling *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*. She is also the author of a poetry collection, *A House of Branches*, and coeditor of *Between Two Rivers: Stories from the Red Hills to the Gulf*. She lives in the Altamaha Community in Reidsville, Georgia.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



This fall the UGA Press staff is pleased to offer you a particularly exciting and diverse range of new books—our largest list of new publications ever. Some of these titles are highlighted in the pages of this newsletter, but for a full list of fall publications please check out our Fall and Winter 2011 catalog on our website at www.ugapress.org. There you will find a wide range of impressive books in our core publishing areas of history, literature, nature and environment, geography and international relations and security studies. You will also find literary works by winners of the Flannery O'Connor Award and the AWP Award for Creative Nonfiction, accessibly written publications about the state and region, and the launch of a new series dedicated to publishing cutting-edge scholarship that will change our understanding of the American Civil War.

In other news, I am delighted to announce that, thanks to Senior Acquisitions Editor Derek Krissoff and series editor Richard S. Newman, the Press and the Library Company of Philadelphia have formed a partnership to support the series *Race in the Atlantic World, 1700–1900*. This series, which focuses on the racial aspects of transatlantic history, was created by the Press in 2006 and is edited by Newman, Patrick Rael, and Manisha Sinha.

Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, the Library Company was America's first successful lending library and is its oldest cultural institution. It is now a repository of rare books and graphics specializ-

ing in American history and culture from the seventeenth century through the nineteenth. The Library Company's Program in African American History, directed by Erica Armstrong Dunbar of the University of Delaware, will work directly with the series. The first book published under the new partnership will be Eva Sheppard Wolf's *Almost Free: A Story about Family and Race in Antebellum Virginia*, to be available in spring 2012. All books in this copublished series will receive a subsidy from the Library Company to help fund publishing and printing costs.

We thank the Library Company of Philadelphia for its generous support of our publishing program and look forward to developing additional partnerships that will further strengthen our shared mission of publishing important new scholarship for students, scholars, and general readers alike.

Nicole Mitchell
Director

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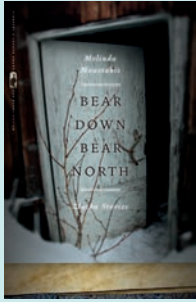
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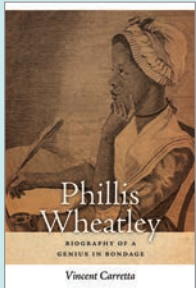
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IN THE NEWS



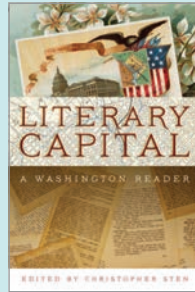
BEAR DOWN, BEAR NORTH receives starred reviews in both *Publishers Weekly* (“The gifted Moustakis’ attention to detail and blunt, sharp prose will surely resonate with

readers and fellow writers alike”) and *Booklist* (“Moustakis’ tales of desperate strategies for survival in a dramatically harsh, imperiled, and beautiful land are a perfect choice for the prestigious Flannery O’Connor Award”).



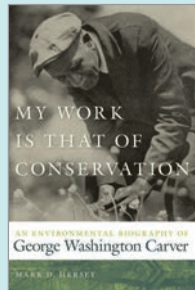
Starred review in *Publishers Weekly* for **PHILLIS WHEATLEY**: “This is a satisfying study of the ‘elusive’ Wheatley, fleshed out with succinct, discerning readings of the body

of her work. . . . Carretta unveils the truly remarkable figure Wheatley was, as a highly literate woman in colonial America and, through a detailed assessment of her revisions and her correspondence, as the highly conscious poet she became.”



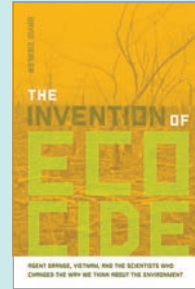
Barbara Meade, founder of Politics & Prose Bookstore, reviews **LITERARY CAPITAL** for the *Washington Independent Review of Books*: “For book lovers who prefer

order in their reading, travel the logical route straight through from beginning to end; book browsers who favor dipping into a book can open this treasure to almost any random page and find one of Stern’s engaging selections. . . . it would be hard to find another book that so magnificently pays better tribute to the two centuries of Washington cultural life than *Literary Capital*.”

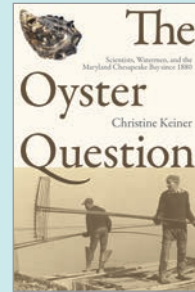


Mark Hersey (**MY WORK IS THAT OF CONSERVATION**) interviewed for the nationally distributed public radio show *Living on Earth*: “Few American icons have

been so poorly understood and widely appropriated as George Washington Carver. . . . Ike Sriskandarajah travels to Macon County, Alabama and discovers that Carver’s real legacy may be his vision for sustainable agriculture.”



David Zierler (**INVENTION OF ECOCIDE**) was interviewed on the public radio series *Interfaith Voices* for a show titled “Why the War in Vietnam Isn’t Over.”



Isis on **THE OYSTER QUESTION**: “Keiner’s detailed historical account is a model of sensitivity to the Chesapeake’s dual identity as an ecosystem and as a landscape rich in cultural and

social meaning. By carefully situating her account of science and the oyster fishery, while exploring the insights to be gained through comparison with developments elsewhere, she transcends strictly national narratives of science and conservation, demonstrating the benefits of integrating the history of science and environmental history.”

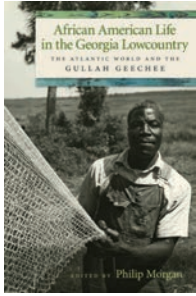


Photograph by Sarah C. Campbell

IN THE COMMUNITY

Emilye Crosby (bottom right), the editor of Georgia’s *Civil Rights History from the Ground Up*, with Charles Payne (bottom left), a contributor to the volume. Crosby and Payne read from the book—which Timothy Tyson of Duke University called “the single most compelling interpretation of the African American freedom struggle in the South yet produced”—at Lemuria bookstore in Jackson, Mississippi, on July 11, 2011. Also pictured (back row, left to right) are David and Patricia Crosby and Gustina Atlas.

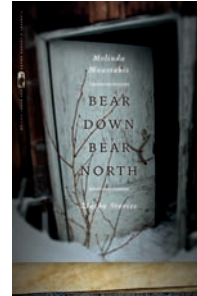
AWARDS AND HONORS



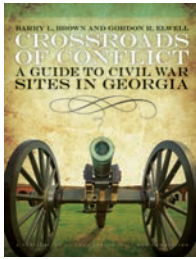
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE IN THE GEORGIA LOWCOUNTRY received the Malcolm Bell, Jr., and Muriel Barrow Bell Award for the best book on Georgia history from the Georgia Historical Society.



Diane Mutti Burke and **ON SLAVERY'S BORDER** received the Missouri Conference on History Book Award for the best volume on any historical topic written by a Missouri resident.

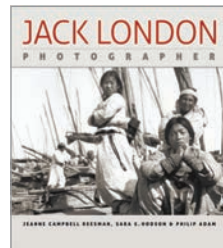


National Book Award Fiction Winner Jaimy Gordon has selected Melinda Moustakis, author of **BEAR DOWN, BEAR NORTH**, as one of the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 authors for this year.



The American Association for State and Local History recognized **CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT** with an Award of Merit for their Leadership in

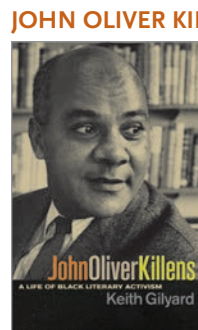
History awards; the book also received a Documenting Georgia History Award from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB).



JACK LONDON, PHOTOGRAPHER and **GHOSTBREAD** were recognized as the "Best of the Best" University Press Books for Libraries by the American Library Association and the Association of American University Presses.



The GHRAB has also honored Jeffrey A. Turner's **SITTING IN AND SPEAKING OUT** with its Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of an Archives.



JOHN OLIVER KILLENS has won an American Book Award, given by the Before Columbus Foundation to recognize outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America's diverse literary community. This is the second time author Keith Gilyard has received an American Book Award.



THE DANCE BOOTS by Linda LeGarde Grover won the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize for the best work of fiction by an American woman. The award is administered jointly by the Institute for

Gender and Women's Studies and the Department of English at the University of Rochester.



The Haiku Society of America named **WALDEN BY HAIKU** by Ian Marshall a corecipient of the Mildred Kanterman Memorial Merit Book Award for Best Criticism.

IN THE COMMUNITY



On August 28, 2011, coauthors Susan Millar Williams and Stephen G. Hoffus held a tour and book signing event to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the devastating 1886 Charleston, South Carolina, earthquake, the focal point of their book *Upheaval in Charleston: Earthquake and Murder on the Eve of Jim Crow*. The event was held at the historic Wentworth Mansion in Charleston and was sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston.

In honor of the anniversary, Palmetto Brewery released Aftershock beer, which features a photo from *Upheaval in Charleston* on the label. Charleston's Sugar Bakeshop came out with a variety of special earthquake cupcakes, or "cupquakes."



DEVELOPMENT NEWS



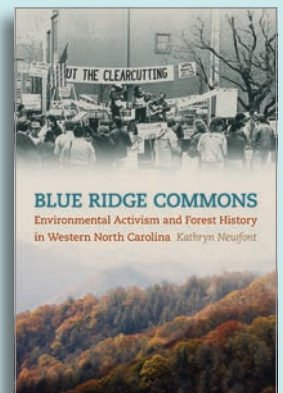
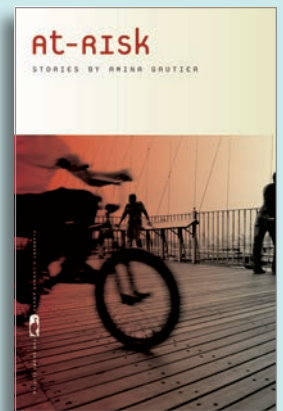
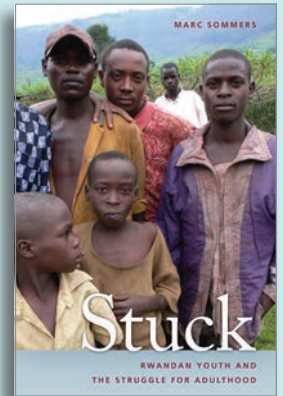
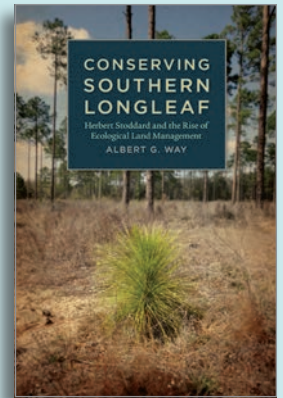
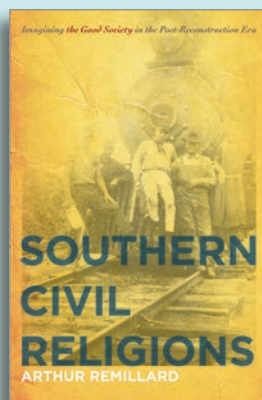
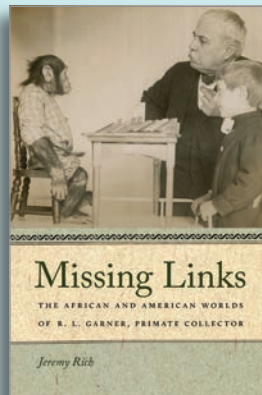
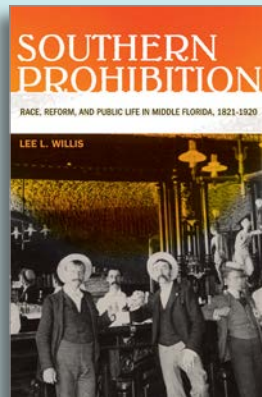
In his letter to readers of this fall's UGA Libraries newsletter, University Librarian William Gray Potter makes the case for the relevance of libraries in this digital information age. I mention this because the relevance of the library is intrinsically tied to the relevance of scholarly publishing.

The mission of the University of Georgia Press is to publish books that matter and to provide an outlet for important new scholarship. While many see university press publications as serving a niche market, their importance to academia is undeniable. A recent Mellon Foundation study found that books published by university presses accounted for two-thirds of the assigned readings in nearly a thousand courses in history and literature at nine universities in the northeastern United States. Every year, the University of Georgia Libraries invest heavily in books from academic presses across the country.

Although the publication of scholarly works is critical to the success of any university, those books rarely recover their own publishing costs. That's why private support is becoming increasingly important. You can sponsor a specific book or series, or provide general support for the Press's publishing mission, enabling us to continue our program of publishing 80-plus books annually. Visit our online catalog of 1,400 titles to see what we have to offer—the diversity of books will surprise you! A gift to the University of Georgia Press is a gift that advances knowledge and understanding. That is a gift to us all.

Chantel Dunham

Chantel Dunham
Director of Development



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Mark Auslander's *The Accidental Slaveowner: Revisiting a Myth of Race and Finding an American Family* traces the competing myths that have grown up around "Miss Kitty," a woman in antebellum Georgia who, many believe, was offered freedom but chose to remain a slave. Leslie Harris of Emory University calls the book "a beautifully written account of the complex ways in which family and institutional histories and memories of slavery are told and retold by blacks and whites in this country."

Q&A WITH MARK AUSLANDER, AUTHOR OF *THE ACCIDENTAL SLAVEOWNER: REVISITING A MYTH OF RACE AND FINDING AN AMERICAN FAMILY*

DEREK KRISOFF

Krisoff: How did you first encounter Catherine Boyd, popularly known as "Miss Kitty"?

Auslander: I first learned of Miss Kitty in September 1999, when I began teaching on Emory University's original campus, in Oxford, Georgia. I took my Introduction to Sociology students on two very different tours of the city cemetery; a local white man led us through the historically white section of the cemetery, and a local African American man took us through the African American cemetery. The two tours were mirror opposites, but both culminated at the same grave site of an enslaved woman known to local whites as "Kitty" and to local African Americans "Miss Kitty." I was fascinated that for all the racial and class divisions in the town its citizens seemed united in their fascination with the same woman (whose real name, I later learned, was Catherine Boyd). To be sure, they drew very different lessons from her life. For most whites she exemplified the loyal slave, a woman who faithfully served her master—Methodist Bishop James Osgood Andrew, the first president of Emory's board of trustees—even after she was offered her freedom. For virtually all local African Americans, her story was a tragic illustration of the sexual exploitation of women of color, in slavery and freedom, by powerful whites. I wondered how the story of Miss Kitty had been passed on through white and African American families across the generations.

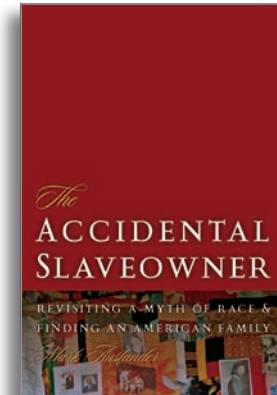
Krisoff: You recently participated in a conference at Emory about slavery and American universities. Tell me how the Kitty–Bishop Andrew myth fits in. What

does it reveal about the relationship between higher education and slavery?

Auslander: For generations, the standard white narrative of Kitty and Bishop Andrew had functioned, in a sense, as the official "charter myth" of Emory. Kitty's loyalty to the bishop was taken by most whites associated with the university as exemplary of the relations of mutual understanding, kindness, and deference that had existed between the races at Emory since its founding. Critically revisiting the story of Miss Kitty, and those of the countless other enslaved people who built and labored at scores of American colleges and universities, forces us to reexamine this conventional perspective. But the Kitty–Andrew story, I like to think, also helps to humanize our thinking about higher education and enslavement, reminding us of the nuanced relations—including structural violence as well as social intimacy—that pervaded, and still pervade, the academy.

Krisoff: In an effort to correct the Kitty myth, you undertook some impressive detective work. Can you say a little about how you met Catherine Boyd's descendants, Darcel and Cynthia Caldwell, and how they've reacted to your work?

Auslander: I had learned at the National Archives that Kitty's second son was named Russell Nathan Boyd; might he have been named for his father? So I called up Freedman's Bank records, and lo and behold, there was a Nathan Boyd, opening a bank account in Atlanta in 1871 and listing as his wife "Catherine, Dead" and as his eldest son "Alfred Boyd." That led me and my wife to Keosauqua, Iowa, where



The Accidental Slaveowner
Revisiting a Myth of Race and Finding an American Family
Mark Auslander

Alfred had settled after the Civil War, and to a trail of African Methodist Episcopal churches he had pastored in the Midwest, finally leading to the church in Rockford, Illinois, where his great-grandson, Mr. Caldwell, an enormously kind man in his eighties, served as trustee. He immediately had me telephone his adult daughters Darcel and Cynthia on the East Coast. They were, I think, initially taken aback, wondering if I was some sort of nut. But they quickly and carefully examined the evidence and became convinced that Catherine Boyd/Miss Kitty was indeed their great-great-great-grandmother. They have become her proud and passionate advocates and have been invaluable partners as we have tried to reconstruct aspects of her and Nathan's lives.

MARK AUSLANDER is associate professor of anthropology and director of the Museum of Culture and Environment at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.



Tony Mills

Michael E. Dorcas and John D. Willson are the authors of *Invasive Pythons in the United States: Ecology of an Introduced Predator*, which Harvard biologist E. O. Wilson calls “a much-needed examination of the growing impact of Burmese pythons as an invasive species in the United States.”

Q&A WITH MICHAEL E. DORCAS AND JOHN D. WILLSON, AUTHORS OF *INVASIVE PYTHONS IN THE UNITED STATES: ECOLOGY OF AN INTRODUCED PREDATOR*

LAURA SUTTON

Sutton: Are we going to see pythons in Georgia anytime soon?

Willson: This is the most controversial aspect of the python situation. I think the short answer is that it is pretty unlikely that we'll see pythons in Georgia anytime soon. If they can expand from Florida, it will take quite a while for the population to work its way north. How far north they can go is hotly debated and still remains an unknown. Certainly in their native range, they do inhabit some fairly temperate areas, such as central China and the foothills of the Himalayas in India and Nepal. We conducted a study in South Carolina where we brought pythons from Florida and wintered them in central South Carolina, and they did not survive.

Dorcas: There are multiple issues related to this question that we really don't have answers for. For a lot of the snakes and also for most of the pythons that died in South Carolina, the reason they died was behavior, and the rate at which that behavior can evolve is unknown. The other thing we don't know about is their origin. The snakes in Florida were clearly acclimated to Florida temperatures and climate. We don't know what their ability to survive would have been if they had been raised in South Carolina. Typically when discussing this issue, people are talking about the spread of pythons from south Florida to more temperate areas, but there is also the possibility that additional populations could be established through release or escape into other parts of the southeastern United States.

Sutton: Although captive Burmese pythons have killed people in the United States,

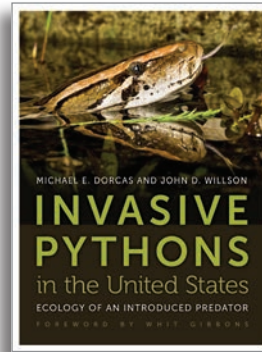
you say the likelihood of being eaten by a python is extremely low. If this is true, why is it a problem that pythons are now common in southern Florida?

Dorcas: The probability of a person's being killed in Florida or elsewhere by a python is extremely low, but the main reason you should be concerned is the potential impact this animal is likely to have both on ecosystems and also on imperiled species. There is some evidence already that pythons have detrimentally impacted mammal populations in Everglades National Park, but the impact pythons will have on the overall Everglades ecosystem remains unknown.

Willson: Pythons threaten some of the most important and charismatic wildlife species in Florida—all of the wading birds, marsh birds, mammals like the Florida panther, bobcats, and white-tailed deer. A lot of the animals we consider iconic of Florida are being eaten by pythons.

Sutton: You point to the pet trade as the likely cause of the proliferation of pythons (i.e., someone intentionally or unintentionally released pythons into the wild, and they are now breeding). Is anything being done to educate pet owners or deter them from contributing to this problem?

Dorcas: This issue has gotten a lot of publicity, especially in the state of Florida.



Invasive Pythons in the United States

Ecology of an Introduced Predator
Michael E. Dorcas
and John D. Willson

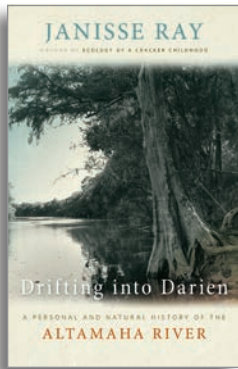
There has been a lot of effort to educate people about the perils of releasing nonnative animals into the wild. There are legal means as well. Today, it's illegal to buy or sell some python species in Florida without special permits and under special circumstances. A major goal of the book is to educate people about this issue and to separate fact from fiction. Some aspects of this issue have been overblown by the media, and some have not. We

tried to take a scientifically valid, objective approach and present information that allows people to filter out some of the exaggerations.

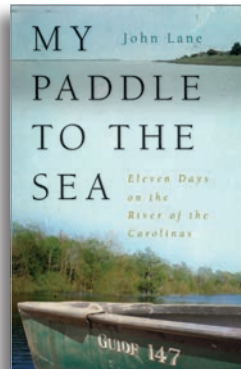
MICHAEL E. DORCAS is a professor of biology at Davidson College and is the coauthor with Whit Gibbons of *Snakes of the Southeast* and *Frogs and Toads of the Southeast*, among other books.

JOHN D. WILLSON is a postdoctoral research associate at Virginia Tech.

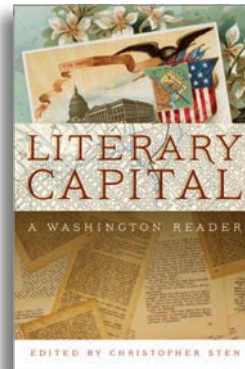
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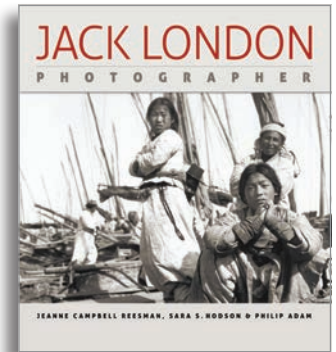
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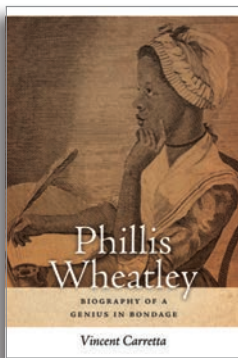
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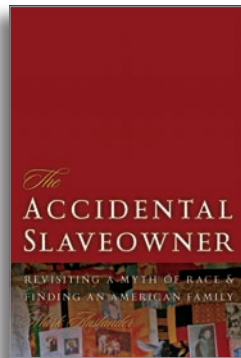
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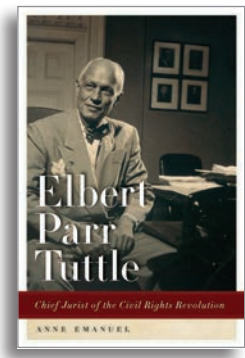
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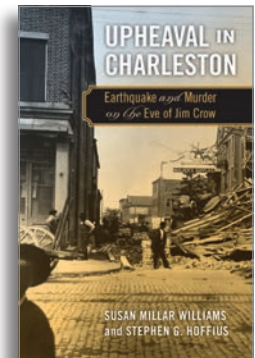
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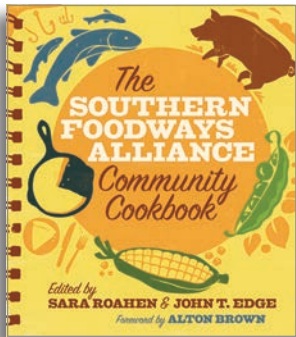
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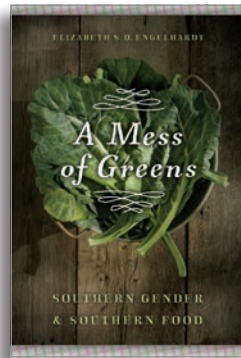
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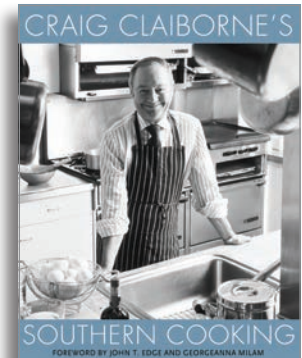
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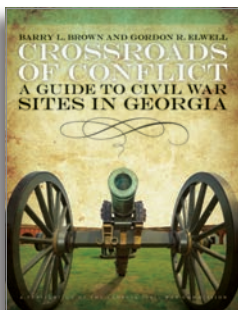
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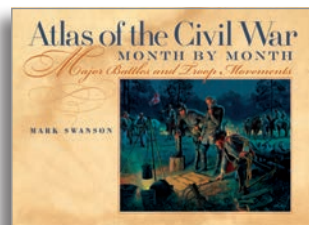
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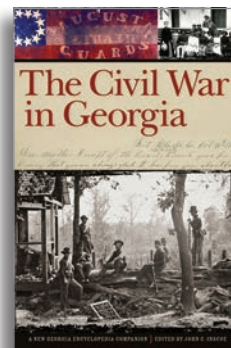
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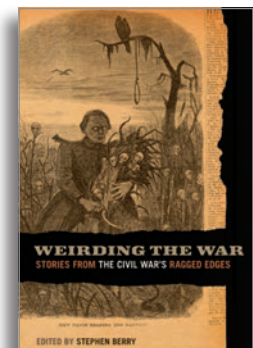
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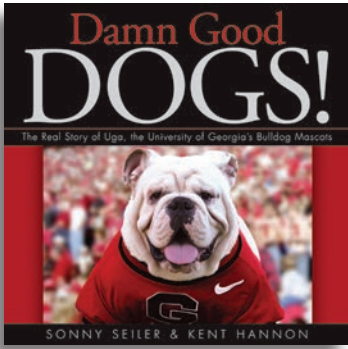
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Everyone wants to get their photo taken with Uga — even Hairy Dawg!



Kent Hannon (left) and Sonny Seiler (middle), authors of *Damn Good Dogs!*, are introduced by David Johnston (right), sports director at radio station 960 The Ref, for an on-stage interview at this year's Decatur Book Festival.