

Laura Quail

From: Dataw Island Communications <dillon.warren@dataw.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:21 PM
To: Laura McCarthy
Subject: Oak Island Recognized by Old-Growth Forest Network



*From Your
Marketing & Communications
Department*





OLD-GROWTH FORE

Oak Island Recognized by Old-Growth Forest Network

Oak Island, a small island containing 33 acres of lush maritime forest, was recently recognized by the **Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN)** as a place where old or old-growth forest will be allowed to continue to flourish for many future generations.

Though the Old-Growth Forest Network's primary mission focuses on public forests, the organization has established a Private Forest Registry to celebrate forests whose stewards or owners have committed to leaving the forest untouched by logging or development. OGFN's coordinator for Beaufort County, local arborist Michael Murphy, identified Oak Island as a place worthy of this recognition.

Months of legwork on part of the Common Ground Committee culminated on Friday, April 14th, when Dataw Island Community Members gathered at the forest entrance for a recognition ceremony. **OGFN Executive Director Dr. Sarah Adloo** presented a plaque to Dataw Community Member Susan Emons. Following the ceremony, OGFN Volunteer Michael Murphy led the group on an interpretive hike along Oak Island's trails.



Old-growth forests are currently rare across the country, with fewer than 1% of these forests still standing across the eastern US. Oak Island's recognition by the Old-Growth Forest Network indicates that it will be allowed to grow and develop old-growth forest conditions for future generations, which can take many decades or even centuries depending on the current age of the forest. OGFN intends to preserve at least one forest as a current or future old-growth forest in every county in which forests can grow (approximately 2/3rds of the country). The Old-Growth Forest Network identifies candidate forests, works to ensure their protection, and informs people on how to visit them.

Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, the network currently has 196 forests in the Network across 32 states. Oak Island joins one other public forest (Congaree National Park) and two other private forests in South Carolina with this honor. OGFN also recognizes exceptional forest advocates, educates about the extraordinary ecological benefits of old-growth forests, and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific ancient forests. Learn more at www.oldgrowthforest.net.

Dr. Sarah Adloo noted, “Having a forest in your community like Oak Island is so important. Older forests provide so many benefits for the well-being of people and all other forms of life. Just a short walk through Oak Island’s trails shaded me under a healthy canopy while being surrounded by the sounds of woodpeckers and rustling palmettos.”

Those interested can learn about other Old-Growth Forest Network forests across the country at: www.oldgrowthforest.net.







Click Here To [Unsubscribe](#)