

*Grady:* My name is Grady Marsh and I'm here with Susan Aiken. We're students in the History 493, Tales of the Tidewater, at University of South Carolina and we're here today with Lee Brockington who works at Hobcaw Barony to conduct an interview. It is May 22, 2003 and Lee, I just need to have on tape that you consent to have the interview being taped.

*Lee:* I do consent to this interview.

*Susan:* Okay, Lee, um, can you tell us something about your education and um, what brought you here to Georgetown?

*L:* Well, I, I was a student at Columbia College, a liberal arts school in Columbia, South Carolina and I was enjoying the liberal arts education. I was enjoying taking a little bit of the things that I enjoyed...history, political science, P.E., some English, some technical writing for publication...but, at the beginning of my senior year my professor called me in the office and said you need to declare a major. And so, none of the majors that were in the book appealed to me. I did not want to major in just political science or just history, and I certainly didn't think at that time that I wanted to teach in a classroom everyday. So we got to talking and he pulled out a paper and said we're thinking about presenting a new major, designing a new major that will be called public affairs it'll be an interdisciplinary major and you can choose an emphasis in technical writing or in government or in historic site administration. And I'm like what's that, all I could think of was archaeology. Historic site administration standing over a pit saying do this do that. That's how naïve I was. But the reason I chose it really and truly was because it combined everything, it could use all the credits I had already earned and the classes left were things like South Carolina History and U.S. History, Statistics, which I knew I liked, some other writing course and I thought, that'd be good and I could still graduate on time, right? And, um, and so I declared that major and then about three days later I met with someone who was already in the business, um, historic site administration and she said why don't you think about doing an internship with me. I contacted my professor and he said yes, that'd be great, I'll set it up. That semester ended and I loved it so much I asked if I could do it again, so first it was an internship and then a practicum. So I earned a college credit, of course the Historic Columbia Foundation had a part-time employee who worked for free. But that rounded out my college education and I graduated with exactly the right number of credits without ever having gone to summer school, which was also my goal in life, and not to go to school in the summer. But once I did that internship and had a mentor in the business and also got to tag along with her at professional meetings I thought I really like this. And probably two weeks, three weeks into the internship I knew I had a career. Um, the last day of my practicum my supervisor asked if I would consider working there full time in the summer, they always had funding for an assistant curator who primarily acted as a paid docent. It was a summer business, and I said, yes I'd love to do that and I was able to do more than just tour guide 'cause I had had that other experience. At the end of the summer my supervisor decided to leave and go to work at the local newspaper and she recommended me for the job. I was the only staff person not leaving, which should have been a warning, but it was the only familiar face that the 150 volunteers would recognize. So, I

was one of the last to declare a major, one of the first (clears throat) to have a job in my major, secured, signed, sealed, and delivered by the time of graduation.

*S:* And this was at the Historic Columbia Foundation?

*L:* Historic Columbia Foundation and I worked there for a total of about three years. Had visited down here at Pawleys all my life, and then on a rainy day came in to Hobcaw Barony and asked a few history questions which they couldn't answer, became intrigued, watched an orientation film, and began burning out on that job in Columbia and pursued a job at Hobcaw.

*S:* Wonderful.

*L:* The other thing, too, about that... My first job came to me through volunteer work, when I wanted to work at Hobcaw and leave the Historic Columbia Foundation and begin working somewhere else, but they didn't have funding until August, and I said, that's okay I'll volunteer from April to August.

*S:* Excellent. So, you came down here, and you started working here.

*L:* Mmm hmm.

*S:* Similar to the job that you're working in now?

*L:* Yes, very similar.

*S:* Can you describe that?

*L:* I began assisting with tours of the property, the 17,500-acre property, um, in August of that year I began being paid, um, remind me what direction we're going with this.

*S:* Mainly I just want to go over what your experience at Baruch has been.

*L:* Okay, when I first came the funding had been set aside by the trustees for an administrative assistant, a warm body that could type...

*S:* Right.

*L:* Well, I'd never learned to type, my professors had advised against it for that same reason. That, you know, you'd get the job and type. But, it was a foot in the door and I didn't mind, so I did a little bit of that, I did a little bit of answering the phone, but in a small office of three people everybody does that.

*S:* Right.

*L:* Um, because I had that background in Columbia I was able to stretch and develop some history programs that they had never offered before. Um, one of the first projects that I did was take prints of the slave villages that existed in 1910 and create captions and an exhibit for the public. And that was exciting; I had never mounted an exhibit before.

*S:* Is this one of the first times that Baruch became, well, got to a point where you had public access?

*L:* No, that, public access had begun in '80 with tours of people that already knew to call and come, sort of VIP tours...I've got a friend of a friend who's on the board at Clemson and will you take his family around. And then word of mouth that would grow. I actually came about a year and a half after the true public program had been developed. This building had been built, this visitors center, this interpretive center had been built, and there was a small staff and they were adding a third person. The thing that changed when I came that, that was exciting for me was that the staff and the trustees allowed me to develop some history programs and to really reinterpret the public tour that was focused primarily based on what research was being done on the property and to, um, develop afternoon programs, weekend programs...we were doing school programs that involved nature and research but we hadn't done any history programs. So that would...it wouldn't be fair to say, the other, but it would be fair to say that for the first time we were developing history programs.

*S:* So you spend your day in this, um, this beautiful landscape with the trees and the, um, it's so pristine...Do you live in a similar landscape?

*L:* Yes, and it's important to me to live in that...the joke is that when I'm at home, I don't want to come to work and when I'm at work, I don't want to go home. That was always the way it was. I used to live on the island at Pawleys...and I lived on the creek side on the north end of the island and I'd be on the dock and say, Oh, my gosh, I've got to go into work! And then when it was five o'clock at Hobcaw someone would come riding back and say, so-in-so just saw a cane-break rattlesnake, and we'd get in the truck and go back on the property until dark...or beyond. And we'd go shrimping and kayaking and that kind of thing here on the property, particularly weekends. Um, but where I live is probably a real strong reflection of where I live now as a married person. A real strong reflection of what I have learned here at Hobcaw, doing without air conditioning and dishwashers and mini-vans and things that people think they need as opposed to things that you want. I am sure I live a much different life, having worked at Hobcaw than I even would've if I had continued to work at Historic Columbia and lived in suburban Columbia.

*G:* So what length of time exactly have you been here?

*L:* I've lived in Georgetown County, lived in Pawleys Island since 1984 which would be 19 years, coming up on 19 years, well, April was 19 years. I do history, I don't do math, um, and then I have been at Hobcaw, it's...from '84 to '90 full time, '90 to '92 consulting, here, then from 200 and 2, I don't know, when did I start? A year ago

January 2002 to now. Off and on for 19 years but there was a period of about 10 years when I wasn't here...on staff.

*G:* And just to get an idea of your feelings about things, do you, would you consider yourself more of a historian or an environmentalist?

*L:* My vocation is as a historian, my advocacy is environmentalist. Often I'm outspoken and go to public hearings and as a member of the League of Women Voters and Sierra Club, um, different organizations at present, we are often asked to go to public hearings, but that probably is more in my personal life. Professionally, historian.

*G:* Okay.

*S:* Do you find it hard to separate environmental and history?

*L:* I don't believe they should be separated. Yeah, it's a real overlap, um, particularly here at Hobcaw and the way that we interpret the property, um, the environment influences the culture. But also, um, I think that's a big difference. When I used to go home for the weekends or for Christmas holidays to Columbia, I felt so removed from the environment, I probably didn't realize it until I went back to the city. And even Columbia's not a big city, there's just enough pavement, just enough this and that, that you know, I had to open up the windows at night so I could smell the air and hear the birds. You know, you get going in little tight circles in places like Columbia going from one shopping center to another. Tell you one thing that happened when I moved from the north end of Pawleys Island, got married, moved from Pawleys to the woods at Pawleys Island. One day I sat on the back porch and was crying, and my husband came out, we'd been married for about 3 or 4 months, he goes, are you okay? Are you happy? Are you happy? Are you happy? And I was like, I just got...I just got married and...And he thought I was unhappy and the problem was since moving from the island, I said, I don't even know when it's high tide and when it's low tide. My body, my rhythm had become so accustomed to the high tides and the low tides and the weather. The weather is still real important to us...I find people, if I visit a city or if I talk to people, what's the...I, first time I get up in the morning I have to go outside and check the weather, I just feel it and see what it's going to be. Um, but from the island to the woods, there was a transition for me that I resisted. Um, and then if I go from here to a city to visit, um, I don't think I get claustrophobic, but I do prefer to be home.

*S:* Well obviously, the landscape and the environment is important to you.

*L:* Mmm hmm, very much so.

*S:* What about with your family. What is it like, I mean...I relate so much environment to, environmental things to my children and how I see them in the landscape...do you have similar feelings about that?

*L:* I lived in fear that my children would gravitate toward computer games and television. I know people in the business whose children have grown up to be the complete opposites of their parents. You know, if I'm a tom-boy, my child could've been prissy, you know, I could've had a prissy child. Um, I'm very grateful that the exposure that I gave to my children when they were very young, particularly 0 to 3, um, those influential years, it seemed to take, it seemed to rub off, their priorities still seem to be very much, not just the outdoors, you know it's not just that they require an outdoor setting to work or to be happy, but their, their interests their awareness, their observations is so different, um, one son went off to college and instead of playing on the soccer team, he joined the crew team at College of Charleston, being on the water I think was important to him. Um, I, I think, I think you cannot control and I wouldn't want to control my children's destiny but I'm very proud that they have a choice in how they look at the environment. I think there's so many children that never notice, never notice the change in the atmosphere, never notice a change that gahh that lot was woods yesterday and today it's not.

*S:* Do you think that's the truth of residents of Georgetown and their children or is there a high alert on the environment?

*L:* Unfortunately I think we have such a mix of people here, um, I think there are just as many persons with children that are still living as if it was a suburb. There are so many mothers that say to me, we never go to the beach and we live right here. My kids don't like the beach, and...

*S:* So there's, it's just as if it was say, Columbia, that...

*L:* Yeah. Even though the access here is greater, it's easier to get to a river, a whole lot easier to get to the ocean, or the marsh or a pond, it's easier to go wet a hook right after school than it is somewhere like Columbia, but, but, yeah there are so many people that have lived in the city that haven't figured out the rhythm of living on the coast. All this, you know, spend way too much time working and trivial pursuits, but, um, but, yeah, I think, I think, there's a diversity in the people that live here, therefore a diversity of how they look at their environment.

*G:* Do you think your children's childhood would've been different if y'all had lived somewhere else. I mean, you're still a very active person in the environment and but, do you think if they had been taken out of this landscape...

*L:* Well they'd probably be at public hearings over at Green Diamond wouldn't they? (laughter) Down on the Congaree River, my mom says...um, ooh, they'd be very different if they lived in Columbia. Um, um, I, I know that I could not have held back the forces that influenced them in the suburban life. Let me think they enjoy going to Columbia, when we go to Columbia, I'll tell what we do when we go there. We do a lot of heritage tourism; we spend a lot of time downtown because those are my early childhood memories. I spend a lot of time recreating for them what I did as a child, getting on the bus and riding downtown, going to certain restaurants that my parents used

to take me to, the state museum, the state house, um, historic Columbia Foundation, but we also go to Congaree Swamp National Monument. We also go to Lake Murray. Access is different there though, it's harder, it's more of a planned event rather than, hey, why don't we ride over to the lake and go for a swim. You know, its, lets call up the so and so family who owns a lake house and see if they're going to be there that weekend that we're going to be in Columbia. Um...

S: Do you feel like there's enough access here?

L: I think that unfortunately, there could be more, but, but we have an amazing amount of public access. I think people do not realize how much access we have. You hear over and over...a new development's coming in and we need access...All too often people wait until the development is announced, rather than encouraging the county to go ahead and buy up land. But we still have so much access compared to the sea islands of South Carolina where you have to drive and drive and drive and drive until you get to the beach. We have on the fourth of July, because I no longer live on the island, I, I'm one of those day-trippers that goes over to the beach. I still find a parking place on the fourth of July, which is the biggest day of the year in addition to our parade. But, we, um, particularly, particularly in the last, particularly since Hurricane Hugo things are better marked, um, I think there's a bigger parking lots where available. And I think also on the Grand Strand in Horry County they have very well-marked parking places at the end of all the public streets. They even have public showers and public toilets at some of them. And in my travels on the Florida coast and Georgia and North Carolina coast...North Carolina does a pretty good job, they've got a lot of, um, natural protected seashore, but it doesn't always have the facilities that sometimes even I want. Like, um, a bath house...

S: Right.

L: State park, Waccamaw Neck is very blessed in having a very good state park. And except for the fact that there's a fee for access, or an annual park pass. Then, um, I, I think people don't realize how much we have, there's too much complaining, um...

G: What part of the landscape around here brings you the most joy, like what part do you relate the best with?

L: Ooh, um, woo, that's a hard one, um, probably the salt creek. Um, probably the salt marsh and the creek, um, and I tell you, I tell you why I know that, um, I'll tell you where it comes from and this ties in with some of the things y'all are studying. When I first came to Pawleys, I came as, probably to Pawleys as a 9 or 10 year old. My aunt's family, my uncle's family had a beach house on the north end of Pawleys, on the creek side. Not the ocean front, the creek side. Now all of us probably grew up going to the beach and we stayed with just as many people that were ocean front, or back from the beach, or this and that or the other. But by virtue of my aunt and uncle owning that house, and our family having a week, in the hottest week of August. But I loved it, it was my birthday week. They had a creek dock, and so, that's where I fished, and that's where I first drove a boat was from the creek dock and because as a child my first sustained, week long

experiences where at a house on the creek, then it just so happened that I got that apartment for ten years as a single woman and lived on the creek. Um, it, I bought it not because it was on the creek and I got it because it was on the creek, but because it was the cheapest available.

*S:* Well how is the...

*L:* But...

*S* ...creek changed?

*L:* Um, um, the creek, the culture has not changed, but the physicality of the creek has changed. Because of eroding beaches the creek has filled in. Also because of a long term use of septic tanks until 1989, um, the creek was somewhat polluted. Um, there's still controversy about closing oyster beds at Pawleys Island year's ago were they closed because of the water quality, or were they closed because of the number of outsiders, in other words people that don't live right on the creek or right on the beach. Um, people from outside coming in and harvesting and selling oysters. Recreationally, but in large bucket fulls, um, that was an early controversy, but the water quality is not what it used to be, the fish are not as big as they used to be, um, but there's still good fish and the culture is still the same, the people enjoy their creek docks they put in their boats. Big difference for me, we used to water ski every day in the creek at Pawleys, it's no longer deep enough and wide enough to do that safely. Plus there are a whole bunch more creek docks you got to look out for.

*S:* Okay, well when you think about the environment down here what makes you mad? And then what makes you sad?

*L:* Uh huh, um, ooh, what makes me mad are people that move in, develop, complete the development, make all the money they can off of this area, pick up and move off to the next place. They might be in developing, they might be in sales, they might be setting up and building fast food restaurants, and they make their little chunk and they move on and they buy and open a new franchise somewhere else. Very little regard for the local people, the local economy, the local environment. They come and make money off of us, and then they move on. In general, the developments that are not sensitive to the environment, the people that come in and do work...excuse me, also some natives that do work without permits. Um, filling in wetlands and so forth and then...

*S:* Without permits?

*L:* Without permits. And decide that it behooves them to get fined for doing the work without permits, pay the fine, but still have the development or the marina, or the boat ramp, or the whatever it is they've decided to do.

*S:* Now what goes in to filling in a wetland, for that?

*L:* Um, normally, um, a wetland, um, is defined very specifically, and it cannot be filled in. You know, wetlands are our great drainage sites, and um, if someone were to fill in a wetland, he or she might bring in truckloads of dirt or might dig a retention pond elsewhere in a more convenient spot, using the dirt from that retention pond to fill in the wetlands that is adjacent to three other homebuilders' lots. Um, um, there is such a thing, too, called mitigation, where, that you can get permission to fill in these wetlands if you will create wetlands elsewhere. Unfortunately, retention ponds are often considered wetlands, but have you looked at a retention pond on a golf course? It doesn't look like a wetland with dwarf palmetto, blue flag iris, um, Cherokee rose, you know these types of typical plant environments. And animal environments, reptile and fish. It takes a long time to reestablish a wetland.

*G:* So they're required to put a wetland in elsewhere, but they're not really given any stipulations on what it has to include?

*L:* Yeah, they're not required to plant pickerel weed, cypress seedlings, um, it may be in some rare cases, it may be in some rare places depending on zoning or maybe a Carolina Bay when there's a lot of rearranging of that because of the Carolina Bay's parkway, but it'd be very hard to transplant a Venus Fly Trap, wouldn't it?

*G:* Mmm hmm.

*L:* What makes me the saddest is that because of the change in the landscape, those of us who fought it, or those of us that knew it before it was developed, what makes me sad is when I go down the highway or I turn down a dirt road and I can't even remember what it used to look like. It's one thing to have it, and to deal with it, and I deal with a lot of it because I do believe in progress, I do believe in the economy. I believe in improvement in education and medicine, and if you take us all back to 1920 you're going to have people dying at age fifty and bad jobs and racism and all that. But, um, it makes me sad when I think to myself what used to be at this intersection?

*S:* Right.

*L:* That's what also makes me sad, when I too have forgotten, I who thought I'd remember forever.

*G:* And your kids can't enjoy that either.

*L:* Yeah, um, you got time for a funny story?

*S & G:* Mmm hmm.

*L:* Well we live next door to five acres of undeveloped property, and you know, it's, it's um, we can't buy it, we can't afford it, it's \$150,000, primarily wetlands, in my mind non-buildable, right? Um, it's a PUD, a Planned Unit Development, so it has to be sold as a five-acre plot. Perfect for a trailer home park, perfect for townhouses, perfect even



for a bakery or a convenience store. It's zoned neighborhood/commercial. So it could be a residential or commercial. We've lived in fear ever since it went on the market that it would be developed, in fact we had not added porches onto our house...we're waiting to see what that woods becomes. In the meantime, my older son and all of his friends have played in those woods, and built forts, and tracked snakes and alligators and turtles. Um, they, they have, they just had the best time in those woods, um, my son who is now 10 years old has played there and had his generation friends and spent the night out in the woods. And one day I was in the woods, I continued to pray as I have for 13 years since I've lived next door that undeveloped five acres, please Lord, let us own this, please Lord, help us find a way for us to purchase this land, please Lord let it stay undeveloped. And the Lord said...I have, you're just not listening, I'm answering your prayers, hasn't it been undeveloped for 13 years? Haven't both your boys enjoyed it up until this point? And think about it, won't they remember if it gets developed, won't they both have very strong memories of having played in those woods. We have the near woods, which goes to the power line, and then the deep woods. They can't, sometimes when they were little they could only play in the near woods, and if I was out in the yard or if I was with them we'd go out in the deep woods. But that, that is something I've appreciated, does that answer your question when you're talking about children and what they'll remember? So even so far, because thank goodness we have taken advantage of the beach and the creek and the woods, at least I have a memory. They also have a strong memory of different things in Columbia, what they've seen developed...watching that development go through. What happened to that farmers' market, that produce stand, is that where that new Walmart is, Mama?

*S:* Yeah, it's happened in all our landscapes.

*G:* What does it feel like to be a local in a tourist destination?

*L:* Oh, you know honestly, you have to be very careful not to prostitute yourself. You have to be very careful not to write a book that will simply sell to the tourists. Um, and I just got kind of to the meat of the argument there, um, on the whole, you have this wonderful ambassador role, where you can, for many people it's their first and their only visit to South Carolina, and if they can meet a South Carolinian, so you invest the time and you invest the energy. So you know I've always looked at it as that, you know I'm representing my home state, I'm representing Georgetown County, representing Pawleys Island. Great opportunity, um, as we get bigger and more people come, even here at Hobcaw, as we do the tours four days a week now, churn them out. Sometimes do an afternoon tour, and we got them for three hours and then they're gone. Are we adding more tours to meet the demand, or are we, is our goal education still? Is it tourism or is it education? We need the money, we're a private foundation, we need the money to do as many programs as we can. Um, we're a tourist driven economy locally, are we going to continue to do tourism to make money, or to continue to do tourism to educate? My background is education, I want to be real careful not to cross that line.

*G:* Mmm hmm.

*S:* Right.

*S:* Okay, well, um, how has Georgetown changed since you've lived here?

*L:* Georgetown County, or Georgetown city?

*S:* Georgetown County, mainly, and you know, this could be Hugo, this could be floods, or this could be some other thing, that's affected the environment.

*L:* Hugo was a real big dividing line. Um, for those of us who lived here before, during, and after we often say...well you know before Hugo, well you know after Hugo...I remember when things were being built in Myrtle Beach, you know big high-rise motels, and we'd say...Ooh, just wait until the big blow, that'll send all these developers home. Amazingly after Hugo, a building boom began. First of all, people that lost their beach houses built them back, secondly, somehow, maybe that national exposure, people said...Oh, let's go down there and look at this hurricane ravaged area and why don't we think about buying property there? I don't know what the mindset was, but boom, right after Hugo, golf course community after golf course community was built. More and more people from off came and visited, they came and visited. Golf brought a great number of people here for vacation. You vacation here, you think, wouldn't it be great to live here. It's been wonderful, in one respect, because so many people came from areas, you know the New Jersey shore that had been ruined, and they wanted to come down here where it was still pretty. They're some of our ringleaders in fighting against development. So they've come from areas that were ruined, and are fighting harder to protect, as opposed to those natives who are saying that, aw it ain't going to happen, what till the first big blow.

*S:* Right.

*L:* Big building boom after Hugo.

*S:* How about Baruch, has that changed a lot over the years?

*L:* Um, I think that, that um, Hobcaw's landscape has changed very little, um, the creeks, the marshes and the swamps, protected, you can imagine the landscape painting from 2003 would resemble those from 1916 which would resemble...well, the Baruch era and the modern era are very similar in landscape. During the plantation era these areas were cut over, um, big wide open spaces, the swamps were converted to rice fields, forests converted to farmlands, so you did have that landscape change. At Hobcaw, um, one of the big changes occurred in the early '90's in that the economy in general meant that there was less and less funding for research programs. We didn't see much enlargement during the '90's, because Hurricane Hugo destroyed the laboratory. It was rebuilt, but there's not been as many research projects in the '90's, because of the economy. There have not been, there has not been as much restoration or renovation of historic structures on the property, um, I think we're beginning to see a turnaround, in that, I think that...

*S:* Well, Lee, um, as far as Baruch goes, um, we've, I've learned recently that Baruch is THE taxpayer for Georgetown County, that it pays a tremendous amount in property taxes.

*L:* Actually, the converse is true. We, we have, we do not pay any property taxes to the county, because we are private, non-profit organization...

*S:* So you don't have that large operating expenses, then?

*L:* No, um, but also just by virtue of being a private foundation, that means that this land is not taxed, cannot be taxed by the county. Not unlike a library...

*S:* Oh, well I see.

*L:* But, the economic impact to the county is between one and two million dollars annually because of payroll, we do pay payroll taxes. The sixty persons that are on our year-round staff own property in the county and pay property taxes, own vehicles... We generate tourism money, people come for a tour, they go and eat lunch in Georgetown...

*S:* Do you have enough public accessibility?

*L:* We do, we are meeting the demand for the public that would like to come in. We are presenting a diverse group of programs, three hour guided tour or bird watching, children's programs, lectures, research open houses. The thing that's important to remember in regard to public access is that being a private foundation, we were established for research purposes. We offer the public programming, you might say in our spare time, as an act of good faith. Um, partly in lieu of paying property taxes, we invite the public for free tourism programs from time to time. We were in the past able to offer free school programs for Georgetown County students, other students paid a nominal fee of one dollar. Financially we've not been able to offer the school programs we once did, but we are a research reserve, our first priority is to offer scientists and members of the academic community access. And that access is widely available. Limited access to the general public, but with some planning, you know in other words a visitor renting a beach house driving down for the day, if they call ahead, they're almost always able to participate in a tour or a program in the visitors center, or on the property.

*S:* That's great.

*G:* What is the popular vision for Georgetown County going into the future, and how does your vision differ from that or correlate?

*L:* Well, there is certainly an emphasis in ecotourism, and ecotourism now, you know, includes anything that has anything to do with the environment. Sometimes it is stretched mighty far to be defined as ecotourism. Heritage tourism is important to the county, and that affects us as well. One thing that you'll always find in a county like Georgetown County that has relatively high unemployment, relatively low educational

opportunities, I don't know how to rate it or phrase it. Few people, fewer people graduate from high school here and go on to college than say Richland or Lexington County. Unemployment and education, in order to improve in those areas, and out of 46 counties Georgetown's often number 44 or 43 or 42. Um, county, county council, planning and zoning, um, development I guess you'd say the development commission. They're always eager to attract industry. They've had several industries that the county wants us to be more friendly to. Um, to allow for them to move and bring in 50 jobs, a 100 jobs, um, recently, past ten years with International Paper and their bleach processing of their paper, when it was found out that dioxin was being released into our local rivers, the county was very slow to respond because International Paper was our friend. Think of all the jobs, think of all that IP has meant to our community. We had to bring in the EPA and finally bring charges and levy fines against IP. The county wouldn't take a leadership role in that. Being a friend to industry, which then means bringing jobs, which then means a better economy, which then means better education and housing, you know our housing is very poor in the county. Um, so the county's vision, as far as where we might be at odds, would probably be in attracting more and more industry versus um, keeping more and more land in reserve, under conservation easements. Um, also, you find that some of the population wants more restrictions on land development and South Carolina has always been a state that believed in property rights. Property rights first, it goes back to the colonial government, and when people are told that they can't do something with their land, they're not going to like that.

S: You're saying that...

L: You can't build a boat dock, ooh, well that's my land. I ought to be able to get access to my river here. My neighbor's got it, I should have it. What else?

S: And I was thinking also in terms of this is not a time when you can press for stricter deed restrictions, or you can go for stricter zoning.

L: Yeah, it's a tough time, um, we are having a great deal of land, particularly the wetlands and the former rice fields dedicated under conservation easements. We've had some very large gifts recently to the Nature Conservancy, 600 acres on the Waccamaw, oh I never can remember it, it's either 300 or 600 acres just south of Pawleys Plantation, it's a big difference too. Um, Waterford Heights, dedicated to the Nature Conservancy. Um, it's, it's perhaps a tough time economically, people who perhaps want to make some money off the land they own, or want to be able to sell it don't want an easement on it, don't want pressure, because they might need that money. You know that's what you meant economically, it's a bad time.

S & G: Mmm hmm.

G: What about, what is your vision for Baruch, going into the future?

*L:* Well, and I know y'all keep using the term Baruch, and it's a little bit old fashioned. We call the property Hobcaw Barony. The future for Hobcaw Barony, what is my vision?

*G:* Mmm hmm.

*L:* Woo ooh. My personal vision or my, my, um the foundation, staff, trustee policies.

*S:* What is the, what is what I would guess would be the corporate vision? Is that what you mean?

*L:* It would have to be the corporate vision. And I speak in using language that the trustees would use as well. Um, we have recently sought, we meaning staff and trustees, and received designation; we're now in the National Register of Historic Places. There was very little guidance in Belle's will regarding historic structures, or historic features of the property, rice fields, boundary ditches, open fields that were former, you know, plantation connected operations. Um, stables, slave villages, the trustees have recently adopted a policy, and we are pursuing funding and greater awareness and greater preservation and conservation of the historic features of the property. That certainly is a goal, um, a goal would be to raise enough money through grants and budgeting to preserve all the historic structures, renovate or stabilize all the historic structures on the property. Um, to increase research projects, increase the number of research projects on the property, to make sure that others know that this property is available for research, um, probably with the proper funding the foundation would like to further develop its visiting scholars program. USC and Clemson often host other colleges, and some colleges will come down for day or overnight trips, but the foundation also offers a stipend for two researchers a year, two scholars a year. The foundation would like to have enough funding to provide more people apply directly to the foundation to do that. Um, a little bit longer term would be exploring the uses of our two large historic houses, the Hobcaw House and Bellefield. Exploring the possibilities of using those as conferences, conference sites, faculty housing, overnight housing, high-end fundraising, um, house museum is an option to be considered, um, public tours, public programming. They are collecting information now, the trustees are reviewing it and looking toward the time of making use of those two structures. So that's part of their vision for those two very large, very historic houses on the property.

*G:* Where do you see Georgetown in the next twenty years, say?

*L:* Built out. Every available little scrap piece of land having three bedroom homes with attached garages.

*S:* Is that your greatest fear, or is that just your...

*L:* I think it's my fear, I think it's my reality. I think the other fear is that despite the natural resources, that we become an area that looks just like another area, that looks just like another area. You know when McDon...well when Hardees moved in as a fast food

chain, right after that it was McDonald's, right after that Revco, CVS, Mailboxes etc. Even along the coast when I drive up to the North Carolina coast, even when I'm in the Outer Banks and I see chain motels and restaurants, my fear would be that the county will become so overdeveloped that despite the natural resources we'll still look like any other area.

S: Does Georgetown County Council focus a lot of energy towards environmental or conservation, or is it mostly focused towards economic and housing?

L: County Council probably on development. And by that I don't mean just building houses but attracting industry, um, often many of those that live right in town wish that they would focus on the improvement of infrastructure. We have very poor drainage and sewage and water problems in the town. Um, probably the County Council is doing a good job with fire and police protection. Um, they do focus heavily on public safety I think. They're a lot of plans in place for hazardous waste material, hazardous accidents, HAZMAT. Um, many things that the county does well, I think there is certainly concern, um, I think also that County Council is influenced by staff suggestion, and depending on who the staff is in planning and zoning, water and sewer. You know they, the staff makes recommendations to the County Council as is done in all of the types of governments we have. You know Mayor, council, council commission arrangements. That probably is something that is um, could be dangerous if you don't have a good staff.

S: Right. Well where, where do you see the most damage, where is the hot zone in Georgetown County, is it in the marshes, is it the loss of the sweetgrass, is it with the hog farmers coming in?

L: Um, that's a good question. Let me think. Um, development along the rivers. If you talk about a hot spot, I think development along the rivers. I think we, we have dealt and are dealing with the ocean front developing. We um, we don't have as much sweetgrass and the, the oyster beds are being looked at, um, water quality in the salt marshes. I think a couple of problems are coming up on the river, water quality would be part of it, with docks and we um, have problems there with the fish populations. We do have high mercury levels in Waccamaw, Pee Dee, Sampit, Black River, Winyah Bay is the watershed for 6 million acres, all of Eastern North Carolina and Eastern South Carolina, 6 million acres flows down the five rivers and into the Winyah Bay. Um, therefore, Winyah Bay the North Inlet area are part of a nationwide research program, funded by NOAA, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, NERR. Um, housing developments, golf courses along the rivers that runoff going into the rivers themselves. Um, access to the rivers because of that development. Um, the greatest thing in the world is that we have recently established a river keepers program, the first one I think was on the Hudson River. One of the Kennedy men was really involved in bringing the Hudson back from the brink. River Keepers, Winyah Rivers Foundation was founded, of which I'm a member. We hired our first professional river keeper about a year ago, Hamp Shoop, Hampton Shoop. And these are some of the issues they are looking at, including hog farms based in North Carolina as well as South Carolina, that might not even be on the river, but they're in the watershed. Um, looking at the quality of the water as it affects

the fisheries, um, and also public access. See that's just something not a lot of, we've got a few public ramps here and there, but we don't necessarily have land adjacent to the rivers, picnic grounds, and um, vistas, you know, think about when you've been to Beaufort, this marsh vista, preserved by City Council, um, sometimes, driving over St. Helena, you know there's no land on either side of the highway, you would think, but the vista has been preserved by Beaufort County. So sometimes just a preservation of the vista is as important as access or use.

*S:* Right.

*G:* Do you foresee, um, what you were talking about with the watershed and Winyah Bay, do you foresee that being a big problem in Georgetown County's future...like with the influx since it's affected by such a large region?

*L:* Say the first part of...

*G:* Like, in the, like, say 20 even 50 years from now, like do you see, foresee that being a big problem for Georgetown County, seeing how all of that drains into Georgetown County.

*L:* Yeah, I think it would be a big problem if people couldn't come here and fish. I think it'd be a big problem if people came down here and the beaches were nasty.

*S:* How were you, how can you handle North Carolina though?

*L:* Watershed? Um, there are, there are laws in place or legislation being presented because of that runoff, um, think about being in a different state...how can you control...

*S:* Yeah.

*L:* There's a lobby...As a matter of fact many of the members of the Winyah Rivers Foundation are North Carolina residents, in and around Lake Waccamaw, um, what Waccamaw River's headwaters above Lake Waccamaw um, when we have annual meetings here at Hobcaw, hosting Winyah Rivers Foundation. Many of the members come from there and I'm like, I'm always thinking, hey, did you come down from Conway? And they're like, no, actually I live up in Fayetteville, or Whiteville, or Tabor City, North Carolina. And I'm like, huh? Then I have to remind myself, oh yeah, Winyah Rivers, meaning Waccamaw, Pee Dee, etc. you know the Pee Dee is the Yadkin River in North Carolina, so we have citizens and lobbyists and others that are riding the issue and, if nothing else, keeping it in the news, which then means that GQ public is hearing, hog farms, ooh bad. And hog farms aren't bad, it's just how we deal with the waste. We talked earlier when we were out on the property about good and bad and how you're managing your forests, how you're managing your farm, how you're managing your tourism. Um, Georgetown still has a lot of agricultural property, um, if you hand a lot of that over for industry, you know a lot of times a plant needs a lot of land. A paper company needs access to water, trees, that would change the profile of the county. You

know about farming in general, you know, fewer and fewer farmers, very few small farmers, most of the corporations buying the land. Um, that'll be a change in the landscape. Um, 20 years from now, boy that's a long way isn't it? Twenty years from now how might these evil things have changed Georgetown? Um, you know at some point the population is going to begin moving west. If you've gone to Beaufort County and you hear about, is it Beaufort? Sun City, well that's not really in Beaufort, Hilton Head. Sun City, Hilton Head, it ain't in Hilton Head it ain't on Hilton Head, it's not even near Hilton Head, it's out on the mainland, it's out on the other side. You're going to see western expansion. Hey, twenty years from now, you might see prosperity in Andrews. Which is a good thing.

*S:* It would be a great thing.

*L:* Yeah, so you know there are some advantages, um, their Main Street USA program might really get a foothold and you might see a vibrant downtown. Even parts of Georgetown, now on Front Street is so tourism related. Oh the funniest thing I ever saw, I was reading an article in Preservation Magazine, a National Trust publication, and they were talking about the list of the ten best towns, ten best small cities in the USA. And it was a great article about ooh gosh, if your name was on that list, watch out, because what does everybody do, they start moving there. And then it starts changing the fabric of the society. And I got, I got to thinking about Georgetown about how people come and build the trophy houses, and then the trophy houses, twenty years down the road, become broken up into duplexes and tenement houses, you know like in the 1880's 1890's, the big mansions that were built and how they were converted to student housing in Columbia and this and that and the other. Also, it said beware of that, and it got to talking about Main Street and how business has come along, and the local hardware and local diner are supplanted by a candle shop, then they'll be supplanted by gifts and souvenirs, and then wait for the day, you'll know that you have become a different town when a day spa opens up on the main street. The next day we went to lunch at the little diner, Thomas Café on Front Street in Georgetown, a block down we parked in front of Georgetown's day spa.

*S:* Oh no.

*L:* And I said oh Lawd here it comes, it's all over. But you know, in twenty...

*S:* But you still have a five and dime on Front Street.

*L:* Do we? Oh yeah we do have one. Yes, yes we do. Yes, across from Fogel's.

*S:* But there's still hope.

*L:* Yeah, um, it'll take more than twenty years, but you may see the build out, and then the reverse. But I don't think Georgetown will ever see the reverse of something like Andrews, because we will always have the attraction of the water. Even when, let's say 1910 when the Clyde Lines still operated in Georgetown, one of the interviewees from



the Men of Georgetown County talked about Mr. Doyle going, and big ships would come in and create waves, and they lived right there and as quickly as they could they'd strip their clothes off and run and jump in the water right there at Front Street because they would get the big waves and they could swim and they learned to swim at...dock...they didn't think about how nasty or oily the water was. The shrimp boats coming in and so forth, but I think there will always be that attraction because of the water. Um, when I first moved here in 1984, just to give you an idea of how bad the economy was with Front Street businesses, a liquor store was going out of business. (Laughter) You know it's hard times when a liquor store is going out of business.

*G:* Um, we've been talking a lot about Sandy Island in our class, and focused a lot on it. What are your feelings on Sandy Island?

*L:* I am so thrilled that Nature Conservancy stepped in and that a deal was brokered so that a bridge to Sandy Island could not be built. Unfortunately, and many of the residents have been outspoken about this since, um, many residents were being brainwashed into thinking a bridge meant better jobs a better education, better access to fire, medical, you know, you can't say it's not. But the people that were willing to construct the bridge said they were only after the timber, that the bridge would allow them to remove that timber. If you go back and read some of the exposés in the Sun News, that are clipped and in my file at home, you find out that that development corporation also had development plans drawn out, we call it conceptual plans, drawn out and filed. Yet they continued to say in print and public hearings, we have no plans whatsoever for developing Sandy Island.

*G:* Well it was kind of obvious I heard, from the bridge they were building, the type of bridge they were building...it was not just for timber.

*L:* Yeah. And it was, it was very, very successful combination of the Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, certain legislators on a state level and on Horry and Georgetown County levels, that said, no we have a completely different vision in mind. Um, and there were many residents who wanted the bridge, but I do believe, and I think they understand now that they were being misled. Um, I learned something, too, you know about keeping things the same, and losing the quaint this and the quaint that, um, I remember years ago when I would go from Pawleys Island to Charleston along Highway 17. And I was traveling with somebody and I was thinking this and you know after Hugo all those quaint little cabins on the side of the road had been supplanted by mobile homes after Hugo, some mobile homes on stilts. And you think, ooh, those trailers are so unattractive compared to those quaint little cabins. And I heard an excellent lecturer say when we see those quaint little cabins on the side of the road, we forget that they were not insulated, they didn't have plumbing, they didn't have electricity, and at least the trailers were a bump up in the standard of living. Now where they might not be our standard of living, they still by the same token were an improvement over those quaint little cabins. So if we're talking reality, or if we're talking artistically, you know there's a big difference in what we look at as quaint and I think there's a danger in looking at Sandy Island residents and thinking about their quaint lifestyle. Their isolation...there are real concerns, fire safety, um, you know when

there's a storm, and the power goes out, my husband had to leave the house in the middle of the night and get in the truck, drive to the boat landing, get in the boat and motor across, it was freezing cold, two thirty in the morning, but you know you weren't going to wait and say we'll wait till daybreak... then get in a Jeep that was parked in a shed about half a mile from the boat landing and use that Jeep to then go and get to the place with the problem. Climb the pole, you could get a bucket truck over there by barge, but not until the next day. But it was very difficult, when simple things like the power went out and there's an elderly population there, there are wooden structures there, fire safety, um, water quality, septic tanks, shallow wells, there a lot of real, you know, insect control, you know the trucks don't go over there and spray. Now why I don't really appreciate the bug trucks coming to my neighborhood, you know we run in the house and close all the windows, insects and water quality, all that's a concern. So sometimes, if we're just looking to preserve a quaint lifestyle, we've got to be careful. You know, if a bridge does come, there also could be positive things about it, particularly if it comes now, while a majority of the island is under conservation easements. There is still privately held land by fisherman, part-time vaca... it's not all black families, then a lot of land changed hands in the seventies. Um, there were a number of South Carolina legislators that maintained sugar shacks on Sandy Island, but then that's a whole 'nuther interview. (Laughter)

*G:* Do you see, um, in the future, like a modernization of Sandy Island? Like do you think they're going to improve their standard of living more, like with the water and everything?

*L:* Yeah I do. Um, well we already as a matter of fact, we do have water and sewer now runs to Sandy Island. Um, that was placed in the last few years. Um, the boat dock and the public boat landing is being improved, in fact it may have been improved, I think it was dedicated this past week or next week, May 20<sup>th</sup> or something.

*S:* Well, do you see Sandy Island as being focused on today or lost in history?

*L:* Certainly not lost in history, there's a viable, active population that lives there, and they're married and having children and continuing. So, there's that part of Sandy Island, um...

*S:* Does it just need to be modernized?

*L:* Well I don't know. I think that's a decision of the people that live there.

*S:* That's the thing, isn't it? The people on Sandy Island just want to be left alone.

*L:* Well, I, I don't know. I think they want some, I think they certainly wanted water and sewer. Those residents wanted improvement in their water, it was bad water, um, it was non-potable, is that the right word? Um, I think that's probably the important thing to remember is let the property owners, black and white, old and new, be involved in the

decisions. Um, that's probably what that development corp. was going to take away from those residents who have land there.

*S:* Do you have any environment here in Georgetown County, or which directly affects Georgetown County, which is absolutely irreversibly polluted? Is there a place around here or that affects Georgetown that is in crisis?

*L:* The greatest change in the environment in Georgetown County to this point has been the altering of wetlands. We um, we have, we, the problems that we have today that deal with flooding in town, um, comes from so many areas in town being filled. Not in my lifetime, but certainly beginning as early as the 1850's and the 1870's, um, great portions of Georgetown, just as Charleston were filled in, um, portions of island property at Pawleys and Debordieu are filled in and built upon. When you do that you're not only changing the flow of water, you're altering the water table, um, we began to have problems several years ago with access to fresh water and they built a new water and sewer plant for the first time drawing water out of Winyah Bay. I mean, Waccamaw River, the Waccamaw River last summer in the fifth year of a drought we were threatened with not being able to get water from the river anymore because the levels were so low just as they were throughout the state and the country. But a lot of that has to do with altering the water table. More people, more demand on water. Water quality is going to be one of our, did I mention that earlier? That's going to be one of our big, pressing problems, it's coming to be now. Water quality, water availability and water quality, and wetlands plays into that. We've so altered our wetlands by filling in areas that would have standing water that would collect water as opposed to letting it all run off into the rivers, letting it all run off directly into the ocean. Um....

*S:* I think that's great. Have you got anything you're...?

*G:* Um, one thing I just was wondering about before. Georgetown is almost like, the whole county, is almost wedged in a since, between Myrtle Beach and Charleston, between all this development, like especially Myrtle Beach kind of area. Why, what is it about Georgetown that has kind of kept that away? Kept Myrtle Beach at bay, like kept it from expanding down this way?

*L:* Yankees, Yankees. Beginning with Bernard Baruch in 1905, seriously. The reason, and also one thing to perhaps alter your thinking on the county, keep in mind to that Georgetown County and Horry County are really strange entities because they've got, in Horry County the Grand Strand, in Georgetown County the Waccamaw Neck. VERY different from inland parts. Think of the tobacco farmer over in Loris, think of the soybean farmer way over outside of Gallivants Ferry. Um, those people are a diverse dichotomy from those living over on the Grand Strand. Different interests, different background, education, everything, same in Georgetown County. You've got folks out in the western part of the county, northwest and northern parts of the county, real different from the parts wedged in between Myrtle Beach and Charleston. But thinking along the coastline, thinking especially Waccamaw Neck, and from Georgetown to the county line at the Santee River Delta, let's talk about that. When the northerners began purchasing these large tracts of land at the turn of the century, they preserved them at that time as

hunting retreats or as winter retreats. When they did that they also held onto them through the twenties, in the thirties even more plantations were bought, because after the stock market crash, what was safer to invest in, stocks or land? Land. So even in the thirties there was another rise, the land ownership, if it indeed changed hands at all, it didn't change hands until after World War II. You didn't see the purchase by northerners of these large retreats in Horry County. Horry County had never developed as large plantations, partly because of geography and the tidal river. The tide change wasn't enough in that part of the Waccamaw River. Small farms, yeomen farmers, white men with a lot of children. Um, not even sharecroppers in Horry County but black owned farms, white owned farms, in South Carolina, excuse me in Waccamaw Neck, this area, large plantation owners, large tracts sold as a large tract to northerners, that held onto them, and fortunately, between Georgetown and Charleston, the largest piece of protected property on the east coast. Sixty miles of protected shoreline, a combination of private, state, and federally owned properties, beginning with Hobcaw Barony, owned by the Baruch Foundation, the Yawkee Wildlife Center, owned by the Yawkee Foundation, operated by the state of South Carolina, the Santee Coastal Reserve, owned by the state of South Carolina, just south of that the Cape Romaine National Wildlife Refuge, just south of that the state-owned Capers Island. Sixty miles of protected shoreline, the largest piece of protected property on the east coast, all of it connected in some way, to northern ownership in the first half of the twentieth century. Santee Gun Club, Tom Yawkee, Bernard Baruch, Belle Baruch, other hunt clubs south of that, and to me that's sort of, that's sort of the crux of the whole thing we've been talking about. Um, we owe a lot of, I think about it often, a blessing in disguise, that's my big quote about these northerners purchasing property at the turn of the century. It was a true blessing in disguise. By 1935, there was scarcely a South Carolina plantation still in the hands of a South Carolinian, but, it was due to that northern ownership that these large tracts were preserved well into the twentieth century. Some still, some since Hugo, that's 1990, you know Hugo in 1989, but in 1990 developed, but even then developed as large golf plantations. Former plantations developed into single communities. Geography, though, that's why Horry County, that's why Myrtle Beach, that's why the Grand Strand is so different from Pawleys, Murrell's Inlet, it still goes back to geography, tidal waters, access to the land. Think how easy it was to get to the Grand Strand.

*G:* And that's it, too, like looking farther back. More recently it's the northern influx, like buying up the plantations, but looking even farther back, I guess what kind of has saved Georgetown was rice...the plantations.

*L:* Mmm hmm. Developing those plantations, rice, before that indigo. It developed differently, and why did it develop differently? Because of the environment, because of the landscape, um, think about, think about areas in Beaufort County and Colleton County, the whole Ace Basin area, um, access, crossing and stopping so many rivers by ferry. It was real hard to run a railroad through that, it was real hard to have a port city, think about it you know, Walterboro's not a port, but that's the closest large inland you know from that area of the coast. The environment influences the culture, and certainly what we've been talking about today, the culture influences the environment.

*S:* Thank you.

*G:* Thank you very much.

*L:* You're welcome, you're welcome.