



Southeast Book Club

The World of the Salt Marsh by Charles Seabrook

8:00-9:00 PM ET on Monday, February 27th, 2023

Meeting Schedule

Date	Chapters	Number of Pages
2/27/23	Chapter 7: A Tale of Two Rivers Chapter 8: An Endangered Culture Chapter 9: The Institute Chapter 10: Protecting the Marsh?	76
3/13/23	Chapter 11: Saving the Oyster Chapter 12: Saving the Marsh Chapter 13: Rice Fields and Causeways Chapter 14: Bridging the Marsh	74
3/27/23	Chapter 15: The Ultimate Price Chapter 16: Living on the Edge Chapter 17: The Last Season Chapter 18: The Beloved Land	58

Discussion Questions

As you read, you will most likely come up with questions of your own. Jot them down and share them with us! Here are the questions our facilitators came up with as they read Chapters 7-10 last week.

Chapter 7: A Tale of Two Rivers

1. Seabrook describes how the operation of dams has heavily impacted the Savannah River. According to [International Rivers](#), "Large dams have led to the extinction of many fish and other aquatic species, the disappearance of birds in floodplains, huge losses of forest, wetland and farmland, erosion of coastal deltas, and many other unmitigable impacts." Are dams and locks more beneficial or more harmful?
2. The Corps of Engineers (with later encouragement from NOAA), conducted pulse-mimicking water releases in the Savannah River to support native fish populations such as striped bass and sturgeon. Many homeowners and politicians were outraged by this decision to "put fish before people." Can you think of similar examples where agencies have attempted to "reverse" the human impact of a habitat?

Chapter 8: An Endangered Culture

1. Chapter 8 highlights the “endangered culture” of the Gullah-Geechee (descendants of West and Central Africans who were enslaved and bought to the lower Atlantic states). Of the many places mentioned in this chapter, which place would you most like to visit? Why? (Examples include: Saint Helena, Penn Center, Pin Point, Sapelo Island, and Sweetgrass Basket Makers Highway)
2. Seabrook gives fascinating descriptions, statistics, and lore about the Gullah-Geechee's history and present circumstances. Is there one detail that stood out to you or that you would like to research further?

Chapter 9: The Institute

1. Which early event, exploration, investigation, or experiment on Sapelo Island/the [Marine Institute on Sapelo Island](#), was one of the most critical for understanding salt marshes?
2. Review Odum and Teal’s views of the salt marsh. What were some commonalities they both had towards protecting the salt marsh? Which person do you connect the most with?

Chapter 10: Protecting the Marsh?

1. What was the lasting impact of strip-mining the marshes? Why do you think some people welcomed this project and others opposed it? Are there any similar situations going on in your area that you can draw from to connect with coastal Georgia?
2. Review the situations that were occurring in Georgia and South Carolina. What were some of the environmental impacts the groups were concerned with? How does Seabrook draw comparisons between the outcomes in both situations? What do you see as still the biggest threat to these salt marshes?