Welcome summer! I hope this message finds you well and enjoying a relaxed and hot summer here in Georgia. Hopefully you were able to attend SGA’s Spring Meeting on May 14th—the membership and general public participated in an educational meeting full of Civil War archaeology and recent archaeology research as well as a weekend full of fun activities. For all the details please see Tammy Herron’s article on the fantastic event. Annual meetings are a great way to catch up with colleagues and have the opportunity to stay in touch with ongoing research in Georgia archaeology.

The success of the Spring Meeting and the related weekend’s activities would not have been possible without the support of several key individuals. The logistics, planning and execution of this meeting were planned by Tammy Herron. The Silent Auction efforts were well-organized by Leslie Perry who was supported by Rita Elliott and others. The registration table was manned by Pam Baughman and Lynn Pietak and copies of Frontiers in the Soil were sold by Kelly Woodard and her friend Jenna.
on ordering your copy!). Everyone who pitched in to assist in the set-up and breakdown of this event are also thanked too! Make sure you Save the Date for the Fall Meeting in Athens on Saturday, October 22. Details will follow shortly.

The Society for Georgia Archaeology often gets emails inquiring about volunteer opportunities—there are great ways to get involved all across the state. How is the best way to learn about what is available? Check in with a SGA Chapter—there are local Chapters across the state that provide close to home opportunities to not only learn about archaeology through guest speakers but some groups work with other organizations to participate in excavations, research, and preservation of archaeological sites. For the beginner archaeologist or professional archaeologist these Chapters are great avenues to meet others who share similar interests and passions.

Additional opportunities include public outreach when you can help promote the importance of learning about past cultures through the study of archaeology and building an awareness of Georgia’s rich archaeological sites and how to protect them. You never know when you may impact someone’s life and help them become a future archaeologist or a future leader who may play a key role in determining resources and impacts to cultural resources.

Two such volunteer opportunities are coming up. The first is the 17th annual CoastFest program in Brunswick that is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which is the first Saturday of October (October 1st). We invite you to lend a hand as this event draws thousands of people each year. What a great opportunity to promote Georgia archaeology! Board Members and professional archaeologists will be in attendance to provide the public with hands-on activities and information.

The second volunteer chance is to assist with the Georgia National Fair in Perry from October 6–16. Talk about a fun time (especially the attractions and food)—help staff the ArchaeoBus and provide engaging activities to thousands of Georgians. Students and families alike participated last year and enjoyed meeting Abby.

These opportunities provide the general public and especially children the chance to learn more about how archaeology happens, what can be learned and how we can all work together to protect Georgia’s archaeological sites. If you are looking for a way to become involved in the SGA and you enjoy working with people these are two important events to check out! For more information please check the website or email me.

In closing, I cannot say enough about the volunteers associated with the Society for Georgia Archaeology. The men and women who have given of their time and talents over the years deserve much applause and recognition. The efforts of producing a scholarly journal, innovative and engaging website, e-newsletter, Archaeology Month, ArchaeoBus, public outreach/education, advocacy, awards, and more have led to the establishment of a valuable organization. Please know that your volunteer efforts are gratefully appreciated and are needed to continue the mission and vision of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. We cordially invite you to participate with this team and consider how you would like to serve.

—Catherine Long, SGA President

2011 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL CENTERS • PHOTO GALLERIES

Archaeology Month 2011 SGA meeting weekend a success

Submitted by Tammy F. Herron (tfherron@gmail.com)
The Society for Georgia Archaeology’s eighteenth annual Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotion, Archaeology Month 2011, had as its theme **Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War Through Archaeology**.

Our request for a proclamation designating May as Georgia Archaeology Month was received and acknowledged by the Governor’s office. A number of SGA board members and representatives from Georgia’s archaeological community attended the proclamation signing by Governor Nathan Deal on May 31st at the capitol. Read the story of the signing on this website [here](#). Photographed with the Governor were: SGA Board Member Rob Moon—Savannah River Archaeological Research Program; Brandon Batt and Lori Thompson—Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.; SGA Secretary Pamela Baughman—Georgia Department of Transportation; SGA President Catherine Long—Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center; State Archaeologist Dr. David C. Crass—Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, and SGA Vice President Tammy Herron—Savannah River Archaeological Research Program.

This annual promotion would not be possible without the assistance received from co-sponsors and event sponsors which allows us to offer this program to the public, thereby reaching thousands throughout the state. Our goal of raising public awareness of the importance of our state’s archaeological resources was met through the distribution of nearly 2000 [posters](#), an associated [lesson plan](#), and the education of those attending archaeology month events scheduled throughout the state in celebration of Georgia’s rich archaeological heritage. These events included archaeological exhibits, artifact identification days, archaeology lab open houses, lectures, public archaeology days, archaeology themed activities focused on Native American crafts and technologies, demonstrations of techniques used in the excavation of an old mill village, and a guided walking tour of Historic Oakland Cemetery—the site where General Hood watched the Battle of Atlanta. The events brochure and lesson plan were placed online in an effort to save on printing and mailing costs, as well as hoping to reach more people through the worldwide web. Posters were distributed to 8th-grade social studies teachers in the public schools, archaeology month co-sponsors, event sponsors, and SGA chapters in May.

Packaging day was held on May 12th at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Volunteers logged approximately 38 hours setting up, collating, stuffing tubes, filling boxes, making mail runs, and cleaning up. Elizabeth Allan, Dennis Blanton, Karen Denham Downen, Scott Goodlow, Tammy Herron, David Kasriel, Jack Kilgore, Catherine Long, David Noble, Leslie Perry, and Ann Rhea donated time to this effort. Some are members of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society, and we appreciate their support. Special thanks to Dennis Blanton and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History for providing a conference room for work space throughout the day. Dennis also assisted with loading and unloading boxes for shipping—thanks Dennis!

Click on thumbnails to enlarge.
SGA's annual gathering for the spring meeting was held in McDonough, Georgia on May 13-15, 2011. Members of the Executive Board of the Society for Georgia Archaeology held their quarterly meeting in the early afternoon of Friday, May 13th. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Executive Board of the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA). The general meeting of the GCPA was held in the late afternoon. On Friday evening, members of the GCPA and SGA Board Members enjoyed a ramble to The Jailhouse Brewing Company in Hampton, Georgia for a tour and tasting. The brewery is housed in the old city jail and is said to be haunted by someone who was locked up for public drinking a time or two. If you are ever in Hampton, stop by and visit the owners “behind the bars” and sample a taste of Slammer Wheat, Mugshot IPA, and Breakout Stout.

The spring meeting was held on Saturday, May 14th in the Hudgins Room at the Henry County Chamber of Commerce in McDonough. Secretary Pam Baughman and Board Member Lynn Pietak greeted approximately 70 members and visitors at the registration table. At this station, attendees could also purchase t-shirts from previous Archaeology Month celebrations, pick up copies of the 2011 Archaeology Month poster, and purchase copies of *Frontiers in the Soil* ([click here](http://thesga.org/category/publications/the-profile/summer-2011-issue/?print=yes) to order your copy). The SGA display board provided newcomers the opportunity to learn more about the Society, and while board member Kevin Kiernan could not attend, he sent a copy of his poster titled “New Deal Archaeology: Preston Holder on the Georgia Coast, 1936-1938” to be displayed. The poster contains various images of excavations that Holder worked on, artifact photos and handwritten notes, as well as profiles, plan maps, and contour maps of several of the mounds excavated on the Georgia coast.

Interesting and insightful lectures were presented throughout the morning and afternoon summarizing recent work on prehistoric and protohistoric sites in Georgia, as well as highlighting archaeological discoveries at various Civil War related sites across the state. Speakers included Dennis Blanton; Scott Butler; Kevin Chapman; Chris Espenshade; Tom Gresham, Heather Mustonen, Dan Elliott, and Mark Pollard; Jonathan Harton; Adam King and Keith Stephenson; William Phillips; Garrett Silliman; and James Wettstaed, Dan Elliott, & P.T. Ashlock, Jr. Thank you all so much for your willingness to share your research with us. And, we all look forward to hearing enthusiastic chapter reports from around the state during the business meeting portion of the Spring Meeting.

Leslie Perry, Rita Elliott, and Catherine Long were instrumental in planning a Silent Auction that ran concurrently with the Spring Meeting. “Winners” were announced at the conclusion of the meeting, and we are proud to report that approximately $400 was raised for the Endowment Fund. An extra special thank you is extended to Allen Vegotsky of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society for donating the majority of the items for the Silent Auction! Thanks to the coordinators, donors, and buyers who made the Silent Auction a success!

Bright and early Sunday morning, those interested in the optional tour headed to Nash Farm Battlefield and Museum. The tour group split into two groups with one group touring the museum, while the other got to take a spin in the “limousine” for a tour of the battlefield. Cassie Barrow, Andrea Dodd, and Scott Chandler related interesting facts regarding the artifacts displayed in the museum, while local historians Mark Pollard and Bill Dodd accompanied by our own Dan Elliott, Principal Investigator of the Nash Farm Battlefield excavations, led a tour of the battlefield. Did you know that “Kilpatrick’s Charge” at Nash Farm is the largest cavalry charge recorded in the history of Georgia? Although many places in Georgia escaped conflict, four battles occurred on or very near this site in 1864; however, the battle that took place on August 20, 1864 is the most remembered. Special thanks to the volunteer staff at Nash Farm for lending us the “big” coffee pot for the Spring Meeting on Saturday and for allowing us to tour the site on Sunday, May 15th. I wish to acknowledge Cassie Barrow for assisting me in my search for a place to hold the Spring Meeting, for bending over backwards trying to find a free or low-cost meeting venue for SGA, for arranging the tour of Nash Farm Battlefield & Museum, and for coordinating refreshments for the tour participants.

Our next tourist destination was Heritage Park for a tour of the Historical Military Museum by proud veterans of the
United States Armed Forces. A number of local veterans have donated memorabilia from their private collections to fill the museum and share their stories with interested visitors.

The Historical Museum in Heritage Park is dedicated to all veterans and their families and to those that serve now and in the future. The museum is full of vehicles, uniforms, artifacts, a lasting display of the two Henry County Medal of Honor recipients, and a Henry County Fallen Hero area. The staff of the museum is most knowledgeable in the history of all the uniforms and artifacts and will gladly spend as much time as you would like to tell you the history. [quoted from the Museum’s website here]

Following the museum tour, it was just a short walk through Heritage Park to the Veterans Wall of Honor.

The Veterans Wall of Honor is a unique national monument that honors all veterans, living and deceased, for their service and sacrifices to secure our freedom. Dedicated on Veterans Day 2008, it sits on a 2 ½ acre hilltop site in the historic Heritage Park in McDonough, Georgia. Old Glory, the 50 state flags and the emblems of all the military branches provide a grand backdrop for the focal point, a 75-foot long granite wall laser-engraved with depictions of various scenes of battle and service by our military, as well as famous quotes by our nation’s leaders and excerpts from inspirational poems. [quoted from the Wall of Honor’s website here]

The historic village at Heritage Park contains a 181-year-old log cabin originally built by Turner Hunt Clements, a detached cookhouse, a corncrib, a blacksmith shop, a one room schoolhouse, Henry County’s first library, a 1934 steam engine locomotive, Lane’s Store, a raised roof cottage known as the George M. Nolan house, the actual planing mill and a replica of the saw mill used at Miller’s Mill on Hwy. 155 North, and a beautiful community garden maintained by a number of Henry County’s senior citizens.

Months of planning and hard work by the Archaeology Month Committee precedes Archaeology Month each year. The 2011 committee members included Chairman Tammy Herron, along with Pamela Baughman, and Catherine Long. Pamela Baughman coordinated the calendar of events and created the e-brochure that was posted on the website. Pam also staked out the Jailhouse Brewing Company and arranged the tour and tasting. Catherine Long assisted with scheduling the proclamation signing through the Governor’s office, meeting arrangements, poster distribution, and provided refreshments for the Spring Meeting. Tammy Herron assisted with scheduling the proclamation signing through the Governor’s office and poster packaging and distribution, compiled the poster and lesson plan, coordinated meeting arrangements, and coordinated Sunday’s tour. Publicity was tackled by each of these members and then some.

Special thanks to Dan Elliott for providing much of the information used for the text on the back of the poster. We would also like to thank Rob Moon for assisting with graphic design and layout of the lesson plan and poster. Thanks also to Ashleigh Roell, Special Events Coordinator, with Henry County Parks and Recreation for providing images of Nash Farm, assisting with tour arrangements, and providing information about tourist attractions in the area; Laura Luker, Director of Tourism and Communications, and Phyllis Reeves, Information Specialist, with the Henry County Chamber of Commerce for assisting with meeting arrangements and providing information about hotels, local attractions, and restaurants; and Jim Joyce, Recreation Facility Coordinator/Community Services, with Henry County Parks and Recreation for arranging the tour of the Historical Military Museum at Heritage Park.

In these tough economic times where funding for various agencies continues to be cut and donations have fallen drastically, we would like to especially thank our 2011 co-sponsors: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, Georgia Department of Natural Resources—Historic Preservation Division, New South Associates, LAMAR Institute, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, and TRC.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2011 event possible and to those who came out to join us for their support. Be sure to join us next year as we commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the War 1812, and thank you for your continued support of archaeology in Georgia!

Contents of Early Georgia now listed online

Researchers and the curious can now peruse the titles and authors of all articles published in Early Georgia since SGA began publishing the journal in 1950. A link to the order form is at the top of the page.

The page with the listing is here. The listing is by issue, with the latest issues at the top and the oldest at the bottom. Searching is easy because the list is on a single webpage, although you can also use the website’s search box, at the bottom of the text to the right.

If a line is through the contents of an issue, it is no longer in print.

Several issues can be downloaded as PDFs, and links are provided both at the top of the page and in the contents section for that...
To discuss a potential submission, click here to email the editor of Early Georgia. To read “Information for Authors” submitting to Early Georgia, click here.

ARCHAEOBUS

Italy’s Rome imitates the SGA’s ArchaeoBus

The SGA is very proud of drawing upon volunteer resources, donations from generous supporters, and creative exhibit ideas, particularly from Chief Tender Rita Elliott, to create, launch, and staff our ArchaeoBus.

Recently, Rita discovered that an important center of ancient civilization, ITALY’s Rome, has an archeobus—yes, spelled with only one ‘a’ and no capital letters on the outside of their bus.

Theirs is to haul tourists around; ours promotes archaeology in Georgia and educates visitors. After all, the ArchaeoBus is Georgia’s Mobile Archaeology Classroom!

The SGA strongly suspects, however, that OUR ArchaeoBus came first!

2011 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • LESSON PLANS

Get your copy of the 2011 Lesson Plan

Submitted by Tammy Herron (tfherron@gmail.com)
The Society for Georgia Archaeology proudly presents the 2011 Lesson Plan—“Learning Through Archaeology: Rediscovering the Civil War in Georgia.” This Plan was developed based on the theme selected for Georgia Archaeology Month 2011—Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War Through Archaeology. This year, the theme was chosen to coincide with the beginning of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War—one of the defining events in our nation’s history. This educational resource offers information, instruction, pictures, questions, activities, and suggestions for additional reading and online resources.

Georgia was the scene of numerous military engagements during the Civil War, including the site of the second-bloodiest battle of the war—Chickamauga. Georgia contains a variety of archaeological sites relating to this tumultuous time, including arsenals, prisoner of war camps, shipwrecks, temporary campsites, battlefields, forts, and other defensive works. We hope that the readers of this lesson plan will become more familiar with the Civil War in Georgia and the effects that the war had on the citizens of this state and the nation.

The 2011 Lesson Plan explores the meaning of archaeology and reveals facts relating to the Civil War in Georgia. The archaeological site featured in this resource is Nash Farm Battlefield located in Henry County between Lovejoy and McDonough, Georgia. An archaeological site report written by Daniel T. Elliott and Tracy M. Dean documents the history associated with Nash Farm and discusses the results of the archaeological investigations conducted at the site. Click here to immediately access The Nash Farm Battlefield: History and Archaeology.

Activities include suggestions for making hardtack or other foods consumed during the Civil War, researching the Battle of Chickamauga—the second-bloodiest battle of the war, and using copies of historic Civil War photographs to consider the archaeological sites the people and material culture in the images would have left behind. The plan notes:

Advances in historic archaeology and battlefield archaeology have improved our understanding of events in Georgia during the Civil War. This subject is of great interest to the public and has been since the days of the war itself. For the archaeologist, context is key. The geographic locations of the battle objects are a vital part of the story. Once these clues have been removed from their battlefield context, their scholarly value is greatly reduced. [page 4]

In sponsoring Georgia Archaeology Month, members of the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) encourage the public to learn about the archaeological resources present in our state and wish to create awareness about the importance of protecting Georgia’s archaeological heritage and preserving these irreplaceable links to our past. (Click here for information about joining the SGA, and an application.)

Click here to access the SGA’s 2011 lesson plan that explores rediscovering the Civil War in Georgia through archaeology.

2011 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Governor proclaims May Georgia Archaeology Month
On May 31st, 2011, Governor Nathan Deal signed the proclamation declaring that May is Georgia Archaeology Month. See the original commemoration photograph here.

The proclamation states:

WHEREAS: Georgia’s archaeological sites are important part of our state’s heritage, making the arrival of American Indians more than 10,000 years ago and documenting the exploration, colonization and founding of our nation by Europeans, Africans and Asians; and

WHEREAS: Georgia’s archaeological sites lie under forests, farms and cities as well as beneath rivers, streams and coastal waters. These sites, which hold clues about our state’s rich and diverse history, are fragile and endangered by forces such as erosion, uncontrolled development and looting or vandalism; and

WHEREAS: Georgia’s archeological sites have yielded significant information about the historic culture of Native Americans who inhabited this land from the mountains to the sea, providing a better understanding of the form, function, and materials used in making items necessary for human survival, even today; and

WHEREAS: The study, interpretation and preservation of our archaeological sites offer important educational, cultural and economic benefits to all Georgians; and

WHEREAS: Georgia’s archaeologists seek to increase awareness awareness of our state’s archaeological history as a means to protect and preserve these irreplaceable links to our past; and

WHEREAS: Georgia Archaeology Awareness Month offers Georgians an opportunity to explore “Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War Through Archaeology”: now
THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2011 as Archaeology Month in Georgia.

Access a high-resolution printable copy of the signed proclamation by clicking here.

---

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES • WEEKLY PONDER**

**Pondering the SGA...and you**

Are you looking for the latest Weekly Ponder? If so, remember that the Society for Georgia Archaeology is a volunteer organization. This website is brought to you by SGA member-volunteers.

So, do your part to help SGA.

Join the Society now...and then...submit a story that addresses the goals and mission of SGA for consideration for inclusion on this website!

This means you!

Oh, and the Ponder part of this story?

Volunteers allow the SGA bring you this website, Archaeology Month each year in May, the book *Frontiers in the Soil*, and the ArchaeoBus, among other exciting events and learning opportunities.

Ponder the richness your life would lose if volunteer organizations evaporated because no one volunteered...and join SGA now.

If you're already a member, find new ways to help SGA be more effective.

[Click here](http://thesga.org/category/publications/the-profile/summer-2011-issue/?print=yes) for information on joining the SGA.

[Click here](http://thesga.org/category/publications/the-profile/summer-2011-issue/?print=yes) for information on volunteering to help the SGA.

[Click here](http://thesga.org/category/publications/the-profile/summer-2011-issue/?print=yes) to discuss via email submitting a story to this website.

---

**CHAPTER NEWS • GOLDEN ISLES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**The GIAS May meeting: Award presented by Fred Cook for helping with Selden Project**

Submitted by Patricia Bean (Golden Isles Archaeological Society)

![Image of Jennifer Kennedy, Shelby Kennedy, Jack Caldwell, and Fred Cook]

_Jennifer Kennedy, Shelby Kennedy, Jack Caldwell, and Fred Cook_
At the GIAS meeting, Tuesday, May 3, 2011, archaeologist, Fred Cook presented *Guale vs. Irene: A Comparison of Archaeological Cultures*. During the meeting, Cook happily presented a plague for helping with the Selden Project in Brunswick, Georgia, over the spring to Jennifer Kennedy, her daughter, Shelby Kennedy, and to Jack Caldwell. Cook appreciated each of their help very much.

The following article tells about the project and was published in the Brunswick News, October 2010:

*(Terry Dickson/Morris News Service)* Carolyn Rock and Bill Steed pick through the shells found in a test hole during a Saturday dig at Selden Park

## Ancient Indians once lived in what’s now a Georgia city park

BRUNSWICK, Ga. – The history of Selden Park is well known locally. In 1903, the Selden Normal & Industrial Institute was established as a school where African-Americans received teacher training and learned industrial arts.

After a group of archaeologists excavated several points at the park Saturday, more is known about who may have used the site before any U.S. history was written. Attracted by mounds of discarded oyster and mussel shells, the archaeological team dug to see if it could find any signs of Native American dwellings on the site, said Fred Cook, a Brunswick archaeologist.

“We have located, exposed from the surface, 27 middens,” Cook said of mounds of shells, which is evidence that someone probably lived there. Cook hoped to find some post holes that would have indicated a Native American house had stood on the site.

After hours of digging, the archaeologists found only one possible post hole in what Cook thought may have been a wall judging from an arc of shells. The post holes are distinguishable because the decayed wood in them leaves a circle usually darker than the surrounding soil.

But they found about 35 pieces of pottery that changed Cook’s thinking in at least one area.

He had thought the site could date back to the Savannah II culture, around 1250 A.D. After examining the pottery, Cook said it came from the earlier Kelvin culture, dating it around 800-900 A.D.

Florida archaeologist Ryan Sipe dug out a big square with the help of Cook’s younger brother, Arthur. That was where they found the post hole. Sipe is working on a dig at another Georgia location he’s not ready to divulge. He has recorded 1,079 post holes and fire pits there, an obvious indication of prehistoric dwellings. About 100 yards away, Jack Caldwell, Douglas archaeologist Dwight Kirkland and Rosanne Moore of Waycross were separating mussel and oyster shells.

Kirkland said they had found an abundance of small bones and some catfish spines. Cook also took home 15 gallons of soil and shells, the first shovelfuls removed from the site. “It will be water-washed with a window screen. The tiniest thing will be examined,” he said.
GARS investigates Berkmar “mystery” site

Submitted by James D’Angelo (4drdee@bellsouth.net)

Editor’s note: On 2 May 2011, thesga.org received this communique from Jim about activities over the weekend by members of the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS)....

We had great weather on Saturday and got a lot done at the Berkmar “mystery” site—this was part of the old Wynne-Russell Plantation but is now Berkmar Middle School, Gwinnett County property—clearing brush and the cut bedrock channel in preparation for the May 14 recordation of the site. With about 2–3 hours of work left to get the site in ideal condition for recording, we plan to go out again this Saturday (May 7) weather permitting, 10–1PM.

The photograph shows Delana (the worker) and Wayne, John, and I (the supervisors in new GARS T-shirts) clearing out the water channel cut into bedrock.

The latest thinking on the “mystery” is that this was most likely a water-power site, but not for a Flutter Wheel as I previously speculated, but for a Breast Wheel as there seems to be a wheel pit also partially cut into the bed-rock just below the channel.

Please remember our program with Brad Quinn that has been moved to May 18 (from May 10). As one of our three* Georgia Archaeology Month 2011 activities that focuses on this year’s Archaeology Month theme, the Civil War, Brad’s talk on his work identifying unknown soldiers buried at the Marietta National Cemetery is something you will not want to miss. Let’s make every effort to have a good turnout and help to spread the word!

(*) The other two are: An Introduction to Archaeology and Fort Daniel for Fort Daniel ES third and fifth graders on May 4, and archaeological recordation of the Berkmar (or should we be calling it the “Wynne-Russell?”) “mystery” site with Berkmar MS 8th graders on May 14.

Download digital version of 2011 Archaeology Month poster
The Society for Georgia Archaeology is proud to offer this year’s Archaeology Month poster, celebrating the theme **Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War through Archaeology**—and May is Archaeology Month in Georgia. Download the poster by clicking here.

The back of the poster offers considerable detail on the Civil War in Georgia. The bibliographic references for that text are downloadable by clicking here.

The SGA’s Spring Meeting will be held May 13–15 in McDonough; please join us for a longer discussion of some of the issues raised on the back of the poster! Click here for all stories on this website about the Spring Meeting, including pre-registration information. Read the agenda for meeting, which will be held at the Henry County Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, May 14th, 2011, by clicking here.

---

**ARCHAEOBUS NEWS • SGA NOTICES ONLINE**

**ArchaeoBus visits library in Danielsville**

Submitted by Tom Gresham

The ArchaeoBus is back in the Athens area and made a visit on April 16th, 2011, to the Madison County Library in Danielsville. Tom Gresham and Teresa Groover hosted the half-day “open bus” on a pretty, windy, spring day. The event was well advertised in the local newspaper, on the library website, on the library’s sign, and most importantly, on Facebook. We had 57 visitors who toured and interacted with the activities in and adjacent to the ArchaeoBus. The choice and arrangement of activities closely matched those that were used at the Georgia National Fair last October. Given the unsettled weather, we set up the activity tables indoors, which was a big room with an exterior door that led right to the ArchaeoBus parked just outside.
The ArchaeoBus created a good bit of excitement and all who visited were impressed and appreciative. Several Facebook comments later that weekend observed that “we saw tons of cool things…the ArchaeoBus was great!!! Both kids (and mom) thoroughly enjoyed it…. What a cool exhibit”. Because it was windy, Tom went out one time to check on the new ArchaeoBus banner that he hung over a wall at the front of the library. As he approached he saw two kids bounding up to the library chanting ArchaeoBus! ArchaeoBus! ArchaeoBus! It was a very gratifying day.

2011 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • EVENTS INFORMATION • GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

GAAS member Robert Skarda to be featured on the GPB’s Georgia Traveler series

Submitted by Kelly Woodard (kelly@thesga.org)
Georgia author and member of the Greater Atlanta Archaeology Society (GAAS), Robert Skarda just finished a great on-camera interview with the film crew of the GPB’s “Georgia Traveler” series at the Scull Shoals site. Skarda preformed the full historical tour as the GPB crew taped intently.

Robert Skarda and the Scull Shoals site show will be broadcast on the GPB’s “Georgia Traveler” series April 29th at 8PM and April 30th at 7PM. The broadcast is in conjunction with Scull Shoals Festival day. This unique event is linked with the Float Georgia event which is when canoes and kayaks full of interested parties stop at the Scull Shoals site for a Georgia history rest break.

Mr. Skarda’s first history publication in 2007, Scull Shoals: The Mill Village that Vanished in Old Georgia, now in its 3rd printing, represents years of research into the past, consulting with professionals in several fields to assure that all his writing is both accurate and interesting.

— Jack T. Wynn, PhD, North Georgia College and State University

His books combine a unique background as an educator, historian, outdoorsman, and skillful writer.

— Allen Vegotsky, PhD

To learn more about Robert Skarda and his Georgia historical publications please visit the Old Oconee Books website. The author’s newest paperback, Oconee Indians: A Rich Life by the River, is a long awaited history/archaeology/story book released by Old Oconee Books in the summer of 2010.

Editor’s Note: Robert Skarda is a talented man on the go. A long-time, avid interest in the history and prehistory of the southeastern region has influenced his writings about middle Georgia. For over a decade, Robert has guided the non-profit Friends of Scull Shoals, Inc., to protect the nineteenth century Scull Shoals mill village and educate the public about rural life in that time period with informative tours through the village ruins, annual heritage festivals and an eighth grade educational curriculum supplement. Currently the group is developing a nature trail with plants representative of those in Dr. Lindsey Durham’s nineteenth century herbal medicine recipes.

ON THE LEVEL

Melissa Webb of GSU enjoys interning at Fernbank Museum of Natural History

Submitted by Melissa Webb (Georgia State University Anthropology Department)
Georgia State University, spring semester 2010, I interned at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta, Georgia. From the beginning, I had no clue what to expect from the experience, much less what sort of projects and duties I would work with. I was just extremely excited to be involved with archaeology, the field I had been studying for the past three years. I followed the proper channels with the anthropology department at Georgia State, emailed Dennis Blanton at Fernbank and before I knew it, I was an intern at the museum.

For me, the first week was filling out paperwork, introductions, and general preliminary stuff that comes along with any new job. The second week the other interns and I walked into the lab to find pottery sherds laid out on the lab tables. Dennis began explaining were they came from and after about the fifth time I heard him say “sherd” I finally asked Rachel, Dennis’ lab assistant, “Why does he keep saying sherd?” Rachel just smiled and said, “That’s what they are called. Not shards of pottery, but sherds.” I’m sure she has been asked that a lot.

After a few weeks of learning to clean, label, and mend sherds, the interns were given individual assignments. Mine was to help catalog the Saint Catherine’s Island bead collection that had just been shipped to Fernbank from the American Museum if Natural History in New York. Once cataloged, I was to construct a reference collection of the beads. Cataloging the beads was no easy task and it consumed the bulk of my internship. Rachel and I worked for three months opening boxes filled with bags of beads, making sure that every bead was accounted for, and entering them into an electronic catalog.

With two weeks left of my internship, we finished cataloging all the beads. It was finally time for what I had been waiting for; making the reference collection. In my opinion, things went rather smoothly. I really enjoyed stringing and tagging each individual bead. The last few beads I strung were some very delicate gold gilded beads. I had been expecting Dennis or Rachel to string those and was slightly shocked when Dennis asked me to string them and walked into his office. I was impressed at the amount of trust he had in me.

I am glad I had the opportunity to intern at Fernbank. I was really impressed with the whole experience. I learned so much from Dennis and Rachel and will never forget the time I spent in the lab. I must say that this internship was easily the single best experience I had during my undergraduate studies at GSU and I am deeply thankful to Fernbank and Dennis for the wonderful opportunity.

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

GARS members consider bricks and mortar during fieldtrip

Submitted by Jim D’Angelo (4drdee@bellsouth.net)
Despite the rains the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) field trip in March 2011 to the Howard Cement Company site and vicinity was fun and profitable.

Guided by the property owner, Ricky Black, and local historian, JB Tate, with information on the cement industry supplied by Dawn Chapman, who is doing her PhD on the 19th century cement industry, and Denis Brosnan, Director of the National Brick Research Institute at Clemson, who is doing physical analysis on early cements, we looked at the two remaining lime kilns (see photos), the ruins of the processing plant, and the adjacent limestone mine/quarry. We also visited the Howard plantation site, now a nature preserve, and looked at the remains of a mill and very large earthen dam (900+ feet long!) on that property.

Because the Plainville Brick Company kilns that we were supposed visit in the afternoon were inaccessible due to the heavy rains, we instead visited another early kiln site on Lime Kiln Creek. As Wayne pointed out, “what a better place to build a lime kiln than on a creek named Lime Kiln Creek!” We also visited the Kingston museum and the Confederate cemetery in Kingston.

JB Tate, owner Ricky Black, and another participant, Trey Gaines, Director of the Bartow Museum, and I are working on a plan to clear and record the Howard site at some point in the near future. This project would mainly involve Bartow County residents, but I will keep GARS members updated in case any of you would like to participate.

OCMULGEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OAS members visit Shinholser Mound site

Submitted by Stephen A. Hammack (Stephen.Hammack.ctr@robins.af.mil)
On March 5, 2011, Ocmulgee Archaeological Society (OAS) members chose the Shinholser Mounds site on the Oconee River near Milledgeville for the group’s annual winter hike. Member Dr. Bob Cramer (right) made the arrangements with the Thompson family, which owns the site. Family member Tom Wood met the 12 attendees just outside of Milledgeville, served as escort to the property, and gave an extensive tour of several areas of archaeological significance on a cool, rainy day near the end of winter.

This fascinating site is known locally as Indian Island, and contains two mounds dating to the Middle Mississippian Savannah period, although artifacts from the Late Archaic, Late Mississippian Lamar, and Historic Creek Indians have also been recovered by both the family and by archaeological studies performed by the University of Georgia. Evidence of early Spanish trade with the local Indian population has been documented at Shinholser. The site has also been adversely impacted on several occasions by looting. Another site shows that Dalton era and Early Archaic populations were also living nearby as early as 10,000 years ago.
Possible pipe bowl fragment (ceramic).

President Alan Marsh and his son Benjamin at Shinholser.

The group saw wild hogs, Mr. Wood’s artifact collection from the area, the two earthen
mounds (which are now covered with brush and briars), a 1920s era swimming pool used by a local club during Prohibition, a great view of the Oconee River, and beautiful woods and pastures. During the tour several artifacts were recovered and turned over to Mr. Wood, including a Late Archaic Abbey projectile point and a nearly temperless incised sherd. Archaeologist Jerald Ledbetter thinks may be a piece of a Lamar pipe bowl. Mr. Wood's collection contained numerous Lamar potsherds, points, and a blue trade bead that Archaeologist Dr. Marvin Smith has identified as a Kidd and Kidd (1970) type IIa40 in use from 1580-1780, and probably further evidence of Spanish trade in interior of Georgia during the 17th century. The OAS is very appreciative of the family's interest in preserving this important part of Middle Georgia's past, and wishes to thank them for the site tour and for getting to spend a wonderful rainy day along the Oconee River at Shinholser!

Mr. Tom Wood explains Shinholser to OAS tour group.

Photographs courtesy of Jim Preston and the author.

EVENTS INFORMATION • GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

April 13th GAAS meeting: Smoking ritual in the Mississippian Southeast

Submitted by Dennis Blanton, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

Editor's note: Dennis Blanton, Curator of the Native American collection-Fernbank Museum of Natural History, will be guest lecturer at the April 13th GAAS meeting discussing his research regarding Native American prehistoric pipes and their significance.

Also, there will be a gathering for a pre-meeting dinner at Los Loros on Clairmont Rd. just south of N. Decatur Road at 5:30 PM. The talk will begin at 7:30 PM on April 13th at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon).
It is not uncommon to find smoking pipes on Mississippian (AD 1000-1600) sites in the Southeast but remarkably little consideration has been given to their meaning. My research first explores the nature of smoking ritual among Mississippian societies and how it changed over time. Then, I contemplate what the ritual patterns have to say more broadly about Mississippian cultures and how they changed. The findings demonstrate that smoking became an indispensable religious practice but that it was manipulated to accommodate shifting social conditions.

**Biographical Info**

I was born and lived out my earliest years in South Carolina before my family relocated to Georgia. After graduating Bacon County High School in Alma, Georgia I attended South Georgia College (1976-78) prior to moving on to complete an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of Georgia (1980, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa). My graduate studies include completion of an M.A. in anthropology at Brown University (1983) and near-completion of a Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Virginia (ABD).

I have had a lifelong interest in archaeology and first participated in an organized field research project when I was fourteen years old. During my career I have worked in eleven different states and Puerto Rico, but most of my time has been spent in eastern North America, including extended periods in Virginia, Illinois, and New England. My Virginia experience included 15 years as director of the Center for Archaeological Research at the College of William & Mary, and a year creating and directing a new public archaeology program at historic Shirley Plantation.

I returned to Georgia in July 2005 as Curator of Native American Archaeology at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta. My duties there involve caring for the very large St. Catherines Island Collection, recently transferred to Fernbank from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. This collection consists of about one million objects and features remarkable evidence of the Spanish colonial mission of Santa Catalina de Guale.

My work also entails new research that over the last five years has been focused on a search for evidence of early Spanish-Indian interaction across southern Georgia. Our findings are highlighted by discovery along the lower Ocmulgee River of rare 16th-century Spanish artifacts that are the likely calling cards of Hernando de Soto. A complementary study in southwestern Georgia is also underway.

I have been fortunate over the years to receive wide recognition for some of my research. As one example, the discovery of how severe drought affected the Jamestown colony in Virginia appeared on the front page of The New York Times, in Science magazine, on National Public Radio, and on the television program Scientific American Frontiers. I have co-edited a book entitled, Indian and European Contact in Context: The Middle Atlantic Region (2004, University Press of Florida), and most recently another publication entitled, Archaeological Encounters with Georgia's Spanish Period, 1526-1700: New Findings and Perspectives (2010, Society for Georgia Archaeology).

Our recent findings regarding the 1540 trek of Hernando de Soto through southern Georgia have also received wide attention and in 2010 I received a National Geographic Society grant from their Research and Exploration Committee.