These stories and articles were originally posted online on the SGA’s website, and are presented in their complete form there, at http://thesga.org. To make this printable PDF version, some photographs and graphic elements have been removed.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

President’s Message: Fall 2011

Submitted by Catherine Long (sgapres@thesga.org)

It is that time of the year when good things happen. The weather is cooler and the leaves change into a delightful array of colors. If you are like me it is also one of the busiest times of the year. Here at SGA we have been gearing up for several big events and working hard to continue to make SGA a vehicle to educate the public about Georgia’s rich archaeological heritage.

Two of these public education events are coming up in October: CoastFest (Brunswick) and the Georgia National Fair (Perry). Support SGA by volunteering to help at events like these. Extremely large audiences (several thousand) varying from adults to children will be present—what a unique opportunity to pass along this message to Georgia’s citizens. If you would like to serve in this capacity it would be greatly appreciated (click here for more information about volunteering at the Georgia National Fair). Oftentimes we never know the impact we can make on an individual.

The Frontiers in the Soil Committee is hard at work helping promote the sale of the last remaining copies of these books. For those who have an interest in Georgia archaeology these are great resources to have on hand. Set in a fun cartoon style they are also appropriate for kids to explore and learn about Georgia’s rich archaeological heritage. These books will be for sale at the annual Georgia Social Studies Conference held in Athens and the SGA website. In addition to this fantastic book—Frontiers in the Soil Teacher’s Resource Guide has activities that can be taught in the classroom and meet the Georgia Performance Standards. No matter what your age it is a delightful publication to have in your possession—don’t forget the holidays are coming up so it may be the perfect gift!

SGA’s current strategic plan is to move forward with making the organization more visible across the state and the nation. Earlier this year the Board voted to join the Society of Affiliated Chapters of the Society for American Archaeology (membership will begin in 2012). This will provide support from our colleagues on a myriad of topics and provide a heightened awareness of the organization. The leadership of the professional publication Early Georgia and The Profile (the newsletter) will remain important resources. Under the leadership of Tom Pluckhahn, Early Georgia has continued to be the scholarly journal that scholars, students, and membership (institutional too) are proud to have on their shelves. Sharing the news of the archaeological community continues by The Profile Editor Kelly Woodard. Maintaining an attractive and engaging website is a high priority of the leadership who will continue to solicit support from the archaeological community in submitting articles for it. Another goal is to improve the online membership and e-store as discussed below. With the explosion of social media SGA is continuing to utilize Facebook to reach students and others who use these technologies. Continued student involvement in the presentation of posters and papers at annual meetings and student membership are critical keys to the future leadership of SGA.

Sammy Smith is spearheading the initiative to review the best online venue for SGA to be able to move its membership and fundraising to an online system. She has whittled down the online payment service providers (for non-profit organizations) to PayPal, Google Checkout, and Amazon Simple Pay with Google Checkout as the anticipated best fit for SGA needs. The logistics of implementing this process will happen shortly. Another potential for the SGA website is the development of an SGA e-store. Ongoing review of logistics and a possible plan are underway.

Plans are underway for Archaeology Month 2012 as the Committee (led by Tammy Herron) gears up for another successful poster, lesson plan and Spring Meeting. The Committee is looking at the Bicentennial of 1812 and how best Georgia archaeology can be featured throughout the state. Don’t forget to check for upcoming details on the website.

The annual Fall Meeting will be held in Athens on Saturday, 22 October, and promises to be an exciting time! Lynn Pietak is gathering
a final list of papers—if you have a great project to report on please submit it. This meeting will feature SGA’s own Jack Wynn leading the discussant. As a non-themed meeting, this is the perfect opportunity to share in the current archaeological news in Georgia and enjoy the campus of the University of Georgia (a longtime supporter and partner of the SGA). Jared Wood assisted in securing the Zell B. Miller Learning Center for the day’s program.

In addition to the annual meeting there will be a live auction at the Terrapin Brewery in Athens. All funds will be used to support the Endowment Fund of SGA. This fund is used to protect Georgia archaeological sites. The Audacious Archaeology Auction is being spearheaded by Rita Elliott. The fun will start at 6:30pm and the live auction begins at 8:00pm, so bring your checkbooks and credit cards. Some unique items will be available for bidding and we can’t wait to see the competitive spirit among SGA members. Check back at the website for pictures and descriptions of auction items!

A challenge has been issued to all SGA Chapters! As we complete the list of unique and bid-warring objects we invite chapter members to actively participate. The Chapter with the greatest amount of donated items will be recognized at the Fall Meeting with a trophy that remains in their possession until next year’s fall meeting. As a Chapter of Excellence, additional opportunities will be available to remain active and increase your point accumulation. Chapter members are invited to send a Chapter Representative to attend the SGA Board of Directors Meeting at 1:00pm on Friday, October 21 at the Holiday Inn (197 E. Broad Street) in Athens. During the Business Meeting Chapters will have the opportunity to share news and upcoming events.

On behalf of the Officers and Board Members of the SGA, we anticipate great participation and appreciate those who have already contributed. We look forward to seeing you in Athens in October!

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**Introduction: New Editor, Early Georgia**

Submitted by Jared Wood (woody@uga.edu)

Hello SGA members,

As many of you already know, I am the incoming Editor of SGA’s publication Early Georgia. I am proud to accept this position; SGA is a vibrant organization that serves a vital role in the archaeology of Georgia. I would like to thank the Board of SGA for their nomination and vote of confidence. I also thank outgoing Editor Thomas J. Pluckhahn, whose tireless work over the past four years has kept Early Georgia a quality, respected journal. Tom continues to serve as a mentor and sounding board as we make this transition, for which I am grateful.

I would like to encourage the readership of Early Georgia and members of SGA to submit their work for publication! The journal is a great venue for articles, peer-reviewed articles, and book reviews on a wide variety of topics. Details on submission can be found online here: [http://thesga.org/2009/01/early-georgia-information-for-authors/](http://thesga.org/2009/01/early-georgia-information-for-authors/)

SGA has been a part of my life for many years now, and I look forward to serving as Editor of Early Georgia.

Sincerely, Jared Wood

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**2011 Fall Meeting schedule set**

Submitted by Lynn Pietak (lpietak@edwards-pitman.com)

**UPDATED 4:24pm, Wed, 12 Oct!**

Plan to join the members of the SGA and guests of the Society at the 2011 Fall Meeting, to be held all day on Saturday, 22 October, in room 171 (first floor) of the Zell B. Miller Learning Center on the UGA Campus, in Athens (48 Baxter Street at S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, 30605; map below). Registration is $10 per member ($15 non-members, $5 for students with ID; $25 for families).

Access a PDF of the abstracts by clicking here. Access a PDF of the day-time meeting schedule by clicking here.

Stay in Athens for evening activities, a SGA live and silent auction fund-raiser that begins at 6:30pm, and an opportunity to tour the ArchaeoBus, Georgia’s Mobile Archaeology Classroom, owned by the SGA (details on evening activities online here).

Here’s the schedule for the daytime meeting:

- **8:30am** Registration, coffee, snacks
- **9:00am** Welcome, SGA President Catherine Long; introduction of Presentation Facilitator, Dr. Jack Wynn
- **9:15am** Archaeological Estimations and Excavations at Evelyn in Glynn County, Kevin Kiernan, PhD, SGA Board Member, Keith Stephenson, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, and Karen Y. Smith, Monticello, Department of Archaeology
ON THE LEVEL

An American archaeologist in England: Perceptions of the past

Submitted by Mike Johnson (m.a.johnson@durham.ac.uk)

Around this time last year, as I prepared to board a plane and begin my MA program in the United Kingdom, I began to ask myself if the complication and expense of continuing my education in the UK was really worth it. Could these folks with their “sophisticated” accents, meat-pies, and flat ale really give me some deeper insight into the nature and value of archaeology? Is it possible that they possess some knowledge of archaeology that we lack here in the United States? As the year went on, I gradually came to the realization that while the model of education was different, it was the environment that bespoke a fundamentally different relationship with the past.

Stepping off the plane and boarding a train for Durham, I immediately came to notice how the modern environment was constructed around that of the old. In Newcastle, as one crosses the rail bridge over the River Tyne, the most striking sight is that of the castle itself, surrounded by modern constructions. Indeed, no matter where one looks, structures and artifacts are pervasive, and many continue today as functional entities. This is something that is not apparent in the US. Certainly, we have our Mount Vernon’s and our Monticello’s, but these are unique places that have been preserved as specific examples and sit in isolation, almost as museum pieces. The rest, be it Colonial or Native American, is all too often destroyed or ignored.

I experienced a similar, albeit far more profound phenomenon as I traveled to Istanbul to speak with a professor at Koç University. As
an ancient city, one cannot walk anywhere in Istanbul without being confronted with some part of antiquity. Having studied Turkish archaeology, I was already well acquainted with the amounts of money the Turkish Government had thrown at archaeological investigation in past years. But what struck me particularly was the level of pride and engagement I saw in speaking with local people. Being surrounded by the past created a fundamental sense of belonging for them.

**Mike's view of the first snows in Durham 2011.**

So, as I boarded the plane to return home with my shiny new education, I came to the realization that while my professors were excellent archaeologists and had taught me well, the greater experience came from living in and amongst the creations of a time long past. The University of Durham is situated in an old cathedral town, built to protect the bones of St. Cuthbert from Viking raiders. It is not a big place and that makes the effect all the more acute. As you awaken and are faced with a view of the castle and cathedral, structures which have stood for the better part of a millennium and will continue to stand long into the future, there is a distinct sense of connectedness and belonging, a sensation that you are not simply passing through time, but are in fact a part of it.

**Editor's Note:** Mike Johnson recently returned to Atlanta after completing his M.A. in Archaeology from the University of Durham in the United Kingdom. Mike received his B.A. in Anthropology from the Georgia State University in 2009 and is a member of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society (GAAS).

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**2011 FALL • ARCHAEOBUS NEWS**

**Audacious Archaeology Auction items (#1)**

During the day on Saturday, meet with SGA members at the semi-annual meeting, at the Zell B. Miller Learning Center (48 Baxter Street at S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, 30605) on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens. All meeting information is online here. See other sample auction items: list #2 (ceramic pieces), list #3 (silver and bronze), list #4 (special bags), list #5 (eco-tour), list #6 (leg lamp and household), list #7 (vintage and historic).
Like birds? Here is a unique way to cool your room. This brand-new robin is actually a decorative fan that can be used in your home or office.

You are invited! Come out for an adventurous evening and leave with a treasure!

Your good time helps support preservation of Georgia’s non-renewable cultural resources and archaeological sites.

Date

Saturday evening, October 22, 2011

Location

Terrapin Brewery, 265 Newton Bridge Road, Athens (map below)

Time

Pre-Auction Activities begin at 6:30. This includes brewery tours, beer tasting, tours of the Society’s ArchaeoBus, live music, silent auction bidding, and socializing.

Live auction begins at 8 pm (when silent auction closes).

Auctioneer

Colonel Wilbur C. Mull, Georgia Hall of Fame Auctioneer

Cost

Entry is free. Guests who wish to partake of the beer tasting can purchase a glass for $10 which entitles them to tickets for 32 ounces of beer.

Cool auction stuff!

We offer two kinds of items for both the live and the silent auctions:

1) Ethnic Objects from Around the World (no archaeological artifacts, of course), and
2) Outdoor Adventure items.
Archaeologists think of human society as very complex, meaning it has many interconnected parts. Since they focus on people—and societies—that now are gone, they look to studies of living people and societies for insights. When they look at the research and conclusions of other social scientists, they use their anthropological perspectives to gain insights.

Social scientists focus their research on society, or social behavior. Mostly they study human social behavior, but sometimes they look to other species to understand human beings. Anthropology and archaeology are social sciences.

Anthropology is the study of humans, of humanity. Anthropologists consider such questions as what makes humans humans, and how do we account for the tremendous variations in human-ness.

In the Americas, archaeology is considered a subfield of anthropology, along with socio-cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and physical or biological anthropology. Obviously, the subfields overlap. For example, archaeologists typically study research in socio-cultural anthropology and linguistics, which helps them understand how living people communicate. Physical or biological anthropologists look at fossils and bones, even chemically and microscopically, to consider genetics, adaptation, and health/disease issues.

Another field of social science is political science. Political scientists examine political behavior. Without doubt, anthropologists also examine political behavior, since it is part of human behavior. The two fields do overlap. Still, many would argue that the holistic point of view that anthropologists take provides more insights in the long run. The holistic perspective assumes that a whole, like society, is very complex, and that the parts do not exist independently of the whole, or if they were severed from the whole they would change. The whole, in holism, is not merely the sum of its parts.

Let’s look at an example.

Anthropologist Thomas Barfield began his research in Afghanistan in the 1970s when he lived with nomads wandering the northern part of the country. After twenty-five years, he revisited the group, finding they had prospered. In his 2010 book, Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History (Princeton University Press; introduction available as a PDF), Barfield brings his holistic anthropological perspective to analyzing that country. He considers what he learned from people he met and what he learned from history as he examines modern Afghanistan. From both perspectives, it is clear that “the outstanding social feature of life in Afghanistan is its local tribal or ethnic divisions” (page 18). Barfield notes:

Political scientists often give primacy to individuals, political parties, and ideologies in their studies. Those that employ models of “rational choice” assume that individuals always try to maximize their interests or minimize their pain when it comes to making decisions. When people are presented with the same alternatives, they will respond in the same way whether you are in Kansas or the Qandahar. Anthropologists are less keen on this approach and its assumptions, not because they are familiar with societies in which group interest regularly trumps individual interest. That is, individuals support decisions made by their group even when such support has negative consequences for themselves. Anthropologists also believe that cost-benefit calculations are shaped by cultural predispositions about what is considered important. [page 17]

This distinction between group and individual interest priorities is a huge cultural difference between tribal peoples/Afghanistan and modern Americans/the USA. As you consider peoples known only archaeologically, what evidence do you think gives evidence of whether group or individual interests were prioritized?

The final sentence of the above paragraph is:

In an aristocratic society where honor is the highest ideal, the willingness to die to preserve it strikes observers as noble; in a commercial society where money takes precedence, such behavior is considered lunacy.

What archaeological evidence would lead an archaeologist to conclude that a society prioritized honor—or prioritized money?
Submitted by **Sammy Smith** (sammy@thesga.org)

Speaking of artifacts and Athens, **plan to attend the SGA’s fund-raising auction on 22 October 2011** at the Terrapin Brewery (265 Newton Bridge Road, Athens). Pre-auction activities begin at 6:30pm, and include brewery tours, beer tasting, tours of the ArchaeoBus, music by live band, silent auction bidding, and socializing. The live auction begins at 8pm, when the silent auction closes. Both auctions feature ethnic objects from around the world (no **archaeological** artifacts, of course) and outdoor adventure items. For more on the auction and SGA’s fall meeting, [click here](#).

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**Many visitors note that the cannon is positioned pointing northward.**

Visit the corner of Hancock and College Avenues on the highest hilltop in downtown Athens and on the grounds of the old city hall, and check out the famous Athens double-barreled cannon.

The idea was that both barrels would be fired simultaneously. With the cannonballs connected with a chain, the idea was that the chain would mow down whatever was in its path, creating more destruction than the cannonballs alone.

Unfortunately for its promoters, the cannon was a failure. Ponder how the exigencies of warfare have advanced technologies.

Read more about the story of the double-barreled cannon in its [Wikipedia entry](#).

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Lamar Institute to dig at Fort Hawkins**

Submitted by **Kelly Woodard** (kelly@thesga.org)
Macon.com contributing writer Jim Gaines featured a story August 30, 2011, regarding the Lamar Institute’s renewal of their 2005 dig at Fort Hawkins. The article mainly addresses the call for volunteers at the site from October 10 through 28, 2011. Lamar Institute President Daniel Elliott is looking for about twenty-four volunteers who can work at least five days, front $150 to cover basics and insurance, and those with field experience.

To read the full article click here.

To find out more information regarding the Fort Hawkins site and past archaeological field excavations, please check out Fort Hawkins 2005-2007 Field Seasons: LAMAR Institute Research Publication Series Report Number 124.

(photo courtesy of the Fort Hawkins Historic Site)

EVENTS INFORMATION • GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

GAAS September meeting featuring Archaeologist Dr. Glover discussing The Maritime Maya
Submitted by Allen Vegotsky (Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society)

Welcome back to a new year of exciting archaeological talks beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 13th, with Dr. Jeffrey Glover of Georgia State University’s Department of Anthropology as our initial speaker. His talk will is titled The Maritime Maya: Recent Interdisciplinary Investigations at the Ancient Maya Port Site of Vista Alegre.

We have scheduled an optional informal dinner with the speaker and his students at Los Loros (Mexican appropriately) at 5:30 PM. (Let me know if you plan to be at the dinner so I can reserve sufficient space for the group.) The restaurant is on Clairmont Road in a small shopping area just south and west of the intersection with N. Decatur Rd. Dr. Glover’s talk will begin at 7 PM at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon.

The talk will cover Dr. Jeffrey Glover’s recent archaeological investigations at the ancient Maya port site of Vista Alegre. Located along the north coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, the work of Glover and colleagues is shedding light on this little known section of coastline.

This past field season, a conference sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Ocean Exploration and Research program, brought together an international team of scholars to address a broad array of research questions focused on coastal ecology, hydrogeology, geoarchaeology, biological anthropology, along with more traditional archaeological inquiries. While we are still waiting on the analysis of many of the samples, Glover will highlight the benefits of this interdisciplinary project and discuss our current understanding of the site’s history, ranging from c. 800/700 BC to the 16th century AD.

EVENTS INFORMATION • NORTHWEST GEORGIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NWGAS September meeting: Geoarchaeological Studies of Mounds-An Example from Etowah
Submitted by Jim Langford (Northwest Georgia Archaeology Society)

Greetings to Friends of Georgia Archaeology!!

We will have our next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northwest Georgia Archaeology Society on next Thursday, Sept. 8th, at New Echota Historic Site. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. All members of the public are invited. Admission is free.

Our meeting will feature a very interesting presentation by Dr. Ervan Garrison, professor of Anthropology and Geology at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Garrison’s talk is entitled “Geoarchaeological Studies of Mounds – An Example from Etowah”. This presentation will feature the results of Dr. Garrison’s studies of new technologies for determining the manner of construction of mounds such as Mound A at the Etowah site.

“Erv” led two research projects over the past 12 years – joint projects between the Clemson University and the University of Georgia – at the Etowah Mounds that focused on using geophysical and sediment coring techniques. This work was done in cooperation with the Muskoge Nation. Drs. Adam King, Dan Bigman, and Chet Walker also participated in this study.

Erv is a native of Oklahoma and received his undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Arkansas. He earned his PhD degree at the University of Missouri. Over the past 40 years, Erv has authored and co-authored several books and research papers regarding archaeology and geology. He has held positions at the University of Missouri, the University of Arkansas, and Texas A&M University. He has been at the University of Georgia since 1992 – becoming a full professor in 1999.

The New Echota Historic Site is located on Hwy. 225 at Exit 317 off of I-75. When going north on I-75, turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp and go about ½ mile to the New Echota site on the right.
Help save UGA’s Rutherford Hall

Submitted by Inger Wood (ingerwood@gmail.com)

Get busy! Attend this meeting tonight!

UGA’s Student Historic Preservation Organization, along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, and other interested parties, have been trying to change the minds of our University Architects concerning the fate of Rutherford Hall, a dorm on the Myers Quad.

Rutherford Hall was constructed by the Public Works Administration in 1939 as the 3rd dormitory on campus to house women. Citing indeterminate high costs of repairs and the need for more student housing as reasons, UGA wants to demolish the historic building and replace it with a larger dormitory that would contain 100 more beds.

According to state procedure concerning buildings that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the UGA Architects sent notice to Georgia DNR HPD of their intent to demolish Rutherford. In their response, HPD disapproved of the decision and asked to meet with UGA Architects to discuss alternative options such as rehabilitation and compatible additions that would preserve the historic qualities of Rutherford and the quad it faces. Thus far, UGA has declined. An online petition to save Rutherford was created, and as soon as we had 500 signatures, we sent it to President Adams. The media has taken notice, but we have gotten no response from UGA.

A request was also made of UGA to hold a hearing to allow the public to voice their opinions for or against the demolition of Rutherford Hall. UGA posted notice of a public hearing in Friday’s Athens Banner-Herald. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 6:30pm, at the UGA Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, 315 Riverbend Road.

A sign-up sheet will be outside of the meeting room until 6:15 for anyone who wishes to voice their opinion.

Please help us fill seats at this meeting!

Read more here on the Online Athens website of the Athens Banner-Herald.

Step right up! Help at the 2011 Georgia National Fair
Volunteers Tom Gresham (left), Allen Vegotsky (center), and JC Burns (right) prepare an interactive display table for the 2010 Georgia National Fair.

Come One, Come All! Step Right Up! Be an exciting part of the Georgia National Fair!

The Society for Georgia Archaeology is now recruiting volunteers to present Abby the ArchaeoBus at the Georgia National Fair. The ArchaeoBus is a fun mobile classroom and museum containing hands-on interactives inside and out. The 2011 Georgia National Fair in Perry runs from Thursday, October 6 through Sunday, October 16.

No experience is necessary, but volunteers must be dedicated to the ethics of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). [SAA requires that archaeological sites and artifacts be excavated under supervision of professional archaeologists using accepted scientific methods and standards. Artifacts are not sold or kept, but placed as a collection with a museum or university.]

We currently are recruiting volunteers for all days and time slots. Fair hours are 8am to 10pm, which means setup begins at 7am and breakdown starts in earnest at 10pm. Shifts generally run from 7am-3pm and 3pm-11pm (with a break for food-funnel cakes, sausage and peppers, corn dogs, BBQ chicken, fried pickles, of course!). While working one or more shifts will be greatly appreciated, we understand that not everyone can work those allotted times.

Click here to email Rita Elliot (or call her at 912.826.5214) to make your reservation or if you have questions. Don’t delay as the slots will fill up fast! Volunteers will receive a free ticket for each day a shift is worked, along with a wonderful experience and exciting stories to regale friends in years to come.

Come work the fair and learn its inner secrets—be the carny that you’ve always dreamed of being for a few days! Join the elite society of the Abby the ArchaeoBus Fair Crew, the few, the proud, the Abbyites!

Read stories about the 2010 Georgia National Fair by clicking here.

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Highlights from the August 2011 Board Meeting

Submitted by Catherine Long (sgapres@thesga.org)

Board Member Inger Wood (standing) and SGA President Catherine Long (right) listen to presentation by Terry Jackson.

Members of the SGA leadership met Saturday afternoon, 27 August 2011, in the Georgia Room at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon.

The Board Members and Officers are pleased to announce that online membership renewals and donations will soon be a part of this website. Thanks to research by Sammy Smith, this goal will be accomplished in the next few months. This will be a fantastic addition
to our engaging website allowing members to renew and new members to pay their dues online. Keep checking this website for this new option!

Working closely with the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, Terry Jackson will assist in the preparation of the submission for the Resources in Risk Plan by the Atlanta Regional Commission. His suggestions and the contributions of professional archaeologists represented by both groups have led to a suitable recommendation.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities are on the horizon as the SGA plans for a very busy fall season. October 1st is the annual CoastFest program and is being organized by Kevin Kiernan. Last year over 7000 people attended and had the opportunity to meet Abby the ArchaeoBus and participate in hands-on activities to learn about archaeology. Look for the ArchaeoBus at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, from October 6–16; we need volunteers to assist with the ArchaeoBus and discuss archaeology with students of all ages. If you are available, Rita Elliott would love to sign you up. What can be more fun than catching up with colleagues and eating good festival food?

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the SGA Fall Meeting in Athens on Saturday, October 22. This meeting is a general session and all papers are considered. Please write Lynn Pietak if you are interested in making a 15–20 minute presentation.

Final details will be forthcoming on this website for a live auction fund-raiser to be held that evening.

For more on this meeting, click here. You may wish to consult the SGA's online calendar for another version of this information, and links to maps to aid your travel planning.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • WEEKLY PONDER

Camp Lawton artifact news

Submitted by Sammy Smith (sammy@thesga.org)

In mid-August 2011, Georgia Southern University released a story on artifacts from Camp Lawton, a Confederate prisoner of war camp near Millen. This story is drawn from that information. For more artifact photographs, go to Camp Lawton on the web here. SGA Board Member Matthew Newberry kindly forwarded this information to the SGA website.

Georgia Southern University's archaeology team continues to unearth unique, priceless artifacts from the site of the largest prison camp of the Civil War.

Georgia Southern University has announced that the team has discovered more personal belongings of Union soldiers held captive in Camp Lawton, a Confederate prisoner of war camp located just outside of Millen in what is now Magnolia Springs State Park. Camp Lawton was constructed in 1864 by the Confederate Army to replace Georgia’s notorious Andersonville prison. Camp Lawton housed more than 10,000 Union prisoners and hundreds of Confederate soldiers. But, the camp was only occupied for six weeks before evacuations began in the middle of the night on November 26, 1864, as the Union army approached during Sherman’s March to the Sea. The latest artifacts that have been found include a ring, a corps badge, keys to furniture and doors, suspenders buckles and a pocket knife.

“The amount of artifacts and the variety of artifacts we are finding at this site is stunning,” said Georgia Southern archaeology professor and director of the project Dr. Sue Moore. Dr. Moore is a past President of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. “Eighteen months ago, the conventional wisdom was that anything of historical value at the site of Camp Lawton had been lost, looted or destroyed. When we originally announced our discovery of artifacts last year, we knew we had found items that would unlock many of the secrets of life in the prison camp. But, we cannot help but be amazed at what we continue to find at the site.”

The newest artifacts to be discovered will join the current Camp Lawton exhibit in the Georgia Southern Museum. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is the custodian of the artifacts, which belong to the American people. The new artifacts will go on display October 11, 2011.

Researchers found the trade token pictured here, a substitute for currency, at Camp Lawton. Do you think the soldier who carried it
This 1863 token found at Camp Lawton was issued by C.A. Colby & Co. Wholesale Groceries and Bakery of Niles, Michigan, and had a one-cent value. Artifact photography by Amanda L. Morrow, Georgia Southern University.

was from Michigan? Do you think he carried the token for its one-cent value, or as a memento? Why do you think this trade token appears in the Camp Lawton archaeological record?

Read more about Camp Lawton findings on this website here. Read about the beginnings of the archaeological investigations, including a ground-penetrating radar study, here.

JUST FOR KIDS • TEACHER/STUDENT

Georgia Flashback: A learning tool for Georgia students

Submitted by Teresa Lotti (tlotti@dot.ga.gov)

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) includes in its mission statement a provision for environmental stewardship, and the Office of Environmental Services, Cultural Resources Section fulfills this mission through a variety of projects and public outreach initiatives. One such initiative is Georgia Flashback, which was designed to complement an archaeological mitigation. The game was conceived and developed by GDOT archaeologist, Teresa Lotti and GDOT historian, Sandy Lawrence, but could not have been realized without the help of the Federal Highway Administration (Atlanta Division), Georgia Department of Education, consultant programmers, and prominent Georgia statesmen and athletes.

Guided by the new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), Georgia Flashback was developed to enhance the 8th grade Georgia history curriculum through a medium that would capture the imagination of children while providing a meaningful learning experience. For teachers, the game is flexible as it can be used to enhance the value of instruction for individual periods of history during the course of the school year or it can be used in its entirety at the end of the school year to gauge how much a student has learned. In addition, the website includes lesson plans and thorough "Learn More" sections to supplement curriculum.

Georgia Flashback's official roll-out is August 2011. Incoming 8th graders in every public school across Georgia will be introduced to the game through a poster featuring President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Congressman John Lewis, and Olympic gold medalist Angelo Taylor. Through Georgia Flashback, GDOT hopes to inspire a long lasting appreciation for Georgia and its storied history.

Visit the Georgia Flashback website for lesson plans and more information. Playing Georgia Flashback requires software that runs
In May and June several Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society (GAAS) members and members of other SGA chapters volunteered at the Topper site in Allendale County, South Carolina. The Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey (SEPAS) site is a well known Clovis site and (with some debate) preClovis site on the Savannah River. During the first week in June five GAAS members worked and camped among 60 volunteers and staff. Many GAAS volunteers have participated in SEPAS for a number of years. Longtime volunteer and GAAS treasurer Carol Reed was present the entire five week season and lent first aid support as needed. Excavation work included digging in the Clovis and preClovis units in the Pleistocene terrace and sands and hillside Clovis units, screening and documenting artifact location.

Archaeological inquiries this summer included the geographic extend of the Clovis occupation and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating in the Pleistocene terrace where preClovis artifacts have been found. OSL results should be available by the 2012 season. GAAS volunteers were able to observe the sample extraction procedure at several depths including those in which sediments have already been radiocarbon dated to at least 50,000 years before the present. In the evenings participants attended site supervisor updates and lectures from staff, graduate students and visiting archaeologist.

Volunteers during the first two weeks of the season were able to screen artifacts at the dredge operation at the Big Pine Tree site. According to Dr. Al Goodyear, Director of SEPAS, “Dredge work over the years has resulted in a scientifically significant collection of artifacts concerning this ancient multicomponent site, most of which unfortunately has eroded into the creek. It has a major Clovis occupation and is the largest Dalton site now known on the SC
GAAS members/Fernbank Museum of Natural History volunteers bid a fond hasta luego (see you later) to our colleague and friend Dennis Blanton at a farewell reception at the Fernbank Museum on June 8, 2011. For several years as many as ten GAAS volunteers have been privileged to work with Dennis and his staff in the archaeology lab processing "Points of Contact" artifacts and the extensive St. Catherine's Island collection artifacts. Recent lab work included cleaning, sorting, and recording lithic and ceramic artifacts and cleaning and preparing field tools. Working as an archaeology volunteer provides a special educational opportunity as Dennis and staff share their latest findings and conclusions as well as soliciting volunteers' own conclusions about the sites.

Volunteers worked under the direction of professional staff in the field in South Georgia under the Fernbank and National Geographic Society banner. GAAS members dug and screened at the council house units, and aided in metal detection and preparation for a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey in the proposed De Soto contact site at the Glass site in Telfair County last year. Last fall GAAS volunteers worked with professional staff and students from Georgia State and the University of Georgia conducting shovel test at another Points of Contacts site in southwest Georgia. The extensive shovel tests found late Mississippian artifacts surrounding numerous mounds in what appears to be a major settlement.

GAAS will greatly miss Dennis Blanton, who has provided professional leadership to our Chapter for several years and has served as President. He is off to Costa Rica, where he will no doubt become involved in new adventures in archaeology. Thanks Dennis!! You brought us much knowledge and the joy of discovery and we will never forget you. Replacing Dennis as President of GAAS will be Lyn Kirkland, who has been a member of GAAS for over 20 years.

In GAAS Lyn has served as Program Chair and on the Board several times. She has been a volunteer in the Fernbank archeology lab for 3 years and helped develop the unit on archaeology for the Michael C. Carlos Museum. In addition, Lyn has helped with Archaeology Day at the Carlos and Fernbank museums, and, has taught stimulating classes on the Maya culture at Evening at Emory for about 7 years. Aside from participating on digs conducted by GAAS in past decades, she has worked at the Topper site in South Carolina, and participated in four Earthwatch archaeology digs: the Roman fort in South Shields, England near Hadrian’s Wall; a Bronze Age site on Majorca; Mammoth Cave; and a bronze and Iron Age site in Thailand near Phi Mi. We appreciate all that our new President brings to the table.

Submitted by Jack T. Wynn (jtmfwynn@windstream.net)

“Archaeology is the most fun you can have with your clothes on!”

David Hurst Thomas (and probably others) caught our attention with this comment on his life’s pursuit. Many others of us feel this way. Yes, it’s hard, hot, cold, dirty, uncomfortable work, often in really unpleasant situations. Oh, but the rewards, the “Ah-ha!” moments, when we find something new, or make a connection between long-abandoned things and people’s past behaviors, make it all worthwhile!

Most of us in archaeology work for companies, agencies, foundations, or universities, and get paid for our efforts on a regular basis. However there are many folks who don’t. They are the volunteers who make things fly—and fun—for the rest of us. I’ve been in archaeology for over 40 years, and for more than 30 of them, I’ve had the pleasure of working with amateurs who give of their time, labor and almost overwhelming enthusiasm to the job, day in and day out. Some have absolutely no experience, and others have been volunteering in archaeology for years.

All through my career, I’ve met folks who, when I tell them I’m an archaeologist, say “Oooh, I’ve always been interested in archaeology, but never had a chance to do anything about it.” Whenever possible I would tell them that archaeology is a field of research, like astronomy, in which knowledgeable amateurs can make contributions to science themselves. Volunteers, working with experienced professionals, make important contributions all the time. The Society for Georgia Archaeology is one of the channels through which people can learn about the past in their area. They participate in the field or laboratory research that advances our general knowledge of past human conditions, successes, and failures, in dealing with the natural environment. Plus it’s fun! Nothing beats seeing the smile on someone’s face when they lift up an artifact that was made and lost by someone 5000 years ago, and has lain untouched until they found it!

Working together, volunteers of all ages have learned about the life-ways of people from the Archaic period through the early 20th century in the Passport In Time programs of the Forest Service, in Georgia and across the country. Members of SGA Chapters work with professionals to find and interpret the past in their areas. Hundreds of volunteers have worked with Dr. Al Goodyear on the Topper Site in South Carolina over the years to expand our views of the earliest Paleoindian settlers in the Southeastern North America.

If you have any doubts, or if you have been wondering what you could do in archaeology, then contact the SGA leadership, or members of the SGA Chapter in your area, and find out what’s going on in archaeology in your neighborhood.
My sincere thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have helped keep the pursuit of archaeology alive, vibrant, and fun for me for all these years! Please keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Jack T. Wynn, PhD, Dahlonega

ONLINE NEWS AND RESEARCH • WEEKLY PONDER

In the National Park System, cultural resources “are in serious trouble”

Submitted by Sammy Smith (sammy@thesga.org)

National Parks in the USA preserve archaeological resources. Right?

Yes!

A June 2011 report from the Center for Park Research of the National Parks Conservation Association, titled The State of America’s National Parks, says:

Within the 394 national parks, the National Park Service holds in trust nearly 27,000 historic buildings, 3,500 historic statues and monuments, an estimated 2 million archaeological sites, and 123 million museum objects and archival documents—collections bested only by the Smithsonian Institution’s assemblage of museums. [page 23]

The report (also on page 23) goes on to note that because of the assistance that the National Park Service offers federal agencies, state and local governments, and even the private sector, it “is the closest thing the United States has to a heritage ministry.”

Management and policy within the National Parks tends to emphasize “natural and scenic wonders,” which means that “heritage preservation too often has played second fiddle” (page 24), the report states.

Overall, researchers found that cultural resources in the National Park System—considered the most important to our country’s heritage—are in serious trouble. In fact, these places and collections are being maintained in a condition well below the level that the National Park Service itself has deemed appropriate. In 91 percent of the parks we surveyed, cultural resources were found to be in “fair” or “poor” condition.... None merited an “excellent” rating. And the weaknesses are widespread. The problems affecting cultural resources occur across park designations and across regional divisions. [page 25]

This is not a trivial matter. The report continues on page 30:

The absence of resource documentation and planning documents denies our heritage the protection—and prioritization—it needs to withstand the rigors of time. More importantly, the National Park Service has failed to develop either a holistic national process for assessing cultural resources nationwide, or a strategic vision for its heritage and cultural resource management responsibilities. None currently exists; none is planned.

While some parks and archaeological resource programs are exemplary, too often these responsibilities are overlooked in budgets, and consequently in hiring and program development. Thus, regarding archaeological resources, the report says (page 33), “The greatest threat to parks' cultural resources is lack of focused management.”

As of December 2010, Georgia has 11 National Parks, 3 National Heritage Areas, 10 National Natural Landmarks, 48 National Historic Landmarks, 920 historic places documented by the National Park Service, and 297 archeological sites in National Parks (based on a document downloaded from this webpage). In 2009, the economic benefit to the state from National Park tourism was nearly $200 million.

Given the many high-profile archaeological and historical properties in the National Park system here in Georgia, including Ocmulgee National Monument, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, and the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, you may find the report’s conclusions about problems with management of cultural resources surprising. Take a look at the full report (online here) and think about how the National Park Service might raise its profile, and thus increase its funding, in these times of strict budgeting.

The Center for Park Research study looked in detail at 80 of the 394 parks in the National Park Service system, or a 20.3% sample. To download the full report (68 pages) or the executive summary (16 pages), click over to this webpage. This analysis is based on “ten years of research on the condition of natural and cultural resources within America’s national parks.”