President’s Message: Fall 2012

Submitted by Catherine Long (sgapresident@thesga.org sgapresident@thesga.org sgapresident@thesga.org)

October is a busy but magical time of the year—with cooler temperatures and the beautiful kaleidoscope of leaf color, it is one of my favorite seasons. Nevertheless, the month of October is one of the busiest months for SGA as well. Board Member Kevin Kiernan organized the SGA’s annual participation in CoastFest and reached several thousand Georgians. This public education event provides the opportunity to share information on how archaeologists do their jobs and allows for hands-on activities too.

Don’t forget the Fall Meeting is just around the corner and will be held at the Columbus Museum! It will be an educational and exciting day that will include presentations in the morning followed by an afternoon feature a tour of the Columbus Museum and a visit to the National Civil War Naval Museum. Thank you to Susanne Newberry, Matthew Newberry, Dean Wood, Lynn Pietak and Rebecca Bush in the organization of the Fall Meeting. SGA appreciates the Columbus Museum’s willingness to host the Fall Meeting!

Online registration, membership dues, Endowment contributions, and future e-commerce remain top initiatives of the organization and will continue to be as these segments are added to the SGA website. The Board is working to establish policies for these accounts. As the fiscal year is wrapping up, I also invite you to contribute to the Endowment Fund and support SGA through your financial donation. Each contribution that is made goes toward the preservation of Georgia archaeology.

The Board Members for 2008–2012 have completed a four year term with SGA and have greatly contributed to the healthy status of the organization. We are grateful for the contributions and service of Sammy Smith, Kevin Kiernan, Lynn Pietak and Rob Moon. We appreciate the accomplishments that you have provided—a lively and current website; organized Spring and Fall Meetings, Coastfest organization; contributions to The Profile, Early Georgia, and the SGA website; recognition of annual Social Studies state fair winners, attending meetings; and more. Thank you for providing input to this organization.

I have enjoyed serving SGA as President over the past two years and am excited about the continued growth of the organization. It takes a lot of work from individuals who give of their time to carry out the objectives of the organization. It has been a worthwhile experience working with colleagues to further the mission and vision of this organization. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank my husband for his support and encouragement. He kept the family running when I was away at SGA meetings and functions. Thank you for your constant love and support!

In closing, I encourage your continued support of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. As you can see great things continue to happen and we need your participation and support to be a strong and healthy organization. I am excited about the future of SGA and I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the organization under the leadership of incoming President Tammy Herron.

Catherine Long, SGA President
2012 Fall Meeting abstracts

To learn about archaeology in Georgia, attend this Fall’s meeting of the SGA!

The SGA is proud to announce the presentations we’ll be hearing at the Fall Meeting, on Saturday, October 27th, at the Columbus Museum’s Patrick Theater. Presentations will be during the morning; we’ll tour in the afternoon. There’s a small registration fee for all attendees.

That Dam Job on the Chattahoochee River


Two National Historic Landmark mill dams on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia are being removed to restore the river to a natural state. The Eagle and Phenix dam is 1,000 feet long and 30 feet high. It is located at the fall line between Georgia and Alabama and was constructed in 1882 spanning the Great Gorge of the Chattahoochee River. The City Mills dam, built in 1901, is 500 feet long and 15 feet high and is located one mile upstream. These dams harnessed about ten percent of the estimated 20,000 net horsepower potential of the river. Behind these masonry dams are at least six earlier wooden dams, raceways and numerous other industrial features that date from 1828 to 1869. The work is revealing a continuously adapting water distribution system that delivered water power to factories allowing Columbus to rank second only to Richmond, Virginia in confederate industrial production. The industrial development of the water power potential at Columbus is distinctive as private investments rather than municipal efforts were employed. Our work is ongoing and includes underwater archaeological surveys before the dams are breached, pedestrian archaeological surveys of the newly exposed river bed, Level One HAER documentation, 3D laser scans, dendrochronology and public history components.

Atlanta Swift Creek

Dylan Woodliff, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

The Dog Wallow Site, 9DA413, located on the South Fork of Peachtree Creek, has yielded a wealth of Middle Woodland ceramics, which have been carefully salvaged by citizens of nearby neighborhoods. The resulting collection of experiences and artifacts represents an affirmation of the value of avocational collectors working alongside professionals, ongoing community stewardship of a well-loved natural and cultural resource, and a remarkable assemblage of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped ceramics. The designs of many of the Swift Creek paddle stamps from Dog Wallow have been reproduced, adding to the growing catalogue of Swift Creek designs. One design in particular exhibits strong stylistic and symbolic similarities with Adena tablature. Cultural and stylistic implications of these designs within the Georgia Piedmont are briefly addressed. Finally, research trajectories for the Dog Wallow Site are charted for the future.

Prehistoric Usage of Quartz Crystals and Clear Quartz

Scot Keith, New South Associates

Quartz crystals and clear quartz artifacts are occasionally found on prehistoric Native American archaeological sites in Georgia. Such items have been found at a variety of sites, from small lithic scatters to large ceremonial sites. In this presentation, I discuss the archaeological contexts of several occurrences of these artifacts and consider them in relation to the ethnohistory regarding southeastern Native American cultures’ usage and beliefs of these materials.

Georgia Archaeology’s Good Friends & the Chattahoochee Legacy of the Columbus Museum

Pamela J. Baughman, GDOT

This presentation will provide a quick overview to recognize some of the individual personalities who have advocated for and contributed to an understanding of Georgia prehistory in the areas of Columbus and the Chattahoochee River Valley. In addition, the sites that have contributed data to Georgia archaeology will be profiled as well as the institution that houses the “legacy” of these sites in its permanent exhibit on regional history.

Singer-Moye, Unknown Prehistoric Gem of the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley

Stefan Brannan and Jessica Cook Hale
Singer-Moye is a large prehistoric site located on Pataula Creek in Stewart County, Georgia, which contains eight mounds and was occupied intermittently for thousands of years. This paper will concentrate on the settlement history of the late prehistoric period (A.D. 1000-1550). I will discuss changes in community organization based on the results from a combination of shallow geophysical and shovel test survey, coupled with the preliminary analysis of ceramics to refine the local chronology in order to distinguish meaningful characteristics from different time periods. The data indicate that Singer-Moye experienced a complex and variable occupational history.

“I Remember, I Believe”—A Documentary of the Avondale Burial Place

Sara Gale, Sharman Southall, and Chad Carlson, GDOT

J.W. Joseph, Hugh B. Matternes, and Valerie Davis, New South Associates

“I Remember, I Believe” is a video documentary of the archaeology of the African American Avondale Burial Place and its descendant community. Prepared by GDOT, New South Associates, and Georgia Public Broadcasting and funded by the FHWA, the 33-minute video will be aired at the SGA Fall Meeting with a brief introduction.

To access a printable version of these abstracts, click here. For all the stories on this SGA meeting, click here.

SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Second donation gratefully received from Lacy Foundation

The Society for Georgia Archaeology has received a generous donation from The Lacy Foundation this month.

We are very excited to share this news with you as these funds will help support the initiatives of the organization in the preservation of Georgia’s archaeological sites and education about the importance of our archaeological resources. It is a special gift as this is the second year they have supported the organization.

As you know SGA volunteers are diligently working to establish an online presence for SGA membership and supporters to register for annual meetings, renew or join the SGA membership, and contribute donations. We hope to have these implemented before the end of the year. We appreciate your patience during this process.

This being said, we invite you as the year winds down to consider making a donation to the SGA’s Endowment Fund and, like The Lacy Foundation, you can support the mission and vision of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. We greatly appreciate your continued support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS • GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

September 2012 issue of GARS newsletter available

Read about the activities of the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS), a Chapter of the SGA based in Gwinnett County in their newsletter, Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin. Access a PDF of the September issue by clicking here.

The issue has stories about upcoming plans for the Frontier Faire, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 20–21 October 2012, and other activities of the Chapter. Plan to attend the Frontier Faire, and enjoy exhibits and more!

GARS has its own Internet domain; click here to go to the GARS website. Read all stories on this website about GARS by clicking here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY • ONLINE NEWS AND RESEARCH • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

2012 Fort Daniel Frontier Faire scheduled for 20–21 October

Submitted by Leslie Perry (lpdigsite@netscape.net)

The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS), a Chapter of SGA, and the Friends of Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF), will host their annual Fort Daniel Frontier Faire on Saturday, October 20 from 10am to 5pm, and Sunday, October 21 from 11am to 4pm.

The 1813 frontier fort is located on Hog Mountain in Gwinnett County at 2505 Braselton Highway, Buford, near the corner of Gravel Springs Road (see map below). Free parking is located across the street.

Enjoy a museum display, Trading Post, face painting, archaeological tour, refreshments, blacksmith, and other vendors.
Admission is open to the public at $2 per person or $5 per family.

Mark your calendar!

Click here to access a PDF announcing the Frontier Faire.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • ON THE LEVEL • WEEKLY PONDER

Learning about the past: Jefferson Davis
Submitted by Catherine Long (diggergirl77@gmail.com)

As I ventured out into traffic to navigate my way through Atlanta and the ubiquitous immobility of rush hour, I was thrilled to arrive several hours later unscathed and without any trouble—to the other side of Macon. I journeyed to join fellow colleagues for the August Board Meeting at South Georgia College in Douglas, Georgia.

During my leisurely drive (after leaving Atlanta), I enjoyed the agricultural surroundings and especially the opportunity to visit the Jefferson Davis Historic Site. This site is located in the small town of Irwinville and features a singular building that houses artifacts from the Civil War, related materials of the Davis family, a short trail and picnic facilities. I viewed the 18-minute film and discovered that the somewhat common story of Davis’ capture was not historically accurate. As Davis began his trek across South Carolina and into Georgia on his way to Texas, he met up with his family who was sent ahead. At the time of his capture by Union forces on May 9, 1865, it was reported that the soldiers found Jefferson Davis dressed in women’s clothes in an attempt to disguise himself.

The visitor learns that this was not an accurate account of history as shared in the Harper’s Weekly publication at the time. A firsthand account of the Confederate leader’s capture was provided by one of the Union soldiers. This led to the correct interpretation of the event and may be enlightening to visitors.

Taking a trip to south Georgia is a fun experience. I encourage you to visit these great historic sites across Georgia and examine the artifacts on display that shed light into the interpretation of the event. What a unique experience to see history come alive through the remains of the past.

The Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site is now operated by Irwin County and is open Wednesday–Sunday 9AM–5PM. Please call (229) 831-2335 to confirm hours and prices. To learn more about this Historic Site please click here.
August Board Meeting: In detail
Submitted by Catherine Long (diggergirl77@gmail.com)

The Society for Georgia Archaeology held a Summer Board Meeting at South Georgia College, in Douglas, on Friday, August 17th. Board Members and Officers enjoyed the lovely campus of the college and are grateful to Frankie Snow, Dwight Kirkland, and Vicki Giddens in making these arrangements. A four-hour block of time was set aside to conduct Society business and discuss upcoming initiatives and programs.

Early discussion began with considerations for the 2013 Archaeology Month Theme and the decision was to celebrate its 20th anniversary with the focus on the preservation of archaeological sites. A suggestion was made that the Spring Meeting be held in Macon.

The ArchaeoBus will attend CoastFest again this year and Kevin Kiernan is seeking volunteers to assist in this effort. It is a great opportunity to visit with locals on the coast and continue SGA’s mission of public outreach and education. Last year, over 9000 attendees learned about the importance of preserving archaeological sites and some of the interesting information that archaeologists can gather during their research!

The Nominating Committee provided the attendees with a brief update on the status of the new slate of Board Members and received additional suggestions for future ones as well. These new members will be voted on and become active at the Fall Meeting.

The website continues to be an exciting part of the organization and is critical to its current and continued professionalism and communication to SGA members and the general public. Discussion ensued on the importance of having more depth in the volunteers who assist in the posting of new stories. Three volunteers are currently in the training process under the guidance of Sammy Smith. There continues to be a need for new postings, especially on local archaeological research. To assist with the organization of the information that is needed, a suggestion was made to post the deadline dates for the publications of the organization, the e-newsletter The Profile and our Early Georgia journal. Our SGA calendar will be updated with these deadlines and may be useful to those individuals who would like to submit an article for either publication.

The SGA is pleased to announce that it will be moving forward with using the website to publish color images to complement stories published in Early Georgia articles. The SGA invites you to consider this option as you make plans to publish your current archaeological research. To learn more, please email the Early Georgia Editor, Jared Wood, by clicking here. (In addition, information for authors is online here.)

Thank you to those Board Members and Officers who were able to attend the meeting. We look forward to continuing the action plan set forth and hope to see everyone at the Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 27 in Columbus!

Read another, shorter, story—with a photo—about this meeting by clicking here.
For four hours on the afternoon of Friday, August 17th, 2012, the SGA Board and Officers met in the large classroom in Stubbs Hall on the campus of South Georgia College, in Douglas.

The SGA Board and Officers typically meet four times each year. Two meetings are in conjunction with the SGA Spring and Fall Meetings. The other two meetings are held in the summer and winter, not surprisingly.

This meeting was scheduled so attendees could stay over in Douglas and join members of SOGART, the South Georgia Archaeological Research Team, for their annual meeting. SOGART is a Chapter of the SGA. SOGART is unusual among the SGA’s Chapters for its focus on research and exchange of research information. Their annual meeting this year was called the 2012 Symposium on Southeastern Coastal Plain Archaeology.

As an organization, the SGA leadership manages the activities we’ve undertaken to attain the Society’s goals and mission. In addition, the leadership responds to emergencies and other events as they arise that are important to our organization. For these reasons, holding more than the required two meetings per year is important to the nimbleness and efficiency of the SGA.

The leadership discussed upcoming meetings and decided on a topic/focus for next year’s Archaeology Month (stay tuned to this website), funding for the ArchaeoBus, problems with getting contributions for Early Georgia and The Profile (send in your stories, articles, and ideas soon!), and many other issues of Old and New Business.

The SGA is a volunteer organization. Please join the SGA and then volunteer to help the SGA reach its goals!

Read another, longer, story with more details about this meeting by clicking here.

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY • WEEKLY PONDER**

**GAAS visits Stewart County**

Submitted by Lyn B. Kirkland and Elizabeth Allan (lkirkla@aol.com)

On Friday, June 29, 2012, twenty-plus members of the GAAS (the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society, a Chapter of the SGA)—professional and avocational archaeologists—and their guests visited several notable locations in Lumpkin, Stewart County, in Southwest Georgia: the Bedingfield Inn, the Hatchett Drug Store Museum, and the Singer/Moye archaeological site, a complex of nine Mississippian mounds, which now belongs to the University of Georgia. The site is currently being used for a UGA field school.

Dr. Allen Vegotsky organized the trip and acted as guide at the Hatchett Drug Store Museum where he had volunteered hundreds of hours over a period of years to inventory the over 5000 items in the museum, which had been relocated from Ft. Gaines, Georgia to Lumpkin. The Stewart County Historical Commission hosted the event, providing a delightful lunch as well as a guide for the 175-year-old Bedingfield Inn. Members of the Singer and Moye families who once owned the archaeological site before it was ceded to the Columbus Museum and then the University of Georgia, also joined GAAS members for all or part of the events. Catherine Long
joined GAAS members representing the Society of Georgia Archaeology. Professional historian, Mick Bunn, who once oversaw the Singer/Moye site for the Columbus Museum, also joined GAAS members and guests.

The Bedingfield Inn, which is located on the Courthouse Square in Lumpkin, served as a stage coach stop and Dr. Bedingfield’s office beginning in the 1830’s. The Greek Revival style structure stands on its original location. The Inn is complete with period furniture from the nineteenth century. The kitchen is separate from the main building. Visitors will see travelers’ accommodations of the period. We were intrigued by one unheated (no fireplace) room upstairs with a separate entrance where travelers who could not pay for a regular room could sleep.
Dr. Allen Vegotsky, in his alter ego as Sam Hatchett, pharmacist, guided the group through the drug store museum, discussing various patent medicines and other items sold at a drug store from the early part of the last century, including harmonicas, oil lamps, kerosene, hoof packing, and more. In the process of discussing changes in drug stores over a period of approximately 50-75 years he discussed the labs in drug stores where medicines were compounded and the contents of the medicine were processed. He also talked about the professionalization of pharmacists and learned that at one time little or no training was required—one usually learned from a mentor. In the 1930s when standards for pharmacists were changing due to government oversight, one could become a pharmacist by going to a three week crash course to complete pharmacy school and pass State Board exams.

The tour of the Singer/Moye site was conducted by Stefan Brannan, Field School Director of the University of Georgia. In spite of the 105°F weather we walked around the site observing University of Georgia field school students surveying, measuring, and shovel testing the area known as the plaza, between the mounds. Brannan and his colleagues are trying to determine, among other things, if the area is truly a plaza. He led us up the highest of the mounds, Mound A, and pointed out the area excavated by Frank Schnell and colleagues who worked there for the Columbus Museum. The finds from previous excavations have gone to the University of Georgia, and over the next few years Brannan will catalogue and interpret the artifacts. Brannan related that a relatively large number of prestige items had been found on the top of Mound A, suggesting that at one time it was used by high status individuals.

[Show as slideshow]

GAAS will resume monthly meetings at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon) in September. Meetings are always held on the second Tuesday night of the month. Visitors are always welcome. Please note that the meeting time has been changed to 6:30 PM.