President’s Message: Spring 2013
Submitted by Tammy Herron (sgapresident@thesga.org)

Spring has sprung, and the little archaeology elves are fast at work gearing up for Georgia Archaeology Month! Did you know that this year marks the twentieth year of our Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotion? With Chip Morgan serving as President, the SGA sponsored the first Georgia Archaeology Awareness Week in May 1994. If memory serves me correctly, the Spring meeting held during that year was the first SGA meeting that I attended—I’ve been hooked ever since! The meeting was held in Columbus, and we enjoyed a barbecue at Uchee Creek Lodge at Fort Benning. Later that evening, our keynote speaker, Mr. William Winn, presented an informative lecture describing Native American plant use in the Chattahoochee Valley. Saturday’s tour included visits to Roods Creek, Florence Marina State Park for a discussion of the historic town of Florence, Yuchi Town, and Fort Mitchell over in Alabama. Hopefully, our advertising efforts will be successful this year, and perhaps we will inspire a number of newcomers—just as I was 20 years ago—as well as many returning friends to once again join us for the upcoming Spring meeting in Macon. By now, each member should have received information about the meeting that will be held on Saturday, May 18th in Macon. The first half of the day will consist of presentations at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. Following the Business Meeting, we will indulge in a boxed lunch; then, head over to Ocmulgee National Monument for a tour led by Dan Bigman. The itinerary for the day can be found on the website by clicking here. I am looking forward to the presentations and to the tour at Ocmulgee, and I hope you are as well. Attendees will have time to tour the new exhibits at Ocmulgee and are encouraged to visit Fort Hawkins as well.

Our theme for Georgia Archaeology Month 2013 is “Celebrating 20 Years of Georgia Archaeology Awareness: Digging and Diving into the Past.” We feel that the theme and poster design this year will tie in nicely with the Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Georgia Public Library Service. Their themes this year include: “Dig into Reading” for children; “Beneath the Surface” for teens; and “Groundbreaking Reads” for adults. How much better could archaeology tie in than that? Materials associated with Georgia Archaeology Month will once again be distributed to middle schools across the state, and will be available online. I wish to extend special thanks to our co-sponsors for assisting in our efforts to further the Society’s vision of reaching out to all Georgians and helping them understand the significance of archaeological sites so that they support archaeological preservation, education, and research. Our co-sponsors this year are Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns, Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, Historic Preservation Division – Georgia Department of Natural Resources, LAMAR Institute, New South Associates, and TRC, Inc. Without the support of organizations such as these, we would not be able to reach as many members of the public as we do!

Visit the SGA’s website to view the calendar of events detailing lectures, exhibits, archaeology days, and tours that will be taking place around the state throughout the month of May. Please make copies and distribute them around your local area if possible. Special thanks are extended to the organizations sponsoring these interesting and informative events across the state. Sponsors for these events include the Augusta Archaeological Society, Augusta Museum of History, Chieftains Museum, Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site, Federal Highway Administration, Funk Heritage Center of Reinhardt University, Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Southern University’s Archaeology Team, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society, Magnolia Springs State Park, New South Associates, and the Twin Lakes Library System. Lectures, exhibits, archaeology days, and tours such as these serve to further the SGA’s mission to unite all persons interested in the archaeology of Georgia and to work actively to preserve, study, and interpret Georgia’s historic and prehistoric remains.

There a few other notable reasons to attend the Spring Meeting on May 18th. First, Guest Editor Sammy Smith has been working fastidiously to have the Spring issue of Early Georgia available at the meeting. The issue—The Profile Papers II—is at the printer as I am writing this article and will include selected research articles from the 1992-2009 issues of The Profile. I think it fitting that this...
publication is coming to fruition just over 20 years since The Profile Papers came into being, as well as during the time that the SGA is celebrating 20 years of Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotions across the state. Second, we are currently working on the design for a new t-shirt to commemorate the twentieth year of our Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotion! So, be there, or be square.

On a different front, I hope that you have been monitoring the progress that has been made with regard to keeping the Georgia Archives open, and wish to thank all of those who answered the Call to Action by contacting your local legislators. The Georgia Archives holds vast treasures regarding the history of the state, and these resources are vital to archaeological research in particular. The Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives has proudly announced that the bill to transfer the administration of the Georgia Archives to the Board of Regents was passed by both houses of the Georgia legislature unanimously. The transfer will be effective July 1, 2013. Many decisions wait to be made as the transfer takes effect, so please be at the ready should there be another Call to Action.

Please take time to renew your membership for 2013 if you have not already done so. In this fast-paced world it is very easy to overlook such things, and I am usually one of the guilty ones. Please remember to notify the parent organization about events that your local chapter is sponsoring, meeting times and guest speaker presentations, information about field trips to archaeological sites, and so forth. I thank you for your continued support of the SGA and look forward to seeing you in Macon!

Sincerely,
Tammy F. Herron, President

2013 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • 2013 SPRING

May 18th Spring Meeting schedule

The SGA invites you to join us at the 2013 Spring Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, 301 Cherry Street, Macon (see map below). The theme for Archaeology Month and this year’s Spring Meeting is Digging and Diving into the Past: Celebrating 20 Years of Georgia Archaeology Awareness. The SGA is proud to return to Macon to celebrate this important anniversary.

Pre-registration will be available online (click here), or at the door. If you prefer to register and pay by mail you may do so by sending in a completed registration form, which you may download by clicking here. Attendees to all SGA activities are expected to be registered (including if you just attend afternoon events). The amount is members $10, non-members $15, and students $5 (all per person). You can also sign up and pre-pay for a box lunch (i.e., Subway sandwich, chips, cookie, and a drink).

The meeting will begin with registration and check-in followed by a welcome announcement, then launch into presentations on “Research, Education, and Outreach at Georgia Archaeological Sites.” We’ll take a short break and then hear presentations on “Recent Investigations at Ocmulgee National Monument.”

We’ll have a short business meeting, offer the SGA-Georgia Ports Authority presentation “Georgia Time Capsule,” then adjourn for lunch. You must pre-pay if you want a box lunch.

We’ll reconvene at Ocmulgee National Monument, with a tour of the “Plateaus” by Dan Bigman beginning at 1:30 PM. Then, attendees will be on their own to visit the newly renovated NPS Museum or visit Dunlap Hill (with the Mississippian period Dunlap Mound and the Historic Dunlap House) to the north of the Museum. Attendees are also invited to visit Fort Hawkins near the Monument.

A PDF of the schedule, with event times, for the SGA’s 2013 Spring meeting can be accessed by clicking here. The presenters and their titles and abstracts are:

Jim D’Angelo, The Search for Fort Peachtree

The symbolic importance of Fort Peachtree for the history of Atlanta is well known. However, the exact location of this iconic fort has only been guessed at by historians and archaeologists working in the vicinity of the Indian village of Standing Peachtree where, according to contemporary eye-witness accounts, the fort was located. Re-examination of those original accounts in light of a trove of new documents found at the National Archives during the summer of 2012 has shed new and corrective light on this old story. This presentation deals not only with the location of the fort, but with new facts about Fort Daniel’s role in the venture, new details about the date and construction of Peachtree Road, surprising new information about the construction of a flatboat and a skiff used in an experimental supply run down the Chattahoochee to General Floyd’s supply base at Fort Mitchell, and new details concerning the context of this entire venture.

Pat Garrow, Dating the Cave Spring Cabin

The Cave Spring cabin was identified in 2010 when wooden siding was removed from what had been known since 1902 as the Green Hotel building in downtown Cave Spring, Georgia. The cabin was revealed as a two-story log structure, and there was immediate speculation that it dated prior to Cherokee Removal. Subsequent historical research failed to place improvements on the property prior to Removal. Limited archaeological excavations conducted by Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA) in December, 2012, utilizing volunteer labor recovered an artifact sample from the rear of the Cabin that was suitable for dating its construction. This
Keith Stephenson, Karen Smith, and Kevin Kiernan, *Preston Holder's WPA Excavation of the Truncated Mound at the Evelyn Site in Glynn County*

The Evelyn Plantation site, near Darien, was first investigated by Preston Holder and a small Depression-era workforce in 1937. The site consisted of at least five conical sand mounds, and a low-lying, rectangular, flat-topped mound labeled Mound B. In the late-18th century, William Bartram described this mound as a “tetragon terrace” of European construction (i.e., a fort). Holder’s excavations revealed that Mound B was actually prehistoric in origin. Truncated, pyramidal mounds were constructed during the Woodland period but are more commonly associated with the Mississippi period. The dissimilarity between flat-topped mounds of these periods, as characterized archaeologically, involved the use of their platform summits which served different purposes and activities. Our discussion entails a determination of whether Mound B is affiliated with either the Woodland Swift Creek or the Mississippian Savannah-period occupation at Evelyn Plantation.

Andrew Post and Susan Fishman-Armstrong, *Involving the West Georgia Area in an Education Outreach Program*

The Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeology Laboratory formalized its Education Outreach Program in CY2003 to include an On-Site Mock Excavation, a Guided Tour, and two Traveling Teaching Trunks for 3rd-8th grades to educate the public about archaeology and cultural heritage. Due to the economic recession and changes in educational standards, program usage has declined. The purpose of this research is to identify public and education needs to increase program usage. Research was conducted with local school curriculum coordinators, UWG faculty, available literature, and other museum education programs. Classroom related activities (i.e., the teaching trunks) are preferred to correspond with current Georgia Standards.

Richard Moss, *Digging with Foresters: Fostering Intra-agency Archaeology Awareness at DNR*

Archaeologists at DNR HPD are actively involved in public outreach throughout the State. But HPD can also boast of close relationships with its sister divisions inside DNR, for which it provides technical assistance in CRM. Cooperation with these divisions is developed, maintained, and enhanced by continual internal efforts to educate and inform agency resource managers on the importance of preserving archaeological resources on state land. This paper is a retrospective on my time at DNR assisting the foresters of the Wildlife Resources Division, which was a great learning experience in promoting archaeology awareness. This culminated in an educational field workshop involving preliminary survey at 9HT238, a prehistoric site discovered in a pine stand near the Ocmulgee River at Oaky Woods WMA.

Daniel P. Bigman, *Recent Investigations of Ocmulgee’s Ditches*

Ocmulgee’s ditches are two of the most puzzling enigmas in Ocmulgee National Monument. Kelly originally conceived of the features as a series of “dugouts,” subterranean dwellings that did not enclose the North, Middle, and South Plateau bluff. Recent electrical resistivity and ground penetrating radar surveys indicate that both the inner and outer ditches did continue past the limit indicated by Kelly. Further, a reanalysis of artifact counts from these two ditches in light of ceramic chronological refinements for central Georgia suggests that Ocmulgee’s Early Mississippian inhabitants built the outer ditch first. This finding supports an initial assessment by Hally and Williams.

Daniel P. Bigman and John Cornelison, *Toward a New Understanding of the Historic Creek Occupation at Ocmulgee: Complimentary Work by SEAC and UGA*

Drake’s Field, a series of baseball fields, was gifted to Ocmulgee National Monument in 1991. This expanded the size of the park by approximately 6 ha to the west. This paper presents the results of a compliance project carried out following the gift, but before re-chaining of the fence that enclosed the area. The shovel test survey and two test pits primarily recovered historic artifacts, many dating to the historic Creek occupation. This project redefined the boundaries of the Creek town surrounding the English Carolinian Trading Post. Two decades later, a geophysical survey carried out in Drake’s Field identified anomalies that likely represent Creek buildings and burials. Furthermore, the distribution of anomalies helped inform the possible layout of the Creek town.

Matthew Jennings, *Displaying Ocmulgee: Archaeology and Tourism at the Early National Monument*

As soon as Civil Works Administration workers and professional archaeologists began to pull Ocmulgee’s treasures from the earth, boosters and scientists alike saw the need to put these objects on display and use them to draw visitors to a region threatened by the decline of the cotton economy. Tourism and the scientific study of artifacts were deeply intertwined from the very beginning of the excavations, and continue to be connected into the present. This paper treats the earliest displays at Ocmulgee, from the converted work shed that served as the first “museum” on the site through the triumphant opening of the Art Moderne Visitor Center and state-of-the-art research facility in 1951. How we came to know what we know about Ocmulgee, and how scientists publicized their findings, comprise nearly as compelling a tale as what we have learned from the site.

We look forward to celebrating the twentieth anniversary of annual Archaeology Awareness events with you at the SGA’s Macon meeting.
ONLINE NEWS

Archaeological investigations of “the Gulch” in downtown Atlanta

Submitted by Dylan Woodliff

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. (EPEI) and New South Associates (NSA), under contract with HNTB Corporation, recently completed preliminary investigations of the Gulch, a low-lying area of downtown Atlanta long associated with the railroads, in preparation for the planned Georgia MultiModal Passenger Terminal (MMPT). The Georgia MMPT is a massive transportation-related project that will bring together various bus and rail transit services in a centralized Downtown Atlanta location to create, or recreate, a bus and rail terminal for the people of Georgia. Preliminary archaeological investigations conducted by EPEI and NSA consisted of extensive archival background research, soil coring, and a large-scale geophysical survey of the project area. These investigations not only shed light on a fascinating and significant part of Atlanta’s history, but represent the most extensive investigations of their kind in an urban setting in the Southeast.

The Gulch was the site of Atlanta’s first developments, which were linked directly to the pioneer railroads of Georgia in the late 1830s and 1840s. The Western & Atlantic Railroad (W&ARR), the Georgia Railroad (GARR), and the Macon & Western Railroad (M&WRR) came together to form a wye junction in what was essentially wilderness. Atlanta blossomed around its railroad center, giving rise to colorful neighborhoods, businesses, and attractions. The railroads themselves expanded, graced Atlanta with its first examples of permanent formal architecture, and ensured continued growth and prosperity. The effects of the Civil War transformed the character of the Gulch, but rebuilding efforts and the enthusiasm of Atlanta’s inhabitants guaranteed its place as a transportation and commercial hub of the Southeast. Wide-spread adoption of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century led to massive abandonments of passenger rail, which resulted in much of the Gulch being abandoned, the beautiful passenger depots being demolished, and paving of the rail yards for parking lots. The wye junction, however, continues to be used for freight trains moving through the city center.

Soil coring was used to identify the many building stages of the now level railroad corridors and parking lots that characterize the area. Originally, several ravines and spring heads existed in the Gulch. These terrain features were gradually graded and leveled to accommodate an ever-expanding railroad center. Soil cores indicated that up to 45 feet of fill was used in some areas to level the yard. Coring also identified the oldest man-made terrain feature in Atlanta, the Monroe Embankment, which was constructed in 1838 as the original right-of-way of the M&WRR. Geophysical investigations of the Gulch, consisting of ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey with 400 and 200 MHz antennae identified over 275 anomalies associated with rail features, utilities, platforms, and building foundations related to historical manifestations of the Gulch. These investigations allow us to chart the development of the Gulch as well as the historical trends that shaped Atlanta.

The Georgia MMPT project represents a unique opportunity for Atlanta to reawaken its transportation center. This project is ongoing
and a more detailed understanding of this important part of Atlanta history will emerge as the project progresses.

ONLINE NEWS

Survey in Clayton and Fayette counties sheds light on Civil War battlefield

Submitted by Richard Moss

In 2012, Edwards-Pitman Environmental conducted a Phase I survey of McDonough Road in Fayette and Clayton counties for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) under contract with American Engineers, Inc. The work included systematic shovel testing and metal detection along the nine kilometer project corridor from SR 54 in the west to Tara Boulevard near Lovejoy in the east. Dan Elliott of the LAMAR Institute helped with the metal detector survey.

Survey findings included documenting archaeological remnants of the western extent of the Battles of Lovejoy Station Battlefield, site number 9HY595/9CN195. Extensive prior investigations of this Civil War battlefield were conducted by Southeastern Archaeological Services during Phase I and Phase II investigations of Jonesboro Road, and the battlefield was the subject of a paper given at the 2011 Spring Meeting of the SGA by Tom Gresham, Heather Mustonen, Dan Elliott, and Mark Pollard.

The portion of the battlefield within the McDonough Road project area has been highly disturbed by modern development. However, metal detector survey still resulted in the recovery of numerous military items. Artifacts found include an artillery shell fragment, an expended Spencer shell casing, and many fired Miniéballs. These are likely related to the infantry battle occurring at Lovejoy immediately following the battle of Jonesboro, September 2-6, 1864.

Nash Farm, a portion of the battlefield east of the project area, has been preserved by Henry County. Click here to view the Nash Farm website and learn more about the four military engagements that occurred in the Lovejoy area in 1864.

Survey along McDonough Road also resulted in the discovery of numerous previously unrecorded nineteenth and twentieth century historic farmsteads or house sites, as well as one prehistoric site of unknown period. A report for Phase I investigations of McDonough Road is currently in progress. When finished, we will have a much more complete understanding of the Battle of Lovejoy Station and of the archaeological remains associated with this Civil War battlefield.
Archaeologist Constanza Ceruti speaks at UNG

Submitted by Tammy Herron and Jack Wynn

On Wednesday, March 6th, Dr. Constanza Ceruti, an Argentine high-altitude archaeologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer, was the guest speaker at the University of North Georgia (UNG) campus in Dahlonega. Dr. Ceruti discussed the burial rituals of the Inca and pre-Inca mummies found high in the Andes of Argentina. As Dr. Jack Wynn exclaimed, “this is exotic archaeology!” Dr. Ceruti will be speaking in various places during her visit to the U.S., and Dr. Alvaro Torres-Calderon arranged to have her speak at UNG. Her visit was made possible by a number of entities, including the Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild, a chapter of the SGA located in Dahlonega.

According to Dr. Wynn, “The place was jammed, and some folks who came, even on time, were left out by the crowd who were three deep in the back!” For more information about Dr. Ceruti’s talk and visit to UNG, click here.

GAAS gets Singer-Moye update

Submitted by Lyn Kirkland and Stefan Brannan

The Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society is a Chapter of the SGA. Brannan spoke at the Chapter’s March 2013 monthly meeting on March 12th. Read all stories on this website about GAAS activities by clicking here.

“Singer-Moye—the second largest Mississippian period mound center in Georgia that no one has ever heard of”...so said Stefan Brannan in his update on Singer-Moye at the March GAAS meeting. In June over twenty members of GAAS visited the University of Georgia Field School held at the site, where Brannan, Field School Director, took members on a tour. At the March meeting, before updating members on the findings from the summer field work, Brannan gave an overview of the Woodland and Mississippian cultures, and then gave a history of archaeological investigations at the site. This included work in 1956-57 by the late Dave Chase, a much loved member and one of the founders of GAAS, and the late Frank Schnell, in 1967–1972, a friend of many in our Society.

The site, with eight mounds, is located on the Fall Line in Stewart County, a rural area of Georgia. Located on an upland plateau in an environmentally diverse area, ancient Americans used resources from several different ecotones. The mounds were given to the
Columbus Museum by the Singer and Moye families in the 1960s, with the custodianship of the mounds passing to the University of Georgia in 2008. At present the site serves as the archaeology field school for the University.

In the 2012 field season, UGA conducted a systematic shovel-test survey of the property currently managed by UGA, including plaza and possible residential areas. The tests yielded a relatively large number of ceramics and expanded the current site boundaries to 26 hectares. Brannan is currently undertaking the analysis of the newly collected and legacy archaeological materials to determine the specific historical trajectory of Singer-Moye.
Brannan shared preliminary results, including that Mound A, the fourth largest mound in Georgia behind mounds at Etowah, Ocmulgee, and Kolomoki, is distinguished by having a clay cap over a large rectangular structure and that the mound orientation was unique. This structure yielded prestige goods such as copper and green stone, suggesting it may have served as an elite residence or corporate structure. Both relative and absolute dating suggest it was part of the final occupational period. It appears to have been intentionally “closed” as opposed to abandoned when the occupants left. Mound D, used during the same period as Mound A, had been previously excavated, and findings seemed to indicate this it was used for communal activities instead of as the location for an elite residence.

Brannan also discussed briefly two house mounds. Mound E, a circular mound, contained a rectangular domicile, and the artifacts consisted of utilitarian pottery items. Mound H has a complex assortment of features, unlike the other structures, with several overlapping structures of differing construction techniques and a wide range of artifacts including utilitarian and prestige items, as well as the only confirmed location of a palisade.

Brannan’s most recent research also indicated that two mounds at the site derived from natural land forms. Also, the site experienced a significant influx of population sometime after AD 1350, a time which coincides with the decline and abandonment of many of the larger and well known regional Mississippian mound centers. At Singer-Moye, there is no evidence of occupation before AD 1100 and it was abandoned sometime around AD 1450.

Read a longer story here about the Singer-Moye site just prior to transfer of ownership of the Singer-Moye mound site from the Columbus Museum to the University of Georgia; the story includes historic black-and-white photos. This shorter article discusses the ownership transfer. Access a free, downloadable primer on Georgia archaeology by clicking here.
The Georgia Council for the Social Studies held the State Social Studies Fair on Saturday, March 23, 2013 on the campus of Clayton State University, Morrow. It was an honor to participate as representative for the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) and the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA) in judging the upper grade project submissions. The SGA and the GCPA are continuing sponsors of the Fair each year to support the Council’s goals in greater understanding and acquired skills in the methodology of the social studies, while rewarding academic excellence.

The students entered in this Fair have already competed at local and regional levels and have advanced to this highest level of competition, where they are judged by teams of judges bestowing points for meeting different categories of criteria, including oral interviews. It is obvious the students have researched their topics very well while presenting organized and informative social studies projects. All manner of assorted media and materials are represented in project construction, including audio, visual, 3D, power points, graphics, photographs, text, dioramas, graphs, 5–6 page reports with bibliographies, and the additional creative use of textiles, wood, plastic—even straw!

The Archaeology awards are considered Special Awards and are presented first at the Awards Ceremony held at the conclusion of judging. It is my distinct honor to announce this year's winner for the Society for Georgia Archaeology's award of $50, a copy of *Frontiers in the Soil*, and a 2013 Archaeology Month Poster to Kameron Gaston, a seventh-grader at Bremen Middle School in west Georgia, for his project “Nazca Lines: Why Are They Here?” His teacher is Ms. Bracknell.

It is also my distinct honor to announce the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists award of $50, a copy of *Frontiers in the Soil*, and a 2013 Archaeology Month Poster to Kara Harper, a fifth-grader at Bloomingdale Elementary School in Chatham County, for her project “The Invisible Enemy: Diseases of the Civil War.” Her teacher is Ms. Linblad.

Both of these winning projects demonstrated considerable time, thought, research, energy, and most of all—critical thinking. We congratulate Kameron Gaston and Kara Harper for achieving academic success at a statewide level. Underlying support systems to include teachers and parents are recognized to be important foundations in the competition process.

Congratulations to the winners! It is a privilege to recognize their success!

For more information about the awards for Georgia archaeology, click here.
ANNOUNCEMENTS • PUBLICATIONS

Call for student submissions to The Profile

The Society for Georgia Archaeology invites undergraduate and graduate students to submit brief research reports, reviews of archaeological presentations and lectures, and essays about archaeological fieldwork and field trip experiences to The Profile. Topic areas are open, but should be related to the archaeology of Georgia and surrounding states. Submissions should generally be no longer than 1000 words. Accompanying photographs are encouraged. Submissions will be accepted at any time. Deadlines for the quarterly editions of The Profile are as follows:

- Spring: March 31
- Summer: June 30
- Fall: September 30
- Winter: December 31

For more information, and to submit your pieces for consideration, please contact Dr. Ben Steere by clicking here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • PUBLICATION NEWS

SGA welcomes new editor

The SGA has a new editor of The Profile and the website content. Please meet Ben Steere! If you have a story or a story idea you think might be appropriate for The Profile/the website, please write Ben here for information and consideration.

Ben moved from North Carolina to Georgia in 2006, when he began a PhD program at the University of Georgia. Prior to graduate school, he spent two years working as a field technician for TRC’s North Carolina office, primarily in western North Carolina.

As a graduate student he studied under noted archaeologists and SGA members Steve Kowalewski, David Hally, and Mark Williams, and in 2011 completed his dissertation, which focuses on chronological and geographic variability in Native American houses and households from the Woodland, Mississippian, and Historic periods.

After graduation, Ben spent a year as a postdoctoral research associate with the Coweeta LTR program at the University of Georgia, where he worked on a collaborative archaeological research project to locate and map mound and village sites in western North Carolina with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of The Eastern Band of Cherokee.

Since Fall 2012, Ben has worked as an assistant professor of Anthropology at the University of West Georgia, where he is continuing his research on prehistoric Southeastern houses and the archaeology of western North Carolina.

When he’s not editing The Profile, teaching, counting post holes, and trying to decipher James Mooney’s handwriting, Ben enjoys spending time with his wife, Elizabeth, and their toddler son, Alexander, who, much like his father, has trouble sitting still and enjoys playing in the dirt.

EVENTS INFORMATION • GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY • ONLINE NEWS AND RESEARCH

GAAS talks trash at February meeting

Submitted by Lyn Kirkland, GAAS member and SGA Board Member

Ever wonder what Atlantans threw away 100 years ago? Well, soon we will know as a result of The Phoenix Project overseen by Georgia State University (GSU).

At the Greater Atlanta Chapter (GAAS) meeting on February 12th at Fernbank Museum, members experienced a hands-on encounter with Atlanta’s dishes, bottles, and tools from trash pits over a hundred years ago. GAAS members sorted through a handful of the 469 boxes of artifacts composing the MARTA collection, a study dubbed The Phoenix Project: Resurrecting the MARTA Archaeological Collection and Atlanta’s Past. The artifacts, collected in the 1970s during the MARTA rail line installation, are housed at Georgia State University (GSU).
Dr. Jeffrey Glover and his students at GSU are undertaking the herculean task of studying and interpreting the artifacts. GAAS volunteers, coordinated by Dr. David Noble, are working with Dr. Glover and students in the GSU archaeology lab on Thursday afternoons to rebag the artifacts. Dr. Noble proudly reports that thus far members have made it through over 100 boxes of artifacts.

At the meeting 6 or 7 more boxes were completed. Dr. Glover and his archaeology students arranged 4 tables where, under their supervision, members removed artifacts from 30+ year old paper bags and placed them in archival quality plastic bags. The artifacts brought to the meeting were predominantly kitchen condiments, medicines, wine and beer bottles, crockery, and folk pottery. Many of the bottles came from a location referred to as the Edgewood dump (9DA89).

Dr. Glover opened the meeting by showing 1970’s photos of the excavations in progress, as well as maps of the MARTA routes, noting the excavations sites. GSU has applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for the study. Glover anticipates numerous graduate studies on the collection and he is confident that the collection will provide a great opportunity for public outreach and education.
New Publication on Preston Holder’s WPA Archaeology on the Georgia Coast

SGA members will be pleased to see the inclusion of Kevin Kiernan’s chapter on Preston Holder’s New Deal-era excavations on the Georgia coast in a new book, *Shovel Ready: Archaeology and Roosevelt’s New Deal for America*, edited by Bernard K. Means (The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 2013). In his chapter, “Preston Holder’s WPA Excavations in Glynn and Chatham Counties, Georgia, 1936-1938,” long-time SGA member Kevin Kiernan provides important information about a little-known area of Georgia archaeology. For more information about the book, visit the website for the University of Alabama Press by clicking here. For more information about Kevin’s research on Preston Holder’s excavations in Glynn and Chatham County, click here.

ON THE LEVEL • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Michael Shirk remembered

Submitted by Tom Gresham

Most of us in SGA knew Mike as an archaeo-spouse, one who was married to an archaeologist, for better and worse. And Mike was one of the best. He not only accepted his wife Betsy’s fervent interest in archaeology and SGA, he fully embraced it himself, becoming vitally engaged in the health and well-being of our society, to its lasting benefit. In addition to being a long time active member, he served as treasurer and Board member at a critical time in the history of SGA, when Betsy and Rita Elliott led a major revival of the organization. Mike served as SGA treasurer from 2005 through 2010, but long before that he was already very involved. In late 2004 incoming SGA president Lucy Banks noted in *The Profile* that “Betsy and Michael Shirk deserve special acknowledgment for countless contributions of time and talent over the past four years… The Shirks exemplify “service leadership”…. Michael’s special technological talents have given SGA a professional presence….”. Indeed, my first encounter with Mike beyond friendly hellos at meetings was at an SGA retreat organized by Betsy in 2001, where Mike served as a facilitator. He used his business experience and people skills to deftly guide two days of soul-searching discussion about SGA’s future direction. It was at this retreat that I learned that he was great fun off hours and was an avid, and very good, photographer.

But Mike had a life beyond archaeology. Born and reared in Washington state, where his mother and other family still live, Mike had an early interest and talent in computer technology. He had a successful career in computers and software development, focusing on the human element. He saw that computers and software could only be effective if average humans could readily use them, and so he was intent on making sure that software was friendly. As that career demands, his employment took him in many directions, including a stint in Saudi Arabia. Photography, particularly of the outdoors and the natural world, was a life-long passionate interest. He mounted a major one-man show of his work in Carrollton, and over the years donated many prints to SGA auctions. Many of us
will long remember Mike through his beautiful photographs.

Amid careers, travel and overseas living, Mike and Betsy raised two wonderful and successful sons. Robert is an airline pilot living in Dallas with his wife MaryAnn and their daughter, two-year old Amelia. Stephen works long hours for a major accounting firm and lives in the Atlanta area with his wife, Erin. The SGA family extends our heartfelt condolences to the entire Shirk family.

Read more about Mike in a brief death announcement on this website, which includes photographs. His obituary in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is here.

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**BLUE RIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY GUILD • ONLINE NEWS AND RESEARCH**

**News about Duckett site research**

*Shovel testing amidst kudzu and weeds at the Duckett site. From left to right: Will Phillips (kneeling), Greg Spike, Dr. Tamara Spike, and Tyler Stewart. Photo by Jack Wynn.*

Long-time SGA member Jack Wynn suggests our members and friends may be interested in reading this story by Hannah Parson, “Students Unearth History and Mystery at the Duckett Site,” posted on The Steeple, the online student newspaper of for the University of North Georgia–Dahlonega and the Military College of Georgia.

So far, students—and members of the SGA Chapter Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild—have helped shovel test in a grid across the site area to understand variation across the settlement, and to analyze materials discovered and data recovered during the testing.

Our 2012 Spring Meeting included a presentation about the Duckett Site, of which Dr. Wynn was a co-author.

Our 2011 Fall Meeting program also included a presentation on field- and lab-work conducted in the spring of that year, by William H. Phillips.

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • RESEARCH ARTICLES**

**Track Rock Gap and the Forest Service**

Submitted by James R. Wettstaed, Heritage Program Manager/Forest Archaeologist Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (jwettstaed@fs.fed.us)

Over the last year a great number of claims have been made about Mayans and Georgia Archaeology. Many of these claims have focused on sites located on National Forest land. The Track Rock Gap rock art and stone landscape sites on the Chattahoochee National Forest were created by Creek and Cherokee people beginning more than 1000 years ago and continuing into the 1800s.
There is no archeological evidence of any link to Mayan people or culture at this site. Stone landscape sites occur throughout the region and are not unusual, but they should be respected and protected.

The Forest Service works closely with Creek and Cherokee tribal governments to manage, protect, and better understand the Track Rock Gap archeological site. One way the Forest Service and Tribal partners protect the very fragile, sensitive and sacred stone landscape is by not encouraging visitation or allowing commercial activities to take place there. Unauthorized, user-created trails leading to the remote site create erosion issues and increase the potential for vandalism and theft, for which there are severe criminal penalties. The nearby and easily accessed Track Rock Gap rock art site is open to visitors, displaying the fascinating story left in stone by the Creek and Cherokee for all to see and experience.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the views of American Indians and archaeologists can go to the Forest web site here.

Read more on this website about Track Rock Gap here.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS • CHAPTER NEWS • GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY • PUBLICATIONS**

**Fort Daniel tract now owned by Gwinnett County**

Submitted by Jim D'Angelo

GARS and FDF efforts at the Fort Daniel site in Gwinnett County have finally paid off. On December 21, 2012, Gwinnett County closed on the 4.5-acre tract within which the entire fort site is situated. The County shall, in turn, lease the property to the Fort Daniel Foundation, where it will be responsible for developing both the land and an educational outreach program. Details of the lease agreement are being worked out, and it is expected that the Foundation will assume its responsibilities by the end of March.

The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society has been conducting historic research and archaeology investigations at the early 19th century site since the Summer of 2007. The Fort Daniel Foundation, an outgrowth of the Friends of Fort Daniel, was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2010. Prior to that, in 2009, the site was placed on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation’s *Places in Peril* list. Soon after that, The Friends of Fort Daniel were awarded a matching grant from the GTHP and, with a generous match from the Atlanta-based landscape architectural firm of jB+a, were able to produce master plan for an archaeological research park that would preserve the historic site and provide for on-going educational outreach, particularly to students.

Jim D'Angelo, who is both the archaeological advisor for GARS and the site archaeologist at Fort Daniel, points out that several students from local schools have had the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn something about archaeology and about Fort Daniel's connection with our frontier history and the Creek Indian War. These schools include Fort Daniel Elementary School, Twin Rivers Middle School, Georgia Gwinnett College, and Georgia State University.

“It is important to not only involve these students,” says D'Angelo, “but to involve them with their teachers and professional archaeologists. We are happy to say that several Georgia archaeologists are participating, some of whom are also members of GARS and/or the Foundation. These would include: Siska Williams (DOT archaeologist), Leslie Perry (President of GARS and SGA VP), Catherine Long (SGA and GARS past-President), Garrett Silliman (FDF Board member), Scot Keith (GCPA President), Ken Johnson...”
(GGC Anthropology Professor), and Jeff Glover (GSU Anthropology Professor). “Of course,” D'Angelo adds, “by now we have several members who have become quite proficient with archaeological method and historical research!”

“We have been especially blessed,” says D’Angelo, “in that the property owner, Mrs. Ann Grant, has graciously allowed us access to her ‘back yard,’ not only to dig it up, but to hold several public events like our popular 2-day Frontier Faire where upwards of 350 visitors have traipsed up her driveway and past her house to the site. If it were not for all that, I doubt we could have convinced anyone that the preservation and development of this site was important.”

The JB+a park plan anticipates a larger tract of about 15 acres, and Foundation members are hoping that the owners on the two sides of Ann Grant tract and the County can come to an agreement in the not-to-distant future. But for now, the Foundation will have its hands full just developing the Grant tract and growing its educational outreach program.

GARS, a Chapter of the SGA, has its own Internet domain; click here to go to the GARS website. Read all stories on this website about GARS by clicking here. This article also appears in the GARS newsletter, Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin.
GAAS February meeting: MARTA archaeology

The next meeting of the Greater Atlanta Chapter (GAAS) of the Society for Georgia Archaeology will be on February 12th at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, and begin at 6:30PM. The meeting is free and open to the public. Our program will be lead by Dr. Jeffrey Glover of Georgia State University (GSU) and students. We will have a presentation on the MARTA archaeological collection. We will also have a chance to process artifacts as GAAS volunteers and students have been doing at the GSU lab.

Dr. Jeffrey Glover is Assistant Professor in the GSU Department of Anthropology and a member of our GAAS Board. Jeffrey did his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University where he majored in anthropology. He pursued his doctoral degree at the University of California, Riverside which he completed in 2006.

Dr. Glover’s general research interests focus on interpreting the spatial patterning of ancient Maya communities in northern Quintana Roo, Mexico and the dynamic role the built environment played in lives of past people. Currently, he is co-director of the Proyecto Costa Escondida that is investigating the Maya port of Vista Alegre, a small island site along the north coast of Quintana Roo. The project hopes to understand the role this port site played in both regional and inter-regional political economies, in particular was the site an outpost for the Itzá State with its capital at Chichén Itzá. The Costa Escondida Project is now available on Google Ocean part of the Google Earth application.

In summer of 2011, Dr. Glover worked on the the Maritime Maya Project which is part of the larger Proyecto Costa Escondida. In summer 2012 he supervised a field school for the archaeological excavation of De Soto’s journey through South Georgia with 12 students from Georgia State University who were joined by several GAAS volunteers, and analyzed artifacts from the ancient Maya port of Vista Alegre in the Yucatan, Mexico, funded by a NOAA grant.

In our October newsletter Dr. Glover wrote a detailed description of the history of the MARTA archaeological collection. The following is excerpted from that description:

During the 1970s, Georgia State University (GSU) archaeologists, led by Dr. Roy Dickens, conducted systematic survey and excavations associated with the construction of the Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) rail lines. This project recovered the material remains of Atlanta’s past, and these materials represent the single most comprehensive archaeological collection of Atlanta’s history. In addition, the excavations themselves are among the pioneering projects of urban archaeology in the then nascent field of CRM (Cultural Resource Management). The entire collection, 469 medium-sized “banker” boxes housing over 100,000 artifacts and all the accompanying documentation and excavation archive, has recently been returned to GSU.

While the significance of the collection for historians of the discipline of archaeology is somewhat narrow in focus, the collection’s broader significance stems from the insight it can provide into the development of Atlanta from an agrarian backwater to a ravaged, railway hub at the end of the Civil War into the major metropolis in the Southeast in the 20th century. While this transformation has been documented historically, the written record only tells part of the story. The approximately 100,000+ artifacts that make-up the MARTA archaeological collection have much to add to the story of Atlanta’s rebirth and showcase significant “moments” in the life of the city, including several Civil War sites associated with the Battle of Atlanta.

In general, the collection opens immense opportunities for faculty and student research and public education and outreach. Furthermore, it will facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations within GSU, as well as with other universities, CRM firms, and interested groups (like GAAS) in the Atlanta-area for the curation, conservation, study, and exhibition of the artifacts and archive. With the support of GSU and GAAS members, this long-forgotten collection can finally shed light on the development of the Southeast’s largest city and engage the public about the benefits of archaeology in ways that were not even dreamed of when this project began in the 1970s.