ONLINE NEWS • PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Message: Summer 2013

Submitted by Tammy Herron

It is hard to believe that the 20th Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotion has come and gone! Hopefully though, the Spring 2013 meeting will linger via the memories that were made, whether through seeing old friends, making new friends, or learning new information about Georgia's past. I wish to thank each and every person who worked to make the meeting in Macon such a success. Those of you who were unable to attend the meeting and tours of Ocmulgee and Fort Hawkins missed a great event! We received a warm welcome from the staff of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame (GSHF) and gleaned much information from the interesting and informative papers presented during the morning session. Thanks to each of the presenters and to Matt Newberry for serving as emcee.

It was truly an honor for me to be able to present the George S. Lewis Archaeological Stewardship Award to Mrs. Ann Grant for her dedication and support of the preservation of the Fort Daniel archaeological site in Gwinnett County. This award was established in 1998 to recognize contributions made by members of the non-archaeological community toward the preservation of the archaeological record. Mrs. Grant's continual collaboration with Dr. Jim D'Angelo to see the property through to its preservation could not go unrecognized by the SGA.

Although the skies opened up and poured forth rain throughout the morning session, the sun returned during lunch—just in time for the afternoon tours of the Great Temple Mound, Trading Post Site, and Southeast Mound at Ocmulgee National Monument led by Dan Bigman, and Fort Hawkins led by Marty Willett and Dan Elliott. If you find yourself traveling near or through Macon, I encourage you to stop in and visit both of these wonderful sites that are striving to preserve Georgia's history! Pretty soon, Fort Hawkins will sport a brand new Visitor Center to showcase the early history of Macon.

I would also like to take the opportunity to extend special thanks to SGA members who helped make the Spring 2013 meeting a success. Pam Baughman, SGA's Secretary, coordinated the local arrangements for the meeting in Macon. I think it helped a little that she is married to the Curator of the GSHF, Ben Baughman. Special thanks to Pam for being the anchor in Macon and to Ben and the rest of the staff at the GSHF for making us feel at home throughout the meeting and allowing the members to tour the facility. I can’t thank Catherine Long enough for her continued support of the organization as Immediate Past President (thanks for your advice and allowing me to bend your ear on far too many occasions). I wish to thank Leslie Perry for sending out the press release to numerous entities far and wide, as well as Mike Harrell of the Ocmulgee Archaeological Society for pounding the pavement to advertise the Spring meeting locally.

Our theme for Georgia Archaeology Month 2013 was “Digging and Diving into the Past: Celebrating 20 Years of Georgia Archaeology Awareness.” The theme and poster design selected this year 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 could archaeology tie in any better than that? Materials associated with Georgia Archaeology Month were once again distributed to middle schools across the state. 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 included: 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. Without the support of organizations such as these, we would not be able to reach as many members of the public as we do.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Amanda Morrow for the design concept of the 2013 Georgia Archaeology Month poster and to Vince Macek of TRC in Norcross for his graphic assistance with the poster. SGA is immensely indebted to TRC for hosting Poster Packaging Day once again—thank you Brian and Larissa Thomas. This event was held on Wednesday, May 8th, and TRC graciously allowed us to use its lab space once again to stuff poster tubes and package the tubes for delivery to schools throughout the state. Volunteers that assisted with this event included: Carole Boyce, Tammy Herron, Catherine Long, Frank Perry, Leslie Perry, and Allen Vegotsky. Twenty-nine volunteer hours were logged throughout the course of the day.

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You may have noticed sharp new t-shirts for sale at the spring meeting. These t-shirts commemorate the 20th Georgia Archaeology Awareness promotion, and incorporate elements from Frontiers in the Soil and the 2013 poster. Special thanks to Amanda Morrow and Matt Newberry for tackling this project and seeing it to fruition. There are still plenty of t-shirts available, so please contact Tammy Herron or Matt Newberry. Hopefully, you will be able to place your order online soon, so keep checking the website for this option. The cost of each t-shirt is $10.00, plus shipping and handling.

Our request for a proclamation designating May as Georgia Archaeology Month was received and acknowledged by the Governor’s office. SGA board members and officers, representatives from Georgia’s archaeological community, and the Department of Natural Resources – Historic Preservation Division attended the proclamation signing ceremony with Governor Nathan Deal on the morning of Tuesday, May 21st at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta. Click here to access a PDF of the Proclamation.

By now, I hope that you have received the latest issue of Early Georgia via the US mail. Those who attended the Spring meeting were able to pick up the Spring 2013 issue of Early Georgia: The Profile Papers II hot off the press thanks to Tom Gresham. Tom graciously swung by the printer in Athens on his way to Macon so that Volume 41, Number 1 would be available to the membership at the meeting—thanks Tom! This issue is a compilation of selected articles published in The Profile from 1992 until 2009, when the newsletter changed to a digital format. I hope that you enjoy this compilation of articles and that it becomes as well used as its predecessor, The Profile Papers: Technical Papers From the First 75 Issues of The Society for Georgia Archaeology Newsletter: August, 1968 – March 1992. This issue would not have been possible without the aid of Sammy Smith and J. C. Burns. Sammy served as Guest Editor of the issue, and J. C. worked out the kinks on the technical side of things, as well as provided the cover.

Please visit the website often for updated postings regarding archaeology in Georgia, including issues that may call for immediate action on your part. Submitting an article for the website if you visit an archaeological site on your travels throughout Georgia this summer! Chapters please remember to submit information about your meetings and activities, too. We are always seeking submissions.

One last note, please take time to renew your membership for 2013! If you have already done so, then I thank you immensely. Remember that you can join and/or renew even faster and easier now via credit card payment online by clicking here. Chapters that have not renewed, please take time to do so as well. I hope that you have a great summer! Remember to wear sunscreen, drink plenty of water, and watch out for those ticks on your archaeology adventures!

—Tammy Herron, President
SGA members at the 2013 Proclamation Signing Ceremony in Atlanta. Pictured left to right with Governor Deal: Richard Moss representing Edwards Pitman Environmental, Inc.; Pamela Baughman – Secretary of the SGA and representing the Georgia Department of Transportation; Lyn Kirkland – SGA Board Member; P. T. Ashlock – SGA Board Member and representing the Southern Expeditionary Archaeological Research & Cultural Heritage Institute; Tammy Herron – President of the SGA and representing the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program; Leslie Perry – Vice President of the SGA; Catherine Long – Immediate Past President of the SGA and representing the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center; David Crass – Division Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Natural Resources – Historic Preservation Division; and Scot Keith – President of the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists and representing New South Associates, Inc.

ONLINE NEWS

Georgia public libraries “Dig into Reading”

Submitted by Pam Baughman

The theme for this year’s summer reading program in Georgia public libraries is “Dig Into Reading.” The SGA has coordinated programs with many libraries across the state, some in conjunction with this past Archaeology Month. Abby, the ArchaeoBus, is also visiting libraries in the Atlanta Metro area this summer. Stay tuned to Abby’s diary to see where she visits next.

SGA secretary Pam Baughman recently presented a program on Archaeology at the J. Joel Edwards Public Library in Zebulon. You can read about Pam’s program on page A7 of the Griffin Daily News by clicking here.

About 80 children and adults listened to Pam as she explained what archaeology is all about and what tools are used by archaeologists; attendees then listened to a story about an archaeological dig and participated in activities teaching archaeological concepts.

CHAPTERS • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Frontiers in the Soil chapter challenge

Submitted by Leslie Perry

Frontiers in the Soil is a classic in archaeological literature that should be useful to everyone. First printed in 1979, Frontiers interprets Georgia's past using accessible and humorous text by Roy S. Dickens, Jr. and creative color cartoon illustrations by James L. McKinley. The SGA recommends that avocational and professional archaeologists, students, scouts, educators, and anyone interested in Georgia’s archaeological heritage order a copy now, and begin learning about the past from two Georgians who were on the forefront of public archaeology.

A search of the catalogs for Georgia public libraries reveals that only 12.5% (or 49 of 390) of libraries have a copy of Frontiers in the Soil, and we think every library should have one! To this end, SGA is issuing a challenge to all chapters as we celebrate the 20th year of Archaeology Awareness in Georgia. The challenge is for chapters (and their members) to purchase and donate copies of Frontiers in the Soil to local libraries (if the library does not have one already). An inventory list has been prepared so that you can search your local library to see if they already have a copy, or if they need one. If you are a chapter member or a chapter group, please let VP Leslie Perry know your planned and successful contributions, so that we can keep track of progress and libraries covered. We will keep track of the donations and award a Chapter Challenge trophy to the chapter that donates the most copies by the fall 2013 meeting.

Pricing: Individual copies are $16.95 apiece for up to 10 copies; $10.20 each for 10 or more copies. Add postage and handling costs of $3 for one copy, $4 for two copies, and $0.50 per copy for each additional copy up to ten copies, and $8.00 for 10 copies.

Download the order form for Frontiers in the Soil by clicking here.
Research continues at the Duckett site

This summer Jack Wynn, long-time SGA member and professor of anthropology at the University of North Georgia, returned to the Duckett site with his field school and members of the Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild to continue an ongoing field research program. Their work continues to shed new light on the nature of an important Woodland period site in northern Georgia.

After completing a systematic shovel test survey, students and volunteers under Wynn’s direction have begun excavating test excavation units at Duckett. The majority of the pottery recovered from the Duckett site has been identified as Cartersville Simple Stamped, suggesting a Middle Woodland period site occupation (ca. A.D. 200 – 700).

This summer’s field school at Duckett was the subject of a recent news article in the Gainesville Times. To read the article, which includes several excellent photographs of Wynn and his crew in action, click here.

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY • ONLINE NEWS

June 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 June 2013 issue by clicking here.

Read fascinating articles like a story about the Chapter’s “Old Peachtree Road Field Trip,” and “Some Early Iron Making on the Georgia Frontier.”

There’s also a story about the memorial service held at the Cherokee Nation capital of New Echota near Calhoun to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the removal of approximately 20,000 Cherokee to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in 1838, often referred to as the Trail of Tears.

Note that the GARS Chapter of the SGA will not be meeting in June, July or August.

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. Read about The Fort Daniel Foundation by clicking here.

SGA NOTICES ONLINE

The 2013 SGA Posters are on their way

Submitted by Leslie Perry

Each year The Society for Georgia Archaeology designs an archaeology awareness poster to celebrate May as Archaeology Month in Georgia. The 2013 poster was designed by SGA Board Member Amanda Morrow, with graphics assistance provided by Vince Macek of TRC Environmental Corporation, and support from the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program. The 2013 Theme is: “Digging and Diving into the Past: Celebrating 20 Years of Georgia Archaeology Awareness.” The distance-destination posters were stuffed in shipping tubes, packed in recycled boxes, and mailed. Tammy Herron, Catherine Long, Leslie Perry, and Lynn Pietak hand-delivered posters for eighth grade Social Studies teachers in Metro Atlanta and adjacent counties. An associated lesson plan will be delivered to the schools this summer, which coordinates with the poster for the 2013-2014 school year.

Poster stuffing this year was held Wednesday, May 8 at TRC Environmental Corporation in Norcross. The SGA wishes to thank them for hosting the volunteers and helping with this endeavor. The volunteers who loaded the tubes and applied labels were: Tammy Herron, Catherine Long, Leslie Perry, Carol Boyce, Al Vegotsky, and Frank Perry. They devoted a total of 29 volunteer hours to sending the posters.

From left to right, Carole Boyce, Leslie Perry, Allen Vegotsky, and Catherine Long pack posters.
Revisiting Anneewakee Creek (9DO2)

Submitted by Dylan Woodliff

During October 2012, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. (EPEI) conducted a Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed improvement to the intersection of SR 166/Duncan Memorial Highway and SR 92/SR 154 in Douglas County, Georgia. This intersection is located on the northern bank of the Chattahoochee River upstream of its confluence with Anneewakee Creek, which is also the location of the Anneewakee Creek site (9DO2), a Woodland period mound site located on a broad terrace recorded by Robert Wauchope in 1938. EPEI's survey located intact archaeological deposits associated with 9DO2, but no traces of an earthen mound in the project area. Previous investigations and accounts of the Anneewakee Creek site, along with recent studies of the Leake site in Bartow County, Georgia, a large Woodland period ceremonial site and associated landscape, led EPEI archaeologists to consider whether additional earthen features or landscape elements might exist at 9DO2.

Wauchope excavated a portion of the Anneewakee Creek Mound, and uncovered the initial mound construction phase consisting of a clay platform constructed over “charred timbers,” which suggested an earth lodge or log tomb and an Early to Middle Woodland date for the early manifestations of the mound, and possibly an Adena connection (Wauchope 1966:405). Wauchope did not, however, record any mound dimensions. The mound was revisited in 1972 by Roy Dickens, Jr. with Georgia State University prior to the mound’s complete destruction by the landowner. Dickens uncovered the “core mound,” a 30 by 30 foot platform constructed of yellow clay (Dickens 1975:36). Artifacts recovered by Wauchope and Dickens indicated that the mound was constructed between the Early and Middle Woodland period, and was in use at least until the Late Woodland period.

An account of the area by George White, a historian and gazetteer writer in the mid-nineteenth century recorded perhaps the most tantalizing, albeit brief, description of the area in 1854. White reported in his published gazetteer, under the heading “Anawaqua’s Tomb”:

Opposite the village of Campbellton, on the western bank of the Chattahoochee, in a tuft of trees, on one of those mounds so common in Georgia, rest the remains of Anawaqua, an Indian princess... It is situated in a meadow in a bend of the Chattahoochee and near the foot of a considerable hill. Ancient fortifications are traced all around the plain, extending from the river to the hill. (White 1854: 293)

While we will never know if a princess was buried in the mound, the possibility that evidence of other mounds or earthworks exists on the landscape of 9DO2 could prove to be significant to the study of Woodland period ceremonial sites in the Georgia piedmont.

White’s description of the landscape appears to describe a potential Woodland period ceremonial landscape, possibly one similar to that identified at the Leake site. Wauchope and Dickens were only able to investigate limited portions of the terrace, hills, and surrounding floodplain, and may not have recorded other earthworks. Likewise, EPEI was restricted to a confined project area near the road intersection. In an attempt to ‘pull’ features out of the larger landscape, EPEI used GIS software to create a relatively high-resolution 5 meter elevation contour map of the area. The resulting map is intriguing in that it appears to show several anomalous terrain features that may represent possible foundations of earthen mounds or earthworks. The broad terrace is readily visible above the low-lying floodplains of Anneewakee Creek and the Chattahoochee River. Steep uplands rise abruptly to the north, similar to Ladds Mountain at the Leake site.

While the possibility of extant earthworks and ritually significant natural terrain features is highly speculative at this point, EPEI believes that further investigations of the surrounding landscape of 9DO2 could prove to be fruitful and add significant data to the study of Woodland period landscapes in the Georgia Piedmont.

Digging Savannah app has launched

Submitted by Laura Seifert

The Digging Savannah app is now available in the Google Play marketplace. The app will work on most Android devices including smartphones and tablets. Just search for “Digging Savannah.”

The App allows you to discover archaeology sites in and around Savannah that have been investigated and are on property open to the public. This is only a small sampling of archaeological sites around Savannah, as nearly every historic building sits on an archaeological site.

For more information, visit the Digging Savannah website by clicking here, and follow us on Facebook by clicking here.
The Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro has served as a botanical and historical oasis on the edge of campus for over twenty-five years. The original core of the garden's grounds were donated by Dan and Catharine Bland (shown in the photograph below), who ran a farmstead there from when they married in 1916 until they passed away in the 1980s. The Blands were among the earliest students at what would become Georgia Southern University, and they were self-taught naturalists, keeping detailed notes and collections of the plants they cultivated and encountered in the area. They made their living on their land, and the legacy they left behind tells an important story about 20th century life in rural South Georgia.

Director Carolyn Altman and Assistant Director Robert Randolph use this unique landscape to accomplish the garden’s mission of promoting and protecting the natural and cultural history of the southeastern coastal plain. Along with 6.5 acres, the Blands left their house, barns, and several other farmstead outbuildings, all of which contribute to the interpretation of the site. The Weathervane Barn was restored several years ago, and now each stall in the barn serves as a room in the Rural Life Exhibit about the agricultural history of the region. The Oak Grove School, a restored, late nineteenth-century one-room schoolhouse originally from Tattnall County, has a new home at the Garden of the Coastal Plain, adding another component to what the garden has to offer.

The Garden of the Coastal Plain has plans to transform the Blands’ cottage into a museum about the couple, the farm they ran, and the stewardship ethic that they exemplified. Restoration of the building itself has been underway since last spring, including extensive foundation stabilization and repair, fresh paint, and the installation of new, period-appropriate metal roof and wood floors. Research has also begun, compiling materials related to the Blands and the role they played in Statesboro. Among the information discovered are records of archaeological excavations conducted at the garden by former Georgia Southern Professor Steven Hale in 1993. Professor Hale, with the help of local kids enrolled in an educational summer program, investigated the old location of Bland Cottage. Artifacts recovered in these excavations include dish fragments, window glass, nails, and harness pieces, and Professor Hale and his students also found evidence of the old well and fireplace. The records of these excavations are now part of the growing Bland Collection, and will help tell the story of Dan and Catharine Bland in the exhibits.

Visit the Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University here: 1505 Bland Avenue, Statesboro, GA.

ONLINE NEWS AND RESEARCH

Book chapter highlights Holder’s work on the Georgia coast
Submitted by Keith Stephenson


With the country well into the depths of the Great Depression, the presence of archaeologist Preston Holder excavating prehistoric sites in the St. Simons Island vicinity between 1936 and 1938 must have seemed a cause célèbre to the local public at the time. Today, there are precious few memories of Holder’s fieldwork across the island, and the significance of his research is marginalized to vague passages referring to long-past archaeology in the Marshes of Glynn. This major oversight has been rectified in a recently published article by Kevin Kiernan describing and discussing the still-relevant work that Holder conducted on the Georgia coast three-quarters of a century ago.

As Kiernan reveals, Holder, for reasons that remain obscure, was not allowed to publish the results of his archaeological findings. Through scholarly pursuit of Holder’s meticulous field records curated at the Smithsonian Institution, the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, and the Preston Holder archives at the University of Nebraska, Kiernan has unearthed the results of Holder’s work. Due to delays in the bureaucratic process, particularly at the Savannah WPA district office, early fieldwork in 1936 was sponsored and financed by the Sea Island Company, the Brunswick Board of Trade, the Glynn County Commissions, the Society for Georgia Archaeology. In all, Holder’s WPA excavations occurred at five locations on St. Simons Island, including the Airport site, Sea Island Mound, Charlie King Mound, and the Gascoigne Bluff and Cannon’s Point sites. His pre-WPA crew consisted of two African Americans, George Life and Charlie King, both residents of St. Simons Island, the son of the St. Simons Island lighthouse keeper C.O. Svendsen, and Holder’s wife, Ruth.

When the WPA project was at last funded, Holder’s crew expanded to 10 men who excavated some 200 burials and some 3,000 postmolds indicating the presence of domestic structures at the Airport site. A suite of prehistoric interments was also encountered at the Sea Island Mound site where numerous adolescent and children burials with seashells were noted. After
completing his work on St. Simons Island and Sea Island, Holder moved to the Evelyn Plantation site near Darien where he identified the first demonstrable ceramic stratigraphy for the Georgia Coast. Finally, he relocated to Savannah where he initiated a five-month project of investigations at the Irene Mound site. Thereafter he departed for graduate school at Columbia where he intended to use the Glynn and Chatham county materials for his dissertation. Throughout his field study, Holder consistently delivered letter reports to his supervisors in Washington, D.C. and Georgia detailing the results of all his projects. The significance of Holder’s research lay in his formulation of a culture historical chronology for the prehistoric occupation of the lower Georgia coast initially and, coupled with his work in Chatham County, eventually the entire Georgia coast.

Holder never produced a final publication on his important site investigations in Glynn and Chatham counties. This is unusual for someone as erudite and socially progressive as Holder, who himself repeatedly mentioned his plan to use the material for the thesis topic of a dissertation. Kiernan presents compelling evidence that Holder’s lack of published material was no fault of his own. Kiernan points to correspondence between Holder’s WPA supervisors in Washington and those in Georgia denying him permission to publish, and indicating that Dr. A. R. Kelly was expected to publish on the coastal Georgia archaeology. Kelly, as Director of the WPA excavations at the Macon Plateau site, would have held academic prestige that Holder lacked at this time. Kelly never wrote up this work, however.

Kiernan recently published a concise version of Holder’s WPA archaeology in the Society for American Archaeology’s Archaeological Record (2010), and he has made a significant contribution to the history of Georgia archaeology with this much expanded and detailed account of Holder’s work (most of it unknown to the public) in Glynn and Chatham counties. This is a much anticipated history of Holder and his important contribution to the developing role of archaeology in Depression-era Georgia. All Georgia archaeologists, as well as the interested lay public, should have this book in their libraries and read especially Kiernan’s portrayal of Preston Holder as the original practitioner of Georgia coastal archaeology.