The Society for Georgia Archaeology
Annual Fall Meeting
Saturday, October 26 at 8:00 AM

The Zell B. Miller Learning Center
The University of Georgia Campus
Athens, Georgia
8:00  Registration Opens

8:30  Introduction and Welcome  
SGA President Tammy Herron and Meeting Facilitator Amanda Morrow

8:40  An Investigation of Late Archaic Bone Pins in the Coastal Plain of Georgia and South Carolina  
Victoria G. Dekle, The University of Kentucky
Bone pins are some of the more intriguing artifacts in the archaeological collections from Late Archaic sites in Georgia and South Carolina. Although previous studies on these materials have been limited and focused on rough typologies, a large regional attribute analysis of bone pin morphology, decoration and context may provide some insight into the ongoing discussions of migration and identity along the coast and in the interior coastal plain. This presentation will discuss a portion of the author's ongoing dissertation research on Late Archaic material style and design in collections from the southern Atlantic Coast.

9:00  Finding Avondale: Remote Sensing for an Unmarked Cemetery in Difficult Subsurface Conditions  
Hugh B. Matternes and Valerie Davis, New South Associates
Finding lost cemeteries is challenging, particularly if the grounds are forested and surface features erased. Results from three remote sensing methods, soil compaction ('probing'), ground penetrating radar (GPR), and scent detection ('cadaver dogs'), were mapped by New South Associates to find the Avondale Burial Place in southern Bibb County. The grounds were subsequently stripped to reveal the cemetery's true distribution. Bioturbation compromised soil compaction's effectiveness. GPR identified more graves, but the distribution of false positives inflated the estimated size of the cemetery. Canines detected fewer individual graves but true and false positives were more tightly concentrated near the cemetery's core.

9:20  Revisiting Platform Mound Distribution in the Cherokee Heartland  
Benjamin A. Steere, The University of West Georgia
Historic records and regional settlement archaeology suggest that many Mississippian period mounds in the Cherokee heartland of western North Carolina have been lost to site destruction. Archival research and archaeological survey carried out collaboratively with the Eastern Band of Cherokee THPO have produced new data for understanding the placement, nature, and chronology of Mississippian period platform mounds in western North Carolina. In this paper I discuss these findings and use David Hally's model for Mississippian polity spacing to offer new interpretations about the nature of Mississippian period communities in western North Carolina.

9:40  Summer 2013 Excavations at Camp Lawton  
Lance Greene, Georgia Southern University
The Confederate POW camp site of Camp Lawton is a few miles north of Millen Georgia. A field school held by Georgia Southern University this summer focused on three areas of the site: Union prisoners’ huts, the stockade trench, and a possible officer’s quarters. These investigations have helped us address some of our central research questions, including a comparison of the lives of prisoners to other groups on the site, and how the stockade and other facilities were constructed. In addition, the work demonstrates that many of the Civil War-era subsurface features are well preserved at the site.

10:00  BREAK

10:10  Summer Testing at the Etowah Site  
Adam King, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology; Amy Goldstein, The University of South Carolina; Matt Colvin, The University of Georgia
Between 2005 and 2008 the Etowah Archaeo-Geophysical Survey conducted remote sensing surveys at the Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site in Cartersville. The result of that work was a complete gradiometer map of the archaeological features visible using magnetism. Among the inferences made using those data was that it is possible to distinguish Early Mississippi (AD 900-1200) residential structures from Middle and Late Mississippi (AD 1200-1550) just using gradiometer data. This summer a field school sponsored by the University of SC, Texas State University, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tested this proposition. In this paper we present our preliminary results.

10:30  Preservation of the McVicker Family Cemetery, Jonesboro, GA  
Gail Tarver, Southeastern Archeological Services; and Dan Bigman, Georgia State University
This presentation reviews the steps taken to preserve a Civil War era family cemetery located near Jonesboro, Georgia. The Clayton County Water Authority contacted Southeastern Archeological Services to develop and institute a plan to preserve the McVicker Family Cemetery on their property. The site was inventoried, evaluated, and then rehabilitated piece by piece. This cemetery provides a unique tie-in to a pivotal moment of the Civil War and also proved to have a surprising finale in the preservation process.

10:50  Duckett Site Seasons 2011-2013  
Katie Russell and Margaret Riches, The University of North Georgia
This paper presents 2011 and 2013 methods and results from the Middle Woodland period Duckett site in northern Hall County on a Chattahoochee River tributary flood plain. During 2011, we conducted over 100 shovel tests and opened one 2 x 2 meter test pit. In 2013 we opened another 2 x 2 meter unit and we took both down to the old land surface. An AD1800+/-25 cultural level was identified with radiocarbon. Woodland period artifacts included simple stamp and plain pottery, pot feet, charcoal deposits, fire cracked rocks, and stone tools. Fall excavations seek to date the Woodland occupation.

11:10  A Fresh Look at a Little-Known Southeastern Copper Plate  
Amanda D. Roberts-Thompson and Mark Williams, The University of Georgia
Chauga (38OC47) is a mound site now under Lake Hartwell at the head of the Savannah River in Oconee County, South Carolina. Excavations there in 1958-1959 by the University of Georgia recovered a Mississippian copper plate. We have recently created a more accurate representation of its design. It is now clear that this lesser-known plate includes some interesting design differences compared to other better-known plates from the American Southeast. Given the importance that copper plates have for interpreting Mississippian art and belief systems, this updated examination of the Chauga plate hopefully provides useful new information for researchers studying Mississippian iconography.

11:30  BREAK

11:40  SGA Business Meeting

12:00  Scull Shoals Overview

12:10-2:00  Lunch on your own

2:00-5:00  Scull Shoals Historic Site Tour
Directions to Scull Shoals
from the Zell B. Miller Learning Center
1. Head South on Lumpkin Street (2.7 miles)
2. Turn right on Macon Highway (1.1 mile)
3. Slight right on White Oak Road (0.2 miles)
4. Turn left on GA 15 South (17.4 miles)
5. Turn left on Macedonia Road (2.4 miles)
6. Turn left onto Scull Shoals Road (2.9 miles)
   Destination is on the right