

**Society for Georgia Archaeology Spring Meeting**

**Saturday, May 10, 2014**

**Red Top Mountain State Park – Cartersville, Georgia**

**Site Destruction: Pieces of Our Past Lost Forever**

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**The Leake Site Complex: A Local Example of the Successes and Failures of Site Preservation**

Scot Keith  
New South Associates, Inc.

The Leake Site is a large Woodland and Mississippian period mound site located along the Etowah River on the outskirts of Cartersville. Associated with several other sites across the river on a low mountain ridge, this site complex represents the remains of a cultural landscape that covered at least 700 acres. Beginning with the arrival of Euroamerican settlers in the 1800s and continuing until the present day, these sites have undergone extensive change due to land-altering activities. Significant portions of these sites have been lost due to such activities, although substantial portions of at least the Leake Site proper are still present. During this presentation, I will examine the processes that have led to the destruction of portions of these sites, as well as the processes through which portions of the site have been preserved.

**Forsyth County Cemeteries—Vandalization and Restoration**

Jimmy McConnell  
Forsyth County, Georgia Cemeteries/Historical Society of Forsyth County

Members of the historical society and local volunteers have worked to preserve the wonderful area cemeteries of Forsyth County. The group spends its weekends working on recovering and restoring desecrated graves and has used metal detecting as part of their field methods. One of the recent restorations includes the graves at Diana's Chapel of members of the Scudder family. Jacob Scudder (1788-1870) was a federal agent to the Cherokee Nation, the first state senator of Cherokee County, and postmaster of the Hightower Community and leading member in the establishment of ten Northeast Georgia counties, including Forsyth. The graves were damaged by vandals who used a backhoe in their efforts to recover valuables rumored to be interred with the Scudders. The cemetery restoration crew is in an ongoing effort to restore this and other cemeteries. Mr. McConnell will join the SGA to give an account of their experience with the looting of North Georgia cemeteries and ongoing preservation efforts.

## **The Nash Farm Battlefield—Preservation and Collaboration**

William Dodd and Mark Pollard

Nash Farm Battlefield and Georgia Historic Artifacts & Research Group

Since 1990, Georgia Historical Artifacts & Research Group (GHARG) has worked with the archaeological community to locate and recover artifacts prior to development plans for the Pickett's Mill and Nash Farm battlefields. At the Nash Farm, GHARG members documented the historical significance of the property and helped archaeologists locate resources previously identified by their group. The site was subsequently purchased by Henry County, and the group provided insight on ways to preserve the property and retain its historic value. The original Nash House has also been preserved and now serves as a museum. William Dodd serves as the curator of its collection. Nash Farm today hosts archaeology camps for 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, giving them hands-on experience with their methods of locating, preserving, and curating historic artifacts to teach future visitors about the site. GHARG's membership is composed of lifetime history enthusiasts and practicing metal detectorists. The partnership of GHARG and archaeologists includes the first use of metal detectorists to document state owned sites, providing a tangible example of a productive professional and avocational partnership.

## **Georgia DNR Resource Protection and Law Enforcement**

Ranger First Class Jeff Billips

GADNR Law Enforcement Division, Region III

RFC Billips has worked to preserve Georgia's wildlife and cultural resources over nearly 20 years of service with Georgia's Department of Natural Resources. He has received awards for his outstanding service and is one of several members of the DNR law enforcement who has been involved in arrests of individuals who were found looting precontact and historic cultural resources. Ranger Billips worked with archaeologists and official agencies to record the damaged Gertrude Site on the Ogeechee River and the prosecution of the looters of the site. He was also involved in the apprehension of fugitive felons in connection with the desecration and removal of individuals interred at the Old Church Cemetery in Burke County. The grave sites included Revolutionary War and Confederate Civil War veterans. He joins the SGA to share his experiences in partnering with archaeologists and other groups involved with efforts to stop episodes of looting and desecration of grave sites.

## **Making the Best of a Bad Situation: Restitution at the Looted Gertrude Site**

Thomas H. Gresham  
Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc.

In late 2009, Georgia DNR rangers arrested two men for looting a major Late Archaic shell-midden site on the Ogeechee River in Burke County. With technical assistance from a physical anthropologist and archeologists, the DNR coordinated with the local prosecutor to convict the men in State Court under state anti-looting laws that SGA helped pass in the early 1990s. A large part of the fines went to restitution of the site. The Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns devised and carried out a restitution plan to salvage the dislodged bone and artifacts, restore the pitted landscape, and prepare a report on the site and its artifacts. This paper focuses on the archeological salvage of the site. The Gertrude Site is a good example of how decades of coordinated effort by many parties, which included educating the public, enacting protective legislation, training DNR law enforcement officers, and educating judges and prosecutors, led to a good outcome.

## **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Resource Protection**

Anthony Winegar  
Chief Park Ranger, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is one of 11 parks in the state of Georgia and one of four that are Civil War parks. The park is spread over 2,965 acres of land in the midst of one of the country's largest cities. The park is best known as the site of a large scale Civil War engagement, one of several fought during the Atlanta Campaign, but also has a rich history which extends both prior and post war. In the fall of 2013, the park experienced an incident of looting by an individual seeking to locate artifacts on park land with a metal detector. With the aid of local law enforcement, the park has continued to maintain vigilance of its cultural resources while managing impacts of recent government sequestration. The National Parks of Georgia host approximately 1.9 million visitors per year and see increased development on their periphery. Park Rangers describe the removal of artifacts from park lands as "stealing from history." They also note that while the government shutdown was in effect, they were unable to call in an archaeologist to investigate the area where artifacts were removed. Ranger Winegar joins the SGA talk to share the Kennesaw experience during his employment at the park.

**The Effects of Reenactments on Historic Battlefields:  
A Pilot Study from McLemore Cove, Georgia**

Jennifer Weber, Bryan Tucker, Aimee Bouzigard, and Patrick H. Severts  
GA DNR Historic Preservation Division and New South Associates, Inc.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that reenactments can be detrimental to the integrity of historic sites; however, no systematic studies have been conducted to investigate the effects of reenactments on battlefields. Thus, in order to assess the potential impact of American Civil War reenactments on historic sites, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and New South Associates, Inc. conducted a comparative metal detection survey before and after the 2013 Battle of Chickamauga reenactment at McLemore Cove. The results suggest reenactments could have a negative impact on historic battlefields.