The SGA Spring Meeting  
Saturday May 30th, 2015  
Lowndes County Historical Museum  
Valdosta, Georgia

Native Shores, European Waves: Contact Archaeology in Georgia

9:00 – 9:20 a.m.  Meeting Registration Opens

9:20 – 9:30 a.m.  Introduction and Welcome

9:30 – 9:40 a.m  “My Friend Marvin Smith”  
Mark Williams, University of Georgia

9:40 – 10:00 a.m.  Preliminary Research using pXRF on Gilded Beads  
Victor D. Thompson, Amanda D. Roberts Thompson, and Jeff Speakman, University of Georgia

Excavations at early Colonial sites in the Southeast often produce many Spanish artifacts, and glass trade beads are common among them. Such beads are often the subject of extensive research (Blair et al. 2009; Smith 1982). Included in such collections are what appear to be gold gilded beads likely produced in Spain. Our recent analysis on what appeared to be a gold gilded bead from the Mound Key site in southwestern Florida has brought up questions regarding the nature of production and identification of gold gilded beads from the sixteenth century. Specifically, we suggest that portable x-ray florescence (pXRF) can help to identify whether these gilded beads really are gold. We discuss the broader implications of such research for understanding the nature of colonial entanglements.

10:00 – 10:20 a.m.  Regional Abandonment and Community Organization: Regional and Community Perspectives on the North Georgia Coast  
Brandon T. Ritchison, University of Georgia

Regional abandonment events are increasingly recognized in the archaeological record of the Southeastern United States. One prominent example of these events is the Late Mississippian abandonment of the Savannah River Valley. Such large-scale changes in the geopolitical landscape would have engendered significant change in neighboring regions. In this paper, potential effects of this
abandonment on Late Prehistoric Georgia coastal communities are discussed and preliminarily evaluated based on legacy site file and radiocarbon data. Ongoing and future research at the Kenan Field site, on Sapelo Island, GA, relating changes in Mississippi period community organization to these regional events will be presented.

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. Protophistic Fort Walton, Mission Period, and Lamar in the Apalachicola-Lower Chattahoochee/Flint Valley Region
Nancy Marie White (in absentia, read by proxy), University of South Florida

In the Apalachicola valley and very lowest segments of the Chattahoochee/Flint valleys, protoolastic native cultures are poorly known. The robust late prehistoric Fort Walton adaptation disappears by 1650(?); few sites have contact-period evidence. Generic ceramics appear at possible mission sites near the rivers’ confluence and a coastal Spanish fort, probably representing amalgamated ethnic groups. Lamar pottery also appears ca. 1700, clustered in only a few places, suggesting brief occupations by specific groups. All the protoolastic peoples appear not to be Apalachee, nor Lower Creek (yet?). Furthermore, why most of this rich valley was uninhabited over these two centuries remains unknown.

10:40 – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00- 11:20 a.m. Shifting Settlement in the Protophistic Piedmont: Testing of Eight Late Lamar Wolfskin Phase Sites in the Upper Oconee River Basin
Tom Lewis, Cardno and Richard Moss, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

Survey and testing investigations east of Athens examined eight Late Lamar Wolfskin phase sites. Testing was focused on investigating issues of site layout and exploring the notion of using various ceramic attributes as a way to chronologically order Wolfskin phase sites. The Wolfskin phase is characterized by the rapid appearance of a distinctive ceramic tradition at sites within the Upper Oconee and Broad River valley uplands during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Proposed explanations for the phase’s origin are considered in light of the additional site and ceramic style data, and potential implications regarding early historic population movements and interactions in the North Georgia Piedmont interior are discussed.

James Wettstaed, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and Dean Wood, Southern Research, HPC, Inc.

The discovery of a well preserved Lamar culture household in the Chattahoochee National Forest offers to shed light on a period of time that remains poorly understood by archaeologists and ethno historians: the contact and post contact periods. During the Late Mississippian Period, the chiefdoms of the southeastern U. S. encountered various European explorers most notably, Hernando DeSoto and his army. These encounters had devastating consequences for the Native Americans. The US Forest Service, in partnership with Southern Research, is carrying out excavations at the Farmers Bottom site to better understand how the Native Americans reacted and adapted to the near destruction of their way of life.
This paper examines two recent field seasons of work at the site with the Passport in Time (PIT) Program.

11:40 – 12:00 p.m.  "Souvenir de Tokouo": The Strange Journeys of an Ethnohistorical Treasure  
Gregory A. Waselkov, University of South Alabama

In 1797 Antoine-Philippe, duc de Montpensier, and his brother, who later became King Louis Philippe I of France, visited the Cherokee town of Toqua during their exile in the United States. Antoine-Philippe sketched and painted scenes of their travels, including a view of Toqua of considerable ethnohistorical significance. The discovery of Antoine-Philippe's original painting, long thought to be lost, offers an opportunity to reconsider this early depiction of a southeastern Indian mound, council house, and log cabins.

12:00 – 12:40 p.m.  SGA Business Meeting

12:40 – 2:00 p.m.  Break for lunch on your own.

2:00 p.m. - end  Return for a tour of the Museum, its grounds, and nearby historic properties in downtown Valdosta led by Dr. Marvin Smith.