

Archaeology in Action: The Latest in Georgia Archaeology

Hosted by

The Society for Georgia Archaeology

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Time – 8:00am-12:20pm

The Classic Center – Olympia I

- **April Boatwright, Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeological Laboratory, University of West Georgia** - *Georgia's Lost and Found: The Public History of Lewis Larson's Contributions to Georgia Archaeology*

Abstract: Dr. Lewis H. Larson, Jr. (1927-2012) was Georgia's first state archaeologist and a prominent Southeastern archaeologist. Larson is best known for his fieldwork at the Etowah Mounds in Northwest Georgia and along the Southeastern coast. This paper presents the details of a public history project honoring Dr. Larson's life-long commitment to Georgia archaeology, and his enduring contribution to the excavation and research of the Etowah Indian Mound Historic Site (9BR1). The goals of this project are to digitize records from Larson's time spent as Georgia's state archaeologist, and to develop a public exhibit highlighting his contributions.

- **Stefan Brannan, University of Georgia** – *Reconstructing Settlement Histories through Ceramic Analysis: Refining the Ceramic Chronology for Singer-Moye*

Abstract: In this paper, I explore the ceramic assemblage from the community centered upon Singer-Moye, a large (30+ ha) mound center located in the lower Chattahoochee River valley. My analysis employs decorative and formal attributes to refine the local ceramic chronology, connect ceramics to radiocarbon dates, and generate a revised occupational history. This includes initial occupation, the construction and use of mounds and plazas, and episodes of population aggregation and dispersal. When situated within the regional settlement history, a narrative emerges which illustrates how the Singer-Moye community contributed to and was influenced by larger processes of socio-political change.

- **Adam Coker, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Jacob Lulewicz, University of Georgia** - *Politico-Ritual Networks and the Rise of Etowah: A Network Approach to Political Power and Social Prestige*

Using data on shell gorget iconography and associated ritual paraphernalia, social network analysis is employed to formally evaluate the sociopolitical networks from which Etowah emerged as a major civic ceremonial center at approximately A.D. 1250. Recognizing that power and prestige were more than likely amassed through elite exchange networks, this paper explores how the specific form, scale, and structure of these potential networks contextualized Etowah's development. This study contributes to our understanding of the exchange of symbolically charged materials across the U.S. Southeast and the role of these exchanges in the development of complex political institutions across the Southern Appalachia region.

- **Sara Gale, New South Associates** -*"But We're Just Removing Paperwork!": Follow Up to Georgia's SB 346 by the Archaeological Community.*

Abstract: Recent opposition to the 2016 Georgia Senate Bill 346 highlighted the importance of a strong network of professional archaeologists and those concerned with the use of the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) to consider cultural resources. The bill sought to exempt all transportation projects with state funding under \$100 million from adhering to GEPA. As the bill moved through the Georgia House and Senate, the professional archaeological community opposed the bill and then fought to revise the bill's language. In the end there was a compromise in the bill that offered some protection for cultural resources. The process of opposing and amending a bill highlighted some strengths and weaknesses in Georgia's professional archaeological community. We'll go through the lessons learned from fighting SB 346 and how the professional community is applying those lessons before the next anti-preservation bill is drafted.

- **K.C. Jones (University of Georgia), Daniel T. Elliott (LAMAR Institute, Inc.), and Jerald Ledbetter (Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc.)** - *"Georgia's Lost Archaeologist": Reconnaissance of the Davis Plantation Collection of Dr. Roland Steiner*

Abstract: Roland Steiner, whose artifact collections at the Smithsonian Institution represent the Museum's largest holdings from a single individual, remains a relatively unknown figure in Georgia archaeology. He sold collections to the Smithsonian in the late 19th century, and his attention to detail and geographic specificity made him a uniquely competent collector for that era. This paper offers some of the first archaeological insights gleaned from Steiner's Burke County plantation collections, including evidence for raw material salvaging and reuse, as well as material remains indicating continued reoccupation of the site from the Paleoindian through Historic periods.

- **Sarah Love (Georgia DNR), Emma Mason (Georgia DNR), and Joseph Smith (Hall Smith Office -Architecture)** - *Archaeology at a Rosenwald School: Interpreting Fairview's Identity*

Abstract: Of more than 5,000 Rosenwald structures built in the 20th century Southeast, the Fairview School in Cave Spring, Georgia was constructed to provide an educational facility for the local African-American community. Following the site's rediscovery, the community of Cave Spring spearheaded efforts to preserve and interpret the Fairview site. To date, little archaeological research has been performed on sites related to the Rosenwald initiative. By incorporating archaeological research into these community-led efforts, and collaborating with historic preservationists, this project helps in understanding Fairview's individual identity within the broader scope of Rosenwald school sites.

- **Marty Menz, University of Michigan** -*Lithic Craft Specialization and Exchange in the Woodland Period: Examples from West Georgia*

Abstract: Woodland period societies are commonly thought of as economically undifferentiated, due in large part to a continuing focus on the homogeneous domestic assemblages at prominent mound centers of the period. However, evidence of craft specialization, specifically intensive lithic tool production, has been encountered in regions associated with many such sites in the American Southeast. I compare patterns of lithic tool production and exchange within the Chattahoochee and Etowah river valleys of western Georgia to those of other areas and suggest that Woodland period economies were differentiated and interdependent at regional scales.

- **Katharine G. Napora, University of Georgia** - *Dendrochronology in the U.S. Southeast and New Research Trajectories'*

Abstract: Dendrochronology, the study of tree rings, is a valuable tool for paleoenvironmental research, yet it has been underemployed in the archaeology of the Southeast. This paper reviews existing Southeastern dendrochronological analyses and discusses new research trajectories being undertaken along the Georgia coast using remnant baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) stumps. This ongoing research seeks to use proxy tree-ring data to analyze long-term differences in climate and environment at the mouths of several river systems on the Georgia coast and to extend the existing baldcypress chronology back to the time of the Archaic-Woodland transition to reconstruct environmental conditions during this pivotal cultural shift.

- **Jenna Pirtle (New South Associates) and Delana Gilmore (Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society)** -*Fort Daniel: A Past, Present, and Future of Public Archaeology*

At Fort Daniel archaeological site, a c.1813 frontier fort in Gwinnett County, Georgia, a local foundation teams up with SGA to transform a site into an opportunity to teach the public about early Georgia history and archaeology. Currently, public events are a few archaeological digs and lab days each year. But future plans involve creating a comprehensive archaeological learning experience that benefits from professional relationships and educational materials for programs targeting various audiences and teaching important preservation concepts. This is just the beginning of a conversation to turn an archaeological site into a state park and educational facility.

- **Mary Scales, Department of Historic Preservation, University of Georgia** - *Cultural Landscape Management in the Chattahoochee National Forest: A Look at Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area*

Abstract: Located in Union County, the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area consists of a natural and historic built environment constructed in the early 1930s. Recently, management initiatives taken by the United States Forest Service have shown that this cultural landscape requires an innovative approach to preservation and conservation. Through above-ground survey and analysis of cultural resources, a more thorough understanding of this landscape is emerging. This paper will discuss the occupational history of the site, the current conditions of natural and cultural resources, as well as outline management practices applied to the cultural landscape since the park's opening in 1938.

- **Lori Thompson, Georgia State University** - *The MARTA Collection: An Archaeological Legacy and Cache of History*

Abstract: The initial rail lines for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) radiate from a center point where the town of Terminus gave rise to Atlanta. This massive public undertaking created an opportunity for Georgia State University (GSU) personnel, under the direction of Dr. Roy Dickens, to implement urban archaeological excavations from 1976-1979. The return of the collection to GSU presents the opportunity to reexamine this material. Through the investigation of the artifacts from 9FU107 and the documents from 9FU91, this paper will give a glimpse of the vast amount of new information that can be realized from this collection.