May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Each year Georgia’s Governor signs a proclamation that decrees that May as Archaeology Month. Archaeology Month is intended to promote preservation and stewardship of Georgia’s hidden archaeological heritage. The Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as the primary sponsor of Archaeology Month. Statewide events ranging from lectures to excavations occur during Archaeology Month.

Additionally, the SGA holds its Spring Meeting during Archaeology Month. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, May 10 at Red Top Mountain State Park located in Cartersville, Georgia, and a tour of the Etowah Mounds will be a part of this year’s meeting.

The theme for Archaeology Month and this year’s Spring Meeting is Site Destruction: Pieces of Our Past Lost Forever. For a list of statewide events and more information about Archaeology Month or the Spring Meeting visit the SGA Website.

In lieu of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for May, members and friends are invited to attend the Archaeology Day Fair on Saturday, May 3 at New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Georgia, beginning at 10AM. Admission is free! There will be a storyteller, flintknappers, crafts like the opportunity to create replica Native American pottery, and Abby the ArchaeoBus. Along with these GARS will be set up at the same time selling used history books. (If you would like to contribute, please bring a history book.) Please join GARS in this fun celebration of archaeology.
When “NRHP Eligible” Sites Are Saved...Sort Of

Archeological sites are being discovered and recorded all the time here in Gwinnett County. Of course, sites are being destroyed as well (See Georgia Heritage Loss). In each issue we focus on site discoveries in recent years and the context of those discoveries.

A site “recommended eligible” for the National Register of Historic Sites is not supposed to be destroyed or otherwise adversely affected until further study can determine whether it does indeed qualify to be considered “eligible” for the NRHP. If subsequent archeological (Phase II and/or Phase III) investigations bear out that status, the site will be officially designated “eligible.” The site may or may not ever actually be “nominated” to the NRHP, but at least, in theory, the site will be protected from formal development.

One way to mitigate “adverse effects” to such a site is the modify the project and just go around it. In additional to “avoidance,” on occasion a site may be “covered.” This has been done in the case of roads and railroad beds which can feasibly be constructed “over” the site; thus the site is “preserved in tact.” Of course, it has not been adequately studied nor can it now be!

I recall one such project on BLM managed Federal Lands in Nevada. As part of a large gold mine development project, I had recorded an NRHP eligible prehistoric (Archaic to contact period) habitation site with extensive intact buried deposits. The mining company argued that its proposed haul road could only go thru that location, and they did not want to pay for nor would their timeline permit archeological excavation of the site. How then to mitigate the site? In negotiations between the mining company, the BLM, and the archeologist (me), the BLM recommended that the haul road corridor portion of the site (a total area of about 25,000 sq ft) be covered with a special material designed for that purpose (something like a very sophisticated “garden clothe”) and then covered with layers of soil and gravel to form a base for the road bed. Needless to say neither the BLM nor I thought this was the best choice, but big mining companies have friends in Washington—that is another story.

Several Gwinnett sites—some found to be potentially NRHP eligible—have also been “covered over” to protect them, although under very different circumstances. Many of Gwinnett’s first 200 or so site numbers were assigned to sites recorded during the 1950s & later for the Lake Lanier & dam project. These, including “recommended eligible” sites are now “covered over” by Lake Lanier. Other sites along the Chattahoochee, located below the 1956 Buford Dam, are located within the flood plain. Here they are somewhat protected by current laws that prevent or limit development on flood plains, but not from looters. collectors or erosion. One such site was first recorded by Tom Gresham (Southeastern Archeological Services) in 1986, although State site number was not given at the time. In this survey, Gresham noted a modest number of lithics and Early Mississippian ceramics situated on a river terrace within the flood plain. The site was recorded again in 1997 by Keith McRae (Webb & Associates) and assigned 9GW112. McRae observed Woodland-Mississippian ceramics, quartz and chert debitage, and evidence that “deposits are deep and appear to be intact… also…does not exhibit heavy agricultural use.” He recommended the site “eligible.” Gresham revisited the site in 2000 as part of a survey for an interceptor line extension, noting that site 9GS112 and his original recordation (now recorded as site 209) were one and the same. He reiterated the cultural affiliation, potential for intact buried deposits, and “eligible” recommendation. Though not yet studied (to my knowledge) at the Phase II or III level, this flood plain site is sort of protected.
Kennesaw Battlefield Field Trip  
By Leslie Perry

On a beautiful sunny day in April members of GARS, FDF, and guests went on a driving tour of Kennesaw Battlefield. The tour was given by Civil War historian and author Brad Quinlan, who has been a Kennesaw Battlefield Park volunteer for 26 years. The car caravan visited Kolb’s Farm, an 1830s self-sufficient farm with almost 600 acres of land, and the tour ended at Cheatham Hill. There the recently cleaned Illinois Monument (the largest monument on the battlefield) commands respect from its perch over the Hill (pictured left), and near the base of the monument is the entrance to a tunnel begun by Union soldiers.

At each stop Brad treated the group with background information on all aspects of the war and personalized quotes from individual soldiers. For example, at Cheatham Hill because of the many casualties, the smell began to affect the Confederate soldiers in the trenches. They began to wave white flags, and the Union soldiers were confused. The Confederates suggested to have a two-hour truce so that both sides can clear the wounded and buried their dead. During these two hours both Confederate and Union soldiers played cards and traded items while they were waiting for the area to be cleared. At the same time some of the Union soldiers surrounded Confederate General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham (which the hill is named after) to get his autograph.

The 150th Anniversary of the battle will be commemorated throughout the park on June 26–29 where programs, battlefield tours, and living history demonstrations will be occurring. For more information about the celebration visit the National Park’s Web site. Additionally, GARS received a new DVD for their library from our guide called Kennesaw: One Last Mountain - the Official Film of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Thank

More Diggin’s

- **Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home** located in Rome, Georgia, will host a free Archaeology Day program on **Saturday, May 10** from 10:30AM–4:30PM. Visitors will be able to tour the grounds where past archaeological discoveries have been made, see the Archaeology Lab located in the Grizzard Center, and learn the scientific methods behind a dig. For more information please visit the Chieftains Museum Web site.

- **Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society** (GAAS) monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 13** beginning at 6:30PM at the Ferbank Museum of Natural History. The featured speaker is Dr. Ben Steere from the University of West Georgia. Dr. Steere, who is researching with members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees, will report on current work to locate the mounds and communities of the western North Carolina Cherokees and their ancestors.

- **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center’s Archaeology Festival** will be held on Saturday, May 17 beginning at 11AM. Explore the exciting field of archaeology and learn how you can become a Protector of the Past. Tour the ArchaeoBus (the SGA’s mobile archaeology classroom) and learn how to throw an atlatl as you examine Georgia’s timeline through fun activities and games. Admission is $5 for 13 and up, $3 for children ages 3–12, and free for children under 2. To preregister visit the GEHC’s Web site.
Fort Daniel News

- In mid April a few people came to the Grant House at Fort Daniel and helped out making improvements to the basement. In addition to painting the walls and floors, window sills were installed, the opening to the dirt cellar was enclosed, and two (donated) 48” florescent fixtures to supplement the three conventional fixtures were installed—all of which now have energy saving lights and are tied together with a common on/off switch. The next phase, installation of a toilet and sink facility, and enclosure of stairs and furnace area will begin soon.

- Preparations for the upcoming 6th Annual Frontier Faire will begin soon. If you are interested in helping out, please email Wayne Waldrip.

Historic Preservation Month

Along with May being Georgia’s Archaeology Month it is also National Historic Preservation Month, and this year’s theme is New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage.

To celebrate the Georgia Trust and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division will be offering their 6th Annual Preservation Month Lecture Series every Thursday in May. All lectures are FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available at 6PM and lectures begin promptly at 7PM at Rhodes Hall located at 1516 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta.

To add to the celebration this year they are also hosting several other events including an exclusive tour of the Randolph Lucas House in Atlanta; a special preservation volunteer workday at Griffin City Hall, which was placed on the 2014 list of the Trust’s Places in Peril; and of course, the 2014 Spring Ramble in Cartersville, Georgia.

For more information about these celebrations please visit the Georgia Trust’s Web site.