

# the *Nature* of things

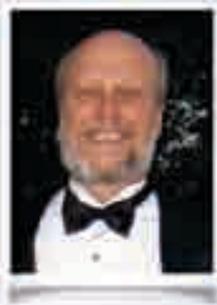
AT THE GEORGIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



## Mapping the Singer-Moye Indian Mounds

### From *the* Director

When you drive past East Campus and Cedar Streets, take a peek at the end of the Natural History Building—chances are you'll glimpse



a full-sized model of a Great White Shark! You can see a similarly large model of an Orca is positioned over the front door. These permanent exhibits compliment the current Gallery offerings. We were able to get these models refurbished and mounted late this summer and they can help folks find the building as well as inspire some of our young visitors.

Visitation continues to be up in the Gallery including UGA students as well as school tours and members of the general public. The Gallery is open 10-4 weekdays, but will be closed this fall on weekends due to the football season, and will re-open for weekend tours beginning in January 2013. There is a new addition gracing the gallery of terrestrial predators, namely an accurate replica of a set of Great White Shark jaws modeled from a

*From the Director, continued on page 4*



Bud Freeman

A hot steamy summer didn't deter 20 students enrolled in the Department of Anthropology's Summer Archaeological Field School from braving the elements and learning field techniques at Singer-Moye this June and July. Led by UGA doctoral student Stefan Brannan, they helped conduct a systematic mapping of the research area. Singer-Moye is the subject of Stefan's dissertation research and this mapping will help define the occupational boundaries of the UGA property.

Singer-Moye, acquired as a gift from the Columbus Museum in 2008, consists of about 44 acres to be managed by the Georgia Museum of Natural History. The site contains 8 Mississippian period mounds, with the largest rising 43 feet or more from the current land surface. Recently an additional gift of 102 acres of adjoining property was made to the University to support this research area. This new property includes additional archaeologically rich areas as well as stream frontage on a major creek.

The students followed the recently surveyed boundary and put in place boundary markers to delimit the property.



*Indian Mounds, continued on page 7*

## Join the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History on Our Upcoming Field Trip to Cloudland Canyon

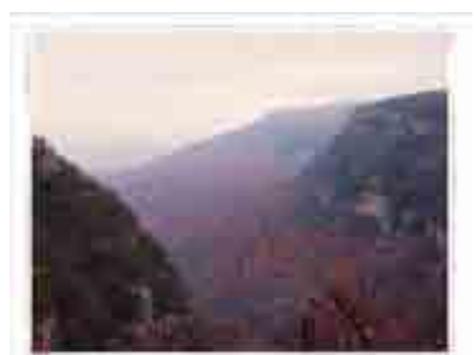
Our fall field trip will explore the extreme northwestern corner of the state. It will focus on the scenery and natural history of a distinctively different region, where the Cumberland Plateau extends into Georgia. This area features complex geological formations of sedimentary limestone, sandstone, shale, and chert, which form ridges, ravines, and gorges, as well as rock outcrops. These habitats support a diverse vegetation of forests and glades, some of which harbor unusual plant communities that occur nowhere else in the state.

Our group will stay in modern 2-bedroom cottages at Cloudland Canyon State Park, which is located on the western edge of Lookout Mountain, about 20 miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. One of the most scenic parks in Georgia, Cloudland offers rugged geology and exceptional hiking. It straddles a deep gorge cut into the mountain by Sitton Gulch Creek, and elevations range from 800 to 1,980 feet. The most spectacular view into the canyon is an easy walk from the picnic area, but we can also explore a rim trail or journey to the canyon floor by a series of staircases. Two waterfalls cascade over layers of sandstone and shale into pools below.

Tentative plans are to do breakfasts and lunches on our own, as the cottages are provided with fully equipped kitchens, and to travel to Chattanooga for dinner Friday night, driving along the Lookout Mountain Scenic Highway. Saturday night we will either eat in the park or again travel to a nearby restaurant (one comes highly recommended by Laurie Fowler). The detailed itinerary for Saturday will be determined by the group, but possibilities include visiting the cedar glades near the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, about 20 miles NE of the park, or the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area, 15 miles SE of the park. Keep in mind, however, that we also want to spend some time seeing the park itself. On the way home, we plan to visit The Pocket in the Chattahoochee National Forest, about 30 miles SE of the park.

The cost for lodging Friday and Saturday nights, 28-29 September 2012, is \$175 per person, which includes a tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of \$100. For more information, contact Robert Wyatt ([rewyatt@uga.edu](mailto:rewyatt@uga.edu)). Please reserve your place by **15 September**, earlier if possible.

Send your check to:  
Friends of GMNH  
Natural History Building  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602.



## In Memoriam

Joy Schomberg, long-time supporter of the Georgia Museum of Natural History and the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History, passed away on March 3, 2012. Joy was part of the organizing committee which worked with Jean Porter to make the Friends a reality. She and her husband, Harry Schomberg, were Charter members of the Friends and she was elected the first secretary of the Friends. After stepping down as secretary, she and Harry continued to support the Friends and the Museum in many ways. Joy brought light and laughter to the Museum and the Friends. She will be deeply missed.

the *Nature*<sub>of things</sub>

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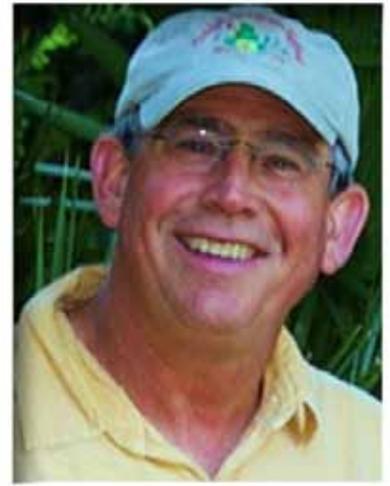
## From *the* President

When I agreed to stand for election as President of the Friends of the GMNH, I did so with the knowledge that, unlike my predecessors who each served five one-year terms, I would be limited to four at the most under our bylaws. I have therefore felt motivated to advance the agenda of the Friends as rapidly as possible. But I must admit that the going has been tough, with the headwind of the Great Recession and retrenchment all around at the University.

I hope, nonetheless, that we are making some progress in laying the foundation for our dream of someday having a building capable of housing all of the diverse functions of a state museum. We can see successful models at UGA in the new Art Museum and, even more recently, the new Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library. These were built with the help of major funding from private supporters.

With the help of Jennifer Messer from the University's Development Office, we have begun to follow up on some possible sources of private support for the GMNH. If any of you know any philanthropists whose interests include anything in the broad spectrum of natural history, from archaeology and botany to entomology and zoology, please help put us in touch. The opportunities are almost limitless.

We can also look to other state museums, such as those in Florida and North Carolina, which have managed to leverage state funds to construct suitable facilities to house



their natural history collections. As the economy rebounds, we may be able to get on the radar screen of the Georgia legislature. After all, they designated us the state museum of natural history.

Josh Laerm, the first "official" director of the Museum, dreamed of a building that could house all of the collections that comprise the GMNH and where the teaching, research, and public outreach functions could be carried out. He spent his career trying to achieve that goal, but never quite made it. Our collections have now grown to more than six million accessioned items. Our need has never been greater. Thanks for your support.

-- Robert Wyatt





## Committees for the Friends of the GMNH

**Executive Committee:** Robert Wyatt, Dave Coleman, Amy Edwards, Dac Crossley and Alan Covich

**Bylaws Committee:** Robert Wyatt [chair], Kay Giese and Dorinda Dallmeyer

**Nominating Committee:** Dave Coleman [chair], Betty Jean Craige and Kay Giese

**Celebration Committee:** Dave Coleman and Laurie Fowler [co-chairs], Gisela Gresham, Amy Edwards, Terry Camp, Paige Cummings, Kay Giese and Dorinda Dallmeyer

**Membership Committee:** Betty Jean Craige [chair], Terry Camp, Jennifer Messer, Amy Edwards, Amy Rosemond and Tricia Ruppensburg

**Field Trips Committee:** Robert Wyatt [chair], Dave Coleman and Philip Juras

**Newsletter Committee:** Janice Sand and Dac Crossley

**Building Committee:** Alan Covich [chair], Ed Nichols, Paige Cummings, Cecil Hudson and Jennifer Messer

*From the Director, continued from page one*

19.5 foot specimen. The model is complete with rows of impressive teeth, and it's easy to see why seals and wetsuit-clad surfers are nervous with these fish around.

Summer was active at the Singer-Moye archaeological site, first a visit a visit by the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society to the town of Lumpkin and the mounds and later a several week field school in the south Georgia heat all led by Stefan Brannan, a doctoral student in Anthropology whose dissertation will focus on the mounds.

More importantly, I want to congratulate Ms Liz McGhee, our long-time assistant curator of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians who retires at the end of August after 31 amazing years of working with these collections and of course us! I'm not quite sure what we will do without her

Come on by and see us sometime!

- Bud Freeman



## A t t a c k of the Sidewalk Mites

Dac Crossley

Little red mites coming into your home and nipping you this summer? Dac Crossley, curator (emeritus) of mites and ticks in the Museum says they are probably "sidewalk mites" (Genus Balaustium).

You might see these mites on the foliage outside your house, eating other little critters. They're bigger than the average mite, about 1 mm long. And bright red. They seem to have an affinity for concrete. And they don't hesitate to come indoors.

Their bite might make you flinch but they're harmless. The infestation doesn't last long. Mash one of them. If it leaves a red streak – it's a sidewalk mite.



## Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History May 19, 2012

Dave Coleman

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History was very festive. It was held, for the first time, in the renovated and expanded exhibit area and classroom of the Museum.

Our principal objective was to elect four new members of the Board of the Friends [see sidebar].

We are grateful for the efforts of Betty Jean Craige and Kay Giese, who worked assiduously on the Nominations committee, chaired by Dave Coleman. These new board members were voted in by acclamation, and will serve a full three years, through summer of 2015.

Our President, Robert Wyatt, gave an overview of the recent activities of the Friends and the Museum itself. The Friends made a Field trip to Sapelo Island, GA, the weekend of May 10-12. We will make a Fall Field trip to Cloudland Canyon State Park, in far northwestern Georgia, the nights of Sept. 28-29. Contact Robert Wyatt ([rewyatt@uga.edu](mailto:rewyatt@uga.edu)) for more information.

Four officers were re-elected for one additional year, July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

The officers are:

President: Robert Wyatt  
Vice President: Dave Coleman  
Secretary: Amy Edwards  
Treasurer: Dac Crossley

We then celebrated by enjoying a full buffet Mexican dinner, catered by Agua Linda. Refreshing drinks were provided by Bud Freeman, and we were serenaded by the rollicking Bluegrass music of the Curley Maple duo.

We have some new collections and a new curator of invertebrates, Rick Hoebeke

We look forward to seeing all our friends at the forthcoming Celebration Dinner on behalf of the Museum of Natural History at the Conservatory of the State Botanical Garden, the evening of Saturday, October 20th of this year.

## Welcome New Board Members



**Dorinda Dallmeyer** is recently retired from the University of Georgia's Institute of Government. Her interests are in environmental science.



**Gisele Gresham** is keen on the Friends long-term future.



**Philip Juras** is a local artist and friend of the Museum.



**Tricia Ruppensburg** is the owner of Aurum Studio, an artist and long-term supporter of Friends.



## Giant Apex Predators Attack the Natural History Building

Bud Freeman

On a hot June day this summer, folks from the UGA welding and grounds shops got to attach not signs or equipment, but 2 life size models of a Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) and a Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) to the side of the Natural History building. The Museum is attached to the Statistics Building and folks there were coming to see if there really was a shark on the building. The shark is easily seen from East Campus road and will help identify the location of the Museum to folks trying to find us. Our front door faces the parking lot and is hard to identify-now we tell visitors to look under the Orca for the door!

The models are made of fiberglass and there is a bit of history to go along with them. In 2008 we acquired them from the Capitol Museum in Atlanta, where they had been on display in the 4th floor rotunda of the Georgia State Capitol, since 1976. Some of the crew that installed these models remembered seeing them on school trips to Atlanta! These life-sized replica models were produced by Klineburger/Jonas Brothers of Seattle in 1976 along with many others of fish and wildlife for the Capitol Museum, which now focuses on Georgia Capitol and Government history.

The models were in storage here for 4 years, until all the recent construction in and outside of the Natural History was completed. They were transported back to Atlanta for a face-lift and resin coating and are now up for all to see. Plaques briefly detailing the history and a bit of natural history for each species are under construction.

These two species are apex predators, found in oceans world wide, and occur off the Georgia coast. Come by and have a peak and then look inside to see a replica set of jaws modeled from a large Great White.





*Indian Mounds, continued from page one*

In addition to learning field techniques of mapping, shovel testing and unit profiling, the team used shallow geo-physical mapping techniques. The photo shows students pulling a ground penetrating radar antenna along a pre-defined grid to map potential subsurface anomalies that could be indicative of buried features. Preliminary results suggest the period of human occupation at Singer-Moye extends over a period of more than two thousand years.



## *Friends Annual Celebration*

October 20, 2012  
State Botanical Gardens

Join the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History for our annual Celebration.

Evening meal catered by Trumps and Music by the Kenney-Blackmon String Band. Last year's popular live auction will return, along with the usual silent auction.

Contact Dave Coleman (davec@uga.edu) or Laurie Fowler (lfowler@uga.edu) for the nitty-gritty Celebration tickets can be purchased online at <https://sites.google.com/site/friendsgmnh>.

**Join the Friends and support the Museum**

Membership includes: a subscription to *The Nature of Things* newsletter, invitations to museum events, Friends programs, and field trips. Membership and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

\$5,000 Life \_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$2,500 Benefactor \_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,500 Sustaining \_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip (9-digit): \_\_\_\_\_

\$500 Patron \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$250 Sponsor \_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 Donor \_\_\_\_

\$50 Family \_\_\_\_

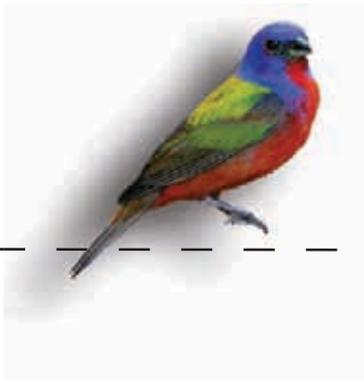
\$30 Individual \_\_\_\_

\$15 Student \_\_\_\_

\$15 Senior (65 & over) \_\_\_\_

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