

# CHS *Update*

*Official Newsletter of the Coastal Heritage Society*

*Exec. Director, Scott W. Smith*

*President, James M. Poole III*

*Vol. 3 Year 2005*

## 2005 CHS Membership Meeting

This year's CHS membership meeting started out with a reception in the Savannah History Museum. After members, staff, trustees, and employees caught up, we moved to the theatre to enjoy remarks from President Jim Poole and a video presentation sampling television news coverage of Society events over the past year. We also installed the new class of trustees for another term. The highlight of the evening was a lecture and presentation by Chad O. Braley of Southeastern Archaeological Services, the chief archaeologist on the Mary Musgrove/Grange Plantation site. (see "Meeting," p. 7)



(above) CHS President Jim Poole begins the meeting with a brief address to members.

## Revolutionary Perspectives Lecture Series



This fall, the Society will offer a series of four lectures on the Revolutionary War. The *Revolutionary Perspectives* lectures will look at the historic conflict from the viewpoints of various diverse participants. This project is



supported by the Georgia Humanities council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly. All lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Savannah History Museum theatre, with light refreshments served starting at 6:30 p.m.

### **"Creeks & Georgians in a Revolutionary Era"**

Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund, Auburn University  
September 15, 2005

### **"The Glory is Gone! The Failure of the British Southern Strategy"**

Dr. Edward J. Cashin, Augusta State University  
September 22, 2005

### **"Ten to One' Odds of No Return: Lachlan McIntosh, Benjamin Lincoln, and the Virginia Continentals During the Siege of Savannah"**

Dr. Carol Ebel, Armstrong Atlantic State University  
September 29, 2005

### **"The Intrepid Warrior: Casimir Pulaski Fights for American Liberty"**

Col. Francis C. Kajencki, U.S. Army (Retired)  
October 6, 2005

Please RSVP to Krystal Kornegay at (912) 651-2240 or [kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org](mailto:kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org)

303 MLK, JR. BLVD.

SAVANNAH, GA 31401

(912) 651.6840

FAX (912) 651.6971

E-MAIL [admin@chsgeorgia.org](mailto:admin@chsgeorgia.org)

[www.chsgeorgia.org](http://www.chsgeorgia.org)

## Cannons & Cuisine 2005 Coming Up September 3rd



(above) Auctioneer Scott Smith works the crowd at *Cannons & Cuisine* 2004.

Do you enjoy great food, old-time music, and a great bargain? If you answered “yes,” be sure to attend this year’s ***Cannons & Cuisine*** auction and low country boil at Old Fort Jackson, **Saturday, September 3rd from 6-9 p.m.** This annual event features great barbeque and shrimp, cannon firing by uniformed Civil War soldiers, and the opportunity to bid on valuable items donated by generous individuals and companies. This year, the Coastal Heritage Society staff has already collected two domestic round-trip tickets from AirTran Airways, a Ray Ellis print from the Compass Gallery framed by Friedman’s Fine Art, four oil changes at Savannah Tire, and much more. We’re still accepting donations, so contact Michael Jordan at **(912) 651-6895** or **[mjordan@chsgeorgia.org](mailto:mjordan@chsgeorgia.org)** if you’d like to contribute or volunteer to work at the event. Last year’s auction raised several thousands dollars-- even though a tropical storm forced us to postpone the event until November. Let’s make sure this year’s *Cannons & Cuisine* is an even bigger success!

CHS members, check your mail regularly for updates on this and other upcoming Society events.

## Spring Hill Redoubt to Open by Anniversary of Battle

Thanks to the generous support of many community leaders, the Coastal Heritage Society is set to realize the attainment of a dream that was conceived more than a decade and a half ago: the opening of the Spring Hill Redoubt. This monument to the soldiers who fought and died in the Battle of Savannah on October 9, 1779 will be built entirely with private donations.

The Redoubt project officially began on September 8, 2004, when Campaign Chairman Mills Lane Morrison, Jr. invited a group of community leaders to join the effort to create a monument to the battle on land purchased by the City of Savannah in late 2003. Now, nine months later, the Society is beginning the construction of the Redoubt-- a simple soil and wood fortification like those created by Savannah’s British defenders in 1779. The Redoubt’s completion will be observed with a weekend of activities on October 8-9, including a ribbon cutting on Saturday the 8th and a dawn ceremony on Sunday the 9th. A small Battle interpretation building will be constructed in the fall to complete this phase of the Battlefield Park project.

The events of the October 8-9 weekend are still in the planning stage. The Society will notify members of specific details as soon as they become available.



(above) CHS President Jim Poole addresses the crowd gathered at the Redoubt site on October 9, 2004.



(above) An artist’s conception of the Spring Hill Redoubt at Battlefield Park.

## Farewell to a Friend

The Coastal Heritage Society bids a sad farewell to a steadfast friend this summer. Nick Mamalakis passed away on June 15th at the age of 91. A member of the Society since 1995, Mamalakis was a Benefactor who made many generous donations over the years, including a valuable plot of land near the Paint Shop building at the Roundhouse. Our deepest condolences go to Nick's wife Anna and their family.

## Daily Cannon Firings at Old Fort Jackson

Looking to start your summer off with a bang? The staff at Old Fort Jackson is firing the reproduction Civil War mountain howitzer (right) daily at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with an extra blast at 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, now through August 15th.



## Johnny Mercer's Christening Gown Donated to Museum

Before Johnny Mercer wrote the songs heard 'round the world, he wore a small white christening gown like other babies of his day. Now Mercer's gown is part of the Savannah History Museum's collection.

The sheer muslin gown with lace inserts was donated recently by Mrs. Ruth Clayton, whose mother lived next door to the Mercer family's seamstress. Curator Lydia Moreton said, "We already have one of Johnny Mercer's Oscar awards and other memorabilia-- but this gown really adds a personal touch to our collection of items relating to this great Savannahian."

Johnny Mercer's communion gown (right) is now part of the collection of the Savannah History Museum.



## Modern-Day Technology to Heat & Cool Historic Site

Engineers are tapping the natural heating and cooling power of the earth to regulate the temperature in one building at the Roundhouse Railroad Museum. Recently, crews installed a geothermal system at the Tender Frame Shop. This hi-tech, environmentally friendly device sends water through coils two hundred feet beneath the surrounding soil. The water will take summertime heat from inside the building and disperse it belowground; alternately, in the winter, the water will bring heat from the earth into the structure. The constant 70-degree temperature of the soil heats and cools much more efficiently than the outside air. Before the digging started, staff archaeologists verified that no significant artifacts would be disturbed. In late June, the grassy area beside the Tender Frame Shop was a muddy mess. But project manager Billie Graham of the Preservation Team said, "In another week, the site will be covered over and ready for new grass. Once the grass grows back, you won't notice that anything's there with the exception of a single pipe running into the building."



(above) Coils of pipe snake up out of the mud as contractors install a geothermal heating and cooling system beside the Tender Frame Shop at the Roundhouse Railroad Museum.

## CHS Welcomes Archaeologist Rita Elliott

Veteran Georgia archaeologist Rita Elliott joins the Society's Curatorial Department in July. Elliott holds an MA in Maritime History and Underwater Research from East Carolina University. She comes to CHS from Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants in Ellerslie, Georgia.



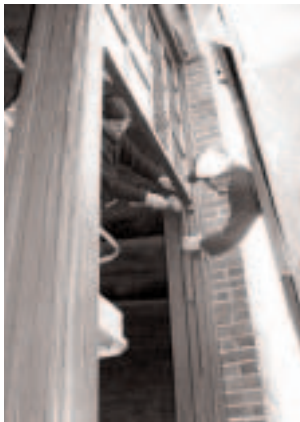
The CHS Curatorial Department welcomes archaeologist Rita Elliott (above) July 1st.

## New Windows at the Roundhouse

Members of the Preservation Team are seeing the fruits of more than a year of painstaking research and work at the Roundhouse Railroad Museum. In May, team members began installing replica triple-hung windows in one of the 13.5' x 20' bays near the entrance to the museum.

The original 1920s windows deteriorated in the years after the railroad abandoned the site in the 1960s.

Tracy Bakic, Brad Carter, Eric Davenport, Stewart Dohrman, Becki Harkness, Terry Koller, Don Miller, Steven Sheffield, and Jay Solomon, all played important roles in the project. The window replacement is funded by a portion of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds approved by local voters and earmarked by local government for the overall Battlefield Park project, including the railroad buildings at the Roundhouse.



(above) Brad Carter and Eric Davenport install replica windows at the Roundhouse.

## Tucker Earns Masters Degree

Congratulations are in order for Old Fort Jackson Site Manager D.J. Tucker, who graduated on May 13th with a masters degree in American History from the College of Charleston and the Citadel.

D.J.'s new degree adds him to a growing number of key Society employees with advanced degrees in their fields. Way to go, D.J.!



Old Fort Jackson Site Manager D.J. Tucker with Dr. Bernard Powers, Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Charleston.

## Heritage Groups Donate New Flag to Old Fort



(above) Phillip Coleman, D.J. Tucker, Allison Thurlow Crapse, and David Dickey hold the new 1st Confederate National Flag donated to Old Fort Jackson.

A bright new flag is now fluttering over Old Fort Jackson, thanks to members of three local Confederate heritage groups. On Friday, April 22nd, members of the Savannah Chapter No. 2 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Francis S. Bartow Camp No. 93 Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Lafayette McLaws Camp No. 97 Military Order of the Stars and Bars dedicated a new Garrison Flag for use at Old Fort Jackson. The flag was presented in memory of Margie Griner, and the dedication ceremony at the fort kicked off an entire weekend full of Confederate Memorial Day activities.

# Art & Architecture at the Roundhouse

Art, architecture, and history come together in three new exhibits at the Roundhouse Railroad Museum. Savannah College of Art and Design students in professor Scott Dietz's Master Builder class and professor Joel Varland's Experimental Installation class let their imaginations take control as they designed the huge pieces, which cause visitors to think in new ways about the century and a half of industrial occupation at the site.

At an opening reception on May 25, the students unveiled the "Exploding Milk Drop," "Manifest Destiny," and "In-Between." The "Exploding Milk Drop" rises up from the soil in the space formerly occupied by the Machine Shop building. This work uses the metaphor of a milk drop hitting and radiating out across a hard surface as a metaphor for the way the railroad carried people and products from Savannah across the nation. "Manifest Destiny" uses twisting metal pipes and gravel to convey the notion of industrial progress carrying mankind forward through time. "In-Between" uses layers of colored plexiglass suspended in a window to make visitors pause and consider all that took place over the years at the Roundhouse.

None of the exhibits actually penetrates the soil at the National Historic Landmark site. All three pieces will remain on display for the next several months.



"Exploding Milk Drop" (above) is a metaphor for the way the railroad carried goods and people from the Roundhouse across the nation. "Manifest Destiny" (right) invites visitors inside for a look at the relationship between industrial buildings, which last for decades, and the short-lived people who worked in them over the years.



# Local Scouts Paint Caboose at Roundhouse



A group of local Boy Scouts rolled up their sleeves and took paint brushes in hand at the Roundhouse on Saturday morning, April 23rd. The Scouts put a new coat of bright red paint on the museum's Atlantic Coastline caboose.

The young men undertook the work as part of a Life Scout project for Scout Phillip Shaw. Life Scout is a rank just below Eagle Scout. The Scouts are from Troop 30 at White Bluff United Methodist Church.

(left, from left) Barry Waters, Mike Thomas, Edward Derst, Brad Wordell, Marquel Jenkins, Phillip Shaw, Mark Shaw, Austin Dubberly, Eric Roberts, Eli Boesche, Pete Harrington, and Stu Harrington show off their work at the Roundhouse.

# CHS Hosts 2005 NASOH/NMHS Conference

More than one hundred of the nation's leading maritime historians and underwater archaeologists converged on Savannah May 18-21 for the joint conference of the North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH) and the National Maritime Historical Society (NMHS). Participants enjoyed three full days of lectures on topics including the wreck of the CSS *Georgia* in the Savannah River, and enjoyed tours of local historic sites. A big thanks goes out to the staffs of Old Fort Jackson and the Savannah History Museum, who really knocked themselves out staging a banquet and reception for the conference participants. Reenactors from the 22nd Georgia Heavy Artillery even fired the 9-inch Dahlgren cannon during the closing-night banquet at the fort. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division's Archaeological Services Unit and the Georgia Ports Authority co-sponsored the conference with CHS.



(above) Conference Chair Joe Meany, NASOH President John Hattendorf, and NMHS Executive Vice President Burchenal Green relax at the Savannah History Museum reception.



(left) D.J. Tucker addresses conference participants at the banquet at Old Fort Jackson. (right) Conference participants enjoy a Savannah River boat tour narrated by CHS Marketing Director Michael Jordan



## Conference Speaker Gives Free Lecture on CSS *Georgia* Archaeology



(above) A diver prepares to dive on the CSS *Georgia* wreck site in summer 2003.

On Wednesday night, May 18, archaeologist Stephen James of Panamerican Consultants gave a free lecture to more than sixty Society members and guests explaining the results of summer 2003 dives on the wreck of the ironclad CSS *Georgia* in front of Old Fort Jackson. James displayed sonar images revealing the absence of any wooden hull remnants, and revealing the presence of several pieces of the iron casemate, some machinery, cannon, and a propeller. The lecture was a preview of James' Thursday morning presentation at the NASOH/NMHS conference.



(above) A historical newspaper drawing of the *Georgia*. (below) A sonar image of the wreck taken in summer 2003.



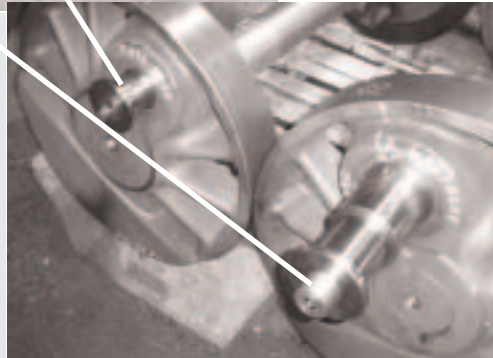
# Steaming Ahead with GA Power #30



In the dusty corners of the backshops at the Roundhouse Railroad Museum, a crack team of consultants is rebuilding a historic steam engine. The Georgia Power #30 is typical of the industrial switching locomotives which were used at ports, brickyards, and industrial sites in the early 1900s. These iron beasts were the workhorses of their day.

Scott Lindsay and Gary North of Steam Operations Corporation have been heading up a restoration project on this old engine for the past eight months. The

team expects the wheels and running gear to be complete in late July. Repairs to the firebox and boiler are in the early stages of reassembly. Lindsay says members of the Society's Preservation Crew have played important roles in various stages in this complicated process.



Scott Lindsay and the Steam Operations Team have re-machined the crank pins (right) on the GA Power steam locomotive (a sister engine is shown above) so the #30 can once again ride the rails. The white lines connecting these two pictures show the crank pins' location on the locomotive.

## "Sabella" Charms History Museum Visitors



For just \$1, you could take this lovely lady home. Sabella is a Showstoppers doll valued at \$250. She's being raffled at the Savannah History Museum. Tickets are \$1 apiece, with the drawing scheduled for November 28.

Proceeds benefit the museum's trust fund, which is used to purchase exhibits and help pay for special museum projects. Sabella is located in a clear case at the History Museum ticket booth. She is the third doll donated by Showstoppers Dolls.

"Sabella" will be raffled in early December to benefit the Savannah History Museum.

## Meeting

(continued from page 1)



(above) Jamal Toure and Preston Russell



(above) Frances Smith and Rose Konter

Braley explained the history of the site and previous archaeological digs, then described some of the many artifacts that will one day be on display in the museum.



(above) Trustees take the oath of office; (left) Thanks to Shirley Dodd and her staff from the History Museum and WhistleStop Cafe for the fantastic reception!

# CHS Update

FROM THE  
COASTAL HERITAGE SOCIETY  
303 MLK, JR. BLVD.  
SAVANNAH, GA 31401

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 451  
SAVANNAH, GA

*Address service requested*



*Three Decades of Preserving the Past*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS Since April 12, 2005

Ms. Bonnie Ballard  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick P. Banyard  
Mr. & Mrs. Murray K. Barnard  
Mr. William V. Bennett  
Ms. Nancy L. Bonomo  
Mr. Francis A. Brown  
Ms. Igna-Maria Clark  
Mrs. Anita L. Clay  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Bryan Connerat, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Cook  
Mr. E. McIntosh Cover  
Mrs. Sally McAdoo Coy  
Mr. Eldon E. Davidson  
Mrs. Stacy Doty  
Mr. Kirk Duffy  
Mr. Tom A. Edenfield  
Dr. Mark Finlay  
Mr. John R. Garner, III  
Mr. Justin Godchaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Groves, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Harman  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Harrington  
Mr. Norman L. Heidt  
Mr. John Herdina

Father Charles L. Hoskins  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Fred Jones, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Verner E. Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Talley Kirkland, Jr.  
Mr. Jefferson Talley Kirkland  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Landin  
Mr. T.R. Lariscy  
Mr. Rex Larkin  
Ms. Margaret G. Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold V. Mangin  
Mr. Robert T. McAlister  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. McDonald  
Mr. Larry C. Meyers  
The Honorable Charles B. Mikell  
Mr. Donald C. Miller  
Cdr. & Mrs. John Nuckel, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben T. Padgett, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Paolucci  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Plichta  
Richard E. Schugar, O.D.  
Mrs. Esther Shaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Stanford  
Ms. Ellie Rankin Tardif  
Mr. Herbert S. Traub, Jr.  
Lt. Col. Walter G.B. Wright  
USA, (Ret.)  
Mr. & Mrs. William Zianoski

## NEW MEMBERS Since April 12, 2005

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Aiken  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Arnsdorff  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Lewis Brinson, Jr.  
Mr. Stephen Bond  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown  
Mr. Travis Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene G. Clarke  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl P. Coppedge  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeNapoli  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce R. Elder  
Mrs. Cinda Rebecca Harkness  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Maynard  
Mr. Don Reinke  
Ms. Carol Rollick  
Ms. Mable H. Sanders  
Mr. David C. Sapp  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Sommers  
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis H. Strickland  
Mr. Richard Sussmann  
Mr. J. B. Thornton  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Varland  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Warren

## SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR HELP.

CHS ADMINISTRATION  
Director's Office Scott W. Smith  
651-6840

Marketing and Development  
651-6895 Michael Jordan

Accounting Pam Arnott  
651-6849 Natalie Huber

Membership & Programs  
651-2240 Krystal Kornegay

ROUNDHOUSE RAILROAD MUSEUM  
651-6823  
Site Manager David Bird

OLD FORT JACKSON  
232-3945  
Site Manager D.J. Tucker

SAVANNAH HISTORY MUSEUM  
651-6825  
Manager Earline Woods

Curator Lydia Moreton  
651-6850

WHISTLESTOP CAFE  
651-3656 Cheryl Blackburn  
Co-Managers Evelyn Marshall