



# The Rambler

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*The Rambler* is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

## What's Your Destination?

### Historic Sites Score High in Travel Survey

Preservationists sometimes wonder if the general public recognizes the value of preserving historic sites. Apparently, they do.

Recent studies indicate that the traveling public is so interested in historic destinations that more of them than ever are including a visit to at least one historic site during their trips. Cultural tourism, particularly travel to historic destinations, is thriving, and seems likely only to increase in the aftermath of the events of September 11.

A recent study by the Travel Industry Association of America found that 65 percent of American adult travelers included a culture, arts, heritage or historic activity or event on a trip of more than 50 miles in the past year. In addition, 43 percent of these trips were to historic sites such as a building, battlefield or historic community.

Historic tourism is especially strong in Georgia, according to another study completed by Toronto-based Longwoods International and commissioned by the Georgia Institute of Technology's Economic Development Institute. Georgia tourists ranked visiting historic sites as their most preferred activity, and Savannah's historic district ranked as the top attraction for overnight visitors, just slightly ahead of Atlanta's Underground and Stone Mountain Park. Of the 19 most-visited Georgia attractions, six are historic sites and two—Savannah's historic district and Atlanta's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site—ranked in

the top five attractions for overnight visitors.

After the terrorist attacks, staff at many tourist sites held their breath, waiting for the seemingly inevitable slowdown in visitors. Surprisingly, some historic sites in Georgia instead experienced an increase in traffic and tourists who seem more interested than ever to learn about the past.

"Guests are asking many more questions and are much more interested in what happened here," said John Cissell, superintendent of **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park**, which is owned by the National Park Service.

The site, which annually draws around 1.3 million visitors, reports that visitation is already up 2 percent over last year's numbers (as of mid-November). Mr. Cissell said most of his visitors are from the local metro Atlanta area and many other visitors simply stop by the site on their way to another destination.

The Georgia Trust's most-visited house museum, **Hay House** in Macon, also has a large number of visitors who stop for a tour en route to somewhere else. "The most popular reason people give for visiting Hay House is that they are simply touring through the state and decided to stop in," said Allison Moon, sales coordinator for Hay House. Indeed, Ms. Moon's and Mr. Cissell's observations support the Longwoods study, which found that the number of visitors entering Georgia by car is twice the national

*Continued on page 6*



Jekyll Island Clubhouse



**Greg Paxton**  
President and CEO,  
The Georgia Trust

*The Rambler* is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest statewide preservation organization. With the support of nearly 9,000 members, the Trust works to protect and preserve Georgia's historic resources and diverse cultural heritage.

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# Restoring a Sense of Place

On September 11, 2001, Jamil Zainaldin, president of the Georgia Humanities Council, and I found ourselves in a rented car smoothly motoring home from a shortened Baltimore meeting through the majestic mountains of Virginia. Periods of pleasant conversation alternated with radio reports on the horrific events of the morning and worry about the fate of people we knew in New York City and Washington. The drastic contrast between the sunny, "America the Beautiful" scene outside the window and the dreadful visual and auditory images of the morning was striking.

Amid reports on the tragic loss of life were repeated references to attacks on American landmarks and the shocking change to the New York skyline. I was reminded of the statement by the 1966 national committee promoting the National Historic Preservation Act – that preservation must "give a sense of orientation to our society."

In the aftermath of September 11, we preservationists are discovering that another sense, the "sense of place," which we have discussed so frequently since the 1960s, has a new resonance for the American people. The veil that has obscured the fundamental importance to our country of preserving our cultural landmarks has been lifted. From these tragic events have emerged nationally a re-evaluation and an increasing realization that, as Winston Churchill said in 1943, "we shape our buildings; and afterwards our buildings shape us."

Just ask anyone who's spent the past 30 years in New York City how it feels to gaze at the skyline today. "While the skyline once seemed merely a buoyant symbol of cosmopolitan life," says *New York Times* writer Peter Marks, "it now invites sadder associations."

There is a growing national movement, an important element of the recent surge in patriotism, to reach out and embrace the cultural touchstones of this country. On October 3, the Preservation League of New York State held its most successful gala ever, raising over \$400,000. Furthermore, the League joined with three other New York preservation organizations, together with the National Trust, to create the Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund to help alleviate the impact of the disaster and to stabilize, renovate and restore damaged historic sites in Lower Manhattan ([www.nycpreservation911.org](http://www.nycpreservation911.org)). The full extent of damage to these 67 officially-designated New York City landmarks is still uncertain.

Closer to home, over 300 people gathered in Bainbridge September 21 for a communi-

ty-wide celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bon Air hotel, a local landmark and the cornerstone of the city's downtown revitalization. The cover story of this issue of *The Rambler*

**In the aftermath of September 11, we preservationists are discovering that another sense, the "sense of place" ... has a new resonance for the American people.**

indicates that after an initial dip following September 11, visitation at many historic destinations around Georgia has rebounded and shows strong signs of continuing to grow. And the Trust's own Preservation Ball, attended by nearly 800 people in November, was the second-most successful in its 18-year history.

The late U. S. Sen. John Chaffee once said, "Historic preservation is more than brick and mortar, it's about a quality of life and a bright future." If there was ever a time to renew your commitment to preservation—in New York, Washington, D.C., throughout Georgia or in your own community—that time is now. Our work as preservationists has never been more important.

# Decorate Your Home (and Yourself!) at *Salute*

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, you may have wondered just whose eyes were beholding the creations at some local craft shows. Well, throw out all your preconceptions and get ready to be dazzled by the truly amazing creations of more than 200 juried craft artists at the 13th Annual *Salute to American Craft* premiere party, March 15 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Show your support for The Georgia Trust by attending our largest fundraising event, which kicks off the American Craft Council's Show Atlanta. The craft show continues through the weekend, ending March 17.

As an attendee of the premiere party, you will have the opportunity to view and buy all items before the general public and to mingle with craft artists from around the country. You never know what sort of treasures you'll find, so be prepared for



Craft art by Dixie Biggs\*

anything from elegant jewelry to exotic wood carvings. The premiere party includes refreshments provided by area caterers and a raffle drawing with spectacular prizes, including luxury vacations, shopping sprees and fine jewelry. In addition, *Salute* patrons will be the first to experience an exciting new exhibit, *Interpretations: A Showcase of American Works*, which features pieces representing the artists' interpretation of American culture. These pieces will be on sale both Friday evening and throughout the weekend. Stephanie and Arthur Blank of the Arthur Blank Foundation and the Atlanta Falcons are the honorary chairs of this year's *Salute*, and Amy and Allen Nelson and Kate and Jim Denny are co-chairs of the event.

Tickets for *Salute* are \$80 each or \$50 for members

of Young Craft Collectors (age 35 and under). Please call 404-881-9980, ext. 3273 or visit [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org) for more information and to order tickets.

*\*Both artists have been invited to participate in the 2002 American Craft Council's Show Atlanta.*

Background: Necklace by Devta Doolan\*

## Revolving Fund Properties for Sale



**EVANS-WILLIAMS HOUSE**, Stone Mountain, c. 1830. Located just 2.5 miles from Stone Mountain Village, the house showcases interior Federal details, hand-planed board walls and wainscoting, two original fireplace mantels and two stone chimneys. Three outbuildings include a barn, smokehouse and original detached kitchen. The house is about 1300 square feet and sits on 2.92 acres. \$248,000. Call Frank White at 404-885-7807.



**ZUBER-JARRELL HOUSE**, Atlanta, c. 1906. Located in the revitalized neighborhood of East Atlanta, this Neoclassical home contains four fireplaces, stained glass windows, original bathroom fixtures and elaborate woodwork. Rooms include a parlor, library, dining room, kitchen, 4 BR, 4 BA and a finished attic and basement. The house is about 5,000 square feet and sits on two acres. Price: \$848,000. Call Frank White at 404-885-7807.

# Calendar

January 26

## Landmark Dinner

Hay House, Macon  
Members at the Landmark level and above are invited to attend this elegant event. Call 404-885-7805 for more information or to upgrade your membership.

February 12

## Krewe of Rhodes Mardi Gras Party

Rhodes Hall, Atlanta  
Bring your own mask and enjoy hurricanes and red beans and rice at this New Orleans-style party. \$25 in advance; \$35 at door. Call 404-885-7800 for more information.

February 28 – March 1

## Statewide Preservation Conference

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Macon  
Join participants from around the state to explore how smart growth and preservation work together to build stronger communities. Call 404-881-9980 for more information.

March 15

## Salute to American Craft

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta  
Please see story on this page. Call 404-881-9980, ext. 3273 for more information.

April 6 – 9

## Pilgrimage to Natchez

Natchez, Mississippi  
Join The Georgia Trust and Ken Ward Travel for this exclusive study tour. Please call Ken Ward Travel at 800-843-9839.

April 19 – 21

## 2002 Annual Meeting

LaGrange, Georgia  
Please see story on pages 4-5. Call 404-881-9980, ext. 3232 with questions.

# Explore LaGrange with The Georgia Trust



During Saturday's tours, Georgia Trust members will visit **Bellevue**, a National Historic Landmark.

Just a little warning before you head off to LaGrange for the Annual Meeting: you'll probably find yourself wanting to stay longer than a weekend in this bustling town filled with historic treasures. From the tree-lined streets of the Vernon Road Historic District to its vibrant historic downtown, LaGrange is a charming community with plenty to offer just over an hour southwest of Atlanta.

"We are very excited about hosting the Annual Meeting of The Georgia Trust in LaGrange," said Kaye Minchew, chair of the local committee for the Annual Meeting. "We look forward to having some of our finest historic homes and buildings open for Trust members."

Famed architect J. Neel Reid's father was born in Troup County, where his father, Samuel Reid, laid out the county seat of LaGrange in 1828. Neel Reid visited Troup County to design 15 projects throughout his career, including the fabulous "Hills and Dales" mansion for Ida Cason and Fuller E. Callaway, Sr. in LaGrange, which members will visit during the Annual Meeting weekend.

The 2002 Annual Meeting will take place Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21. The weekend's events include tours of beautiful historic homes, special activities for children and the presentation of the 2002 Preservation Awards at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20.

## Downtown Tours, Garden Music and Dancing

After checking in at the Troup County Archives, Ramblers are invited to take a walking tour of the downtown commercial district, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in September. The Statue of Marquis de LaFayette, which stands in the middle of the town square, recently has been refurbished and is surrounded by a picturesque fountain and landscaping. Notable down-

*Continued on next page*

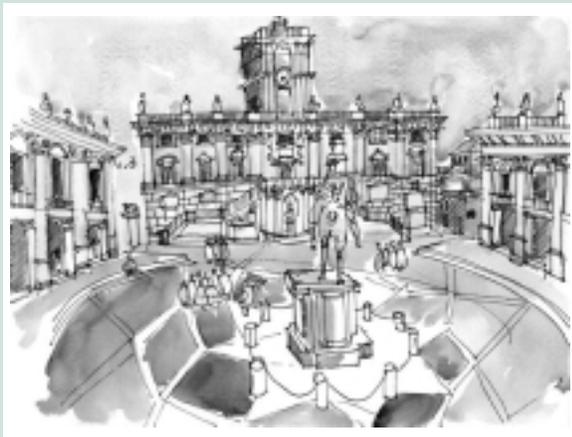
## Apply Now for Neel Reid Prize

Last year, the Trust awarded its first J. Neel Reid Prize for study travel that honors the legacy of the great architect. Cara Cummins, an architect with Atlanta firm Stang & Newdow, was awarded the \$5,000 prize, which she used to travel to Rome, Italy and study at the Royal Academy of Arts.

This year the Trust is again awarding this sought-after prize, which is open to architecture students, architect interns or recently registered architects. The prize will be awarded at The Trust's Annual Meeting in LaGrange on April 20.

Applicants must provide a one-page summary of the proposed study travel project (itinerary, budget, etc.), a one-page statement of how this project relates to the legacy of Mr. Reid, illustration of the applicant's graphic skills with an emphasis on drawing and three letters of support. Applicants who are living, working or attending school in Georgia will be given priority.

This prize is funded by sales of the book *J. Neel Reid, Architect*, written by William R. Mitchell, Jr. and published by The Georgia Trust. Please call 404-881-9980 to order your



Sketch by Cara Cummins

copy. The J. Neel Reid Prize helps ensure continuation of Reid's influence among a new generation of architects. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2002. Call 404-881-9980 to receive an application or visit the Trust's website at [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org).

Ms. Cummins' work while in Italy will be exhibited at Rhodes Hall in Atlanta February 19 through March 2.

town buildings include the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum, which served as the county jail from 1892 until 1946, and the impressive Troup County Courthouse, an Art Deco-style structure designed by Atlanta architect William J. J. Chase in 1939.

Several homes and public buildings will be open during this afternoon tour, which will culminate with tea and light refreshments at the Arnold-Mattox Home, where a cellist will perform in the garden. To end Friday's activities, a barbecue dinner will be held at Cloverland, an 1828 Greek Revival house originally owned by Samuel Reid. The home sits at the end of an avenue of pecan trees and is surrounded by pastures, the perfect setting to enjoy live entertainment by the Shondrells, a local musical group that performs music from the 1940s (complete with vintage dress). The Shondrells encourage audience participation, so bring your dancing shoes!

### Annual Meeting and Fun for Kids

Get plenty of rest for Saturday, which is packed with activities. In the morning, head over to the Callaway Auditorium on the campus of LaGrange College for the Trust's Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards ceremony. View slides of the project winners in the categories of Excellence in Restoration, Excellence in Rehabilitation, Outstanding Stewardship and Preservation Service. The Camille W. Yow Volunteer of the Year Award and the Trust's highest honor, the Mary Gregory Jewett Award, will be announced, as well as scholarship award recipients and the winner of the J. Neel Reid Prize (*see sidebar*).

During the Annual Meeting, children are invited to tour Fort Tyler in nearby West Point, scene of the last fort battle of the Civil War. The recently refurbished fort will come alive with costumed re-enactors recounting the life of soldiers and civilians during the 1860s. The weekend will mark the Fort Tyler Association's anniversary observance of the battle that took place there on April 16, 1865.

Many homes and several public buildings will be open Saturday afternoon, including Nutwood Plantation, an L-



Children will enjoy watching Civil War re-enactors at Fort Tyler.

shaped Greek Revival house built by Cullen Rodgers in 1833. A membership reception will be held that evening at Bellevue, noted as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival-style architecture and LaGrange's only National Historic Landmark. The Heritage reception will be held at the Neel Reid-designed Georgian Revival home of Toni and Zim Cauble. Saturday evening's dinner will be held at The Oaks, a Greek Revival home built in 1843 with mortis and tenon construction in the Vernon Road Historic District.

### Brunch at Hills and Dales

Don't leave early or you'll miss the highlight of the weekend—Sunday brunch at the magnificent Ferrell Gardens at Hills and Dales. Said to be Neel Reid's finest work, the Italian-style mansion is breathtaking both in the architecture of the house and the landscaping of Ferrell Gardens. The first floor will be opened for viewing by the Fuller E. Callaway Foundation, as will the five acres of formal boxwood gardens, tended lovingly by Alice Hand Callaway until her death in 1998. Garden enthusiasts will appreciate the diversity and rarity of the specimens in this collection.

"We think this will be a great time for the entire community to focus on historic preservation," Ms. Minchew said. "Spring is always a beautiful time in west Georgia, so plan now to attend."

Check out [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org) for updated information and online registration as the event draws closer. See you in LaGrange!



Hills and Dales, site of Sunday brunch.

Invitations will be mailed approximately four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, but if you wish to make hotel reservations early, please contact one of the establishments listed below:

**LaFayette Garden Inn** (706) 884-6175

**Holiday Inn Express**  
(706) 812-8000

**Comfort Inn** (706) 882-7700

**Jameson Inn** (706) 882-8700

# Heritage Tourism

(continued from page 1)

average. The news bodes well for sites that do not depend heavily on air-travel visitors.

"People are starting to explore their own backyards more than they were a year ago," said John Hunter, assistant director of the Jekyll Island Authority Museum Division. "We've had a number of people say they cancelled plans on airline-related trips and decided to drive somewhere instead." **The Jekyll Island Club Historic District**, managed by the Jekyll Island Authority, is the ninth most-visited site in Georgia, according to the Longwoods survey.

Mr. Hunter reported that while Jekyll Island's historic district felt an initial negative impact in September, October visitation was back to normal and his annual numbers are slightly higher than the previous year. Since Jekyll Island is not convenient to an airport, Mr. Hunter said the island has always primarily been a driving destination for Georgians and visitors from neighboring states.

**Savannah's historic district**, ranked the most-visited attraction in the Longwoods survey, is also a popular driving destination for Georgians. Anthony Schopp, president of the Savannah Con-

vention & Visitor's Bureau, said he is confident that visitors will continue to travel to Savannah and the historic district will hold on to its top ranking. "This could be a fascinating time for Savannah," said Mr. Schopp.

"Savannah's historical features are

always attractive; now, they might be even more appealing. We expect to see even more people traveling by car and visiting the historic district to learn more about the beginning of our state and its role in the evolution of our country." According to Mr. Schopp, despite early predictions, tourism numbers have fallen very little in Savannah since September 11.

Hilton Swing, owner of The Savannah Walks, a walking-tour company in the historic district, said he has seen an increase in business this year, which he credits to the fact that much of his business is based on individual travelers, not group tours. "I think smaller historic towns without major airports may benefit from the current traveling trend," Mr. Swing predicted.

Meanwhile, some sites in Atlanta, a large market for air-travel tourists and conventions, say they've definitely seen fewer visitors since September. The **Margaret Mitchell House & Museum**, whom Longwoods ranked as the 15th most-visited site in Georgia, reported dramatic drops in attendance September through November. Director Mary Rose Taylor said typically 50 percent of visitors to the Margaret Mitchell House are from outside the Southeast, and 25 percent of these are international visitors. With the recent changes in air travel, Ms. Taylor said the museum is rethinking its marketing strategy. "Because 80 percent of visitors to Atlanta come from within a 300-mile radius of the city, we are shifting almost all our marketing dollars to concentrate on these folks," Ms. Taylor said. "In addition, we are



Savannah's historic district ranked as the top Georgia attraction for overnight visitors in a survey conducted by Longwoods International.

counting on the growing popularity of our Center for Southern Literature, which presents literary programs throughout the year."

**The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site**, ranked as Georgia's fifth most-visited site in the Longwoods survey, also reported a decline in visitation in the months following the attacks. Many school groups, who constitute a large portion of the site's visitors, cancelled field trips following September 11 and requested park rangers visit their schools instead. Saudia Muwwakkil, public affairs specialist for the site, predicts that visitation will pick up as people assume their normal routines. "This seems to be a place of peace and solitude and hope," Ms. Muwwakkil said. "One woman who came in September 11 said she was on her way to work and couldn't think of a better place to come than here."

Georgians have more reason than ever to explore the state's many cultural and historic sites. Through the "Georgia for Georgians" promotional campaign, spearheaded by the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism, Georgia residents receive a 20 percent discount at some 250 participating hotels, restaurants and attractions. The Georgia Trust's house museums—Rhodes Hall in Atlanta, McDaniel-Tichenor House in Monroe and Hay House in Macon—are all participating in this campaign, which ends February 28. For more information and a complete listing of participants, visit [www.georgia.org/for-Georgians](http://www.georgia.org/for-Georgians).

## Most-Visited Georgia Attractions\*

- Savannah Historic District
- Underground Atlanta
- Stone Mountain
- World of Coca-Cola
- MLK, Jr. National Historic Site
- Six Flags Over Georgia
- Zoo Atlanta
- Brasstown Bald Mountain
- Jekyll Island Club Historic District
- Amicalola Falls State Park
- Atlanta Braves
- Okefenokee Swamp
- CNN Studio Tour
- Appalachian Trail
- Margaret Mitchell House
- Lake Lanier
- FDR's Little White House
- Chickamauga Chattanooga Park
- Rock City

\*for overnight visitors, according to a survey conducted in 2001 by Longwoods International

# Hundreds Enjoy a Night of Living History

Nearly 800 people came dressed in their best eveningwear and enjoyed live music, good conversation and great food provided by some of Atlanta's top caterers at the 2001 Preservation Ball. Atlanta decorating firm Tony Brewer & Company created a spectacular setting in the elegant Biltmore Ballrooms of the Biltmore Hotel.

More than \$87,000 was raised, the second highest net ever, to help fund The Georgia Trust's operations. Approximately \$12,000 was raised by the annual silent auction. Some items auctioned included a three-night stay at the Ritz-Carlton on the Reynolds Plantation and a guitar signed by members of the band R.E.M.

Special thanks goes to our dedicated Ball co-chairs Erica and Stewart Speed for their hard work in making the event a smashing success, as well as to Cecilia and David Ratcliffe, our honorary chair, and all our volunteers and participants.

*Please see more photos on pg. 9.*



Above: (L-R) Erica Speed, chair of the Preservation Ball, and Cecilia and David Ratcliffe, honorary chair.



Left: Almost 800 people attended this year's Preservation Ball.



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## Revolving Fund Properties for Sale



**BRANTLEY-HAYGOOD HOUSE**, Sandersville, 1850s. Listed on the National Register. Located at 217 North Harris Street in a historic district. Dr. Solomon Brantley built the Plantation Plain house. In 1899, architect Charles E. Choate was hired to remodel the house into the Victorian-era style. The house is being used as apts. and has been divided into 4 units. It is about 5400 sq. ft. and sits on a .97-acre lot. \$97,000. Call Frank White at 404-885-7807.



**CASWELL-FAULKNER HOUSE**, Moreland, c. 1910. This New South Cottage has a central hallway plan with two rooms on each side and several additions at the rear. The interior contains delicate spindlework and door moldings with sunburst corner blocks. The house has original mantels, pocket doors, a built-in cabinet and original floors. It is approximately 2000 square feet and sits on 2 acres. \$78,000. Call Frank White at 404-885-7807.



**RICE-GEORGE HOUSE**, Eatonton, c. 1815. Located just outside downtown Eatonton, this Plantation Plain-style house has 6 fireplaces, interior wood paneling and original floors. The original part of the house is 1 room deep and 2 stories tall. Several rooms, along with a Victorian-era style porch, have been added. House is approximately 2500 square feet and sits on 1.3 acres. \$39,500. Call Frank White at 404-885-7807.

# AROUND THE HOUSES



## HAY HOUSE Technology Wishes "Grant"ed

In a unique partnership, juniors and seniors in Macon State College's Bachelor of Science information technology program are helping Hay House thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia.

The \$17,500 grant is designed to help Hay House deliver services through the improved use of information technology (IT) as well as to provide quality learning experiences for Macon State College IT students.

"Funds are rarely available for a non-profit to undertake a project like this," said Hay House Director Suzanne Harper. "We congratulate Macon State College and the Community Foundation of Central Georgia for their vision in planning this project."

The grant will provide funding for student interns, any hardware and software packages needed and faculty oversight of the project.

Manish Parikh, the intern who has been working at Hay House since mid-October, is a graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering. He is a Microsoft-certified professional and systems engineer and is working toward a degree in information technology in systems analysis discipline at Macon State.

The grant allows Manish to assess Hay House's current operations, then develop a technology plan based on the house museum's goals and current projects. As part of the project, Manish is taking on one of Hay House's more challenging projects—monitoring the environmental conditions of the house.

The second phase of the project will involve installing the necessary hardware and software and training the staff to use it. Hay House must match hardware and software purchases two to one. Other interns will join the project later to work on the house's website and computerized records and databases.

"One of the most significant aspects of Hay House is the technology that was incorporated into the mid-19th century structure. So, we are continuing the tradition by striving to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology into the operation of today's Hay House," Suzanne said.



## MCDANIEL-TICHENOR HOUSE Ongoing Programs Promise a Full House

Join in the fun at the McDaniel-Tichenor House's exciting ongoing community programs. More than 100 guests brought family treasures for appraisal at the Fall Collectors' Day in September. Experts were on hand to assess old and rare books, Civil War items, coins, glassware and china. Building on the popularity of this event, the McDaniel-Tichenor House will sponsor another Collectors' Day this spring. Look for details in an upcoming issue of *The Rambler*.



## RHODES HALL Enter Parallel Lives with Rhodes-Herndon Passport

Rhodes Hall, former home of Amos Rhodes, and The Herndon Home, former home of Alonzo Herndon, are both offering passports for discounted admission to visit these house museums and learn about the men who built their fortunes in Atlanta.

Although there is no evidence that the two men ever met, their lives seemed to follow parallel paths. Alonzo Herndon was born a slave and came to Atlanta in 1882 at the age of 24. With very little education, he amassed a great deal of money through his barber shop and real estate ventures. At the turn of the century, he was the city's wealthiest Black businessman. He founded the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Atlanta in 1905.

Raised in poverty with no more than a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education, Amos Rhodes came to Atlanta in 1875 at the age of 25. He founded Rhodes Furniture Company in 1879, and by the turn

of the century was a millionaire and one of Atlanta's wealthiest businessmen. Both men gave back to their communities through their extensive philanthropic affiliations.

Their homes were both built in the early 1900s—six years and four miles apart. The Herndon Home (1910) is a Beaux Arts Classical-style structure designed of brick and granite. Rhodes Hall (1904) is Romanesque Revival and made of granite. Their homes, though vastly different on the exterior, were remarkably similar inside. Both favored eclectic-style interiors, with open floor plans, Arts and Crafts motifs and French-inspired parlors.

The price of the passport is \$7 and includes admission to both house museums. For more information, contact Martha Teall at 404-885-7800.

Both the History Mystery™ Club for children and a book discussion series for adults have completed successful fall sessions and will continue to meet in the spring. History came alive as children read stories about heroines of days gone by who solved mysteries and completed a number of craft projects linked to the readings. Another ongoing event, a craft discussion series for adults, focused on the theme of "Women in Southern History." The spring theme will be "American Lives." The History Mystery™ Club will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning January 26, and the book discussion for adults will meet on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning January 15.

Please call 770-267-5602 for more information.



The Herndon Home

# THE GEORGIA TRUST PHOTO GALLERY

**Having a Ball:** Almost 800 people attended the 2001 Preservation Ball (see story on page 7). Pictured below (L-R): **Sandy Donnenwerth, Roy and Karlene Trimble and Jeff Donnenwerth.**



Pictured above (L-R): **Elizabeth Fernandez, Tina Cartwright Luna and Kristie Rimkus.**

**Hooray for Volunteers!** The Georgia Trust honored volunteers (L-R) **Erica Speed**, chair of the 2001 Preservation Ball, **Marcy McTier** and **Kathy York**, co-chairs of the 2001 Salute to American Craft, at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, held November 13 at the Cobb Galleria Centre. Also pictured: **Tom Wight**, vice-chair and active volunteer for The Georgia Trust.



**Hay House Parties:**

(right) Past Hay House Board Chairs and special guests attending the October 29 dinner and patron party included (front row L-R) **Lynn Cass, Judy Rando, Ann Felton**, current Hay House Board Chair **Deidra Stewart, Hannah Warren, Betty Hay Curtis**; (back row L-R) **Tom Wight, Bonnie Dowling, Bill Matthews, Buck Melton.**

(right) Hay House patrons (L-R) **Georgia Hatcher, Bill Fickling, Jr. and Kim Schnell** enjoy the Hay House Christmas Preview Party November 29.



# AROUND THE STATE

## ATLANTA

### Restored MLK Church Reopens Doors to World

Since its opening in 1886, historic Ebenezer Baptist Church has been a beacon of hope and spiritual guidance for several generations of members. After its relocation to Atlanta's Auburn Avenue in 1914, it became famous for nurturing one of the most respected and recognized leaders of the Civil Rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In March 1999, the congregation moved to a new building across the street, and historic Ebenezer's sanctuary became a popular tourist destination. Ebenezer's historic importance and sentimental value has singled out the church for a \$1.8 million restoration project by the National Park Service (NPS), which manages and operates the church. The project began in April 2001 and the church officially reopened its doors January 19, 2002, just in time to celebrate the King Holiday Ecumenical Service January 21.

The venture began in 1999, when NPS received a \$620,398 historic preservation grant from the Save America's Treasures program to begin the restoration process. To use the grant, the Park Service had to match that figure through private donations. In August

2001 funding for the project was exhausted and it was temporarily halted. Georgia Pacific CEO A.D. "Pete" Correll took a personal interest in providing a corporate donation and encouraging others. Donations from corporations, foundations and private individuals allowed the project to continue and the NPS met its funding goal.

Some of the changes made during Phase I of the restoration involved re-securing the building structure, replacing the HVAC and electrical systems and installing a fire suppression unit. Phase II is expected to begin within the next two years. Once it is complete, the past will meet the present and visitors and members of the congregation will be able to see Ebenezer Baptist Church as Dr. King saw it during the 1960s, when he was co-pastor.

"This restoration process began not just for the church's historic value but for its emotional influence," said Saudia Muwwakkil, public affairs specialist for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. "Many members see Ebenezer as their 'home away from home' and are looking forward to the completion of Phase II. "



Ebenezer Baptist Church

To honor the reopening, the MLK National Historic Site relit the familiar blue neon "Ebenezer Baptist Church" sign, which was installed in 1956 but has not worked since 1990.

For tour information, call the MLK National Historic Site at 404-331-5190.

— *Shabrina Means*

## NEWMAN

### Civil War Battlefield Site Brings Community Together

In metro Atlanta, large, open, undeveloped spaces are a rarity. Thus both environmental- and historic preservation-minded people in Coweta County are relieved to see that Brown's Mill Battlefield, site of a pivotal battle during Sherman's Atlanta Siege, will be preserved as a county park.

In July 1864, the property was the site of a bloody struggle between Confederate troops and Union soldiers who hoped to quickly overtake Atlanta. The battle, which began at the Atlanta & West Point Railroad freight depot on East Broad Street in downtown Newnan, quickly spread into the nearby forest and fields. Although Confederate soldiers were outnumbered ten to one,

they defeated the Union troops and put a wrench in Sherman's plans to easily capture Atlanta.

Over the past 137 years, the majority of the battlefield has remained undeveloped. Currently the site is owned by Temple-Inland, a company specializing in paper, building products and financial services. The Newnan-Coweta County Historical Society is negotiating the purchase of 120 acres of the battlefield site for a county park.

County officials have approved the use of funds from Gov. Roy Barnes' Greenspace Initiative, which allows counties to purchase 20 percent of their land for greenspace areas. Coweta County officials voted to allocate the

entire \$300,000 share to purchase the battlefield. In addition, Gov. Barnes supplied \$100,000 in the 2001 budget to survey, appraise and aid in purchasing the land, which sits on the edge of Newnan. This year's budget also included \$75,000 toward restoration of the downtown freight depot, which will house an interpretive center for the battlefield, as well as Civil War artifacts and the historical society's offices.

According to Newnan-Coweta Historical Society Executive Director Ellen Ehrenhard, the community has shown overwhelming support for the project. Members of Northside Elementary School's Environmental Club raised

*Continued on next page*

## STATEWIDE

### 2001 Farm Awards Honor Family Traditions

Any farmer worth his or her salt will tell you farming is hard work. There is no “quitting time” at the end of the day in this occupation. To honor those who have continued to preserve this important part of Georgia’s history, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources presents the Centennial Farm Program Awards to farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years or more.

The 2001 ceremony was held in October on the opening day of the Georgia National Fair in Perry. Twenty-one farms received Centennial Family Farm Awards, which recognize farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more that are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For the first time since 1997, two farms received Centennial Heritage Farm Awards. These awards honor farms that, in addition to being owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more, are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The McKinley-King Plantation in Baldwin County and Carranza Morgan’s farm in Sumter County were both honored at this year’s ceremony.

The McKinley-King Plantation is an excellent example of a Downing Gothic-style cottage and has been preserved practically unaltered since its construction in 1858 for Civil War Col. William McKinley. The property also contains the original smokehouse and a small cottage. Col. McKinley kept detailed plantation records, which provide valuable insight on the history of the weather and agriculture in the region. In addition, Col. McKinley’s library holds his personal records during the time of Sherman’s March to the Sea, when a Feder-



Twenty-three Georgia farms received recognition at the Centennial Farm Program Awards. Pictured above are representatives from some of the farms. Photo courtesy of the *Farmer’s and Consumer’s Bulletin*.

al encampment made the house its headquarters.

The Morgan Farm is the first historically African American farm nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in Georgia. According to the application, the Morgan farm is particularly significant because of the rarity of historic African American farms in Georgia, especially those that have been in continuous operation for over a century and owned by the same family. Freed slave Nathan Morgan bought the land in 1886 and today the farm contains many of its original structures, including a historic farmhouse, a smokehouse, cotton barn, hog pen, mule barn, corn crib, hen house and fencing.

“Family farms are lost all the time from drought, development and other pressures,” said Gretchen Kinnard, National Register coordinator for HPD and chair of the Georgia Centennial Farm Committee. “HPD and GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) have just completed a state study on historic agriculture-related resources. We hope the study encourages more people to apply for the National Register and the Centennial Farm Program for recognition of their historic farms.”

To nominate a farm for 2002, please contact Ms. Kinnard at 404-651-6782. Applications are due by March 1, 2002.

For a complete list of Centennial Family Farm award-winners, visit [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org) and click on “What’s New” to view a press release dated October 9, 2001.

### Battlefield

(continued from page 10)

\$1,000 toward the preservation of greenspace at the site. During Preservation Month last year, the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society awarded Temple-Inland, Governor Roy Barnes, State Representative Lynn Smith and the Northside Elementary School’s Environmental Club Good Stewardship awards for their support of the project.

In addition, the Friends of the Battlefield and Sons of Confederate Veterans have raised money for a historical marker to be placed at the battlefield site. The new historical marker will join the existing marker placed there in 1908 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The site will include hiking trails and will be open to the public as a “passive park,” which means no staff will be on duty and walking paths and historic markers will serve as guides for the area. Ms. Ehrenhard said she hopes the park will be open to the public by late 2002.

## Share the News!

If you would like extra copies of *The Rambler* for your workplace, civic group or other organization, call 404-881-9980, ext. 3222.



**ATLANTA, 1908.** Historic Atkins Park-Virginia Highlands. 4BR/2.5BA. High ceilings, crown moulding, 3 fireplaces, hardwood floors. Large foyer, music room, living room, huge dining room. Family room w/french doors overlooking patio and garden. Double garage. \$749,500. Mary Chance, 678-420-1818, Coldwell Banker Buckhead Brokers. e-mail: MLChance@bellsouth.net.



**BUCKHEAD, c. 1913.** A designated Atlanta Landmark! In 1932, Philip Shutze renovated Spotswood Hall, a 5BR/5.5BA home on 2 acres. Features include a rotunda w/mural by Athos Menaboni, floating staircase w/original skylight, LR w/fpl, paneled lib, formal DR, magnificent millwork, 11-ft. ceilings on main & 10-ft. ceilings up. \$2,650,000. Barbara Brochstein, Harry Norman Realtors. 404-495-8321/404-237-4274.



**GWINNETT CO., c. 1827.** Atlanta commute. Isaac Adair House, on National Register. Rare hand-planed wooden home on 10 acres. Meticulous restoration. 8 spacious rooms with wide central hallways. New addition houses 3 baths, kitchen and laundry. Storage buildings, herb garden, blueberries and creeks. Beautiful, private setting. Marvin Hughes, 770-962-5372.



**MARIETTA, 1895.** Hamrick Hall, 331 Church St. In the heart of historic district of Marietta. Features enormous rooms, beautiful millwork, 13-ft. ceilings, tiger oak floors and 9 fireplaces. Recent improvements include new roof, outside paint and copper gutters. Situated on a beautiful 1-acre+ lot with ample parking and detached garage with lodge. \$1,250,000. Jim Glover, Harry Norman Realtors. 770-428-2525 or 770-422-6005.



**MONTICELLO, c. 1922.** Neo-Classical school building with auditorium. 26,000 total sq. ft. including 3,300 sq. ft. auditorium & balcony. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historical Foundation is seeking entrepreneur willing to restore and use. Recently completed architectural feasibility study available. Call 770-922-9000 (Greg Holder) or 706-468-8262 (Brack Pound).



**MT. AIRY, c. 1860.** 1 hr. north of Atlanta. Neo-Classical home to Ty Cobb, Alexander R. Lawton and statesman Benjamin Harvey Hill. 5 + BR, 5.5 BA, 4,500 +/- sq.ft, 8 frpls, sleeping porch, den, parlor, sunrm, dining rm, eat-in kit., 8-ft. and 14-ft. ceilings. Grounds inc. guest cottage, garage, shop, privy & playhse. Grt for B&B. 1/4 mi. from Lk. Russell St.Prk. \$385,000. Owner fin. available Carol Cahill, Harry Norman Realtors. 404-233-4142. carolcahill@mediaone.net



**PINE MOUNTAIN, c. 1917.** Callaway Gardens 1 mile. 3BR/2BA. Heart pine floors. Restored in 1997. 2775 sq. ft. Corner 0.7-acre lot. Ten large pecan trees. Next to town's B&B. Walk to stores and resort shops. 25 miles to Columbus, 17 to LaGrange. Atlanta airport 1 hour. Very liveable. \$287,500. By owners. 706-663-9085. Antiques and other contents to be sold by local auction house Jan. 20. Call 800-663-9610 for brochure.



**SOCIAL CIRCLE, 1850s.** Restored with integrity! Plantation Plain w/double galleries. Listed on National Register of Historic Places and a Walton Co. Landmark. Approx. 2800 sf, heart pine flrs, 10-ft. ceilings, 6 fireplaces, formal parlor, dining room, eat-in kit., 4 BRs, 4 BAs, sun-room, office, sep. guest cottage. 1.1 acres. Excellent condition! \$299K. Ann/Sandy 770-860-7565 CB/Gerri Murphy Realty.



**WOODLAND, c. 1838.** "The Elms" Greek Revival w/Doric columns on 23+ acres. 4 BR/2.5 BA. New gourmet kitchen. It is admired by architects, historians and preservationists and is acknowledged as a rare Southern gem. 2001 recipient of Excellence in Rehabilitation from The Georgia Trust. Cindy Barrett, RE/MAX Town & Country. 800-770-928-4966 ext. 114. FMLS#521582 MLS#01081349. \$669K.

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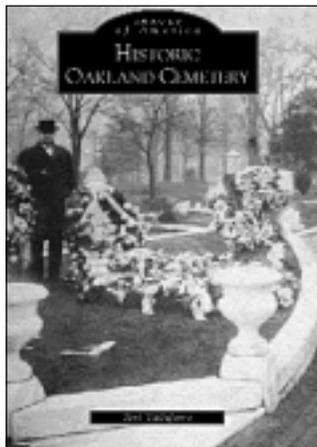
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## Take a Walk Through Historic Oakland



Historic Oakland Cemetery (Archidia, 128 pages) is the new soft-cover book featuring vintage photographs and information about Oakland Cemetery and its residents. Compiled by Teri Taliferro, Historic Oakland Foundation's preservation director. Price is \$22 plus \$3 s/h. To order, call 404-688-2107 or send an e-mail to [oaklandcemetery@mindspring.com](mailto:oaklandcemetery@mindspring.com).

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## Mills Lane Leaves Lasting Legacy

The preservation community lost one of its most passionate practitioners October 22 when Mills B. Lane, IV passed away due to Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 59.

Born in Atlanta, Mr. Lane moved to the city of Savannah at an early age and bought and restored his first house at 24. He continued what would become a lifetime of interest in preserving historic structures and neighborhoods.

After graduating from Harvard University and serving three years as an officer in the U. S. Navy, at age 28 Mr. Lane founded The Beehive Press to publish books relating to Southern culture and history. He wrote and edited almost 60 publications, including an 11-volume series called *Architecture of the Old South*. Mr. Lane received several honors for his books, including a 1975 Arts Award and a 1998 Humanities Award from the governor of Georgia. He was a Trustee of The Georgia Trust from 1974-1976 and designed the logo that served the organization for its first 27 years. He donated hundreds of books to the Trust for use as membership premiums.

In 1989 Mr. Lane established The Beehive Foundation to continue his publishing activities as a nonprofit educational service and continue his family's philanthropy in Savannah. Through this foundation, he donated his company's books to every college and public library in Georgia as well as to the 400 largest academic and public libraries in the country.

Along with funds provided by Mr. Lane's mother and sister, The Beehive Foundation restored buildings in Savannah's historic district, built compatible new houses on vacant lots to recreate blemished streetscapes and beautified the city's streets with brick sidewalks, cast-iron lamps and landscaping. He also restored the 1818-19 William Scarbrough House and used it to house the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, which had been founded by his father in the 1960s.

"Mills was as dedicated and committed a preservationist as I know," said Greg Paxton, president and CEO of The Georgia Trust. "He was an excellent scholar and his publications are a lasting legacy to Georgia as are his many preservation projects."

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2002 Statewide Preservation Conference

**Georgia Communities at the Crossroads:  
Growth Strategies and Solutions**

February 28 – March 1, 2002  
Macon, Georgia

**Thursday, February 28**

**Conference Preview**

Opening Plenary Session with National Trust President Richard Moe  
Envisioning Your Community's Future: Planning for Enhancements and Growth  
Real Estate: Making the Deal Work With Challenging Intown Buildings  
Georgia's Neighborhood Schools in the Age of Sprawl  
Vernacular Architecture at the Crossroads  
Tool Kits for Better Communities  
Shopping for Smart Solutions for a Successful Commercial Core  
Neighborhood Revitalization and Redevelopment: What Makes it Work?  
Rehabilitating Neighborhood Schools in Macon/Field Session  
Hay House Reception  
Illumination Tour of Historic Macon

**Friday, March 1**

When the Artery Meets the Grid: Intown Transportation Planning  
Can You Dig It? Archaeology for Communities  
Enhancing Your Community with Intown Greenspace  
Discover Downtown Macon/Field Session  
Explore Macon's Intown Neighborhoods/Field Session  
Local Governments: Relating New Development to  
Existing Communities  
Preserving Georgia's Farmland Heritage: Strategies and Solutions  
Closing Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

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