

The Georgia Geocachers Association (GGA) emails this notice once a month as a way to keep the membership informed of the events taking place each month. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, reply to this message with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

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Announcements

Help the GGA win a Custom El Diablo Hiking Stick

Great hiking stick designer and maker El Diablo is holding a contest for the best geocaching organization and the GGA is one of the nominees. The organization that receives the most votes will win a hiking stick. All you have to do to vote is send an email to El Diablo saying you vote for the GGA. Send emails to JC364@aol.com no later than 10:00pm on Friday March 7, 2008! See this thread for more information: <http://forums.groundspeak.com/GC/index.php?showtopic=186071>

2008 Georgia Geocachers Association Geocoin Voting Open!

Voting is open for GGA Members only. For more information and voting instructions please visit this thread: <http://ggaonline.org/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/9076023341/m/6011044984>

With Great Sadness...

The GGA announces the death of one of its most colorful and prominent members, Rebel. Ed Handler, passed away on February 12 at the age of 56. Rebel was funny, strong-willed, controversial, and helpful, sometimes all at the same time. His cache hides were legendary. We honor him for his service to the GGA; he will be missed.

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March Event Roundup

Georgia Geocachers Assn - March 2008 Meeting

Saturday March 8, 2008 2:00p – 4:00p

Join us at Kenwood Park, one of the newest Fayette County parks, to learn about "Proactive involvement & communication with law enforcement" and "Nonnative invasive species of plants/animals in Georgia & what geocachers can do".

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=d4242e90-7496-459d-8c5e-8dea714c1844

Watch North Ga. Cachers Stuff Their Faces #3

Saturday March 8, 2008 6:00p – 8:30p

Come on out meet and talk with others cachers. Everyone is welcome, bring you friends and kinfolks.

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=bf26123d-9f8d-4905-ad38-92bae5ca83a9

Caching in the Green St. Pattys Day Flash Mob

Monday March 17, 2008 2:00p

BRING YOUR SHAMROCKS !!!

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=174792ff-94c6-4567-b40b-9748fc10be3b

Wanna Go - Lunch at Pine Log Creek

Wednesday March 19, 2008 12:00p Noon

A tailgate party at the trail head of the Pine Log Creek Trails, a wonderful place to walk around - and the site of the Pine Log Cherokee Indian Village.

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=98888ed8-4419-48e7-9f36-4819da565f91

Cyclops & Son's Spring Break GeoTour '08 - GA

Saturday March 29, 2008 9:00a – 11:00a

Come out to Shoney's restaurant for a simple meet and greet with two traveling geocachers from Michigan.

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=96abad17-d4d8-45ad-8728-ed4e83a217de

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Travel Bugs (TBs) and Geocoin Logging Guidelines

by Mertat

The basic goal of a Travel Bug (TB) is to travel from cache to cache. When you retrieve a TB and would like to help it on its journey, go ahead and take it. TBs are not considered trade items. Make sure you RETRIEVE the TB from the cache so it moves from the cache's inventory to your inventory. Do this from the TB's personal page under "Found It? Log It".

Dropping off a travel bug is even easier. When you log the cache find for the cache you put the bug in, you can simply pick the bug from the inventory listing shown underneath the log entry box. If you write your log and you forget to drop off the bug, just write a Note log for the cache and drop it off in the note.

If you pick up a TB only to find it hasn't been logged in the cache, you'll need to GRAB it into your inventory. Then Drop the TB into the cache you found it in (using a note) and then Retrieve it back into your inventory. That way the history and mileage are preserved.

You can create your own TB using TB tags you purchase from Groundspeak. You'll need to activate the tag before you send out your travel bug. Don't use anything you have an emotional attachment to – the chances of a TB going missing are fairly high. Attach a mission statement – this can simply be a printout of the TB page which you can easily get by going to "Print Info Sheet" option in the top right corner of the TBs home page.

Remember:

- Trading for a TB isn't necessary
- Try not to take a TB unless you feel you can move it to a new cache within a couple of weeks – a month at the most
- Don't show the TB# in pictures / don't put the TB# in your cache/TB log
- Don't strand it in a remote or 5-star cache unless that's its goal.

If a travel bug goes missing but is still logged into a cache, the cache owner can remove the TB from the cache inventory by moving the TB to an unknown location.

Trackable coins are similar to travel bugs – they want to travel from cache to cache. However, trackable coins don't need a TB tag – the coin has the trackable number etched on the coin. Not all coins are trackable – some are signature items. If a coin doesn't say "Trackable at www.geocaching.com" then it's probably a signature item and should be treated as a trade item. Activate, retrieve and drop coins the same way you do travel bugs.

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February 2008 GGA Meeting Notes

The February 2008 GGA meeting was held on February 9th in Locust Grove at the Cubihatcha Nature Center. Thanks to Rebel for securing the location and doing much of the organizational work that made the meeting such a success. In attendance were about 80 people, with 66 old members under 56 geonicks and 11 new members under 8 geonicks.

This month the meeting was the 3rd Annual GGA "Chili Cook-off!". There were 11 entrants to the competition, many of the entrants provided goodies in addition to the chili. Yummy...mmm...peanut butter balls...corn muffins...chocolate...mmm...yummy. The GGA provided some additional desserts and water for all in attendance.

The judges for this competition were Jason of ParentsofSAM, poppoppig and PigPen4X4, and got to sample all 11 entrees with a discerning pallet while the rest of us just pigged out. Thanks go out to Papageorgia for organizing the judges.

We enjoyed the chili and socializing, and after appropriate fanfare the winners were announced:
Third place: St. Michael
Second place: Bamadaisy5 (reigning 2007 Champion)
First place: phat.bak

This year we had a new category that had nothing to do with the taste of the chili. The Presentation Category, the participants decorated their chili areas in various themes and the attendees voted for the one they liked best. The winner of the Presentation trophy was phat.bak with his Swamp Droppings theme, complete with voodoo dolls, moss, swamp mist, sound effects and pigs of course!

Each winner received a great trophy procured by Rebel.

After all the attendees had finished sampling all the chili's and voting for their favorite presentation we had a short informational program about Travel Bug and Geocoin logging by Mertat. You can see some of the notes, hints and tips from this presentation here:
<http://ggaonline.org/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/2601061553/m/2721024984>

Our next meeting will be held on March 8th in Fayetteville. See you there!

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