



Georgia Geocachers Newsletter

March, 2009

The Georgia Geocachers Association (GGA) publishes this newsletter 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. Send comments, complaints, suggestions, and articles to Professor Shorthair through my Geocaching.com profile page or to gganews<at>bellsouth.net.

In This Issue:

- The Oldest Caches in Georgia
- Technical Tidbit
- Contest Winner!
- March GGA Meeting
- March Event Roundup
- February GGA Meeting Notes

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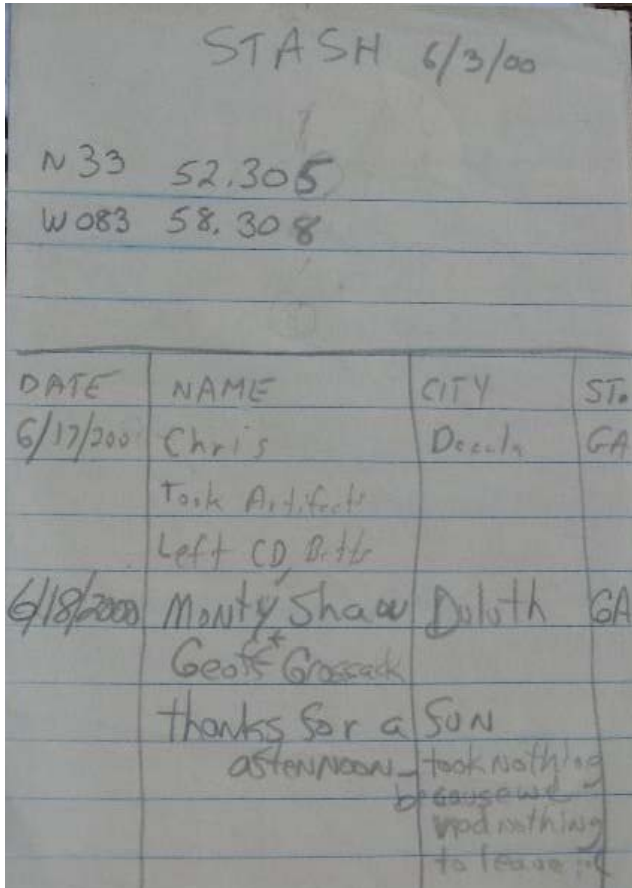
The Oldest Caches in Georgia **by redworm**

Are you the kind of geocacher who enjoys the history of the cache? Do you take the time to look to see how old the cache is? Do you enjoy reading logs that say more than "TFTC"? Then I invite you to peruse the caches placed in 2000 and 2001. These are classic caches, my geofriends. This is not to say that wonderful and interesting caches are no longer being placed. I myself have hunted some recently placed caches that were both enjoyable and memorable. But the 2000 and 2001 caches are classics in the true sense of the word.

Pardon me while I take a trip down memory lane. I started geocaching in December of 2001. I did not know any other geocachers except JB, whom I strong armed into helping me find my first cache. Well, actually he ended up finding it, but that is a story for another day. Anyway, like I was saying, I knew no one personally but there were so few geocachers that I knew all their names, and I knew, like the others, where every single geocache in the state was because there were so few. Back then, it seems like we had as much fun reading each other's logs as we did hunting the caches. I looked forward to Sunday evenings to see where my fellow geocachers had spent their weekends. We did not have Cachemate, we did not have pocket queries, we did not have bookmarks, etc. We also had to drive a fair distance to find a geocache, and it was rare to be able to find more than a couple in one day. But I learned early on that if I watched the logs of my fellow geocachers I could trace their path, thus saving myself a whole lot of research time as to what caches could be combined in one day. Alas, I digress, but thank you for giving me a moment to reflect. Now back to the point of this article.



The first geocache placed in Georgia was Beaver Cache by Jim Gooch ([GC1D](#)). Most of you knew that, right? But did you know that in all of 2000 there were only 11 caches in Georgia? In 2001 that number increased to a staggering 190. Of the first 100 caches placed in the world, Beaver Cache by Jim Gooch ranks number 23. In the ranks of the first 100 still active caches, Beaver Cache ranks number 9. Isn't that something? You might also find these statistics interesting: of the 199 caches placed in the years 2000 to 2001, 77 remain active, and I believe six or seven are currently listed as temporarily unavailable. How many of these "oldies" have you found?



If you want to read about the first ever event cache in Georgia and the world, then check this out: [GC919](#). Want to read about spooky ghosts at a cache? Then read some of the early logs on this now archived cache: [GC2474](#). Want to wander aimlessly through the woods looking for a cache? Worked for me on this oldie: [GC20D2](#). Looking for a cache with a challenging climb and that has only 27 finds after all these years? Then go hunt [GC56A](#).

If you tired of the same old micro caches, and if you are looking for caches that might pique your interest and challenge you at the same time, or if you are looking for a new geocaching goal, then consider some of these older caches. I can almost guarantee you will be rewarded with a memorable experience, particularly if you take the time to read the past logs on these caches. My advice is don't miss the opportunity to do some of these older caches while they are still available.

The first page of the log for Beaver Cache - photo by JerseyGirl & Bruno

Above: DeSoto Falls – photo by LZ33

One final note. Thanks to Slayerette who provided her Excel spreadsheet of 2001 caches. It would have been almost impossible to go back and capture all the archived caches without her assistance.

Here is a link to a bookmark of the [2000 - 2001 Georgia Geocaches](#).

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...you can add a travel bug without cluttering up the cache page with notes?

**Technical Tidbit
by JoeBids**

Did you know...

If you wish, you can add a TB to a cache/event with a normal note and just after creating that note, you'll be at a page where you can edit or delete that note right away. Deleting this new note does not take the TB out of the cache's inventory, it just removes the generic 'bug drop' note. This might be helpful if you need to make TB adjustments.

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Contest Winner!

A pride of lions....
A gaggle of geese....
A parliament of owls....
An unkindness of ravens....

But what is the collective name for a group of geocachers – what do you call a group of cachers? The judges have made their decision, and the answer is...

A wandering of geocachers!

Congratulations to Mushtang for the winning entry! We'll be in touch to award you a geocoin. Thanks to everyone who entered – there were some great entries.

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March GGA Meeting

For our March 2009 GGA Meeting we will return again to the [Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center](#). It is a beautiful "must see" place. The meeting runs from 2 PM to 4 PM.

The Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center is a high-tech cultural center known for hands-on science exhibits and quality educational programming that inspires visitors to become better stewards of our environment. The center is located in a beautiful area and is a stellar facility.

For this meeting, we will talk about some of the high-tech tools we use to play our game of geocaching. We will go over GSAK, or Geocaching Swiss Army Knife. This is a great waypoint management tool. We will look at paperless caching options, including the iPhone, iPod Touch, Palm, Pocket PC and the Garmin Oregon. We will also show how several of these devices generate field notes to make logging caches easier. For those that are not premium members, this will give you a look at the tools that premium membership offers. For those that are, hopefully you can find a new trick or two to help in your geocaching fun or to help answer questions in case you were thinking of using/buying one of these items.

Come early and stay late. The facility tour is amazing and there are lots of great trails and geocaches in this park. Come chat with your fellow cachers too. You can see the costs to tour The Center by clicking on the link above. Finding geocaches in the area is free! We hope to see you there.

<http://coord.info/GC1MT6K>

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Other March Geocaching Events

[ADVON FRAGO for WWMM 9080](#) by moumcsouts (GC1MEG9); March 7

[Caching in the Green St. Pattys Day Flash Mob 2009](#) by mad cat (GC1MTNZ); March 14

[WWMM 9080](#) by H&LLO MAGC and mynuthouse (GC1M7H1); March 21

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February GGA Meeting Notes by ParentsofSAM

This event had it all; bees, buzzards, treasure, swamps and even a skirlifter! Who could ask for more?. This month the members got together for a wonderful chili cook-off; we had 16 contestants competing for top prize. The competition was tough for the taste and for best presentation. The winners for this year's taste were in First Place – Johnnie, Second Place - St.

Michael, and Third Place - phat.bak. The Best Presentation winner was Ekabug. We thank our chili taste judges and hope they have recovered from all that chili: Erik, Geomuse and ParentsofSAM-Jason and our Head Judge papageorgia. We also thank the 74 people that voted for the presentation award. Of course this chili cook off could not have become one of the favorite GGA events with out Rebel, this event is dedicated to him and his contributions to the GGA and geocaching. Thanks Ed!

This month marks the biggest GGA meeting to date with 109 people in attendance including 81 existing members under 68 geonicks and 16 new members under 12 geonicks.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting at the beautiful Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center.



Ekabug's winning presentation. Photo by Sprinterman.

The winners – Johnnie, phat.bak, St. Michael, & Ekabug. Photo by AtlantaGal.

