Dear Members,

Thank you so much for your support! You are an important part of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail. Your support sustains the trail while allowing others to learn about and enjoy the local history and character of west Georgia. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date on upcoming events and recent activities with the Trail. If you have stories to share with us about your communities, please contact us.

The idea for this Trail came from local residents with personal ties to the textile industry in west Georgia. These individuals proposed this project to tell the stories of the region’s textile history while furthering economic development of communities along the Trail. Since this past summer, we have celebrated the first anniversary of the Carrollton Spur of the Textile Heritage Trail, loaned our exhibit tracing the history of textiles in Carroll and Haralson County to the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum, and you can now see our rack cards in several Georgia visitor centers. We are in the process of organizing a Textile History Day in Dalton for November where community members can come and share their stories, photos, and memorabilia with us. We have also embarked on an exciting project, with the support of the Callaway Foundation, to research and prepare an Arcadia book about west Georgia’s textile history and plan to hold our annual in April at the Hills & Dales estate in LaGrange.

Thanks to your support, we now have twenty charter members!

The next several pages contain some exciting news about past and future activities along the Trail. Check out our Recent Activities section to learn about what we have been doing over the last few months to develop the Trail and our Upcoming Events section for the activities that we are planning in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kellogg, the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Co-Director
Recent Activities
Written by Dustin Klein and Daniel Kellogg
Since last fall, the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail has been quite busy. Here is a short review of all we’ve been up to for the past year.

One year anniversary of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail in Carrollton
On September 14, 2013, the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail celebrated the one year anniversary of the opening of the Carrollton Spur as well as the one year anniversary of one of our members, the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum. To mark the occasion, the Quilt Museum held a guided tour of their “A Celebration of Crazies” crazy quilt exhibit and Carrollton Spur sign curators Andy Carter and Keri Adams led walking tours along the Bradley Street section of the Carrollton Spur and an extended tour that included Maple Street and South Street. J. R. Newell, the founder of BlueWater Ropes, whose family has been in the textile industry for decades, served as the guest speaker of the night over a dinner at La Trattoria on Adamson Square.

Textile Exhibit on display at Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum
The West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail has recently loaned its travelling textile exhibit on Carroll County, “Spinning Yarns, Knitting Socks, and Sewing Suits.” The exhibit discusses the rise of the textile industry from early cotton mills to more recent apparel manufacturing companies. Please go by and visit the quilt museum and the exhibit!

Recent Publicity/Outreach
- Rack cards for the Trail are now available at Georgia Visitors’ Centers in Columbus, Plains, Ringgold, Sylvania, and Tallapoosa.
- The Textile Trail also hosted a table at Eclectic Live!, a community event organized by UWG’s College of the Arts and Humanities.
- The Trail’s anniversary event received coverage in the Times-Georgian newspaper.
- Our website has been updated with new member information

Grants
The Trail has garnered financial support in the form of grants from the following organizations and foundations to continue efforts to preserve and interpret textile history in west Georgia.
- The Callaway Foundation provided funds for producing an Arcadia book and Textile Trail conference
- An Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant will assist in developing the Bremen spur of the Textile Trail
A special thanks to these funders for their generosity!
Programs/Upcoming Events:
Written by Dustin Klein and Susan Frohlich

Dalton History Day Event, November 10, 2013
The Textile Heritage Trail is hosting a History Day event in Dalton in partnership with the Bandy Heritage Center and Dalton State College. While chiefly known today as a carpet production center, Dalton’s history also features other textile industries as well, including the Crown Cotton Mill, the chenille bedspread industry, and the associated Peacock Alley. Our History Day event in Dalton will capture oral stories of the chenille industry and early carpet industry. Look for more details soon on our website and in our next newsletter. Please come and join us!

Cartersville Walking Tour and Panel Discussion, March 2014
Another upcoming program will partner with the Bartow History Museum to hold a walking tour and panel on the Atco mill village in Cartersville. This event will be open to the public. It will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about mill village life in west Georgia and to enjoy a taste of historic Cartersville. Details are still pending, but watch for more on this exciting event early in 2014.

Textile Trail Conference in LaGrange, April 2014
Thanks to funds received from the Callaway Foundation, the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail will be holding a conference at Hills & Dales Estate in LaGrange in April 2014. LaGrange has a rich textile history including the various contributions of the Callaway Family, and we hope to highlight this during the conference. The conference will include workshops on tourism, fundraising, telling stories, and preservation. Check our website in the coming months for registration information.

As we continue to plan and update information about these programs and other events, please check the events section on our website for more details (http://westgate textiletrail.wordpress.com/events/).
A Little About Us!
Written by Daniel Kellogg
I would like to introduce you to the Textile Heritage Trail Team at the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia. Dr. Ann McCleary and Dr. Keith Hebert are co-directors of the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia and also serve history professors at UWG. They supervise graduate and undergraduate students on a variety of public history projects, including the Textile Heritage Trail. Dusty Marie Dye is the Assistant Director of the Center and a History Instructor at West Georgia. She works with graduate research assistants, wrote the grant proposal for the Appalachian Regional Commission, and assisted with compiling information for the Callaway Foundation proposal. Dustin Klein served as the co-director of the Textile Heritage Trail throughout the summer and early fall of 2013 and now works at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History. Daniel Kellogg is a graduate research assistant in the public history program and UWG and is now serving as Co-Director of the Trail. He is also working as the historian for the Arcadia book currently in development. Maria Ross, another graduate assistant, is the Center for Public History manager and archivist. She is planning the conference for April 2014 in LaGrange. Kamil McElwhee is our website designer and the planner of the Dalton History Day event in November and will be assisting with the research for the Arcadia book. Renee McIntosh, an undergraduate research assistant, serves as the Trail’s marketing coordinator. Undergraduate assistant Lacey Head will also be working on the Arcadia book this semester.

Membership Notice
We want to use our newsletter to showcase our members! If you have stories about the Trail, please share them with us and will include them in the next newsletter. If you know of anyone interested in partnering with us or who would like to become a member of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail, please contact us.

We are excited to recognize two new members of the Trail: Robert Harris Jr. and the Bowden Area Historical Society.

For More Information
Please contact the Center for Public History at any time. We can be reached by phone, email, or letter. We would love to hear from you!

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