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 and allows others to learn about and enjoy the local history of our north and west Georgia communities. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date on events with the Trail. If you have stories to share 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 heritage tourism project to tell the stories of the region’s textile history while furthering economic development of communities along the Trail. Since the fall of 2013, we have held our first anniversary tour of the Carrollton Textile Trail spur, with a presentation by J. R. Newell; sponsored a Dalton History Day where we gathered documentation of the textile history of that community; and hosted a successful second annual conference in April at Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange, Georgia. You can now see our rack cards in Georgia’s Visitor Information Centers in our region. This coming year, we are developing several new programs with our partners, preparing a book catalog for the Textile Trail, improving our website, and planning our 2015 conference to be held in Dalton in March.

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

This publication contain some exciting news about past and future Textile Trail activities. Check out our Recent Activities article to learn about what we have been doing, and read the Upcoming Events column for more information about our exciting programs for the next few months.

Sincerely, Maria Ross and Ann McCleary

Maria Ross, the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Co-Director

Watch for our upcoming Textile Trail events:

- August 23, 2014: Fullerville Walking Tour Opening, in Villa Rica
- October 2-4, 2014: Fall Quilt Weekend at the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum, in Carrollton
- November 1: Cartersville Textile History program, Bartow History Museum
- March 19-20, 2014: West Georgia Textile Trail Annual Conference, Dalton
Recent Activities

**Dalton History Day**
In November 2013, The West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail hosted a History Day in Dalton, GA at the Dalton Freight Depot. We scanned some valuable photographs and documents and collect oral histories from community remembers engaged with textile history.

**WGTHT Annual Conference 2014**
On April 17-18, 2014, we hosted the WGTHT Annual Conference at the Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange. Conference sessions presented creative ways to document, preserve, and promote textile history as participants enjoyed exploring the Estate’s blossoming gardens and other textile sites in the community. We appreciate the support of the Georgia Humanities Council, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and the Callaway Foundation, and the assistance of other professionals around the region who shared their expertise and insights with participants.

Our attendees responded:
“Practical advice mixed with inspirational ideas!”
“Networking was one of the most valuable parts of this conference!”
“The cost is extremely reasonable! Thanks for keeping it affordable! The modern textile factory tour is a great option (and free!)”
“I’ve been provided with an almost overwhelming list of resources!”

We are in the planning stages for next year’s conference, planned for March 19-20 in Dalton Georgia. Stay tuned for more information. And send us your suggestions for what you would like to see!

**Publicity**
- Rack cards for the Trail are available at state Visitor Information Centers in Columbus, Plains, Ringgold, Sylvania, and Tallapoosa.
- A variety of partners, including the Georgia Humanities Council, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development promoted our conference statewide.
- Our website is currently being updated with new member information.

**Grants**
Over the past years, the Trail received funds and grants from the following sources to continue efforts to revitalize textile history in west Georgia.
- The Callaway Foundation provided funds for the 2014 conference in LaGrange and the Trail book catalog currently under production
- An Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant is assisting in developing the Bremen Spur of the Textile Trail
- A grant from the Georgia Humanities Council for the development of the Fullerville Walking Tour
Upcoming Events and Programs

On August 23, the City of Villa Rica officially opens the Fullerville Walking Trail Spur of the WGTHT. With a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council, UWG graduate student Holly Lane and CPH Director Ann McCleary developed a walking tour brochure of the historic Fullerville neighborhood, once the home of a thriving cotton and hosiery industry. The tour will begin at Fullerville Baptist Church at 10:00, where the mayor will give an introduction and McCleary will provide background on the Trail. Holly Lane will then lead a walking tour of Fullerville. Afterwards, there will be light refreshments available at Fullerville Baptist Church. While everyone is enjoying the refreshments, Trail staff will scan photographs and documents that relate to the rich textile history of Fullerville. If you have any images to share, please bring them with you!

On October 2-4, the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum in Carrollton will host a Fall Quilt Weekend. The event includes the opening of a new exhibit of Michell’s work along with two workshops and lectures presented by this renown quilter. Textile Trail members will receive a discount at these events. Keri Adams, co-curator of the Carrollton Textile Trail spur, will lead a walking tour along Bradley Street as part of the activities. For more information, please visit the SQTM website at http://southeasternquiltmuseum.com/marti_michell.html.

On November 1, the Bartow History Museum will host a program on Cartersville’s textile history. Participants will meet at the Bartow History Museum at 11 a.m., where Director Trey Gaines will make a presentation on this history and share the museum’s exhibit on this industry. Afterwards, visitors will enjoy lunch in historic downtown Cartersville. At 1:30pm, participants will reconvene at the ATCO Mill village, where Trey will provide a walking tour. This event is FREE to members of the Textile Trail, and costs just $5 otherwise, so bring your friends!

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 at http://westgatextiletrail.wordpress.com/events/. All programs are open to the public, so please invite others who might be interested.
The Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum, located in a historic textile building off Adamson Square in Carrollton, has had a busy summer, creating quite a buzz around Carrollton. On June 7, the Museum hosted an awards ceremony for the winners of their first annual children’s “quilt” contest. The Museum challenged high school students to make crazy quilts that told a story, but they could use a variety of materials for their projects. The entries displayed amazing talent and creativity. These “quilts” were on display at the museum from June 5th to 28th. Funds for planning this programs came from the Georgia Humanities Council, in association with the crazy quilt exhibit last fall.

From July 21-24, 2014, the SQTM hosted its first children’s summer camp where participants made a small quilt and a quilted bear toy with the help of SQTM volunteers. The successful workshops ended in a display of the children’s work.

Finally, in remembrance of the 150th anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War, the SQTM developed an exhibit of Civil War quilts. “The Girls We Left Behind Us: Women and Their Lives in Civil War Carroll County” is on display from July 12th to September 27th.

With all of the work that the Museum has accomplished to interest young people in textiles and to draw attention to the craft and art of quilting, it is no wonder that the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum is garnering attention through the region and the South. Be sure to visit the Museum’s website for more information on what they are doing and for their upcoming workshops and exhibit featuring well-known quilt artist Marti Michell, at http://www.southeasternquiltmuseum.com/.
A Little About Us!
The West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Team is housed at the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia. Center Director Dr. Ann McClery and Assistant Director Keri Adams provide oversight of the Trail and supervise our graduate and undergraduate students working on the Trail. This year, Maria Ross will take over as the Textile Trail Administrator and will organize our 2015 conference. UWG history major Chanell Lowery joined us this summer as our assistant both for administration and our book catalog project. Dr. Jae Turner, Visiting Assistant Professor of Public History, will be helping to improve the Textile Trail website. We will be welcoming new students to work with us this coming year on the book catalog project.

We say goodbye to several of our staff from last year. Dusty Marie Dye is beginning a PhD program in History at the University of Maryland this August. Daniel Kellogg will be working at the Delta Museum. Kamil McElwee will stay on as a graduate student at West Georgia, but her new position will be at the Chieftains Museum in Rome, another textile-rich site. Dr. Keith Hébert has accepted a position to teach public history at Auburn University. We wish you all the best of luck in your new endeavors!

Membership news
We want to help our members market your events and programs in our newsletter and on our website. Our staff is improving our website to feature more promotion about our members. Please share any information you would like us to include. Also, if you know of any individuals or organizations interested in partnering with us or becoming a member of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail, please contact us.

Please join us in welcoming the new charter members of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail:
Bowdon Historical Society, Bowdon, GA
Dustin Klein, Kennesaw, GA
Chuck Douglas, Roswell, GA
Robert Winebarger, Roswell, GA
Jim and Judy Rowell, Bremen, GA
Carol Theune, Bremen, GA
Lorraine LaRue, Newnan, GA
Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, Newnan, GA

For More Information
Please contact the administrative staff of the WGTHT at the Center for Public History by phone, email, or letter. We would love to hear from you!
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