

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State Archaeologist named Deputy Director of Historic Preservation Division

ATLANTA (March 14, 2008) – Georgia’s State Archaeologist Dr. David Crass has been named the first Deputy Director of the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He will serve as an additional point of contact between the division and DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb, provide increased focus to HPD's financial and administrative operations in addition to his continued leadership of the division’s Archaeological Services Unit.

According to DNR Commissioner, Noel Holcomb, “ Dr. Crass is well-respected throughout the state for his contributions to archaeology and has more than a decade of experience with the DNR. He is a perfect fit for this new leadership position within the Historic Preservation Division, and I know that he will complement the efforts of Dr. Ray Luce well.” Dr. Luce has served as HPD’s director since 1999.

Dr. Crass said, “It is a real privilege to be on the DNR team, and I look forward to helping the agency become even more responsive and responsible in the protection of Georgia's matchless historical and archaeological resources.”

A ten-year veteran of HPD, Dr. Crass served for seven years in the South Carolina State Archaeologist's Office as a Research Archaeologist prior to his arrival at DNR in 1998. He holds a B.A. Cum Laude with Honors from Wake Forest University, an M.A. from The College of William and Mary in Virginia, his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University, and various United States Coast Guard

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ratings. He is a recent graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership.

Dr. Crass is active in policy issues at the state, regional, and national levels. He is currently working with a small group of archaeologists under the sponsorship of the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe New Mexico to develop new directions for public archaeology and has served as a special advisor to the Society for American Archaeology on political and communications issues.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Its mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at www.gashpo.org.

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