GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

Volume II, Issue 5

May 1, 2013

GARS Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings, open to the public, are held on the second Thursday at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building, located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. Gathering at 7PM, the program begins at 7:30PM.

In lieu of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for May, members and friends are invited to attend the Annual Society of Georgia Archaeology’s (SGA) Archaeology Month meeting at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, 301 Cherry Street, Macon. This will include an afternoon visit to the Ocmulgee Mounds, the excellent museum that is there, and Fort Hawkins. Pre-registration is available online (click here) or at the door. Attendees to all SGA activities are expected to be registered (including if you just attend afternoon events). The amount is members $10, nonmembers $15, and students $5. You can also sign up and prepay for a box lunch (i.e.; Subway sandwich, chips, cookie, and a drink).

The first speaker of the morning will be Jim D’Angelo who will give an update on his research into the building of Peachtree Road and Fort Peachtree and the connection with Fort Daniel. For a complete list of presenters see the SGA Web site.

This meeting will also be the occasion for SGA’s first annual George S. Lewis Stewardship Award—the winner to be announced at the meeting just before lunch. This will be an annual award given to a Georgian who has made an outstanding contribution in the areas of archaeological research or preservation.

The last meeting before summer break will be June 13. Our own Siska Williams will give a presentation on the professional care and treatment of artifacts. This will be held at the Fort Daniel property, and there will be a follow-up hands-on workshop with FD artifacts at the site at a date to be announced.
Cultural Resource Management

Archaeological sites are being discovered and recorded all the time here in Gwinnett County. Of course, sites are being destroyed as well (See Georgia Heritage Loss). In each issue we focus on site discoveries in recent years and the context of those discoveries.

In this column I have been discussing archaeological sites that were recorded by professional archaeologists either working for CRM firms or associated with colleges or universities. However, not all sites have been recorded by professionals. There are several avocational archaeologists, and even collectors, who have recorded sites that otherwise would not have been recorded—or even known to exist. These are included in the Georgia State archaeological files. Some site forms are more complete and more professionally done than others, but the information they contain is still an important contribution to our overall knowledge of the types of sites that exist or have existed in our County.

Often what happens is that these folks will walk over a development project area (hopefully with the permission of the owner) following bulldozing or grubbing (root removal) activity to see what artifacts may have been revealed. Since these project areas would normally be on private lands not subject to the requirements for an archaeological survey, the sites thus revealed would not have been found or recorded other than by these collectors or avocational archaeologists. Further, the activity which has revealed the site has also probably compromised, if not totally destroyed its archaeological integrity so that the artifacts are essentially the only thing left.

One case in point is site 9GW292, a large, approximately 300’ x 300’ habitation site recorded in 1994 by Doug Marsh, a member of our sister society, The Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society (GAAS). Doug lived not far from the site, which was historically part of the Winn property. The development project was the construction of a sub-division and golf course that it was built around (see photo right). The precise location of 9GW292 is not given in the photo, but it is under one of those fairways!

On his site form Doug described the site as a possible “old quartz industry site with complicated stamped pottery . . . not far from the old Winn House.” The site was located “at the base of a slope near a stream (black line) which flows south into the Apalachee River.” GARS members will recognize this tributary of the Apalachee as the location of Creekside Rock Shelter where we have excavated on numerous occasions.

Among the artifacts collected or observed were “scrapers, preforms, several Archaic quartz stemmed points and knives, and one complicated stamped pottery sherd.” This gave the site a cultural affiliation of Early to Late Archaic (as evidenced by the stemmed quartz artifacts) and Mississippian indicated by the pottery. Under National Register Status on the site form, Doug marked “Unknown.” However, because the site was bulldozed, and he saw no midden or other features, the site was probably destroyed and therefore “not eligible”—at least anymore!

We thank Doug (who studied Anthropology in college I am told) and others like him who don’t just go out to collect “arrowheads” for display over the mantle but who are interested in stewardship of the past making and filing a formal record of what they find—especially because that is the ONLY record there will be! ■ JJD
More Diggin’s


- On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month of May the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC) will be hosting Dig the Past events. In celebrating Archaeology Month the GEHC is hosting this event to let people explore the field of archaeology and learn how archaeologists study the soil and material culture that is left behind to learn of those who have come before us. For more information visit the GEHC Web site.

- A field trip with picnic is being planned for June at the Hurricane Shoals Park. This picnic trip will include a guided tour by the Tumbling Waters Society of Jackson County and will comprise of the Grist mill and site of the Union Iron Foundry, which was in operation as early as the 1790s producing locally mined iron through the Civil War period. The June issue of the GAB will feature an article on the early Franklin and Jackson County iron works known by the names: Union, Hillhouse, Adelham, Purgus, and more. Adelham Iron Works, owned by Buckner Harris, was producing thousands of cannon balls for the Federal government in 1798! (Photo is of Donelson or Shoal Creek Furnace, Canton, GA)

- In June there will be an artifact workshop at the Grant House led by Siska Williams. Members and friends will have the opportunity to learn about the care and treatment of artifacts and work with some of our Fort Daniel artifacts. Details will be announced in the June newsletter.

- The Gwinnett Historical Society’s next meeting will be on June 17 at the Historic Courthouse (downtown Lawrenceville) beginning at 7:30 PM. The speaker will be Rick Clark who will be talking about Dr. Noel d’Alvigny, the Daring Doctor in Dixie. Dr. d’Alvigny served as a surgeon in the 9th Georgia Light Artillery and is the role model for the character Dr. Meade in Gone With the Wind.

May Celebrations

Each year in Georgia the month of May is proclaimed Archaeology Month. Archaeology Month is intended to promote preservation and stewardship of Georgia’s hidden archaeological heritage. As part of Archaeology Month the SGA hosts its Spring Meeting in May (see Page 1) with a specific theme or topic. This year’s theme is “Digging and Diving into the Past.” With this year’s Archaeology Month the SGA is also celebrating 20 years of archaeology awareness in Georgia. Throughout Georgia several organizations hosts events ranging from lectures to artifact identifications. For a complete list of events visits SGA’s online calendar.

Along with May being Archaeology Month in Georgia it is Historic Preservation Month nationwide. Established in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the event is cosponsored by local preservation groups, state historical societies, business and civic organizations across the country. During this month the Georgia Trust is partnering with the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to offer lectures every Thursday evening in May. All lectures are FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available at 6PM; lectures will begin promptly at 6:30PM. For more information visit the Georgia Trust’s Web site.
2013 GARS OFFICERS
www.thegars.org

President:
Leslie Perry
Vice President:
Wayne Waldrip
Secretary:
Delana Gilmore
Treasurer:
John Hopkins

2013 FDF OFFICERS
www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

President:
Jim D’Angelo
Vice President:
Wayne Waldrip
Secretary:
Vicki Watkins
Treasurer:
Betty Warbington

Fort Daniel News

⇒ The Foundation Board and Officers have agreed that it will not be good to have a vacant house on the property. Therefore, plans are underway to make repairs to the house so that it can be occupied by a renter. The spacious basement with separate outside entrance will be reserved for FDF to house a lab, meetings, and storage.

⇒ Beginning at 10AM, the May 4 Work Day will include clean-up of the site and some work in the house, which will include making plans for development of the Foundation’s artifact lab and storage facility.

⇒ Artifacts News: As part of the lease agreement, the County and the Foundation have agreed that all Fort Daniel artifacts will be owned by the County, but will remain with the Foundation for conservation, study, and display. Siska Williams, who is FDF’s new artifact Conservator, will be doing an introduction to the care and treatment of artifacts at the June 13 GARS meeting. This will be followed by a hands-on workshop (date to be announced).

Fort Daniel Support

You can support the work of the Fort Daniel Foundation—which includes educational outreach as well as site preservation and development—by your donations of time, talent, and/or treasure. Now that the Fort Daniel property has been leased to the Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc. by the County, the Foundation will be responsible for raising funds for both program and property. In the June issue there will be an article on how all that is shaping up—including the use of the former Grant house.

Meanwhile, the Foundation will have a lot of up-front expenses, so please consider a celebration donation for our newfound status. To become a member or to make a donation, visit the FDF Membership Web page. Look for the Google Wallet Badge. Sorry no tote bags—yet!

Skillet Lickers Third Music Night featuring Blue Moon Rising
Sunday, May 26
Donation at Gate: $10 for Adults; $5 for Students

The music will begin at 6PM at 2652 Auburn Avenue, Dacula. McGuire’s BBQ will be available for sale at the event. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. For more information visit their Web site.