Frontiers in the Soil

Responding to the Society for Georgia Archaeology summer/fall 2013 library book chapter challenge, 11 copies of *Frontiers in the Soil* have been copurchased by GARS and the FDF and will be placed in all 15 Gwinnett County Public Libraries. These will be joining the four copies already circulating. *Frontiers in the Soil* is an illustrated archaeological guide of proper archaeological methods and ethics written by Roy S. Dickens, Jr. and James L. McKinley and provides ideas for archaeological projects.

The Gwinnett County libraries are very pleased to receive this exciting donation. A big thank you to GARS and FDF for supporting public archaeology educational resources. ■ Leslie Perry, GARS President

GARS Monthly Meetings

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

This month’s meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, and the guest speaker will be Dr. Ken Johnson, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Geography at Georgia Gwinnett College. He will be speaking on: *What it is like to do archaeology in another culture.*

Ken is a native of Georgia and earned his Bachelors degree at Georgia Southern University. He then traveled to Florida and attended Florida Atlantic University for his Masters. Finally, Ken earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Florida. He came back to Georgia and is currently teaching. Ken and his wife Leslie are active member of the Fort Daniel Foundation, and both—along with some of Ken’s students—participate yearly in the Fort Daniel Frontier Faire. ■
Hurricane Shoals Park Field Trip

Though GARS and FDF both have not been meeting, members have been busy preparing for the upcoming Frontier Faire (See Page 4) or visiting Hurricane Shoals Park located in Jackson County, Georgia, in between Maysville and Jefferson. In June GARS members took a guided tour of Hurricane Shoals Park. The park is steeped in local history and has become a scenic, family picnic, and recreation area where the North Oconee River flows through it (See picture right).

Before American settlers arrived, the area was inhabited by the Creek and Cherokee. Two Native American settlements in the area were Yamacutah (Cherokee word meaning “to tumble” referring to a feature of the local shoals) and Yamtrahoochee (meaning “hurricane shoals”). The North Oconee River was a dividing line between the Creeks to the south and the Cherokees to the north, and the surrounding area was considered to be holy by both. The Native Americans believed that the Great Spirit once lived there, and they erected a religious site made up of four stone altars surrounding a big stone statue. (However, it was destroyed in 1840 by a flood.) In the late 1780s American settlers came to the area and built a fort, houses, a grist mill, and a school. Today, the remains of the old settlement can still be glimpsed.

GARS members visited the replica Grist Mill which was built over the old power turbines (See picture above). The Grist Mill was constructed in 1981 and is fully functional today. It grinds corn meal for the Art in the Park Festival that is held at Hurricane Shoals Park every September. Looking at the backside of the Mill, the turbine can be seen in the lower left hand corner. The original Grist Mill was built in 1787 when people settled near Yamtrahoochee (on the west side of North Oconee). The remains can still be seen near the riverside.

From the Grist Mill GARS members walked down to see the site of the old Iron Works where it encompasses the crest of a hill near the Grist Mill (See picture right). In 1790 an iron smelting plant and foundry was built below the American settlement. Iron ore for the foundry was mined in areas near the present cities of Commerce and Dry Pond, and then the iron ore fragments were carried to be smelted at Hurricane Shoals. The Iron Works made cannon balls, ammunition, and other war materials for the Confederate Army during the Civil War. However, in July 1864 a skirmish occurred between a Northern cavalry troop and people guarding the iron works. The Northern troops succeeded in destroying the iron works and cutting off the iron supply to the Confederate army.

Hurricane Shoals Park was truly a place for us history buffs, and hopefully, GARS will be able to conduct an archaeological survey of the old Iron Works one day! ■ DMG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!
People are needed to help with the FDF/GARS booth at the Elisha Winn Fair on October 5–6. If interested, please contact Delana Gilmore.
More Diggin’s

- **Fort Daniel Presentations:** On September 4, Jim D’Angelo will be addressing Kathryn Gray-White’s History 3110 class at GGC. The topic is early American fort construction. On September 9, Jim will present “Fort Daniel Rediscovered” to The Gen. John Clarke Chapter, USD 1812 at the Old Towne Athletic Club in Marietta.

- **History Press** will be publishing Jim’s *Fort Daniel Rediscovered: The History and Archaeology of a Frontier & War of 1812 Fort in Hog Mountain, Georgia* in early 2014. The approximately 224-page book will tell in Part I the story of Fort Daniel and its connection with Fort Peachtree and Peachtree Road and the circumstances of their construction against a background summary of Georgia’s Colonial, Revolutionary, and post-Revolutionary history. Background treatment will also include information on the Creek and Cherokee people and their predecessors. Several *excursus* will deal with topics such as the flawed land grant system; Georgia’s early iron, timber, and brick industry; early Army and Militia organization; frontier conditions and fort construction; and early roads. Part II will deal with the archaeology of Fort Daniel and discuss the results of those investigations as they relate to the background study. Jim is disappointed that the book will not be done in time for the 2013 Frontier Faire and celebration of the building of Fort Daniel but is happy not to have to go the way of self-publishing.

- **GAAS Monthly Meeting Program for September:** Wallace Seabolt will be the speaker at their September 10 meeting at 6:30 PM at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. They will be discussing Cherokee heritage including display of Native American artifacts. Wallace was raised in a traditional Cherokee farming and woodworking family and was taught traditional Cherokee medicine by his full-blood paternal grandmother, who was a Medicine Woman. His hereditary home is Suches, Georgia, the community that is considered by the Cherokees to be “The Valley Above The Clouds” and was one of the last strongholds of the Cherokees in Georgia, who escaped removal to the Indian Territory in the 1830s.

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Fort Daniel Artifact Workshop

In early June an artifact workshop was held at Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. Siska Williams, Fort Daniel’s Conservator, led the workshop and taught those present how to care for the artifacts. She went through the guidelines on how to carefully handle and care for the artifacts.

Siska stressed the need of using the correct procedures when writing on the artifacts. After cleaning, the artifact needs to be labeled with its number. A thin clear reversible lacquer is placed on the area. (If the artifact is dark in color, white lacquer should be used as the base coat.) After the lacquer dries, write the label number with permanent ink (e.g.; Indian ink) and then set it aside to dry. Apply a topcoat of clear lacquer (or white). The label needs to dry completely before placing in a container.

After going through the procedures, Siska briefly discussed what the lab layout (which will be located in the basement of the Grant House) would look like. She also discussed items that were needed for an operational conservation lab. After the workshop both GARS and FDF members enjoyed a nice BBQ cooked by Chef D’Angelo (*pictured left*).

*If you want to donate items to the lab, please contact [Siska](mailto:siska) ■ DMG*
Fort Daniel News

The Frontier Faire Event Committee has been busy this summer preparing for Fort Daniel’s Bicentennial!!! *The Faire will be on Saturday, October 19 from 10am–5pm.* The favorites will be back, but some new exciting things have been added. Some of the highlights are:

★ The **blacksmith and flintknapper** will return demonstrating their skills.

★ The Society of Georgia Archaeology’s **ArchaeoBUS (pictured above)** will be back! This will be a great addition to the educational focus.

★ **Community archaeology** will be taking place with supervised excavations and activities. The whole family can help dig!

★ **LIVE MUSIC:** The **Skillet Lickers** (who are FDF members) will be playing at 1pm.

★ **Storyteller Barry Stewart Mann** will be speaking about *Peace Pipes and Talking Leaves: Cherokee Leaders and Lore* at 2pm.

★ The **Hog Mountain Trading Post** will have items for sale, and the **Fort Daniel Museum** will be presenting the artifacts found at the site.

★ As usual, the **General and other Reenactors** will be present to help you out around the fort.

Hence, you can see that this year will be the greatest!!! Tell everyone that you see about the Faire. The flyer has been inserted for your convenience. Print it off and give it to people or businesses to hang up.

*If you would like to help out at the Faire, please contact Wayne Waldrip.*

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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
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Wayne Waldrip
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Vicki Watkins
Treasurer:
Betty Warbington

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. To become a member or to make a donation, visit the FDF Membership Web page.
The Frontier Faire is cosponsored by the Fort Daniel Foundation and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society. Fort Daniel Archaeological Site is owned by Gwinnett County and is managed by the Fort Daniel Foundation.