Fort Daniel Bicentennial Expo a Success

The Fort Daniel Expo on May 19—to which attendees at the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Spring Meeting at GGC and area educators were invited—was a success! SGA President (and past GARS President) Catherine Long expressed her gratitude to GARS and FDF members in the following note:

On behalf of SGA I cordially extend sincere appreciation for the support of the GARS chapter members and the Fort Daniel Foundation members of the Spring Meeting, “Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.”

It was a great program and special day for Fort Daniel—it was good to see the participation at the site. SGA enjoyed working with you all and are glad to be able to continue to bring recognition and support to the preservation of this important site.

What a wonderful way to share public archaeology with Gwinnett County! Thank you all for your hard work and contributions to make this event a success!

Leslie and Frank Perry’s photos of the EXPO are posted throughout this issue.
A special thanks to students from Fort Daniel Elementary and Twin Rivers Schools who participated, and TRC Senior Technician, Sterling Howard, and Leslie Perry who worked along with them.

GARS Monthly Meeting

GARS and FDF members will be joining the Barrow County Historical Society at their dinner meeting on Flag Day, June 14. Prior to the meeting there will be a visit to Fort Yargo and Barrow County Museum. Dr. D’Angelo is the guest speaker, and his presentation will cover Jackson County frontier forts and the latest update on Fort Daniel and Fort Peachtree archaeology and research. (In 1812, Fort Yargo and Fort Daniel were in Jackson County). The meeting is open to the public.

The next GARS meeting will be September 13!’ Mike Bunn, Executive Director of Historic Chattahoochee Commission (Eufaula, Alabama), will speak about his new book: Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and The War of 1812.
GARS Notes

Past and current GARS and FDF articles published on the SGA Web site can be seen on their Archives Web page. Back issues of the GAB will be on the new GARS Web site, which will be posted soon.

Field trips and archaeology projects are part of the GARS program. Many of these are open only to GARS members, so join and be part of the fun.

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 compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, states began recording archaeological sites using a standard trinomial system: [e.g.; 9 (Georgia) GW (Gwinnett County) 4 (fourth site assigned a number); 1 (Tennessee) CT (Colbert County) 523; 33 for Ohio and so on]. However, states and institutions also had their own numbering systems, and adding to the potential for confusion, some of the early site recordation was not very well done by today’s standards. As a result, we have an example of site information confusion and loss for this issue: site 9GW8. Nevertheless, there is a happy ending . . .

9GW8 was recorded in 1974 by Charles Babb as part of a Georgia State University project. The site was described and mapped as being on the left bank of the Yellow River; a Campsite located “across from 9GW1 (State #9GW4).” Of course, the exact location is proprietary information. Based on a private collection from the site, its cultural affiliation was given as “Archaic.”

9GW4, recorded by Roy Dickens (GSU) in 1962, was the site looked at in the April issue. Dickens described and mapped 9GW4 (which Babb identified as 9GW1) on the right side of the Yellow River. However, the site form for 9GW1 is for a site located on the left bank of the Yellow River that was recorded by Robert Wauchope in 1939 and identified as a Woodland and Mississippian village—based on ceramics and several tools in the property owner’s collection.

To further complicate matters, Babb’s 9GW8 site form (which has only locational information) includes two pages from an unidentified person’s field notes that includes a list of artifacts from a “Site #2” located “directly across the river from a village Roy Dickens excavated . . . in 1962.” Therefore, “Site #2” is Babb’s 9GW8, which is apparently Wauchope’s 9GW1. However, 9GW1 is 9GW4! OK, I give up—now for the happy ending . . .

On the other page of the field notes is s “Site #1” and these words: “Artifacts from burial excavated in July–1963 with Mr. Roy Dickens 163 white beads, 5895 small blue beads, 54 large blue beads, 3 brass bells, 2 copper rattlers, 1 loan object.” The page is stamped: “Official State Site No. 9GW8.” I have no idea what site this actually was, but GARS members who worked on the Creekside Rock Shelter will no doubt be pleased to find out that Leslie Perry’s lone blue bead (pictured above) was probably not the only one in Gwinnett County.

EXPO: TRC’s Senior Technician, Sterling Howard, showing students how it's done

EXPO: Dan Elliot (Lamar Institute and Fort Hawkins) inspecting charcoal feature uncovered by students. The famed Georgia archaeologist declared, “This needs more work.” He then asked if he could put Fort Daniel on his resume.

Glass bead recovered by GARS during excavations at Creekside Rock Shelter, Gwinnett County. The bead is probably a mid-18th c. French trade item manufactured in Venice, Italy, that made its way into the wilderness that would become Georgia.
More Diggin’s

- Welcome new members Candi Clark (GARS), Jeri Martin (GARS, FDF), and Jeri’s daughter and her husband, Susan and Alex Partyka (FDF). Candi is a GSU archaeology student, and Jeri is a direct descendent of Major General Allen Daniel and lives in Nashville, Tennessee!

- Fort Daniel and the nature of frontier forts in general has found a place in Dr. Kathryn Gary-White’s American History 3110 at GGC. Jim D’Angelo will be teaching one session on forts each time the advanced elective course is taught this summer.

- Mike Budd (see Page 1) has added a Fort Daniel link to his Web site. Thanks Mike!

- Richard M. Pettigrew, Ph.D., RPA, President and Executive Director of Archaeological Legacy Institute, announced the latest installment of the Video News from The Archaeology Channel featuring a new Maya exhibit at the Penn Museum, the recently concluded Macedonia exhibit at the Louvre Museum, and the construction of the last traditional canoe on a Pacific island. (This last one is for you, Leslie.)

- Siska Williams will be working with Shannon and Jim to get the Fort Daniel artifacts ready for publication in the Technical Report. Jim is trying to get this and the Fort Daniel book done over the summer. Leslie Perry has completed work on the Graves artifacts from last fall which will be included in the Graves Technical Report.

- During Archaeology Month Fort Daniel had a presence at two venues (both on the same day): The New South Associates’ (a CRM firm) event at Stone Mountain and the RiverFest Atlanta event on the Chattahoochee. Jim, Frank, and John (pictured right) set up the Hog Mountain Trading Post tent at the New South property, and Wayne Waldrip did the honors in a large community tent at the RiverFest. Shannon and Siska prepared the artifact display cases, which were used at both events. Karen Lee’s display of GARS activities and two poster boards put together by Jim rounded out the displays.
During the 2011 Frontier Faire, Jeff Glover (SGU) and his students uncovered what we believed was brick feature at the bottom of the plow zone (~8 inches below the surface). The original 4x4–ft. excavation unit (#24) has since been expanded by overlapping two additional 4x4 units (27 & 28) so that the original feature remained at the center. The brick seemed to be situated on the south edge of a ring of darker, humic soil that extended below the bottom of the plow zone (PZ). Pictured right, the PZ extent is indicated by plow scars (dotted lines); arrows point to “brick” fragments; and the circle indicates the dark soil area in question.

After defining the edge of the feature in several places, it was clear that it was not a dug feature. A small probe was excavated into its center to the level of the red clay subsoil (~25 inches below the surface). It appears now that this is a “tree (stump) pull.”

Whether the tree grew up through a brick feature such as a hearth, or burning of cleared vegetation baked clay pulled up with the stump will not be known until the “brick” is analyzed at the National Brick Research Institute.

In the mean time, the search for the West Gate by our Expo students has resulted in discovery of a feature that also needs further investigation. It is a charred feature within the wall trench feature that may be a carbonized post—or not. We still have no definitive West Gate!