GARs Monthly Meeting

GARs and FDF members and families will be honoring Mrs. Ann Grant at a special dinner meeting to be held at La Cazuela on March 14.

Ann, former owner of the Fort Daniel property and an honorary member of GARs, is moving to Henry County (see box lower left). Those wishing to say thank you to Ann for all her kindnesses to us and to wish her well may attend.

The GARs regularly scheduled program will begin at 7:30 PM (also at La Cazuela). GSU Professor Jeff Glover will be our presenter.

Many of you know Jeff for his work at the Fort Daniel site with his GSU students.

However, what you may not know is that Jeff's primary research interest and field experience is in Maya archaeology, and this will be the subject of his presentation. Jeff was in Valladolid, Mexico, for the “end of the world” on December 21, 2012. Fortunately, it was a false alarm, and Jeff was able to make it back for this presentation.

Upcoming Meetings:
- On April 11 Claude Terry, the flintknapper who demonstrated at the 2012 Frontier Faire, will be our speaker and demonstrator. More on Mr. Terry, a retired Emory prof, in the April issue.
- On May 18, in lieu of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, members and friends are invited to attend the SGA Archaeology Month meeting to be held at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon. This will include a visit to the Ocmulgee Mounds, the excellent museum that is there, and Fort Hawkins, if there is time. The Archaeology Month theme for 2013 is “Preservation,” and that is perfect for us now that the County has acted to preserve the Fort Daniel site! See the April and May issues of GAB for more details, or visit the SGA Web site.
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.

One of the “corners” of the boundary described in the 1818 treaty with the Creeks (this ceded most of the land from which Gwinnett County would be created) was “Suwannee old town.”

. . . thence, up the Chatahochie river, by the water’s edge, on the eastern side, to Suwannee old town; thence, by a direct line, to the head of the Appalachian; and then, down the same, to the first-mentioned bounds at the high shoals of Appalachian.

The location of this site is well known and, fortunately, now falls within the bounds of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area where it is protected from development and, ostensibly, from looting. The site, 9GW16, was recorded in 1975 as part of Dickens and Barber’s GSU Archaeological Survey in Clayton, DeKalb, and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia. Based on surface collection, this approximately three-acre site was identified as a Woodland Village situated on floodplain and terrace. The survey did not include the Fulton side of the river.

In 1985 Betty Smith revisited the site as part of a linear survey for a sewer line—again on the Gwinnett side of the river. She identified two major loci within the three-acre area delineated in the 1975 survey and excavated by doing both standard shovel tests and larger 3’x3’ test units. Smith described an 8-12 inch plow zone below which she identified, in one of the test units, buried deposits including two possible post holes and a “fire basin filled with fire-cracked rock.”

In all she recorded 404 prehistoric and historic artifacts—including fabric-marked, check stamped, plain, Lamar plain, Woodstock Complicated Stamped, and curvilinear complicated stamped pottery sherds with rounded, folded-flattened, and notched rims. She also recovered a quartzite projectile point; a soapstone bar gorget fragment, and lots of debitage. Historic artifacts consisted mostly of modern bottle glass from the plow zone. Based on the pottery types, Smith identified the site as an Early Woodland and Mississippian village and recommended it “eligible for National Register nomination.” No further work has been done at 9GW16. ■ JJD
More Diggin’s

✦ The next GAAS (Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society) meeting will be at 6:30 PM on March 12 (note change of date) at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Archaeologist Steffan Brannan will give an update on the results of last summer’s excavations at the Singer-Moye Mound site in Stewart County.

✦ REMINDER: A three-day course in metal detection will be offered on April 19–21 in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Participants can earn either 16 (two-day) or 24 (three-day) RPA continuing education credits. For more information refer to www.newsouthassoc.com/amda/index.html.

✦ Many of our members and readers associated with the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) knew Michael Shirk and his wife Betsy. You may not know that Michael battled with cancer for many years. Michael passed away on February 10. He will be missed not only for his winsome personality and his stunning photography but for his substantial contributions to SGA in time, talent, and treasure. Sound bookkeeping methods, the SGA Web site, and the ArcheoBus are a few of Michael Shirk’s legacies to us.

✦ Each year the SGA and the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA) has the honor of judging the State Social Studies Fair special projects in Archaeology for the upper grades. This year Leslie Perry will be the SGA representative at the Fair on Saturday, March 23, at Clayton State University. Two students will receive a cash award: one from SGA and one from GCPA. The two winners will each receive a copy of the book Frontiers in the Soil as well as the 2012 SGA Archaeology Month poster.

✦ The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is featuring a special exhibit entitled, “Peanuts . . . Naturally,” that is running February thru April. Some GARS/FDF members are meeting at the Center on April 23 at 10:30 AM to see the exhibit. Weather permitting we will also hike the Center’s trails. For admission prices or more on the Peanuts exhibit visit the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Web site.

✦ Another interesting event that some of our members are planning to attend is the Fort Yargo Colonial Market Faire on April 5–7 from 10AM–5PM. Visit their Web site for more information.

✦ In April (date to be announced) a field trip to Hurricane Shoals Park will occur. There will be a guided tour by the Tumbling Waters Society of Jackson County where we will visit the Grist mill and site of the Union Iron Foundry in operation as early as the 1790s and producing locally mined iron through the Civil War. The April GAB will feature an article on Union, the Hillhouse iron works, and the Adelham iron works in Jackson County—the later of which was producing thousands of canon balls for the Federal government in 1798!

✦ Whitter Mill History Talk and House Tour: Kathy “Riverside Kate” Hearn and Wayne Waldrip, Vice President of the Fort Daniel Foundation, will provide a colorful presentation of the first chapters of this area’s history: Standing Peachtree, Montgomery Ferry, Bolton, Iceville, Riverside, Whittier Village, and more. For details go to the Atlanta Preservation Center Web site.

Ways to Get Kids Involved in Preservation

One of the reasons we advocate for the preservation of historic sites is for the next generation. However, what if the next generation is not interested or does not understand the value and significance of these sites? From their blog the National Trust of Historic Preservation listed a few ideas on how to get children excited about preservation and history. Some ideas are:

⇒ Explore family history. Ask kids to investigate the significant places to their family. Look at old photographs, and, if can, visit these places.

⇒ Take a walk down Main Street. These authentic and traditional commercial districts are full of historic buildings and feature locally owned stores.

⇒ Volunteer at a museum or historical society. For older children volunteering can offer an opportunity to organize historical records or create exhibits.

⇒ Create a historic walking tour. Ask kids what places they think are historic. Draw a map of these places and create a walking tour to take a visitor to your city on.

For more ideas go to the National Trust of Historic Preservation blog. — DMG
Fort Daniel News

- On February 11 Foundation Vice President Wayne Waldrip and President Jim D’Angelo received the last of the Fort Daniel artifacts from Shannon Coffey, who is in the process of moving from Lawrenceville to Henderson, South Carolina. Shannon has served as the Fort Daniel archaeological project’s conservator and research analyst of the majority of the site’s artifacts from day one of the project. Shannon’s special interest has been in ceramic analysis and restoration—although she also did much of the work on glass and metal objects.

With a professional background in graphic design combined with graduate work at William and Mary College where she worked on historic Williamsburg artifacts, Shannon has put her many skills to work in several ways for GARS and FDF—including the design and production of most of the organizations’ flyers, brochures, and press releases until recently. She also created the signature museum exhibit with which visitors to the Annual Frontier Faire are well-acquainted.

From all of us: Thank you, Shannon! Your efforts have been in no small way instrumental in bringing to where we are today!

- The Foundation applied for and received a grant in the amount of $1,500 from the George A. Ramlose Foundation, Inc. The monies are to be used for educational purposes. The grant comes at a time when the Foundation is making plans to enter into a joint venture with SGA to develop a workshop on teaching archaeology in grades 6–12 in conformity with Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS). The workshop is proposed for the fall 2013 meeting of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies in Athens.

- You can support the work of the Foundation by your donations and/or becoming a member. Visit the Fort Daniel Foundation Membership Web page for information. Welcome new members: Harriot Nicholls, an Allen Daniel descendent and GHS member; and Betty and Phil Tanner of the famous Skillet Lickers.