



GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Don't forget to like both Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society & Fort Daniel Foundation on Facebook.

GARS Monthly Meeting

The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will have its monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 12 at Fort Daniel's new archaeology lab and meeting area (NOT Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center as usual) located in the Grant House basement (2505 Braselton Hwy, Buford).** GARS President, Delana Gilmore, will give a presentation on 18th–19th century Georgia iron manufactories in Jackson, Franklin, and other “northern” counties. These were the subject of part of her recent MA Archaeology and Heritage thesis (see GAB III/10 and IV/1).

Wayne Waldrip, chair for the 2015 annual Frontier Faire, will lead a discussion for planning and best date for the Faire. Jim D'Angelo will give updates on the status of planned archaeological projects including the latest on the search for Fort Peachtree (see tentative schedule of events and projects below) and discuss the lab setup and use.

The reason for the change in venue is to revel in the recently completed construction of the lab facility (see GAB IV/2). Desert will be served. All meetings are opened to the public. We gather at 7PM with meeting beginning at 7:30PM. ■

Proposed 2015–2016 GARS Program

- **Monthly General Meetings** (Second Thursday at 7PM): March, April, May, September, October, November, December (Annual Christmas Party), January (Joint meeting with FDF).
- **Field Trips:** Among the field trips proposed is Roswell Mills in April. The trip was postponed last year due to bad weather. A summer trip to Banning Mills has also been suggested.
- **Archaeology Projects:** Planning includes a March return to the Fort Peachtree site and recordation of an adjacent CW fort site with GSU; continuing excavations at the Graves Soapstone Site in the summer or fall; hosting community archaeology during the Fort Daniel Frontier Faire in the fall; and an archaeology project in conjunction with the Elisha Winn Fair also in the fall. At least one workshop and opportunities for working with artifacts from GARS projects at the new Fort Daniel archaeology lab are also being planned.

Cultural Resource Management

As most readers know, an important aspect of archaeological fieldwork is recordkeeping. For purposes of CRM, detailed records of all aspects of an archaeological investigation are required, and formal reports, including archaeological site forms, are typically submitted to the State upon completion of a project. From about the mid-1970s when uniform policies about this at the Federal to State level really began—not by coincidence in the decade of our Bicentennial—CRM firms doing work in Georgia have been required to submit two reports to the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. Original site forms were submitted directly to the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF) at University of Georgia, which assigned the official State site number for each new site found. The HPD would forward one of the two reports to the GASF as well. If HPD received only one report, as too often happened, it kept that report. Currently, GASF has over 58,000 sites and nearly 8,500 reports.

For several years now GASF, under the direction of Dr. Mark Williams, has been entering new and old site forms and reports into a computerized database known as, GNAHRGIS. When an archaeologist is conducting a new study, he or she can easily access these records online (with a password issued to CRM professionals only) in order to carry out necessary background research. This is how it is supposed to work and usually does.

I was recently asked what I could find out about a mill and possible rock shelter site in Snellville that had previously been recorded during a Gwinnett Department of Transportation Survey in the 1990s. The person was writing a history of a family connected with the mill. In the course of examining the site form, I noted that it referred to three related reports that had also been filed. Although it would have been nice to have read and compared them right then and there along with the site form, two of them were not electronically available. That fact did not particularly surprise me. When I was actively doing contract work for TRC, even though we could routinely access site forms *via* GNAHRGIS, we would usually have to travel to GASF in Athens to find the reports in the paper files. This got me to thinking about how long it would take before Mark and his staff would be able to get caught up with this project.

It was not a day or two later that, being on the membership email list of the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA), I was copied on a series of emails circulated between Mark and other GCPA members who were discussing, co-incidentally, precisely this issue. Some of the facts may surprise you. They did surprise me.

Many will recall the crisis a couple of years ago when, due to budgeting issues at the State level, the State Archives hours were first severally cut down, and then on September 13, 2012, Georgia Secretary of State, Brian Kemp, announced that the Georgia Archives would close to the public as of November 1. The decision to close the archive was met with a backlash from the public, librarians, genealogists, and other organizations. On October 18 Governor Deal issued a press release announcing that the Georgia Archives would remain open.

At about the same time funding for the HPD was cut back, and the HPD moved to a new location. In connection with that move the new director, Brian Tucker, turned over to GASF some 30 boxes of CRM reports with another ten recently found—and the possibility of more yet to be found! Added to the arduous task of digitizing already existing GASF files, these files had to be integrated into the database. Mark estimates that they are looking at an approximately 1,300 paper reports and 445 digital reports! Here is what Mark says that needs to be done with these:

Scan and create an OCR PDF of paper reports; place PDFs in proper digital folder on the server and upload to GNAHRGIS; code the date on the report into GNAHRGIS [for example, just for prehistoric sites, under tool stone, the code for “quartz crystal” is 110102, and the code for “bead” is 110224]; draw the project area on official reference quad map; pull associated paper site forms and stamp with report number; digitize the same site or project area location onto the electronic map that users would first go to on the GNAHRGIS Web site. Finally file all paper in file cabinets.

Funding for GASF does not come from the State. It is entirely user-fee based. This means that the budget for any CRM project must include these costs, and that there are no pre-existing funds to draw on for catching up with the backlog. GCPA members are discussing how we can help with funding for catching up with this backlog, as we are the primary users of the database. Of course, all Georgians are the ultimate benefactors of this large and wonderful database of Georgia archaeology. ■ **JJD**

Georgia State University's CURVE

As part of their research into the Civil War fort discovered during the fall "Search for Fort Peachtree" fieldwork with GARS and FDF members (See GAB III/9 page 7), Jim and Wayne Waldrup recently visited with Jeff Glover at Georgia State University's CURVE facility, where they viewed multiple aerial images and topo maps of the area as well as recent LIDAR (*Laser Illuminated Detection And Ranging*) images of the site. LIDAR images (similar to radar but done with lasers) have the advantage of being able to be manipulated to show, among other things, the ground surface minus vegetation. Student staff at GSU are working on refinement of those images for use with future analysis of the site.

The mission of the Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment is to enhance research and visualizations by providing technology and services that promote interdisciplinary engagement, collaborative investigation, and innovative inquiry for students, faculty, and staff.

On March 10 Wayne and Jim will be meeting with Jeff at the City of Atlanta site to review strategies for recording their recently identified Civil War fort with the aid of GSU students and GSU technology. Hopefully, the project will be completed before spring foliage gets in the way. At the same time, Wayne and Jim will be examining access to the adjacent hilltop area where they and GARS/FDF members expect to find archaeological proof that Fort Peachtree was erected there—as documentary and circumstantial evidence suggests. A gate was recently installed in the new 2014 security fence that had made examination of the site so difficult in the fall; thus, making it possible, hopefully, to bring mechanized trenching equipment to the site. ■

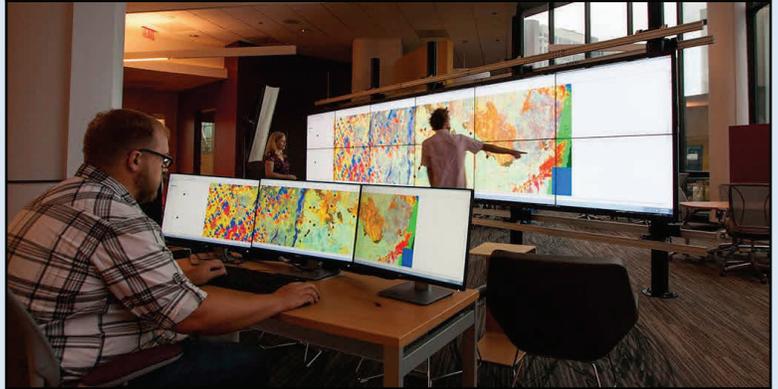
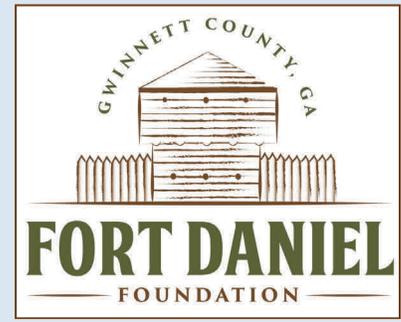


Image courtesy of GSU Web site

Jeff Glover standing in front of a large screen in the CURVE facility at the GSU library

More Diggin's

- **The Phoenix Flies: A Celebration of Atlanta's Historic Sites** will be happening on **March 7–22** with events occurring throughout the Atlanta area. Atlanta's historic built environment of buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods is an integral part of the City's culture and economy. The Phoenix Flies Celebration provides an opportunity to learn about, celebrate, and strengthen these assets to the benefit of all. For a complete list of events visit the [Atlanta Preservation Center's Web Site](#).
- **Citizens and Soldiers** will be held on **Saturday, March 14** at the **Atlanta History Center** from 11AM to 4PM. Learn what it was like during the Civil War from multiple perspectives—the soldiers on the field, the families on the home front, and the enslaved. Experience home front activities, encampments, reenactments, and demonstrations at the 1860s Smith Family Farm, and enjoy tours of the award-winning Civil War exhibition, *Turning Point: The American Civil War*. The program is included in the cost of general admission. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center's Web site](#).
- **Pioneer School at the Yellow River Post Office at the Hudson-Nash Farm** will be held on **Saturday, March 21** from 10:30AM–1:30PM and 2PM–5PM. Experience a traditional school day of the mid-1800s in a one-room schoolhouse. The schoolmarm will teach the 3 Rs with a good dose of recitation, spelling bees, chores, and games. The program is for ages 7 and up and costs \$15. To preregister or for more information visit the [Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center's Web site](#).



Fort Daniel News

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President:

Delana Gilmore

Vice President:

Karen Lee

Secretary:

Christine Durgan

Treasurer:

John Hopkins

FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

President:

Jim D'Angelo

Vice President:

Wayne Waldrip

Secretary:

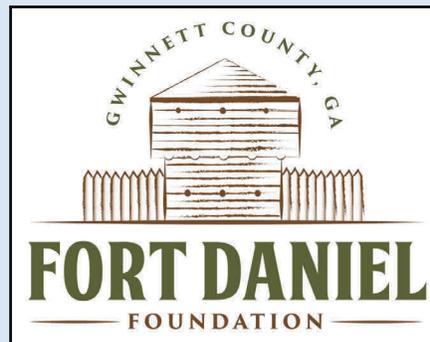
Vicki Watkins

Treasurer:

Betty Warbington

- On March 2 Jim and members of the fort reconstruction feasibility group will meet at the Fort Daniel site for the first planning meeting with Lawrenceville architect Chad Smith to discuss the concept design that he will be working on. The study will involve development of a concept design based on the architectural plans for the Fort Foster reconstruction in Tampa, Florida. David Coffey of Coffey Brothers Logging Company in Flowery Branch has also volunteered to be the consultant for log and lumber materials, methods of construction, etc. (See GAB III/9 p.8).
- Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) recently received a \$500 grant from the Charles A. Ramlose Foundation to be used towards the reconstruction feasibility study. FDF has previously benefited from two other Ramlose Foundation Grants, which have been used for education purposes and, most recently, covering most of the cost of the new lab facility.
- John Hopkins will speak about Fort Daniel and the Fort Daniel Foundation at the March 17 meeting of the General John Baytop Scott Chapter of the Daughters of the War of 1812 at the Athens Country Club.
- As part of the Atlanta Preservation Center's monthlong 2015 *Phoenix Flies Celebration* (with about 230 events scheduled citywide) on Saturday, March 21 from 11AM to 12:30PM in an event hosted by Atlanta's Upper West Side and Standing Peachtree Park, Jim D'Angelo and Wayne Waldrip will talk about pre-Atlanta with Kathy Hearn (Riverside Kate) sharing the history and forgotten beginning with some future plans for Northwest Atlanta. The event will be held at the Pavilion at Standing Peachtree Park.

New FDF Logo



Created by Accent Creative Group of Lawrenceville for the Foundation—with the input of the Officers, Directors, and our archaeologist—this historically representative emblem of a stockade fort with corner blockhouse and the wording, *Fort Daniel Foundation, Gwinnett County, GA*, is now the FDF's official logo. A new Web site will soon follow. ■