



GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Fort Daniel & Archaeology Month 2012

Every May the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA)—a statewide organization of professional and avocational archaeologists of which GARS is a chapter—sponsors [Georgia Archaeology Month](#). The purpose of Archaeology Month is to help raise public awareness of Georgia’s historic and cultural resources and archaeology’s contribution to understanding and preserving that past. The theme for 2012 is “The Bicentennial of the War of 1812.” In past years GARS has participated in Archaeology Month by holding a public archaeology event. These events have been held at the Historic Winn House property in Dacula (maintained by the Gwinnett Historical Society) or the Fort Daniel site in Buford under the auspices of the Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF). This year on May 19 GARS and FDF will host an afternoon expo at the Fort Daniel site. Details about the event will be in the April and May GAB. ■

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GARS Monthly Meeting

Every month GARS members meet in a conference room at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville beginning at 7PM.

The speaker at the March 8 meeting is Georgia archaeologist Jack Wynn, who is advisor to the Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (BRAG) a chapter of SGA and a University teacher. Dr. Wynn will speak on: Archaeological Testing at the Duckett Site in Hall County, Georgia, 2009–2011. Wynn, BRAG, and Wynn’s students from North Georgia College and State University and the University of West Georgia conducted over 100 shovel tests and two test pits on the Middle Woodland period site. Wynn will present preliminary results and discuss techniques used there.

Dr. Wynn earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, and has taught in Missouri, Mississippi, Uruguay, and Georgia. For 21 years he was US Forest Service Archaeologist on the National Forests in Georgia. He has published work on the Blue Ridge Mountains Mississippian period and the Scull Shoals historic mill town in northern Greene County, Georgia. ■

IMPORTANT! Please read [this notice](#) concerning two new TV programs that are imparting entertainment value to the looting and selling of artifacts from archaeological sites, and consider signing the linked petition. ~JJJ

GARS Activity Notes

On March 24 Jim D' Angelo will lead a walking tour through parts of [Harbins Park](#) in Dacula, Georgia, where GARS members will visit some early 19th to early 20th century historic archaeological sites including the Lowes Mill site that was featured in the last issue. The rain date is March 31. Look for details on [GARS Web site](#).

Several field trips and archaeology projects have been planned for GARS. Many of these are open only to GARS members, so join and be part of the fun! ■

Join GARS and/or FDF to participate and support our efforts in preserving Gwinnett County's historic sites. Applications are on [GARS](#) & [FDF](#) Web sites or just email us!



Berkmar Mystery Object

Cultural Resource Management: The Berkmar Site

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.



Ryan Manning with 10 of 26 students who participated in the project

The Berkmar Mystery Site is located near Berkmar Middle School in Lilburn. In the fall of 2011 it was recorded by members of GARS with the help Mr. Ryan Manning's 8th grade science students. The site was, at one time, part of the historic Wynne-Russell Plantation. The main feature of the site is a "mysterious" channel that runs down the center of an

unnamed stream. The feature appears to have been cut into the solid granite of the stream's bottom. It was supposed that the site was either related to a water-powered operation or irrigation system.

However, during cleanup and detailed recordation of the streambed feature (as well as the retaining wall for an old plantation road that ran along the stream and other fieldstone walls) it became apparent that the channel was completely natural!

It is actually a seam (xenolith) of either igneous biotite or metamorphic amphibolite within the granite-gneiss bedrock that had eroded out due to the stream.

While not an historic feature as had been suspected, it is nevertheless a very unusual natural feature indeed!

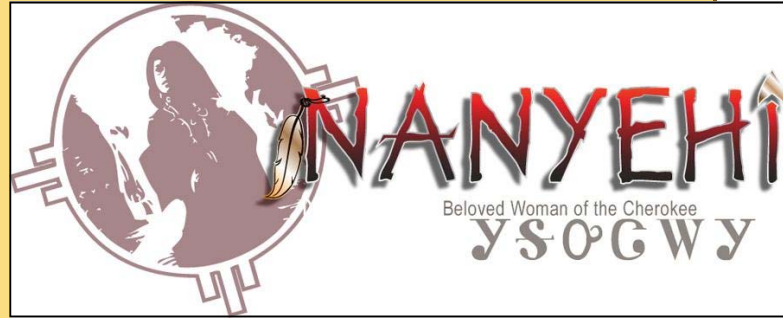


The Channel at Berkmar

Speaking of unusual, the former owner of the property, Bill Stuebens, has turned over to Berkmar Principal, Kenny Wells, a real mystery artifact found near the site: a "formal" tool made from metamorphosed sandstone (pictured left). Though resembling a millstone dressing tool, this is stone—not an iron object. Any ideas on what it is? ■

World Premiere of NANYEHI Coming to Georgia!

This new musical follows the life of Nancy Ward, a Cherokee *Ghigau* (“Beloved Woman” or “War Woman”) who served as a peacemaker and diplomat on behalf of the Cherokee people. (Her Cherokee name *Nanyehi* means “One who walks among the spirit people.”) *NANYEHI* is written by award-winning songwriter Becky Hobbs and co-playwright Nick Sweet. (Nancy Ward was Becky’s fifth great-grandmother.) It highlights everyday Cherokee activities from a marriage ceremony to a simple game of stick ball (known today as lacrosse). The musical also recreates the Battle of Taliwa, which took place near Ball Ground, Georgia.



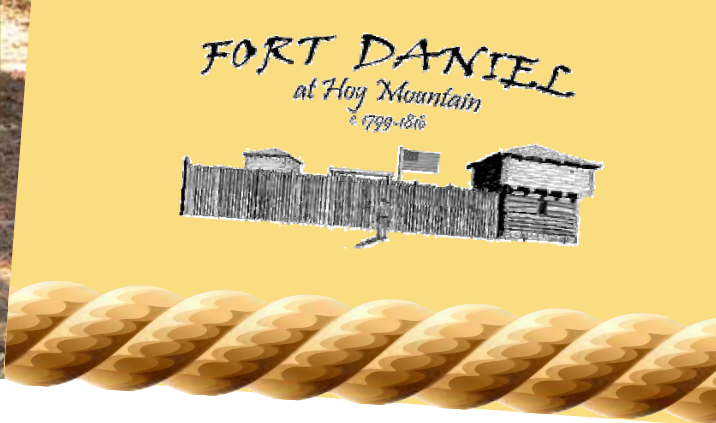
NANYEHI is a two-act musical with 17 upbeat Cherokee-style music and heartfelt ballads. It will be showing the last three Saturdays and Sundays in April at the Lonnie Burns Fine Arts Center in Hartwell, Georgia. To purchase tickets call (706) 376-7397 or visit [Savannah River Production's Web site](#). For more information about the musical you can visit the official [NANYEHI Web site](#).

GARS is reserving a block of tickets for several who are planning on going together. The date will be announced on the GARS Web site. If you are interested, place contact [Wayne Waldrip](#). ■

More Diggin's

- Past and current GARS and FDF articles published on the SGA Web site can be seen at the [site archives](#).
- Fort Daniel Board Member Garret Silliman has been contracted by the Vinings Historic Preservation Society to conduct research at the historic Pace House on Paces Mill Road. For more information read the [online story](#).
- The Atlanta Preservation Center announces it's City-Wide Celebration of Living Landmarks known as “The Phoenix Flies.” Click [here](#) for the schedule (at the bottom of their Web page).
- March 30–31 at Reinhardt University: Etowah Iron-Making and the Coming of the Civil War Symposium. FREE! Find out more and [register now!](#)
- Dr. Adam King, Research Associate Professor of Anthropology at South Carolina Institute of Archaeology, will speak at the March 13 GAAS meeting on: “The emergence and evolution of complex societies, particularly Mississippian chiefdoms.” The [Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society](#) meeting is at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History at 7:30PM.
- Both the Graves Soapstone report for 2010–2011 and the 2011 Berkmar report (*See page 2*) will be available on the GARS Web site in the near future. A PDF presentation on the Berkmar site and back issues of the GAB newsletter will soon be posted there, too.
- For great archaeology videos from the USA and around the world go to [The Archaeology Channel](#). ■





2012 GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

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Betty Kinsaul

Vice President:

Wayne Waldrip

Secretary:

Delana Gilmore

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2012 FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

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Fort Daniel Updates

- While no new excavations at the site (or elsewhere) are planned for this spring prior to the SHA visit in May, it is hoped that limited excavation of the “brick feature” found by Jeff Glover and his GS^{tate}U students in the fall of 2011 (as a result of remote sensing efforts by GS^{outhern}U’s Sheldon Skaggs) may be carried out by GSU prior to the SHA visit. We also plan to do more work on preservation of the SW blockhouse before the event.
- On May 12 GARS will participate in an Archaeology Month event sponsored by New South Associates, a CRM firm in Stone Mountain, Georgia. GARS participation will feature the Fort Daniel 1812 War wall tent museum, artifacts from Fort Daniel, a poster board display, and GARS and FDF members in costume.
- On May 19 GARS and FDF will host a site visit for participants in the annual spring meeting of SGA featuring: interpretive tours of the site; active excavation involving local school children; the Fort Daniel artifact display in the “Museum Tent”; and FDF, GARS, and SGA booths in the “Hog Mountain Trading Post” tent .
- Site archaeologist Jim D’Angelo reports that *The History and Archaeology of Fort Daniel* is expected to be available for Archaeology Month. The book will feature chapters on the following topics: the prehistoric and historical background of the Western Frontier in Georgia in general and the Fort Daniel site in particular; the design of forts in the Southeastern United States from the late seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries, particularly as they relate to the Western Frontier forts and Fort Daniel in particular; and the archaeology of Fort Daniel with comparisons to the archaeology of several other contemporary fort sites. Although a sale price has not yet been determined, Jim’s plan is for all profits from sale of the book to go to the FDF.
- Jim and Wayne Waldrip continue to work on the Fort Peachtree project. They hope to have some exciting news to share very soon!!! ■

Mark Your Calendar!

The SGA’s Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012, as part of 2012 Archaeology Month celebrations. This year’s Archaeology Month theme is, Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Plan to attend both morning and afternoon sessions at GGC and Fort Daniel. ■