

Preserving History Through Archaeology



May 2024
Volume XIII, Issue 5

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Sealed 18th Century Bottles Discovered at Mount Vernon

Excerpt from an article published on the [George Washington's Mount Vernon Web site](#)

While excavating George Washington's cellar during the Mansion Revitalization Project, Mount Vernon's archaeologists made a thrilling discovery. As part of Mount Vernon's three-year [Mansion Revitalization Project](#), archaeologists working in the cellar of the Mansion unexpectedly discovered two intact European-manufactured bottles. The dark green glass bottles were found upright and sealed—each containing liquid (*pictured right*). The bottle shapes are characteristic of styles from the 1740s and the 1750s and were recovered from a pit where they may have been forgotten and eventually buried beneath a floor laid in the 1770s. In 2023 Mount Vernon launched the Mansion Revitalization Project to ensure the long-term health of George Washington's home. As is standard



before any major construction at Mount Vernon, archaeological investigations have preceded all parts of the project that involve breaking ground.

“As we conduct a historic preservation effort at the iconic home of America's first President and revolutionary hero, we have been deliberate and intentional about carefully excavating areas of potential disruption,” said Mount Vernon President and CEO Doug Bradburn. “Consequently, we have made a number of useful discoveries including this blockbuster find of two fully intact glass bottles containing liquid that have not been seen since before the war for American independence.

“As the bottles are shipped off for a complete scientific analysis, we want to share our findings and next

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steps for this historic archaeological and preservation initiative at Mount Vernon. This discovery comes at the beginning of an exciting and transformational project to strengthen and restore the home of the nation's first president so that it will be stronger than ever when we celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026. This historic preservation project is our birthday gift to America," Bradburn said.



Mount Vernon Principal Archaeologist Jason Boroughs said, "This incredible discovery at Mount Vernon is a significant archaeological find. Not only did we recover intact, sealed bottles, but they contained organic material that can provide us with valuable insight and perspective into 18th-century lives at Mount Vernon. These bottles have the potential to enrich the historic narrative, and we're excited to have the contents analyzed so we can share this discovery with fellow researchers and the visiting public."

After the bottles were unearthed, each was carefully removed and transported to the Mount Vernon archaeology lab. Upon consultation with archaeological conservators, it was determined that removing the liquid contents would help stabilize the glass, which had not been directly exposed to the atmosphere for approximately two centuries. Cherries, including stems and pits, were preserved within the liquid contents, which still bore the characteristic scent of cherry blossoms familiar to residents of the region during the spring season. The bottles will be sent for conservation and their contents will be shipped to a laboratory for scientific analysis and testing by specialists in a controlled environment. ■ GWMV

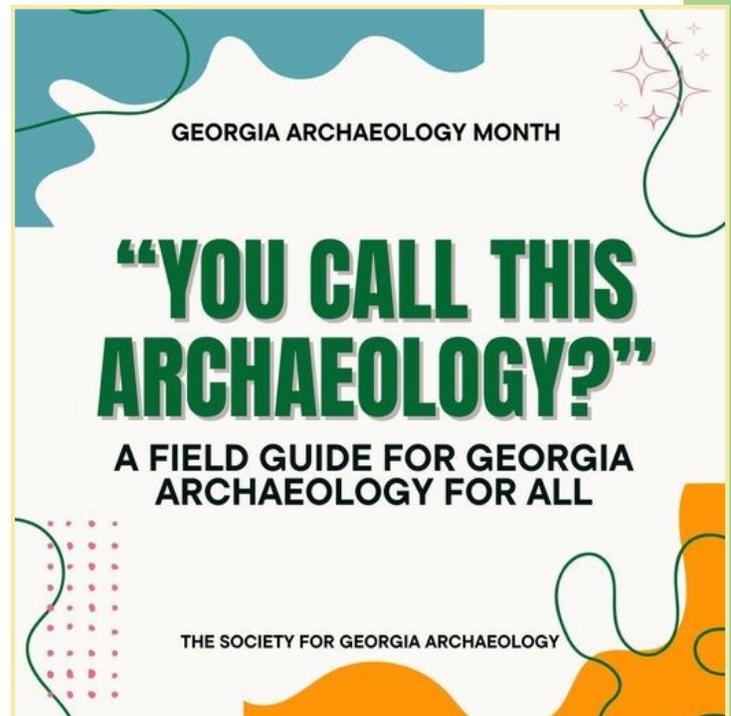
laboratory for scientific analysis and testing by specialists in a controlled environment. ■ GWMV

Georgia's Archaeology Month

Every year in May the state of Georgia celebrates and promotes preservation and stewardship of its hidden archaeological heritage. This statewide archaeology awareness has grown over the years since its creation in 1994. The Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as the primary sponsor of Georgia Archaeology Month. Cosponsors include state agencies, private firms, and non-profit and professional organizations.

This year the theme for Archaeology Month will be highlighting the different unique ways archaeology is performed in Georgia. Keep an eye on SGA's [Facebook](#) page and other social media platforms for interesting snippets.

Additionally, throughout the month of May some institutions are hosting public events. SGA would be sharing these events on their social media platforms. For example, the SGA Spring Meeting will be in Macon on May 9–11 (see Page 3). ■ DMG





Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

*"Rising Together: Collaborative Conservation
& Preservation for Georgia"*



Ocmulgee Mounds, Macon, Georgia



**2024 Joint Meeting of the Georgia Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society and
Society for Georgia Archaeology**

May 9-11, 2024, 2024

Bibb County Extension Office, Macon Ga



Short Preliminary Agenda

May 9

- 11:00 AM Business Meetings
- 12:00 PM Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 PM *Protecting soil and water resources while accommodating past and future growth in Georgia*
- 3:00 PM Break
- 3:30 PM *Collaborative efforts of multiple teams on projects focusing on real life studies*
- 5:00 PM Adjourn |
- 6:00 PM Banquet

May 10

- 8:30 AM *Water quantity and flood control measures in Mid-Georgia and across Georgia*
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:30 AM *Status of the National Parks and where they are going*
- 12:00 PM Adjourn and Lunch (on your own or box lunch)
- 1:30 PM *Afternoon Activity – Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park Tour*
- 5:00 PM Adjourn Annual Meeting

May 11

Service Project (to be announced)

Help us Celebrate Archaeology Day!

6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stone Mountain



May is Archaeology Month in Georgia and Have We Got a **Story to Tell!**

JOIN US!

**May 4
10am-2pm**

**New South's 12th Annual
Archaeology Day Event**

**This Year's Theme is
African American
Foodways & Culture**



**Food
Folklore
Drums
Dancing
Storytelling
Basket Weaving
Quilting
History and
Archaeological
Activities**



More Diggin's

- **New South Archaeology Day:** New South is hosting their Annual Archaeology Day event on Saturday, May 4 from 10AM–2PM at 6150 E Ponce de Leon Avenue in Stone Mountain! For 2024 the theme is African-American Foodways and Culture. In the meantime, New South invites you to explore their virtual experience at the [Portal to the Past](#) where you can dig deep into the real work that archaeologists do. (See flyer on Page 4.)
- **BRAG Meeting:** Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (BRAG), a chapter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, and the University of North Georgia (UNG) Anthropology Club will be having their next meeting on Wednesday, May 8 at the Cottrell Business School Room 272 on the UNG Campus at beginning at 7PM. Guest speaker will be Llew Kinison, Assistant Archaeologist at New South Associates, and he will be speaking about the King archaeological site located in Floyd County, Georgia and how the production and maintenance of chipped stone tools by women in their homes indicated that Coosa women used a variety of raw materials and reduction techniques within and between the activity areas in the three structures that were examined.
- **Cleanup Day at the Fort:** Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 11 beginning at 9AM to help in “sprucing up” the Fort inside the Lab and Museum and outside—to get ready for the Open House the following weekend. (See flyer below.) If you are able to help, please email [Delana Gilmore](#).
- **Dacula Memorial Day Parade:** This year’s parade will be on Monday, May 27 beginning at 10AM. GARS and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) members will be marching or riding on the “float”; some will be in costume. Come out and support this wonderful community gathering. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Eli Stancel](#).
- **Fort Daniel Open Houses During the Summer:** Once again this year, Fort Daniel will be open during the summer on Sunday, June 23 and Sunday, July 21 from 2PM to 4PM.



Exploring Archaeology at Fort Daniel

Saturday, May 18, 2024

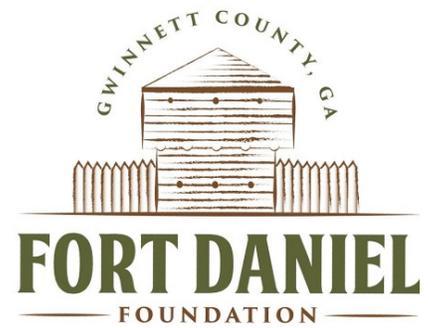
10AM–2PM

Fort Daniel Archaeological Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the Georgia frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum and Archaeology Lab and active archaeological dig within the Fort!

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People Saving Places: Preservation Month 2024

Though it is Archaeology Month in Georgia, nationally May is Historic Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust of Historic Preservation (NTHP) honors those who work hard in saving the history of the United States. As a nation, we have work to fill in the gaps of our cultural heritage. That's why the NTHP shines a long-overdue spotlight on trailblazers who strife to save places where people raised their voices, took their stands, and found courage to change the world.

Historic place-savers pour their time, energy, and resources into protecting places they care about, often without recognition. So, this year's Preservation Month theme of "People Saving Places" is a national high-five to everyone doing the great work of saving places—in ways big

and small—and inspiring others to do the same!

The work that they do matters. Their efforts are vital in ensuring that all Americans connect with their shared history—weaving together the intricate tapestry of our nation's story. By celebrating "People Saving Places,"

their work will inspire others to join the national effort to preserve America's historic places for generations to come.

NTHP is offering a wide variety of ways to help saving places that showcase the depth and diversity of our nation's history. Throughout the

month of May, you can join the celebration. For on how you can join in the celebration visit the [NTHP Web site](#). ■ NTHP



GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President: Vice President:
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Secretary/Treasurer:
Delana Gilmore

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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www.fortdaniel.com

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Eli Stancel Tyler Holman
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To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).