

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



September 2020  
Volume IX, Issue 7

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### Great American Outdoors Act

Article written by Priya Chhaya and Pam Bowman as featured on the [Nation Trust of Historic Preservation Web site](#) on August 4, 2020

For many years the National Trust for Historic Preservation in collaboration with local, state, and national partners have successfully made the case that establishing a dedicated fund for National Park Service (NPS) deferred maintenance needs and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will provide essential support to preserve America’s historic places for generations to come. This work was further supported by more than 850 preservation, business, outdoor, tourism, conservation, recreation, and hunting groups who sent a letter to Congress urging the passage of this Act.



In July six former Secretaries of the Interior endorsed the GAOA and joined the chorus of voices supporting the landmark bill.

Therefore, in late summer the Great American Outdoors Act passed the Senate (73-25) and House of Representatives (310-107) with strong bipartisan votes, and many congressional champions and supporters helped make this happen. It is the single greatest investment in protecting public lands in this generation.

If you look at the numbers, National Trust advocacy produced:

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# GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Officer Opening:** When Dr. D'Angelo stepped down as President, he left a vacancy. The position of President for Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) is still open. If you know someone or think that you would like to take on the mantle, please email FDF Vice President, [Leslie Perry](#).
- **DIGITAL GARS:** Since the threat of COVID-19 is cancelling several events, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) officers had to think out of the box—digitally and virtually. Digital GARS was created to replace monthly meetings while still featuring topics written by archaeologists on their recent research. The latest blog topic is written by GARS Vice President Jenna Tran and focuses on the history and culture of [Cherokee basketry](#).
- **Hills Mill:** GARS members will be returning to investigate more at the Hills Mills site in November. Details will be available soon!
- **Frontier Faire:** At this time the 12th Annual Frontier Faire will still be occurring on Saturday, October 17. However, due to COVID-19 social distancing and CDC guidelines will be strictly observed. Please see the flyer below. More information about the Faire will be featured in the October issue of the *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin* (GAB).

## Frontier Border

### 12th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 17, 2020\*

Rain Date: Saturday, October 24, 2020

10AM–4PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

FREE Admission

★ Public Archaeology ★ Fort Daniel Museum ★ Demonstrations

Due to COVID-19 social distancing and other CDC guidelines will be observed.

For information visit [www.thefortdanielfoundation.org](http://www.thefortdanielfoundation.org).

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- 22 case studies highlighting issues such as the contributions of HOPE Crew and historic leasing to reducing the deferred maintenance backlog;
- 3 community events in Virginia, Ohio, and Louisiana highlighting the importance of LWCF;
- 363 signatures on letters to House and Senate committees by preservation organizations, battlefield preservation organizations, and Main Streets, in support of a deferred maintenance bill;
- Submissions of testimony to a dozen congressional hearings and markup sessions;
- 30 op-eds and letters to the editor and over 10 radio interviews in supporting deferred maintenance legislation; and
- 5 lobby days with 47 preservation advocates from 16 states traveling to Washington DC for Hill meetings that highlighted repair needs at NPS sites in their communities.

This landmark legislation will invest up to \$9.5 billion to repair historic and other assets of the National Park Service and other federal agencies. The bill also fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually. The once-in-a-generation investments from this bill will significantly benefit our nation’s historic and cultural resources by providing jobs, boosting economic activity, and preserving iconic historic places.

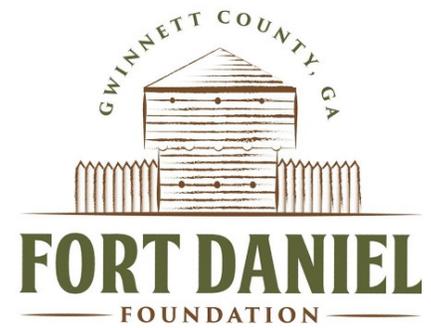
In 2002 Richard Moe, then President of the National Trust, wrote, as an introduction to an issue of *Forum Journal* marking the issue of deferred maintenance in our national parks, “While there is much that we all can do in the way of partnerships and creative problem solving, it should not be forgotten that our parks also need increased and sustained public funding to address the immense challenges they face, from transportation issues to monitoring the condition of fragile natural and cultural resources.” It has been over 18 years since he

wrote those words—and it proves, once again that preservation success includes long term, sustained, collaborative action. There is much more work to be done, but for now it is a good day to celebrate this success.

For those interested in wonky details of the federal legislative process, the timing for House passage of the Great American Outdoors Act intersected with another historic moment. As part of procedural rules in Congress, the Senate used an unrelated House bill as the vehicle for passing the legislation in June. The vehicle was a piece of tax legislation introduced by the late Representative John Lewis and as the House debated and passed this landmark legislation, many members of Congress noted the connection between a piece of such a historic, far-reaching legislation and Representative John Lewis—a strong supporter of national parks and preserving our nation’s history. It is perhaps fitting that his name is enshrined as a part of the broader legacy in protecting and supporting our full heritage in the years to come. ■ **NTHP**



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## Drone Survey Reveals Large Earthwork at Ancestral Wichita Site

Excerpt from an article featured on the [Popular Archaeology Web site](#) on September 3, 2020

**A** Dartmouth College-led study using multisensor drones has revealed a large circular earthwork (pictured right) at what may be Etzanoa, an archaeological site near Wichita, Kansas.

Archaeologists speculate that the site was visited by a Spanish expedition, led by Juan de Oñate (a controversial conquistador) in 1601. The earthwork may be the remains of a so-called “council circle,” as it is similar to several other circular earthworks in the region. “Our findings demonstrate that undiscovered monumental earthworks may still exist in the Great Plains. You just need a different archeological approach to recognize them,” explained Jesse J. Casana, a professor and chair of the department of anthropology at Dartmouth.

The 18-hectare area of the site where the drone survey



was conducted is currently home to a ranch property in the lower Walnut River valley, which has been used as a pasture. Topographically, the area is flat with no visible archaeological features. Yet, imagery shows that underground there is an ancient, circular shaped ditch measuring 50 meters wide and approximately 2 meters thick that has been infilled. As the soil erodes, it fills up the ditch with a different type of soil than was there before, and therefore, retains water differently giving it unique thermal properties.

The water retention levels also impact vegetation. Using near-infrared imagery, the researchers were able to identify areas that had been infilled

because grass growth was more vigorous. As the study reports, the results provide evidence for what may have been a “single, sprawling population center.”

To read the whole the article visit [Popular Archaeology Web site](#). ■ PA

### GARS OFFICERS

[www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

President: Anne Dorland  
Vice President: Jenna Tran  
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

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

### FDF OFFICERS

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President: Vacant  
Secretary: Cindy Horsley  
Vice President: Leslie Perry  
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

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