



Frederica Almanack

History Uncovered: Fourth-graders “Dig” Archaeology at Fort Frederica

*“The moment just past is
extinguished forever, save for
things made during it.”*

— George Kubler

In the late 1950s, archaeologist Dr. Joel Shiner located and excavated foundations along Broad Street in Frederica town. During these extensive excavations, he found many artifacts and reburied many boxes of small and broken artifacts. Although the exact reasoning behind his actions is unknown, it is theorized that he did not have enough time nor money to catalog and store each minute fragment of everyday life at Frederica. Little did he know that in thirty to forty years, small hands would scrape away layers of dirt to reveal hidden clues to the lives of ordinary people who helped shape our country’s history.

Using Dr. Shiner’s detailed records and maps, the National Park Service (NPS) located the site of his reburied artifacts. The site was already a disturbed area so the Southeastern Archaeological Center allowed the site to be used for archaeology education. In 1994, the NPS entered into a unique partnership with the Glynn County School System to create a historical archaeology education program for fourth-grade students.

The first step in the program trains local teachers about the history of Frederica,



Students uncover Frederica’s past during an archaeological dig at Fort Frederica. Each year all fourth-graders in the Glynn County School District participate in this vigorous program.
Photo by Ellen Provenzano

archaeological methods and how to use the curriculum guide. The first 14 teachers were trained in the fall of 1994. The following spring, the program was piloted with fourth and fifth-grade students from nearby Oglethorpe Point Elementary School. After testing, it was determined to offer the program to fourth-graders because the program’s objectives supported the state curriculum standards. By 1997-98 the program was fully incorporated in the system and all fourth-grade classes were participating. Teacher workshops are held each July, with visiting archaeologists and park staff in

attendance. Since the mid-1990s, the program has trained about 150 teachers!

The education program teaches all aspects of archaeology – not just digging. The students research the people who occupied the site. They do an in-depth study of five of Frederica’s families. They use literary works, films and primary documents to learn about Frederica town and colonial life. As part of the research portion of the program, students visit the park for a two-hour field trip that teaches them about colonial life, the military aspect, and the importance of the

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A Message from the Fort Frederica Superintendent

Preservation vs. Aesthetics

The management team is currently struggling with an interesting dilemma. How do you balance the conflicting goals of preserving the park's archaeological resources yet maintain the beauty and "feel" of Frederica that is one of its major appeals to visitors?

The problem is the trees; those magnificent oaks, massive pines, and popular pecan trees that cover the town site. Their root systems can, and do, damage the hidden archaeological remains, one of our primary resources we are required to protect.

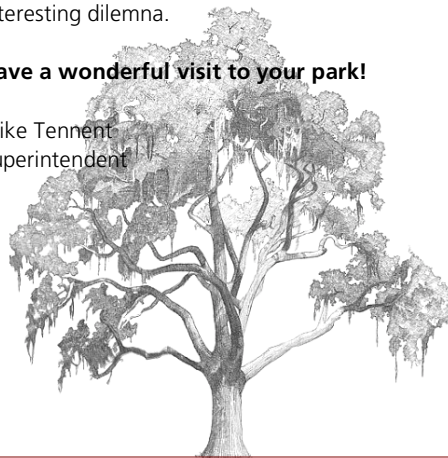
More troublesome are the trees that grow in, on and around the moat and earthworks. When they fall (and they do fall), they cause significant damage to the resource by ripping out the surrounding soil. We live in an area prone to heavy rains and winds and their falling is inevitable.

The obvious solution, of course, is to remove all the trees that are on the earthworks or near house sites in the town. Historically, this would probably be more accurate, but can you imagine the outcry from the community if we were to suggest such action? It would be met with instant and heated opposition. Trees, particularly live oaks are dear to many residents. To propose their removal would be extremely unpopular. They are part and parcel to enjoying a visit here and add immeasurably to the beauty of the park.

Yet the very presence of these trees causes damage to the historic resources the park was created to protect. No action is planned for the near future, but the management team welcomes any and all comments or suggestions regarding this interesting dilemma.

Have a wonderful visit to your park!

Mike Tennent
Superintendent



What's Bugging You?

When you visit Fort Frederica one of the first things you may notice, if they don't notice you first, are the many varieties of insects at the site. Mosquitoes, deerflies, and sand gnats are the insects most frequently encountered here. In fact, what other National Park Service site can boast a daily insect nuisance forecast?

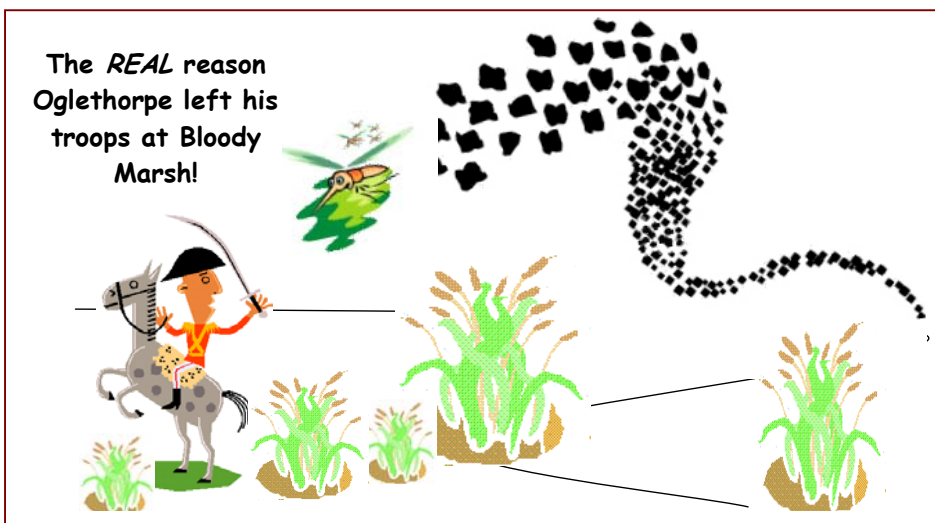


Insects have always been a part of life in the town of Frederica. Before the first settlers arrived they were warned "that the country was hot in summer, and that there were flies in abundance" – Frances Moore, 1736

"...a trifling accident of a Bite from one of our flying insects (of which there is a great variety in this part of the world, which occasioned a small Swelling, from whence ensued an extream Itching, and that was attended with Scratching..."

– William Stephens, September 1740 (*Colonial Records of Georgia*)

Today, we have the modern conveniences of insect repellents. In the 18th century Spanish moss was often burned in smudge pots to keep the gnats at bay. Natural remedies include wiping wax myrtle on the skin to repel bites. Whatever the repellent, be it natural or man-made as you visit Fort Frederica, you really *are* experiencing life as a town resident when these flying creatures start bugging you.



Entrance Fees Change for 2006

Next year, Fort Frederica National Monument will implement a new fee schedule mandated in part by federal law. On January 1, the park will eliminate its vehicle fee in favor of per-person admissions. In accordance with the Federal Lands Enhancement Act, parks that charge per-person fees must charge admission for visitors aged 16 and above. Fort Frederica's fee will be \$3 per person.

Eighty percent of park fees fund improvements

related to visitor use and enjoyment. As an example, the park's new film, *History Uncovered*, was funded using these fees. Future projects include indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Park admission receipts are valid for seven days. The Fort Frederica Pass, National Parks Pass, Golden Age and Access Passes are still valid and can be purchased at the Visitor Center. Information about these passes is available at the Visitor Center.

History Uncovered, cont

British victory over Spain.

After the field trip, the students return to the classroom for approximately 15 hours of lessons relating to archaeological methodology. They learn important terms such as stratigraphy (the study of layers of earth or dirt). They learn about the tools of the trade (trowels, dustpans, and brooms) and how to scrape away dirt using proper methods. Most importantly, they learn that one cannot just dig anywhere. Special permission, permits and professionals are needed for archaeological projects.

Finally the day that students have been waiting for arrives; it is dig day! The students arrive at the Fort Frederica Archaeological Field School site. They painstakingly scrape away layers of dirt to uncover pieces of the past. They find shards of ceramic, possibly part of a bowl or mug that belonged to one of the families. They find pieces of glass bottles, maybe from one of the three town taverns. They find animal bones and oyster shells...the remains of a colonist's dinner. They find small flecks of coal and flint, perhaps from a soldier's fire or musket. They also find rusted metal nails from the blacksmith shop, chains used on ships and pieces of cannon balls from the powder magazine. Not all artifacts are from the colonial period as Frederica was inhabited by other families in the late 1800s and early 1900s...but that is another story.

After the dig, the student's go to the full-scale archaeology lab at nearby Oglethorpe Point Elementary School. It is here that they learn that most of an archaeologist's time is spent in the lab. They carefully wash all the artifacts they uncovered during the morning dig. The artifacts are allowed to dry overnight and the students return the following day to count, weigh, measure, date and learn about how the artifacts were used.

Today, all nine Glynn County Elementary schools and two private schools participate in this unique program. The program is



Students work in the archaeological lab.
Photo by Ellen Provenzano

staffed by a park ranger at Fort Frederica and a teacher who is the Glynn County Archaeology Education Program Coordinator. Park volunteers help support the program.

Dr. Shiner had no idea how many – 10,000 to date – young students his buried boxes of artifacts would teach about the past, the people who founded our country, and our current lives. As noted educational theorist Kieran Egan asserts, “If children and students do not care about the past, one cannot expect much learning to take place; and, if they do not learn much, we can not adequately convey to them how present circumstances and even their sense of identity are caused by the past and can only be understood if they know about the past.”

New Fort Frederica DVD Now on Sale

After a much anticipated debut this spring, *History Uncovered*, is now available at the Fort Frederica National Monument Visitor Center. The DVD is an overview of the history of Frederica, British struggles with Spain and the modern efforts to uncover these stories through archaeology.

The film replaced the 1969 park film, *This is Frederica*, which is still available at the Visitor Center on VHS tape. The new film was produced with money from the Fee Demo project that utilizes visitor fees to fund projects that make improvements in the park for visitors.



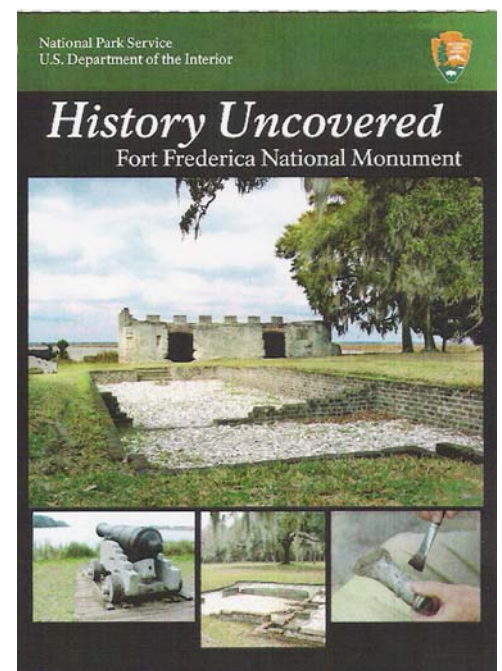
Safety – It's Everyone's Responsibility

Fort Frederica National Monument is committed to providing visitors with a quality and safe experience and you can help.

Safety Notes

- Please take note of any signs that guard against hazards.
- While walking the beautiful tree-lined streets, watch out for hazardous limbs.
- Please do **NOT** seek shelter under any of the huge live oaks if thunder and lightening are in the area.
- Please stay out of ruins to help us preserve them for the future.

Although we strive for a safe environment, we may miss something. Please let us know how we can improve.



Maintenance Matters

The staff at Fort Frederica National Monument is now utilizing a facility asset management program to help us properly and efficiently care for park assets. This new approach to park maintenance, which is now in use at all 388 units of the national park system, was developed after Congress asked the National Park Service to implement standards to better track and manage its assets. Ultimately, it will help us support our mission of preserving and protecting the natural and cultural resources within each park unit, which in themselves are a unique piece of the mosaic which is our national park system.

The National Park Service adopted a program which has two components: the Asset Management Process (AMP), and its computer software counterpart, the Facility Management Software System (FMSS). AMP is a best practice theory actively used in the facility management industry to prioritize and direct funding to a particular asset most in need of repair. FMSS is the software tool which collects and analyzes condition assessment and repair cost data, which in turn determines condition ratings and uses priority indexes so maintenance monies are directed throughout the asset's expected life cycle. By combining both components, we hope to improve our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by the American people, as well as improving our accountability to the taxpayers of the country.

asset management program helped us so far? Assets can be a physical structure. They can be a land feature. Or they can be a tangible piece of property that has a specific function. Examples of assets on the grounds of Fort Frederica include buildings such as the Visitor Center, the burial ground located near the Visitor Center, the townsite ruins, our dock in the Frederica River, the entrance road leading into the national monument, or the unseen utility systems such as the water, sewer, or electrical systems hidden underground throughout the monument. So far, the maintenance staff has completed our data entries for our assets and, using the system's capabilities, Fort Frederica's assets have been ranked according to their importance and condition. We have also completed annual condition assessment inspections on our assets which will indicate where repairs can be anticipated in the future. Consequently (and using the Visitor Center as a simple example of the usefulness of this process), we determined that the building was in a deteriorating condition because of a failing roof system. With these hard facts to back us up, we were able to compete successfully for funding to replace the tile roof this fall. This organized distribution of maintenance funding not only worked in our favor; you should see other high-priority improvements to your favorite national park assets nationwide as the program gains speed.

an important tool to guide maintenance spending and shape park budgets into the future. It will help us identify aging facilities that require renovation, help predict new space and technology requirements, recommend disposal of assets that are insignificant to the mission of Fort Frederica National Monument, and maximize limited cyclical asset repair and rehabilitation funding by directing it to our most important needs. In meeting Congress' wishes, a system is now in place to use your tax dollars in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

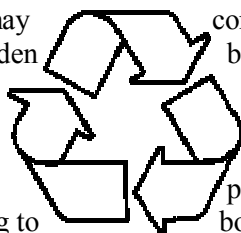
The entire National Park Service staff at Fort Frederica National Monument has a strong commitment to maintain the national monument so you have a safe and well kept facility for your entire family to enjoy. Whether it is the behind-the-scenes software system that helps guide facility management decisions, the upkeep of building assets, the preservation of the cultural landscape and ground, or the protection of the natural environment, we strive to provide you with an educational experience that broadens your thinking about our cultural past. Let us know how we're doing. Your suggestions may be able to help us improve for those who follow. Thanks for visiting us today!

(Tree Gottshall has entered his 25th year of working for the National Park Service and has worked throughout our country in various units of the national park system including Fort Frederica for the past two years.)

So what are these assets, and how has the Our new facility management program is

Help the Park – Recycle Your Brochure

While visiting the park you may have noticed a couple of wooden boxes for recycled brochures at the Visitor Center and near the Cemetery. Due to rising costs to print these beautiful color pamphlets, we are trying to



conserve the park's resources by recycling the brochures for future visitors. If you do not want to keep your brochure as a souvenir please do your part by using the recycling boxes. Thank you!



Fort Frederica to Host Archaeology

In May 2006, Fort Frederica National Monument will host an archaeological prospection workshop. The event is sponsored by the National Park Service's Midwest and Southeast Archaeological Centers, the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The primary audience consists of archaeologists in federal and state agencies, university professors and students, tribal preservation offices, private contractors and consultants.

The workshop will instruct professional archaeologists in several remote sensing methods. These methods involve the non-invasive examination of culturally sensitive burial, sacred or ceremonial sites. Using techniques like ground penetrating radar, electromagnetic conductivity and aerial/satellite photography, underground elements such as pre-historic mounds, entrenchments,



Archaeologists at Fort Frederica National Monument use advanced technology like ground penetrating radar to gain a better understanding of the layout of the original town and fort.

Photo by Denise Spear

cemeteries, and building foundations can be identified without having to excavate, thus preserving those resources for future generations.

Information gained from the workshop will help the park understand Frederica's remaining archaeological resources.

Visitor Center Roofing Project

Fort Frederica National Monument has contracted for the replacement of the Visitor Center tile roof this fall.

The Visitor Center building will remain open and all programs will continue throughout the project.

Please excuse the temporary appearance of the Visitor Center area as this important project proceeds.

New Frederica Web Page to Debut

The Southeast Region of the National Park Service will debut a new web page format in 2006. The web pages will sport a more unified look, and allow for more pictures and media presentations. If you have visited our current website recently, and wish to comment or suggest facts, images, or stories for our new site please e-mail Denise Spear at denise_spear@nps.gov. Frederica's new site will go live in February 2006.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Frederica National Monument is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the British settlement of the Colony of Georgia and the struggle with Spain for control of the region. The National Park Service values working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

Fort Frederica National Monument
6515 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Phone
912-638-3639

Web Site Address
www.nps.gov/fofr/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Upcoming Events

Throughout the winter programs are often scheduled on weekend days at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. Call ahead to find out about the daily schedule of programs.

Special Events:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 2005 | |
| October 22 | <i>Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2 PM</i> |
| November 19 | <i>Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2 PM</i> |
| December 17 | <i>Holiday Open House</i> |
| December 25 | <i>Christmas Holiday (Park Closed)</i> |
| 2006 | |
| January 28 | <i>Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2 PM</i> |
| February 18 | <i>Frederica Living History Festival</i> |
| March 25 | <i>Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2 PM</i> |

The *Frederica Almanack* is published quarterly by Fort Frederica National Monument. The purpose of the *Almanack* is to provide information about Fort Frederica NM to interested visitors, partners, and volunteers. The *Volunteer Dispatch* is named after military dispatches that were sent to posts and troops throughout Coastal Georgia. The *Almanack* is also available online at www.nps.gov/fofr.

Editor

Jon Burpee

Contributors

Jon Burpee
Tree Gottshall
Denise Spear
Mike Tennent

Kim Coons
Ellen Provenzano
Ellen Strojan

Editorial Assistance

Eddie Coons, VIP

NPS Photographers

Ellen Provenzano Denise Spear

Comments? Write to:

Jon Burpee
Fort Frederica National Monument
6515 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Jon_Burpee@nps.gov

New Junior Rangers



Every year, hundreds of young visitors complete the requirements to earn a Fort Frederica Junior Ranger Badge. If you want more information on the Junior Ranger program ask a ranger in the Visitor Center.

A few of the latest Junior Rangers include:

- ★ Erik Sullivan, age 7, Jacksonville, FL
- ★ Austin Jarrell, age 12, Atlanta, GA
- ★ Jonah Ledford, age 6, Douglasville, GA
- ★ Erick Aver, age 10, Pickerington, OH
- ★ Liam Davis, age 7, Mount Vernon, NY
- ★ Taylor O'Neal, age 10, Mt. Pleasant, SC
- ★ Ben Painter, age 11, Morganton, GA
- ★ Sid Painter, age 8, Morganton, GA
- ★ Frank Painter, age 7, Morganton, GA
- ★ Gracie Painter, age 5, Morganton, GA
- ★ James Rudd, age 9, Lebanon, PA
- ★ Joshua Rudd, age 5, Lebanon, PA
- ★ Tyler Wood, age 13, Buford, GA
- ★ Turner Wood, age 11, Buford, GA
- ★ Elizabeth Kennedy, age 12, Ringgold, GA
- ★ Josh Kennedy, age 9, Ringgold, GA
- ★ Nathan Shumaker, age 8, Winwood, PA
- ★ Tyler Shumaker, age 6, Winwood, PA
- ★ Austin Winter, age 10, Knoxville, GA
- ★ Jacob Colquiatt, age 8, Athens, GA
- ★ Andrew Ballacomo, age 8, Albany, GA
- ★ Connor Cassidy, age 9, Atlanta, GA
- ★ Annie Rhymes, age 9, Katy, TX
- ★ Hunter Layne, age 10, Katy, TX
- ★ Hayden Layne, age 8, Katy, TX
- ★ Natalie Biel, age 11, Cumming, GA
- ★ Garrett Biel, age 8, Cumming, GA
- ★ Shane Harper, age 11, Tifton, GA
- ★ Katya Koepsel, age 7, Sheridan, WY
- ★ Vicoria Fryer, age 10, St. Simons Is., GA



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