

**North Carolina  
Archaeological Society**

**Newsletter**

WINTER 2025, Volume 35, Number 1

Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120

Society Website: <http://www.ncarchsociety.org>

## THE “RACE TO THE DAN” REVOLUTIONARY WAR CAMPAIGN

Matt Jorgenson

(SWCA Sr. Cultural Resources Team Lead)

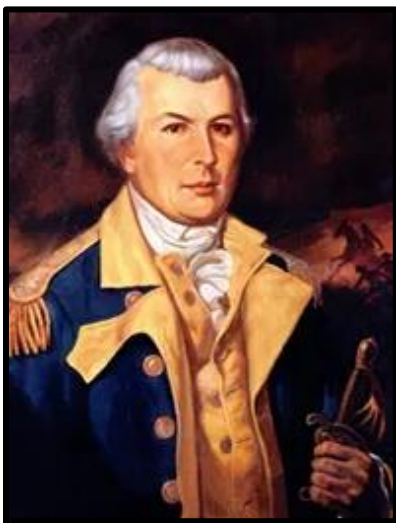
“The Race to the Dan” Revolutionary War campaign was fought in early 1781 between the forces of American Major General Nathanael Greene and British Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis. General Greene’s execution of a fighting retreat across the North Carolina Piedmont caused General Cornwallis’ forces to be stretched thin and, while winning most of the battles, was ultimately unable to further wage effective war. Soon after this campaign, General Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army in October at Yorktown, Virginia.

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has been selected by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to assist with the development of an historic preservation plan for resources across North Carolina, related to the Race to the Dan campaign. This study is a part of a larger effort related to the America 250 commemoration

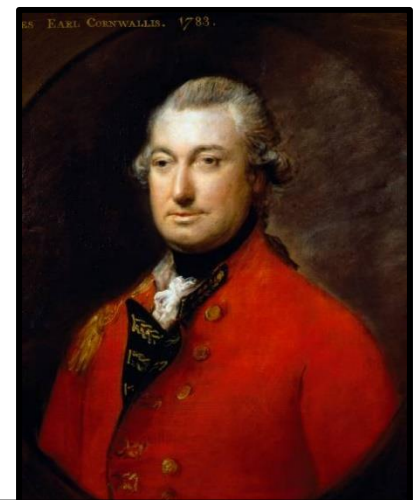
(<https://www.america250.nc.gov/>) and is being funded by a grant from the National Park Service and the American Battlefield Trust. The DNCR’s goal for their America 250 efforts is “Robust, comprehensive, statewide programs across all 100 counties, including learning new histories from stories we thought we knew.” It is hoped that The Race to the Dan project will

help reveal new information on the pivotal campaign in which British troops under Cornwallis chased Americans under General Greene from South Carolina to Virginia, ending with the Battle at Guilford Courthouse.

Part of this study will be stakeholder engagement across the campaign corridor to identify and vet the understanding of the locations and current states of preservation for resources and potential resources related to the campaign. If you, someone you know, or any local Revolutionary War or other historic preservation groups you know have a vested interest in this pivotal campaign, **please reach out to SWCA’s Senior Cultural Resources Team Lead Matthew Jorgenson, RPA, at [matthew.jorgenson@swca.com](mailto:matthew.jorgenson@swca.com).** We would love to start hearing people’s stories of these events and how or where we can preserve and commemorate this critical campaign that, had the results been different, so too might have the fate of the American Revolution.

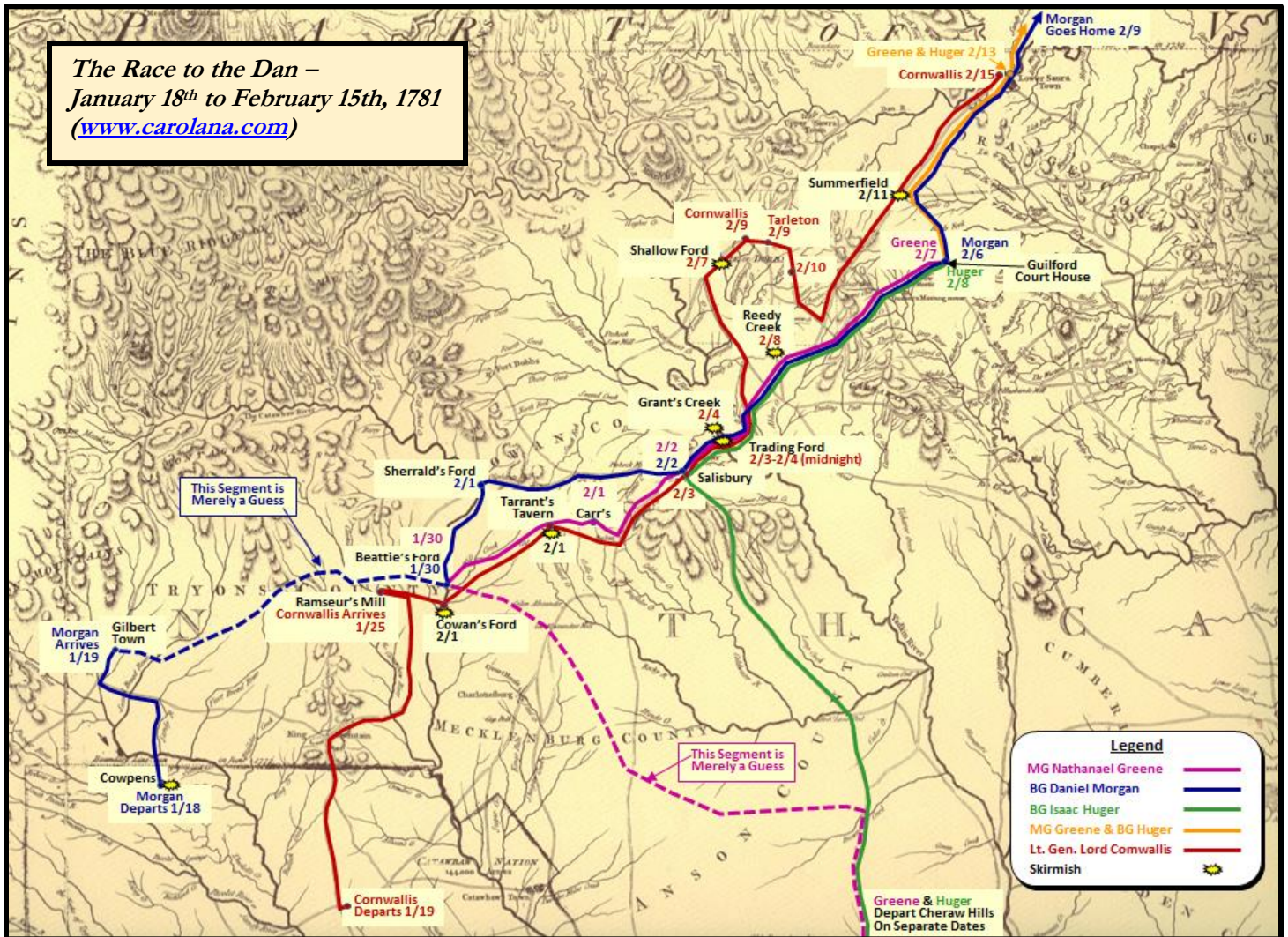


*In this corner... Major General Nathanael Greene, Commander of the Southern Department, Continental Army (Robert Wilson oil painting, 1978)*



*And in this corner... Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis (Thomas Gainsborough oil painting, 1783)*





**PREHISTORIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** – Last year, I published a short article on a prehistoric and historic musical instrument called a “Ukeke” – mouth bow. I also briefly discussed an often overlooked or mis-identified artifact that looks like a pestle, but in fact are xylophone-like instruments known in the archaeological record as “lithophones.” The purpose of this note is to alert NC archaeologists as to their existence and encourage revisiting collections as I suspect these items were found throughout the area.

- William B. Butler, PhD (National Park Service Archaeologist, retired)

For more details, please see...

- Butler, William B. (2024) A proposed Paleoindian musical instrument: Beveled osseous rods. Plains Anthropologist DOI: 10.1080/00320447.2024.2434809.
- Martorano, Marilyn (2018) Archaeological Assessment of Lithophones of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the San Luis Valley, Colorado. Final report on file at History Colorado, Denver. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/544b30c0e4b0023e70482546/t/5b6e2e00032be42d14f8ff9d/1533947468606/SHF+2016-AS-006+Lithophone+FINAL+report+text+2018.pdf>
- Martorano, Marilyn (2020) YouTube: “Eyes on Longmont Lithophones.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txybFxUfLRI>





## THE RUINS AT WINGET PARK

Michelle Tonkin  
(NCAS Member)

A once thriving 1800s farm now lies dormant in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. The structural remains of what is now called the “Plantation Ruins at Winget Park” are located inside Thomas McAlister Winget Park, a public recreational facility popular with disc golf enthusiasts (Charlotte Disc Golf Club 2024; RecPlanet 2017). History shares that in 1835, a man by the name of Issac Withers first started the farm as a soy field, which he then converted to hosting cattle. In 1937, the home was abandoned and then later burned down in 1960. However, the chimney has survived and could be “the oldest three-flue chimney in the state” (Bolling 2022). In the 1930s, the Winget family purchased the property and by the 1990s donated it to Mecklenburg County. Tragedy struck the Winget family in 1969 as Thomas McAlister Winget and three friends, who were driving to Chimney Rock State Park for a picnic, were involved in a fatal collision with a freight train. In 2000, Mecklenburg County opened the park to the public and named it in honor of Thomas. Known for its well-maintained soccer fields, basketball courts, ball field, sand volleyball, and 18-hole disc golf course, the park is beloved by many residents.



### References:

Bolling, Cristina (2022) “You Are Here, 2022 Edition: A Year of Moments Captured Around Charlotte – May 2022: Long Gone, A Disc Golf Course in Steele Creek Echoes the Lives of Other Generations” *Charlotte Magazine* (Dec 12, 2022, available online: <https://www.charlottemagazine.com/you-are-here-2022-edition-a-year-of-moments-captured-around-charlotte/>, last accessed 15 Feb 2025)

Charlotte Disc Golf Club (2024) Plantation Ruins at Winget Park (available online: <https://charlottedgc.com/course/plantation-ruins-at-winget/>, last accessed 15 Feb 2025)

RecPlanet.com (2017) Thomas McAlister Winget Park (available online: <https://recplanet.com/nc/charlotte/thomas-mcalister-winget-park>, last accessed 15 Feb 2025)



### CONVERSATIONS WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?

In order to expand how our membership can interact with and learn from archaeologists across our beautiful state, the Communications Committee is developing a new project to highlight the variety of jobs and experiences archaeologists can have by asking each person the same set of questions. So... **If you were to ask an archaeologist anything, what would it be? What would you like to know?** Let's get beyond the “what do you think this is” and maybe dive into why we should care about archaeology and history. If you would like to help, please send your questions to Paul Mohler (NCAS Newsletter Editor) at [pjmohler@ncdot.gov](mailto:pjmohler@ncdot.gov).

In celebration of Black History Month, the Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA) produced the following [#BLACKINARCHAEOLOGY2025](#) video to showcase the diverse geographic representation of Black archaeologists, highlight the range of research questions and methodologies deployed within this community, and share a message of inspiration and collaboration across our varied missions. Check out the video on [YouTube!](#)



The 2025 Conference on Public Archaeology is taking place on August 8-9, 2025, in Washington, DC! Although the deadline for abstract submissions was February 10<sup>th</sup>, advanced registration will open in March.

This meeting will be hosted by [Archaeology in the Community](#) and is intended to provide a dedicated space for public-minded archaeologists and cultural heritage practitioners to share their experiences and expertise. Over two days, we plan to host a series of workshops, panels, round-tables, and special events geared toward addressing some of the most pressing issues in the discipline, including:

- Diversifying professional and avocational representation
- Public archaeology and the Section 106 process
- Community science and heritage site stewardship
- Climate impacts to tangible and intangible heritage resources
- Harnessing digital advances for outreach and education
- Working in schools and engaging with educators

While the Conference on Public Archaeology will forego the traditional paper format, our hope is that discussion, hands-on participation, flexible formats, and professional networking will foster advances and new directions in the discipline. This is the second Conference on Public Archaeology, with the first held in Pensacola, Florida through the Florida Public Archaeology Network in 2023.

## Congratulations, Margie!

This past year, SEAC awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award to our very own Margie Scarry for her many significant and sustained contributions to southeastern archaeology. That makes **three** years in a row for the State of North Carolina! Who's next?



Southeastern Archaeological Conference





## NOTICE TO ALL ZOOARCHAEOLOGISTS AND FAUNAL SPECIALISTS!

### Extensive Comparative Collection Donated to OSA Research Center

David Cranford

(Asst. State Archaeologist, Office of State Archaeology)

Dr. Thomas Whyte, now retired from Appalachian State University, recently donated his zooarchaeological comparative collection to the Office of State Archaeology to be a resource for researchers and contract zooarchaeologists in the state and the region. Over his career, Dr. Whyte amassed and curated one of the most extensive faunal collections outside of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This collection comprises over 1,200 specimens representing more than 500 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, mollusks, and amphibians.

Zooarchaeologists are archaeologists who specialize in the identification of animal bones recovered from archaeological contexts to better understand foodways in the past. Because archaeologically recovered bone tend to be disarticulated, fragmentary, and sometimes burned, accurate identification often depends on having examples of whole skeletons from known species to which the broken bits can be compared.

If you are a researcher or archaeofaunal analyst and want to use this comparative collection, use the following link to request research access:  
<https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/programs/archsitefiles/researchaccess>



**2025 DUES REMINDER** It's that time of year again, and I don't mean when you realize your New Year's resolutions completely went out the window (or if you realize this is completely verbatim from last year)! No, it's time to renew your membership in order to stay current with the Society's latest news and events. Membership types include: Student (\$10), Regular (\$15), Family (\$20), Sustaining (\$25), Institution ((\$25), and Life (\$500).

Please submit your dues payment to: Mary Beth Fitts, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, CB #3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120. If you wish, you may also renew your membership online at <http://www.ncarchsociety.org/membershipoptions>.



## Member Dig and Spring Meeting at the Berry Site May 20th to 24th, 2025

**Spring Member Dig:** Tuesday, May 20th to Friday, May 23rd, 10am to 3pm

**Spring Business Meeting:** Saturday, May 24th, 9am to 10am

**Spring Archaeology Day:** Saturday, May 24th, 10am to 1pm

**Location:** The best way to get to the site is search “Joara Fort San Juan” in Google Maps (not Apple Maps)



### Spring 2025 Member Dig

The North Carolina Archaeological Society will be partnering with the Exploring Joara Foundation (EJF) to host the Spring Dig for NCAS members. The fieldwork is planned for May 20 – May 23, 2025 (Tuesday through Friday) at the Berry Site in Burke County, and we invite current NCAS members to participate (to join or renew, go to <https://www.ncarchsociety.org/membershiplanding>).

Activities for which help is needed include shoveling, troweling, dry screening, and washing artifacts. Archaeologists will be available to train participants in field methods, so no previous experience is required. Come for the whole event or just a day! **Registration for the event is free but will be limited to 20 volunteers per day. Participants will be required to sign a volunteer waiver. If you would like to participate, please contact Sami Taylor ([staylor@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:staylor@newsouthassoc.com)).**

The Berry Site is the location of the sixteenth century Native American town of Joara. Joara was visited by Spanish explorers Hernando de Soto in 1540 and Juan Pardo in 1567. The Berry Site is also the location of the Spanish Fort San Juan, which was established by Pardo in January of 1567. Relations between the Spanish occupants and the local Native Americans quickly deteriorated, culminating in the burning of Fort San Juan in March 1568.

Excavations will begin at 10am each day and continue until 3pm. Please wear comfortable outdoor clothing and bring water. Food and lodging will NOT be provided. Excavations will be postponed or cancelled in case of inclement weather.



### Spring 2025 Annual Meeting and Archaeology Day

The NCAS Annual Spring Meeting will be at the Berry Site on Saturday, May 24th, 2025, 9:00-10:00am. The Board of Directors Meeting will occur 9:00-9:30am, whereas the annual business meeting will occur 9:30-10:00am. The spring meeting will be held in conjunction with the NCAS Spring Archaeology Day, which will be held in the same location from 10am-1pm. The Spring Archaeology Day is meant to celebrate the history of North Carolina. Several artisans, vendors, information tables, and reenactors will be present. Demonstrations include pottery, flintknapping, and black powder flintlock musket firing. Activities will include atlatl and chunky. Several archaeological and historical organizations from across the state will be hosting informative tables.

Seating, shade, and small refreshments will be provided during the event. Lunch will not be provided by NCAS, but attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch to enjoy at the site.

If there is inclement weather on May 24th, 2025, the Spring meeting will be held at the Historic Burke County Courthouse Auditorium (102 E Union Street, Morganton, North Carolina 28655).

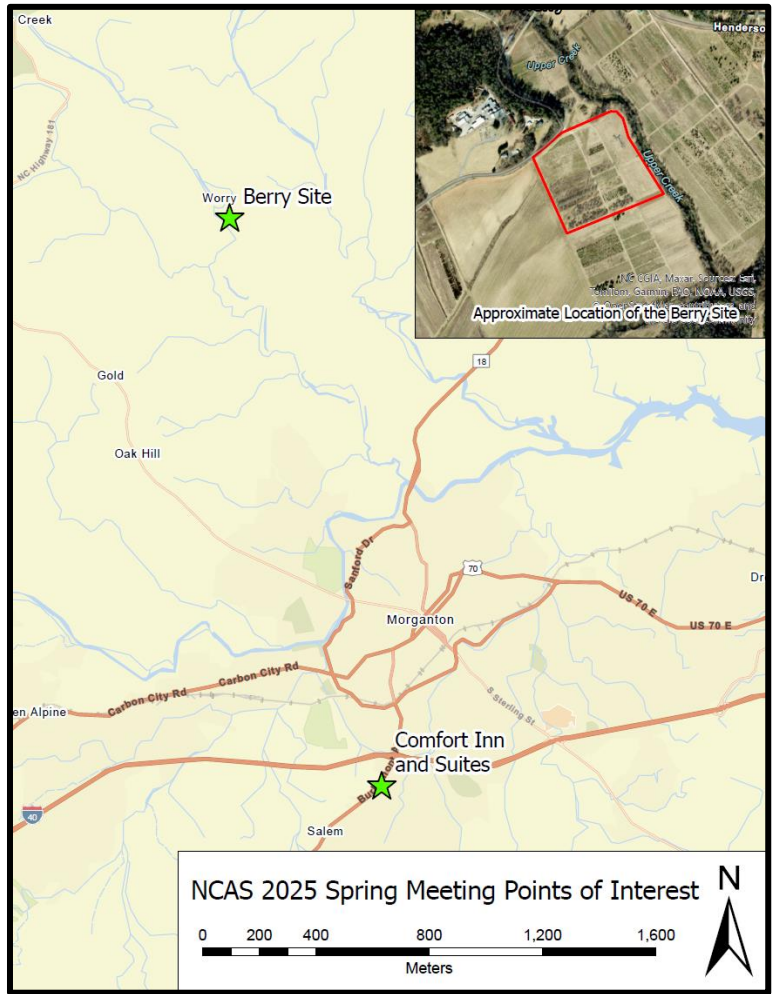


**Accommodations:**

Call the Comfort Inn and Suites in Morganton (<https://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/morganton/comfort-inn-hotels/nc342>) (828-430-4000) to reserve a room for the night of May 23rd, 2025, at a discounted price by requesting the NC Archaeological Society special rate. The discounted rate for a room with 2 queen beds is \$149.00 plus tax, and the discounted rate for one king bed and a pull-out sofa will be \$159.00 plus tax. *The special rate is only applicable for the night of Friday, May 23, 2025. The special rate is only applicable while rooms are still available, so book as soon as possible.*

**Other local accommodations include:**

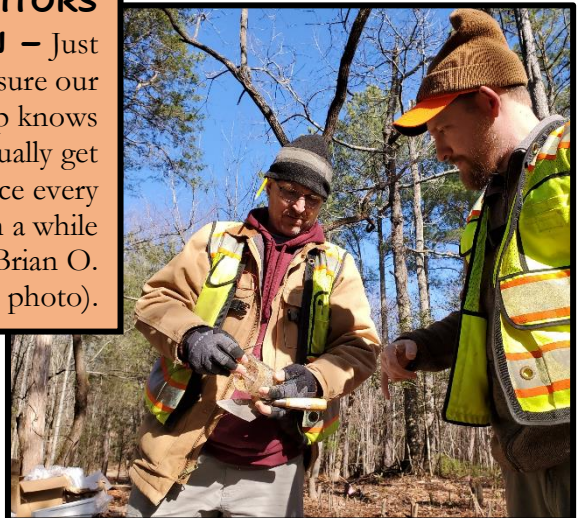
Fairfield Downtown Morganton (828-608-0900) (<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/avlfm-fairfield-inn-and-suites-morganton-historic-downtown/overview/>)  
 Hampton Inn Morganton (828-432-2000) (<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mrnchx-hampton-morganton/>).



**INTO THE WOODS?** Anyone in the mood for some Brunswick Stew or maybe some Mulligatawny? This “Jack and the Beanstalk”-sized iron “artifact” was discovered in the Pisgah National Forest. If you’ve misplaced your cauldron, please contact Kim Urban ([kimberly.urban@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:kimberly.urban@dncr.nc.gov)) or Casey Kirby ([kirby.caseylynn@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.caseylynn@gmail.com)).



**YOUR EDITORS IN ACTION** – Just making sure our membership knows that we actually get out of the office every once in a while (shout out to Brian O. for the photo).



## UNC Archaeologists Uncover Artifacts from 1800s Dining Hall

According to a report in [The Daily Tar Heel](#), archaeologists Heather Lapham and Mary Elizabeth Fitts and their students are excavating the site of Steward's Hall, the first dining facility on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Built in 1794, Lapham said that the dining hall was unpopular with students, and known for serving "invariable service of mutton and of bacon too fat to be eaten." The building eventually became a private boardinghouse in 1816, before it was dismantled in 1847.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



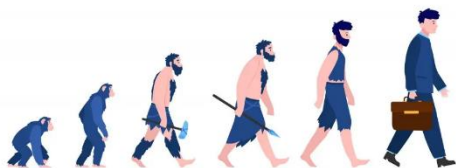
*Photo by [McKenzie Bulris](#) / The Daily Tar Heel*  
*Dr. Mary Elizabeth Fitts removes dirt from the New East site off Cameron Avenue on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025. The New East site houses the approximate location of Steward's Hall, one of the first buildings on UNC's campus.*



### WANNA PUT YOUR NAME IN THE HAT?



It's never too early to prepare for the NCAS Fall Elections. The NCAS Membership Committee will be soliciting candidates for positions on the society's Board of Directors. The following positions will be up for election/re-election: **Journal Editor, Newsletter Editor, and two (2) At-Large Members.** When it comes to elections, I am always reminded (thank you, Brian O.) of what my former supervisor Tom Padgett shared in our very own newsletter ([Volume 1 No 1.pdf \(unc.edu\)](#)). Let's be more inclusive of the membership. Let's be open to new ideas. Let's be willing to put new talents to work. If interested, please contact Shane Petersen at [shane.petersen@acom.com](mailto:shane.petersen@acom.com) (Nominations Committee Interim Chair).



**WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY DAY 2025**

**QUOTED** – "We ask questions of the dirt. I don't trust people. I trust the dirt. The dirt is always truthful."  
- attributed to archaeologist Ned Heite

World Anthropology Day is celebrated every year on the third Thursday of February. This special day was started by the American Anthropological Association in 2015 to celebrate the discipline and spread awareness about the study of humans, their cultures, and societies. It gives anthropologists a chance to share their research with people and help everyone understand the diversity of human life.

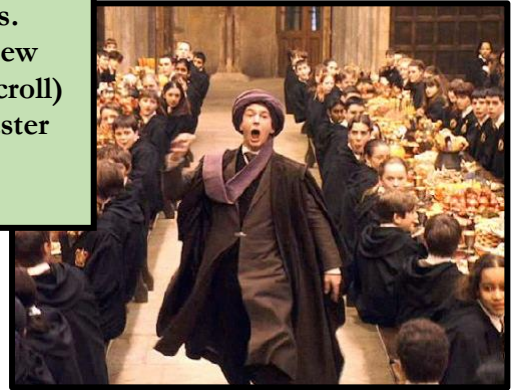
Anthropology has been around for a long time as people have always been curious about where humans come from and how societies work. Over the years, this field has grown to study everything from ancient times to the present day. The focus of this special day is to show how anthropology helps us understand the world and solve real life problems. It explores the human experience from a holistic cross-cultural perspective and comprises four subfields: Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Linguistic Anthropology.

World Anthropology Day gives anthropologists a chance to show how their work helps solve real-world problems. This day also encourages students and researchers to explore anthropology as a career and see how it connects to history, science, and everyday life. By celebrating this day, people can learn more about human diversity and how different communities around the world have developed over time.



### "Merch! There's merch to be sold!"

For some reason, I can't see our stock of invisibility cloaks. Fortunately, the NCAS has you covered if you need some new outerwear for those "first-years" in your life. Troll (I mean Scroll) over to the society's [Merchandise](#) section or email Head Master Tom Beaman ([tombeamanjr@gmail.com](mailto:tombeamanjr@gmail.com)). No need to worry; your order won't come by owl.



#### NCAS Board

**President:** Danny Gregory  
([dgregory@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:dgregory@newsouthassoc.com))  
**Vice-president (Interim):** Casey Kirby  
([kirby.caseylynn@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.caseylynn@gmail.com))  
**Treasurer:** Mary Beth Fitts ([mbfitts@gmail.com](mailto:mbfitts@gmail.com))  
**Secretary:** Linda Carnes-McNaughton  
([lfcmdoc@gmail.com](mailto:lfcmdoc@gmail.com))  
**Editor:** David Cranford ([david.cranford@dn-cr.nc.gov](mailto:david.cranford@dn-cr.nc.gov))  
**Newsletter Editor:** Paul J. Mohler  
([pjmohler@ncdot.gov](mailto:pjmohler@ncdot.gov))  
**At-Large Members:** Stephen Atkinson, Mike Carpenter, Melissa McKay, Emily Sussman, and Sami Taylor

mark  your **Calendar**

2025 NC GIS Conference  
Winston-Salem, NC (March 19-21, 2025)  
[Home - NCGIS2025](#)

Mid-Atlantic Archaeology Conference  
Gettysburg, PA (March 19-23, 2025)  
[2025 Conference Details](#)

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)  
90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Denver, CO (April 23-27, 2025)  
<https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>

Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS)  
York, PA (June 17-22, 2025)  
[2025 Conference](#)

#### NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members should submit articles and news items to Paul J. Mohler ([pjmohler@ncdot.gov](mailto:pjmohler@ncdot.gov)) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Winter Issue – January 31      Summer Issue – July 31  
Spring Issue – April 30      Fall Issue – October 31

NC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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