



North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4619

<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas>

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2004 Annual Spring Meeting

North Carolina Archaeological Society

May 21-22, 2004, Greensboro, North Carolina

Schedule:

Friday Evening, May 21 (Tannenbaum Historic Park Visitor Center, City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department, corner of Battleground Avenue (Hwy 220 North) and New Garden Road)

7:00 - 9:00 PM Reception hosted by the NC Archaeological Society and the NC Archaeological Council

Please RSVP by May 1st for reception to lfstine@uncg.edu or Stine at PO Box 26170, Department of Anthropology, UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro NC 27402.

Saturday, May 22

- 9:15 AM NCAS Board Meeting (Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GUCO) Visitor Center)
- 10:00 AM NCAS Business Meeting (GUCO - Visitor Center)
- 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Self-guided tours of GUCO and lunch on your own. There are numerous fast food places to eat nearby, or bring a lunch.
- 1:00-3:00PM Reconvene at Tannenbaum Historic Park
Talk with the living history participants and park staff
Visit the archaeological project (bring some gloves if you want to try some screening)
- 1:00-2:00 PM NC Archaeological Council Meeting

Directions:

I-85 South: exit NC 6 (Lee Street) to Murrow Boulevard, north to Fisher Street; turn right on Battleground Avenue; park is approximately five miles north; turn right on New Garden Road.

I-85 North: exit 121 (Holden Road) turn right on Holden Road; go approximately six miles; turn left on Benjamin Parkway; go one block and turn left on Battleground Avenue; go two miles and turn right on New Garden Road.

I-40 East: exit 213 (Guilford College-Jamestown Road); turn right on College Road (you are 6 miles

away from park at this point); go north two miles; turn right on New Garden Road; go four miles to park.

Note: Directional signs are placed on major routes into Greensboro to assist in finding the park. I-85 north and I-40 east join in Greensboro.

Local Hotels/Motels

AmeriSuites, 1619 Stanley Road (800/833-1516)
Econo Lodge, 3303 Isler Street (800/553-2666)

Need more info, go to: www.visitgreensboro.com.



Charles Heath, Staff Archaeologist Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program

"This is the first in a series of Newsletter articles written by North Carolina archaeologists describing how they became interested in the field, how they became archaeologists, and their special areas of interest. If you know an archaeologist whom you would like to see featured here, please let the Newsletter editor or NCAS vice president, Bill Covington, know by email: dee.nelms@ncmail.net or wcovington1@nc.rr.com".

When I was in the Army, I learned not to volunteer for anything unusual, especially if I was the proverbial "guinea pig." Despite this mantra, I could not tell our Society's vice-president, "Commodore" Covington, "no" when he asked me to contribute the first in a series of "North Carolina Archaeologist Profiles" to the newsletter. First, Bill, with his perpetually dry sense of humor and unassuming genteel manner, is a great guy, even if he is an ex-"Swabbie." Second, I believe the planned series will be an excellent venue for all of the Society's members to "get to know" one another, especially since we rarely have such opportunities, except within limited circles, to socialize more than once or twice a year. In this biographical sketch, I attempt to address several guiding questions that Bill graciously provided to keep me "on task."

I made my way into professional archaeology via a meandering route. Growing up in eastern North Carolina, I eagerly read of our regional history and garnered knowledge of diverse natural and cultural worlds from magazines like National Geographic. Although I was perpetually intrigued with history and fascinated by exotic archaeological finds as a child, I am a relative newcomer to the realm of archaeological research. Despite many early vacations spent exploring

museums and historic sites scattered across the Southeast—thanks to wonderful parents who indulged my childhood interests—I never realized that many archaeologists worked in my home state. Like many kids with a bent for local history and collections of curiosities, I collected "arrowheads" and metal detected for historic artifacts—I did not see the error of my ways until duly educated much later in life—well into my teenage years, but I naively held the stereotypical view that archaeologists were "Indiana Jones" type figures. I assumed as many laypersons do that archaeologists were simply eccentric scholars who worked in mysterious places like Egypt and China, or in remote jungle locales south of the Rio Grande.

As a college student, I later opted for a "practical" major, Business Administration (B.S. 1985). Out of personal interest, I elected to complete a few extra history and anthropology courses, but the concept of archaeology as a pragmatic profession remained ephemeral while I focused on "practical" studies in the School of Business at East Carolina University (ECU). I went on to successfully work as a production manager with a large corporation. As such, my undergraduate studies certainly served me well, but after a few years on the "corporate ladder," I lost interest in my daily work. While I realized then, as now, that there is no such thing as the "perfect job," I decided to take advantage of some dormant education benefits, courtesy of the US Army, and explored a return to school. My family's timely offer of financial assistance further reinforced my decision to seek a different career path.

My first real experiences with archaeology came after I returned to East Carolina University in January of 1993 to pursue a degree in maritime history. I was accepted as

a graduate student in the Maritime History and Underwater Archaeology Program in January of 1994. As a student in that hybrid program, I was immediately intrigued with how social scientists apply interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from archaeology, history, geology and geography, to study and interpret past human behaviors or historical events. To supplement studies in maritime history, I completed several anthropology courses, including an archaeology methods course and archaeology field training under David S. Phelps. Despite my rudimentary experience, Dr. Phelps encouraged me to work in the Archaeology Laboratory, first as a volunteer and later as a graduate assistant. At this juncture, my childhood loves for North Carolina history, colonial history and archaeology (i.e., artifact collecting) meshed with my graduate studies in a fortuitous fashion.

Encouraged by several mentors, as well as ample opportunities to conduct research in the most beautiful region of North America (i.e., the North Carolina Tidewater), I opted to join the first cohort of graduate students entering the Department of Anthropology's master's degree program in the fall of 1995 (M.A. 1997). While at ECU, I had various short- and long-term opportunities to work with or complete coursework under numerous talented professionals, all of who continue to conduct archaeological research in the Carolinas (Larry Babits, John Byrd, Charles Ewen, Dale Hutchinson, Bennie Keel, Loretta Lautzenheiser, David Phelps, Bradley Rodgers, Patricia Samford, Carl Steen). I learned various aspects of the craft from these veteran archaeologists as well as from other experienced ECU students (Stuart Darrow, Dane Magoon, Dean Owens, Rob McGowan, Clay Swindell, Kim Zawacki). As a graduate assistant at ECU, I served as the Archaeology Laboratory Supervisor (1995-1996) and as a Research Assistant to John Byrd on the Contentnea Creek Watershed Survey Project (1996-1997) when we searched for and located six early 18th century Tuscarora Indian towns. I had the good fortune to work as a teaching assistant for several ECU archaeology field schools, respectively under the tutelage of David Phelps at the Neoheroke Fort site (1995), Charlie Ewen at the Robert Hay House (1996) and John Byrd at the Neoheroke Fort site (1997). Later, as a research associate with ECU's Coastal Archaeology Office, I participated in archaeological investigations at Roanoke Island and on the Cape Creek, Brigand's Bay and Fort Clark sites, all located on Hatteras Island.

In August of 1997, I accepted a 36-month appointment as a research fellow in the US Army Environmental Center's (USAEC) Postgraduate Environmental Management Participation Program, an internship program administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). As an USAEC/ORISE research fellow, I conducted projects related to Cultural Resource Management (CRM) activities at Fort Bragg, a large US Army installation located in the North Carolina Sandhills. I worked with an ORISE research mentor (Wayne Boyko), and other USAEC/USAEC research fellows (Stacy Culpepper, Joe Herbert, Jeff Irwin) on regional archaeological research

questions and practical problems related to the effective environmental management of public trust lands in a dynamic military training situation. When my postgraduate internship with the USAEC/ORISE ended in 2000, I continued working with the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program as a contract archaeologist through Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML), but my positive and practical experiences as an research fellow stirred my desire to pursue advanced graduate studies in anthropology and archaeology.

Once again encouraged and supported by family, colleagues and friends, I returned to graduate school in the fall of 2000 to pursue doctoral studies in the Department of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since that time, I have had the good fortune to study under or work with several notable anthropologists, as well as their many capable graduate students, in the Department of Anthropology and the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (Brian Billman, Steve Davis, Dale Hutchinson, Brett Riggs, Margie Scarry, Vin Steponaitis, Bruce Winterhalder). I have especially enjoyed contributing to the Catawba project recently launched by Steve Davis and Brett Riggs. My dissertation research is on the ethnohistory and archaeology of the Tuscarora War (1711—1713) and will focus on excavation data—collected under the direction of David Phelps (Emeritus, ECU) and John Byrd (US Army, CILHI)—from the Neoheroke Fort site (31Gr4) in Greene County, the site of a Tuscarora fort destroyed in 1713. My general research interests are largely “down home,” eastern North Carolina, and I am especially interested in the late prehistoric and early colonial period societies of the coastal zone. In the future, I hope to continue working in coastal North Carolina and direct future endeavors to a more complete understanding of former Tuscarora and Algonkian societies in the region, both before and after European Contact in the Carolinas.

I remain perpetually intrigued with the past and, despite the comparatively low remuneration—it took nearly a decade for my salary to match what I left behind in 1993—I find the daily work much more appealing than what I previously encountered in the corporate world. Over the last ten years, thanks to several key mentors, many amenable colleagues and my supportive family, especially Ruth, my wife of six years, and my beautiful kids Noah and Ella, I have been able to learn a “new” profession as well as work on many fascinating archaeology projects in the Carolinas. I am certainly appreciative of all the individuals who have shared or continue to share their expertise and knowledge with me in this ongoing endeavor. I especially enjoy the variable work environments, which include laboratory activities, library and archival research, professional conferences, country cafes, regional travel and, of course, fieldwork in many lovely areas of our state.

As a perpetual student, I have come to appreciate the old axiom, “the more you learn, the less you know.” Meaningful archaeological research requires a holistic, interdisciplinary approach and I find that I never know enough about theoretical and methodological issues of anthropology, art, chemistry, civil engineering, computer

technology, history, biology, botany, ecology, ethnohistory, geography, geology, history, physics, zoology, etc. Indeed, as I narrow my own research foci, I find there is much less time or opportunity to read broadly in other disciplines. If I might offer any substantive advice to up-and-coming students interested in archaeology as a career, it is this: (1) fully explore and appreciate the breadth of the discipline and its many specialty areas (e.g., bioarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology, geoarchaeology, paleoethnobotany, zooarchaeology); (2) study broadly, particularly at the undergraduate level, and

take as many courses as feasible outside the confines of anthropology—American archaeology is, as its parent discipline anthropology, perhaps the most holistic of sub-disciplines; and (3) seek out and confer with archaeologists working for universities, museums, state or federal agencies, and private firms—the diversity of research activities as well as the availability of many job opportunities, both at home and abroad, will surprise you.

Volunteers Needed

The Schiele Museum of Natural History under the direction of Dr. Alan May will be conducting two archaeological field investigations this summer. One will be held at a 19th century iron furnace while the other will be held at a late prehistoric Native American site. For more information contact Alan May, Schiele Museum of Natural History, 1500 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC, 28054 (telephone # 704-866-6917).

The Douglas L. Rights Award was established in 1993 by the North Carolina Archaeological Society to recognize outstanding service or accomplishment by an avocational archaeologist to the field of archaeology in North Carolina. Named for an early pioneer of research and author of prehistoric Native American life in North Carolina, it has been almost a decade since this award was presented. President Tom Beaman has asked for three volunteers from the Society membership - preferably one professional and two avocational to revisit and update this award. The criteria for nomination need to be established and a bit of research is needed to consider candidates. Please contact Tom directly if you are interested in participating in the revival of this prestigious honor.

Earth Day

The Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program will host its annual Earth Day/Week Dig, April 19 to 23, 2004 and the public is invited to participate. The site chosen for this public outreach event is 31HK1567 also known as the Fox Site and it located on the western portion of Fort Bragg property. The site, recently identified through testing, has yielded prehistoric pottery with significant research potential. The site will be open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and volunteers will work with trained professionals to learn more about archaeology in the Sandhills region. Free

educational material will be distributed to all visitors. Please join us for this exciting opportunity. For directions and further information, contact us at 910.396.6680 or www.bragg.army.mil/culturalresources.

Wake Forest University Summer Field School 2004

Field Research in Archaeology: Exploring Yadkin Valley Prehistory and Early History

Wake Forest University will hold its field school in Piedmont Archaeology this summer from May 24 to July 2, 2004. This course will provide participants with training in archeological methods and problem solving by investigating three of North Carolina's premier archeological sites: the prehistoric Native American village of *Donnaha*, located on the banks of the Yadkin River; the early backcountry settlement of *Bethabara*, the earliest Moravian settlement in the North Carolina piedmont; and the late eighteenth century courthouse town of *Old Richmond*, an early governmental center of the Yadkin valley. Participants will learn techniques of archaeological survey, mapping, excavation and laboratory analysis, and participate in geophysical surveys utilizing ground penetrating radar, electrical resistivity and magnetometer technologies. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Thacker, Department of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, P.O. Box 7807, Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109; thackep@wfu.edu, (336) 758-5497. The public and members of the North Carolina archaeology community will be invited to visit and participate the investigations in a public "field day" to be held sometime in late June. For more information and to learn about the dates, contact Kenneth Robinson, Director of Public Archeology, e-mail robinskw@wfu.edu, (336) 758-5117.

The “Prez Sez”

by Tom Beaman

“A Plank-ed Road to The Future of Our Society”

Greetings! It is a pleasure to speak with you from the pages of our newly redesigned Society newsletter. First and foremost, thank you for your continued support of the North Carolina Archaeological Society. Whether you are a student, regular, family, or lifetime member; whether your interest is in prehistoric or historical archaeology on land or underwater; or whether you're a professional, student, or avocational archaeologist, as leaders of the Society, the officers and Board value your interests, ideas, and experiences to help make this a better archaeological community in North Carolina.

As this is a national election year, I am reminded that candidates usually campaign on “planks” of a political platform – better known as the promises and plans they make and hope to keep once they are elected to office. While officers and Board members of the Society are not required to do so, I would like to share with you three of my “planks” I'd like to see happen or begin to occur within the Society during my tenure as President.

The first plank is to improve communication. Thanks largely to Newsletter Editor Dee Nelms, Vice President Bill Covington, and Board member John Mintz, the newly redesigned newsletter you hold is a positive step in that direction. We'd like to strive to provide more information to you on archaeology in North Carolina – current research being conducted at universities and by contract firms and individuals, biographical sketches of archaeologists who you may not know, field school information, chapter happenings, and opportunities for participation in both the field and the lab. As the Society newsletter is only quarterly, there is also the *NCARCH* Yahoo group, the Archaeological Society website (at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/>), and email for more up-to-the-minute information. Most of all, we want to keep you better informed of the diversity of activities, personalities, and opportunities taking place in the archaeology of North Carolina.

My second plank is to see increased participation at all levels of the Society. To create more opportunities for participation, we need to rethink some of our current practices, especially meetings. No one loves to hear a colleague discuss current research more than I, but it seems that is all that our annual meetings have become. While there is certainly a place at our meetings for that, I would like to see more opportunities for avocational archaeologists

– the backbone of our organization – to participate in field work and lab work, to take bus trips, and to view and be able to take part in primitive technology and historic craft demonstrations and activities. Our spring meeting in Greensboro, hosted by Dr. Linda Stine, takes us in this direction by offering Society members the opportunity to help Linda and her field school in their excavations at Tannenbaum Historic Park.

The second way I'd like to see an increase in our participation is at the grass roots level with local chapters. Did you know there are five local chapters of the North Carolina Archaeological Society? There is the Coastal Plain Chapter in Greenville, the Cumberland Chapter in Fayetteville, the Tarheel Chapter in Burlington, the Otarre Chapter in Asheville, and the Appalachian Chapter in Boone. If you are interested in joining one of these chapters, contact any of the current officers and we'll try to put you in touch with the chapter nearest you. If there is not a chapter near you, then consider starting one of your own! Details are on the Society website or can be obtained from Dee or I.

My third and final plank is to increase the visibility and positive image of the Society and archaeology in general in North Carolina. While our annual booth at the State Fair in Raleigh helps reach many, we must explore other avenues to raise awareness of the Society. To that end, Bill Covington has taken the initiative and begun work on a program that will place Society brochures in public libraries across the state. Also, in these times of personal and state-wide budget concerns, the Society plans to take a pro-active role to promote archaeological resources by reestablishing “Archaeology Month” this fall and making it an annual event. We hope this will serve to promote the Society and awareness of the amazing prehistoric, historic, and underwater resources in North Carolina.

That's all for this issue. Sorry to be a bit long-winded, but the steps being taking to improve the future of our Society is something of which we all need to be informed and take part. This is, after all, *your* Society. Please let us know what we can do to better serve your needs by sharing your ideas with me or any of the other officers and Board members. Thank you for your attention, and I hope to see you in Greensboro at the Spring meeting.

2004 Warren Wilson College Archaeology Field School at the Berry Site

David Moore, Christopher Rodning, and Robin Beck will lead the Summer 2004 archaeology field school at the Berry Site (31BK22). The Berry Site is a large (nearly 12 acres) Mississippian site that dates to the Burke Phase (15th and 16th centuries A.D.). It is believed to be the location of the native town of Joara, at which Juan Pardo built for San Juan in 1567 (20 years before the Lost Colony). For more information contact David Moore at 828-771-2013 or visit the web site at www.warren-wilson.edu/arch

NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members are encouraged to submit articles and news items to Dee Nelms, Associate Editor, for inclusion in the *Newsletter*. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Spring Issue	February 28
Summer Issue	May 31
Fall Issue	August 31
Winter Issue	November 30

NCAS Officers

President: Tom Beaman, 5210 Carr Road, Wilson, NC 27893.

Vice-president: William E. Covington, III, 245 Broadmeade Drive, Southern Pines, NC 27387.

Treasurer: E. William Conen, 804 Kingswood Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

Secretary: Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Dept of the Army, Public Works Business Center (AFZA-PW-E) (Carnes), Fort Bragg Garrison Command (ABN), Installation Management Agency, Fort Bragg, NC 28310.

Editor: R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Research Laboratories of Archaeology, CB# 3120 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

Associate Editor: Dee H. Nelms, Office of State Archaeology, NC Division of Historical Resources, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619.

Executive Board Members: Linda France Stine, John Hildebrand, John Mintz, Terri Russ, Archie Smith, Ruth Wetmore

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