From the President

In the winter newsletter, there was an insert entitled Passport in Time, which outlined a volunteer archaeological excavation scheduled for June 12-25,2006 and sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. The location will be a prehistoric Native American site in the Uwharrie National Forest in Montgomery County. This site is in the same general area as the famous Hardaway site and the Doerschuk site and should yield exciting information and artifacts. So if you have never been involved in a “dig”, but always wanted to, don’t let this opportunity slip away! Call Joel Hardison at 910-576-6391 for details.

Recently, several NCAS volunteers, including myself, worked with archaeologists Joe Herbert and Clay Swindell cleaning and sorting the material from the NCAS-sponsored excavation last fall in Currituck. Much was accomplished but much remains to be done; thanks to all who took part!

Have you signed up any new members this year? By introducing your friends to the NCAS, you are not only strengthening our organization, but also opening new doors for their enjoyment and learning. Make it a goal to get at least one new member this year!

A final note- I hope that you saw the excellent feature on UNC-TV recently entitled Man and Mammoth in North Carolina and 10,000 Years before Contact. It is to be repeated several times this year, so check the listings for dates and time. It was great!!

Thanks for your cooperation and if you have any comments or suggestions, please e-mail me at toakes_ec@yahoo.com or call 252-453-2545.

Tom Oakes

- Meeting Notice -

It was decided at the last board meeting not to have a Spring Meeting this year, but to concentrate our efforts for a special event this Fall. Watch for details in the next newsletter!
Tommy Stine

I was born in 1943 in Hickory, North Carolina. At a young age I realized I had a talent for drawing. After graduating from Hickory High School I attended Mitchell and Western Carolina College for two years. During this time I took art courses but eventually ended up being self-taught as an artist. I started entering juried art shows and winning many awards, some first place and best of show. After working twenty-two years with the Southern Railroad Company, I took a severance pay and opened up an art gallery and frame shop, which I am still running. I am an active member of Tri City Baptist Church in Conover, North Carolina. I have a son and daughter, Barrett and Bonnie, who are married and live in Hickory, North Carolina.

A good friend Jim Sweezy got me interested in collecting arrowheads during the late fifties. During the eighties I was active in the Archaeological Society of North Carolina (ASNC) and a board member of the nominating committee. I turned in many site reports for the ASNC, including the Hardin and Berry Mound sites, along with artifacts I had collected there. I also took opportunities to help excavate a site with the Schiele Museum of Natural History, the Berry Mound and the Town Creek site. I also worked with the North Carolina Archives and History to report site surveys prior to construction in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. I was past president of the Unifour Archaeological Society, which was affiliated with the ASNC.

I also have worked with Fort Bragg archaeologist Chris Moore and Jeff Irwin by helping document sites and contributing some artifacts I found there years ago. I donated prints from an original watercolor I did of Town Creek Indian Mound to sell and raise money for sponsoring the ASNC collection survey. Jim Sweezy covered the cost of making the prints.

I must mention some of the professional people I got to know and work with over the years in archaeology: Dave Moore, Trawick Ward, Roy Dickens Jr., Joffre Coe, Alan May, Stanley South, Peter Cooper, Al Goodyear, Billy Oliver, Richard Terrell, Steve Davis, HG Jones, Charles Carey, and Larry Clark. It was and still is a real honor just to be acquainted with them.
Office of State Archaeology
Lectures in July

The Office of State Archaeology is pleased to announce two lectures on July 22, pertaining to our state's underwater archaeological heritage. Beginning at 1:30 pm in the auditorium of the North Carolina Museum of History, Richard Lawrence, Deputy State Archaeologist, will present Hidden Beneath the Waves: Underwater Archaeology in North Carolina. This presentation will detail the founding and creation of the Office of State Archaeology's underwater branch and highlight over 40 years of research into North Carolina's rich maritime history. This lecture will be followed at 2:30 pm by Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Project Director of the Queen Anne's Revenge Recovery. He will present: Peering into a Pirates Trove: Recent Findings at the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Site. Mark will detail the discovery, excavation, and ongoing interpretation of this remarkable and unique underwater resource.

Please join us for one or both lectures. Attendance is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Free parking is available adjacent to the Museum of History. The North Carolina Museum of History is located at 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh. For more information please contact Dolores Hall or John Mintz at 919.733.7342.

Dr. Margaret Snow Houston

Dr. Margaret Snow Houston, Director of the Indian Museum of the Carolinas in Laurinburg, Lecturer in the Departments of Sociology and American Indian Studies of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, died Thursday after a brief illness. She was 61.

Dr. Houston received her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her professional and personal interests took her to China as a teacher and to Oaxaca, Mexico, as a researcher in Paleoethnobotany and a student of pre-Columbian culture. She also lent her expertise to archaeology projects in Laurinburg and preservation of the Mill Prong Plantation House, Hoke County, NC.

Author of numerous distinguished papers on both China and Mexico, her continuing research interests included prehistoric subsistence and recovery methods, tropical agricultural systems, theory and method of ceramic analysis, modern Mesoamerican pottery-making techniques, Mesoamerican ethnohistory and market systems, origin of the state, Chinese archaeology, and climate change.

She was a member of the North Carolina Archaeological Society from the beginning and attended most all of the spring and fall meetings. She was also a member of Society for American Archaeology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the North Carolina Archaeological Council, which she served as Secretary-Treasurer (1990-92), the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Instituto Welte de Estudios Oaxaquenos, and the Society for Ethnobotany.

Dr. Houston was also an active member of the Dames of St. Andrews and the Scotland County Democratic Women, and a supporter of the American Red Cross of Scotland County. Her life was also defined by an abiding interest — nurtured by her father, Walter Scott Houston — in astronomy and telescope making. She was a frequent attendee at the Springfield (VT) Telescope Makers' annual "Stellafane" convention. In addition, Margaret was a jewelry maker, gourmet cook, and "Star Wars" aficionado.

Walt Wheeler
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:

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