From the President

The often-heard saying “time flies when you are having fun” is certainly true, but I’ve come to realize that time flies whether fun is involved or not. My mother would tell me time passes faster as you get older and that is another truth that I didn’t believe, but has turned out to be very true! My term as president of NCAS began in October of 2005 at our fall meeting at ECU in Greenville and will end in October 2007 at our fall meeting at Town Creek in Mt. Gilead. Between those dates, I traveled hundreds of miles, visited places I had always wanted to visit and some places that I had never heard of and enjoyed all!

I would encourage all members truly interested in archaeology to consider serving on the NCAS board. If you have ideas or changes for our organization, become part of the decision-making process. How does one do this? Just make it known to any current board member you are able and willing to serve and you will probably get your wish.

When I became president I tried to think of ways to increase our membership. After two years of service I think I have the answer or at least a good suggestion: NCAS local chapters!!! I came to this realization after seeing participation in events encourage the people involved to become members because they enjoyed what they were doing and also by visiting chapter meeting in other states. At present, I do not think that there is an active NCAS chapter in the state. I had the privilege of visiting an active chapter in neighboring Virginia. They meet every month and have activities between meetings. There were at least 50 members present each meeting, which was held in a local restaurant. They enjoyed a good meal followed with a short meeting with a speaker.

This is where you can make a difference. The NCAS board is seriously looking for ways to streamline the application process and formation of local chapters. I strongly encourage members to get involved. I encourage professional archaeologists to assist members in their communities to establish chapters. Clay Swindell, archaeologist, and yours truly are starting a chapter in the Currituck, Camden, and Pasquotank county area. Get involved and have some fun. Now is the time!

Tom Oakes

Clovis Dethroned

Excepts from the July ‘07 issue of the Mammoth Trumpet

Like any science, American archaeology has its own long standing and cherished theories. In the face of new evidence, however, it appears that one of the most abiding, the Clovis-First model must now bow out of the debate. According to the Center for the Study of the First Americans (CSFA) research published in the 23 February 2007 issue of *Science*, Mike Waters and geochronologist Tom Stafford, using revised radio carbon dating, stated that “it’s impossible for the Clovis people to be the First Americans.” This dating project started because they realized that the age of Clovis has been based on radiocarbon dates using old radiocarbon technologies or unreliable carbon types. Also, the standard deviations on many of them were very large.

In order to accurately determine the revised age range for Clovis, Waters and Stafford acquired 43 radiocarbon samples from documented Clovis sites. New dates were then generated on bone, charcoal and seeds, using highly accurate accelerated mass spectrometer (AMS) dating methods.

Waters and Stafford found that their new dates fell between a minimum range of 13,125-12,925 CALBP and a maximum range of 13,250-12,800 CALBP. This gave Clovis duration some 200-240 years, a relative eye-blink in archaeological terms. These findings show that: “We have Clovis people living in North and South America at the same time. So how could this make Clovis first?” Then there are demographic objections. It’s unlikely that hunter-gatherers entering the New World from the north could have traveled to the southern tip of South America in less then 500 years. Says Waters, “It just wasn’t enough time for people to adapt to environments….. This just didn’t make sense if Clovis were the first to enter the Americas.”
NCAS 2007 Annual Fall Meeting  
October 12-14, 2007  
Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Gilead, North Carolina  

Schedule  

**Friday (12th)**  
Excavations at Town Creek begin at 8:30 am and continue until 4:00 pm. Participation welcomed. Bring lunch.  
(See accompanying newsletter announcement below for more details.)  

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Get Acquainted Reception at Town Creek Indian Mound. Sponsored by the North Carolina Archaeological Council.  

**Saturday (13th)**  
9:15 am  **Registration** (with coffee, juice, pastries)  
9:30 am  NC Archaeological Society  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
10:00 am  NC Archaeological Society  
**Business Meeting and Election** of Officers  
- Introduction of New Site Manager, Rich Thompson, local arrangements  
- Special Award Presentation by Linda Carnes-McNaughton  
10:40 am  Tony Boudreaux –  
**Archaeology of the Mississippian Community at Town Creek**  
11:10 am  Vance R. Tiede –  
**Astro-Archaeology at Town Creek Indian Mound**  
11:45 am  Lunch, catered by Jordan’s Barbecue  
12:15 pm  Book Signing, in lobby area  
12:30 - 4:00 pm  Excavations at Town Creek. Participation welcomed.  
12:30 – 4:00 pm  **Eastern Woodlands Day @ Learning Center. Participation welcomed.**  
Hosted by Bill & Susie Gingras, and John Jeffries  
4:00 pm  Adjourn  

**Sunday (14th)**  
Excavations at Town Creek begin at 8:30 am and continue until 1:00 pm. Participation welcomed. Bring lunch.  

In case of inclement weather bring rain gear. Canopies will be on site. Wear comfortable, appropriate clothing, and bring gloves and camping chairs if needed.  

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**Excavations to Continue at Town Creek**  

The 2007 Fall Meeting of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, to be held at Town Creek Indian Mound on Saturday, October 13th, will coincide with a three-day, on-site research project sponsored by the Society, the Friends of Town Creek, and the Research Laboratories of Archaeology. This project will continue work begun at the 2006 Fall Meeting, when Society members helped archaeologists excavate at the southern edge of the site. The goal of this work is to re-excavate and trowel 2-3 10x10-ft units in order to obtain photographs for the overall site photographic mosaic.  

The fieldwork is planned for October 12-14 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), and Society members are encouraged to participate. Activities for which help is needed include digging, sifting soil to recover artifacts, troweling, and mapping with a laser transit. Archaeologists will be available to train participants in field methods, so no previous experience is required.  

If you would like to participate for one, two, or all three days, please contact Steve Davis by phone at 919-962-3845 or by email at rpsdavis@unc.edu.
Town Creek Indian Mound
509 Town Creek Mound Road
Mt. Gilead, NC 27306
(910) 439-6802

Directions to Town Creek

220 North
From 220 take Candor exit, onto 211 west, left at the traffic light onto 220 business, 1 mile bear right onto NC 731, left on Town Creek Mound Rd. 1 mile to site.

From Rockingham:
Exit 220 north of Ellerbe onto NC 73 continue on 73 to Indian Mound Rd. Right turn 2 miles to site.

Albemarle:
24-27 East cross the Pee Dee river bridge, then right onto NC 73 to Mt. Gilead, continue on to Indian Mound Rd about 5 miles, Left on Indian Mound Rd. – 2 miles to site.

Local Hotels/Motels

http://www.executiveinnalbemarle.com/ Executive Inn. Located in Albemarle, approx. 30 min. NW of the site. Clean, reasonably priced, adjacent to shopping & restaurants.
http://www.ellerbesprings.com/ Ellerbe Springs Inn. Located in Ellerbe, approx. 15 min. from the site. Clean, reasonably priced, home-cooked meals available three times a day.
Nearby accommodations to avoid (due to cleanliness issues, service, etc.) include the Days Inn in Biscoe & Uwharrie Mountain Lodge in Troy.

Local Campgrounds

http://www.cs.unc.edu/nfsnc/recreation/uwharrie/ The Uwharrie National Forest. Most camping in this area is approximately 30 min. to one hour from Town Creek (due to winding dirt roads, etc.) There is a camping link on this home page detailing each camping area with costs, amenities, etc. Primitive camping is also available & free. Incidentally, the county Chamber of Commerce will host the Uwharrie Mountain Festival that weekend. The link for info on that event is:
http://www.uwharriemountainfestival.com/
http://www.lls.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momo/home.html Morrow Mountain State Park. Approximately 30 min. NW of Town Creek. They now offer a “lithics” tour; those interested should contact the park.
http://www.campingfriend.com/NorwoodCampingResort/ Norwood Camping Resort. Approximately 20 min. west of Town Creek. For those interested in “resort camping”.

Lunch Form to be returned by October 5th
North Carolina Archaeological Society's 2007 Fall Meeting
Hosted by Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Gilead, North Carolina
Saturday, October 13, 2007

Name(s) as you would like it to appear on nametag: ___________________________________________________________

Buffet lunch catered by Jordan Catering consisting of BBQ, fried chicken, two slaws, green beans, baked beans, potato salad, rolls, tea/lemonade, and dessert. $9.00/each.

______ @ $9.00/each  Total enclosed $_________________

Mail form with payment to: Dee Nelms, NCAS, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619 or for further information call @ 919/733-7342.
2007 Election of Officers

The 2007 Election of Officers ballot is enclosed. Please return the ballot to Dee Nelms, NC Archaeological Society, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619 by October 10th. As in previous years, we will take nominations from the floor at the members meeting at Town Creek on October 13th. You will get a chance to cast your vote at the meeting if you do not send it in by mail.

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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NCAS Officers
President: Tom Oakes, 113 Perkins Lane, Coinjock, NC 27923.
Vice-president: Terri Russ, PO Box 81, Hillsborough NC 27278
Treasurer: E. William Conen, 804 Kingswood Drive, Cary, NC 27513.
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: Jeff Irwin, Matthew Jorgenson, Paul Mohler, Brian Overton, Tara Potts, Scott Seibel