

**North Carolina
Archaeological Society**

N e w s l e t t e r

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

SPRING 2005, Volume 15, Number 1

!!! North Carolina Archaeology Month 2005 !!! - Call for Committee Members -

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that the North Carolina Archaeological Society (NCAS), in conjunction with the North Carolina Archaeological Council (NCAC) and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA), wish to announce that we are trying to resurrect North Carolina Archaeology Month, tentatively to be held this year in October. This will be the State's first annual celebration of North Carolina Archaeology since 1998!

In order to make North Carolina Archaeology Month a success, I am forming a small committee to be made up of Society members. I can't do this alone; my wife and I are expecting twins in July so I need good, reliable people! I am looking for one volunteer from each key geographic region in the State: 1) northern Coastal Plain; 2) southern Coastal Plain; 3) Charlotte area; 4) Mountains (e.g. Asheville area); and 5) Winston-Salem/Greensboro (Triad area). I'll try to manage the Piedmont (Triangle area). I would like to keep the committee small so if volunteers can cover more than one region that would be great!

**If you are interested in volunteering for the NC Archaeology Month 2005 Committee,
please contact me at (919)-715-1555 (w) or pjmohler@dot.state.nc.us.**

Duties and responsibilities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Planning the North Carolina Archaeology Month 2005 Poster.
- Planning the associated Calendar of Events.
- Mailings.
- Event Matching: Helping someone who has an idea for an event but no venue, or has a venue but no event. We can't guarantee a match, but we can do our best.
- Working the phones this Spring to generate overall participation in your region. Successful events may be "hands-on" ones for the general public or school age children, archaeological trail walks, storytelling, or craft activities. Demonstrations may also be favorites.
- In the Summer, working the phones again to get people in your region to RETURN their commitment forms.
- Generating press releases to newspapers and media outlets in your "neck of the woods."
- Balancing the needs of small volunteer organizations with those of large museums, both of which work on very different planning calendars.
- Last but not least, the overall promotion of topics concerning North Carolina archaeology, Native American traditions, and site preservation across the State. We will also gladly promote archaeology topics throughout the world.

Please check out the enclosed Commitment/Enrollment Event Form. To be included in the official Calendar of Events and listed on the website, please complete and return the enclosed form no later than **May 15, 2005**.

Thank you!

Paul J. Mohler

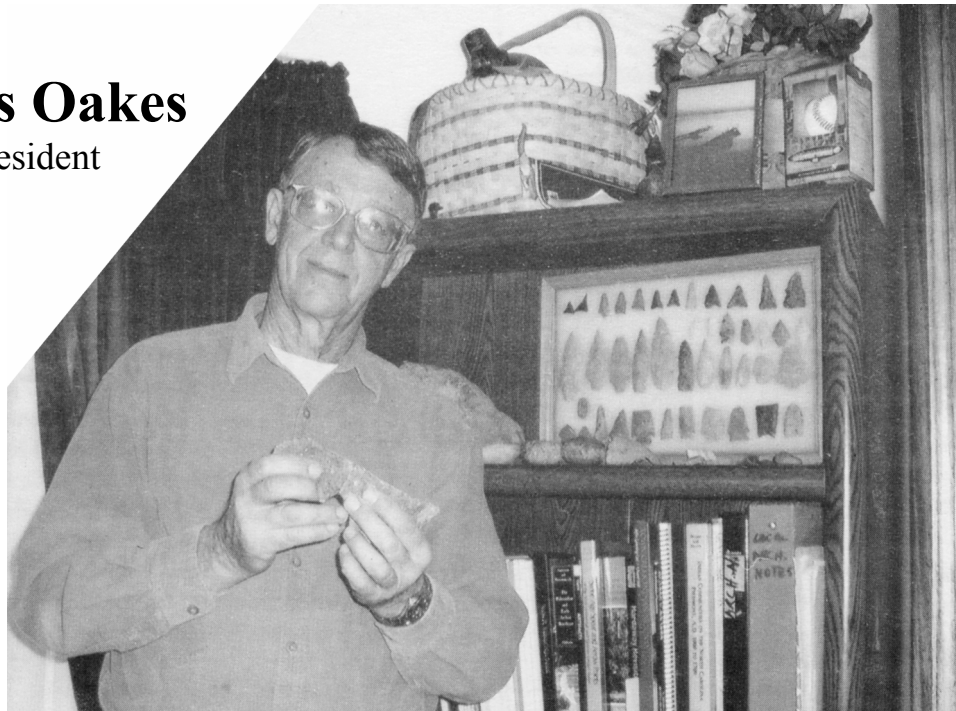
Committee Chair

NC Archaeology Month 2005 Committee

North Carolina Archaeological Society

Thomas Oakes

Vice-President



I was born 1940 in Burlington, North Carolina (Alamance County). I graduated from Elon College with a BA in 1966. US Army-Germany 1962-64. I married in 1966. I have one daughter and two grandchildren Skyla (6) and Brandi (2) who live with me. I retired from Sears after 29 years and six relocations. We moved to Currituck in 1983 and currently live in the Waterlily community near Coinjock on the Currituck Sound. Hobbies include fishing, both recreational and commercial, crabbing, hunting, woodworking, appliance rebuilding and repair and, of course, archaeology. I became interested in archaeology at about eight years when I began to find artifacts while working in tobacco fields on the family farm. I continued to collect until college and remained interested throughout

my working years, but after retiring began to actually read and study and to become more involved. I joined the Society in 2000, have attended most meetings, and have visited sites throughout the state. I actually discovered a shell midden (part of 31CK2) within 100 feet of my house which has produced numerous large pottery sherds and some other interesting artifacts. I live about five miles from the Baum Site (31CK9) and often see artifacts collected from and near that site. I think that I am the only member of the Society Board of Directors without academic study in archaeology; however, my interest is, I'm sure, as strong as any. I am looking forward to working to promote the ideals of the Society in any way that I can and appreciate the opportunity to serve as Vice-president.

The Prez Sez

Tom Beaman

Greetings! I'm pleased to report that your Society is gearing up for a great year. It's time to shake off those winter blues, sharpen your trowels, and clear your calendar to make time for archaeology in 2005!

But before we get too far along, I'd like to personally welcome our new Society Vice-president (and President-elect) Tom Oakes. As you may know, our former Vice-president Bill Covington resigned for personal reasons. Tom stepped in last fall as a pinch hitter and was elected to the post. As an avocational archaeologist and long time Society member from Coinjock, you can get to know more about Tom in the member profile of this newsletter.

As I noted in my last "Prez Sez," one of my goals has been to increase the visibility of archaeology and the NCAS

through opportunities for involvement and public activities. At our Board meeting this past February, we made a number of decisions to move the Society forward this year. I'm so excited about them that I have to share a sneak peek at what we've got planned!

First, the Society will sponsor Archaeology Month 2005 this October. Society Board Member Paul Mohler is the coordinator for this event. His previous experience with archaeology months in Connecticut brings new ideas and enthusiasm to this month-long celebration of archaeology.

If you haven't heard from Paul about sponsoring an event in your area for October, you will soon. See his feature about Archaeology Month in this issue, and watch for more details about events in your area as October draws nearer.

Shane Peterson has agreed to oversee the Archaeological Society's exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair this year. After 20 years of having an exhibit at the Fair, the Board seriously considered not participating this year due to the time and intensive volunteer labor needed to monitor the booth for eight full days. However, we felt it was premature to give up our most visible public activity! We are presently talking with a potential exhibit sponsor, and Shane is already on the lookout for volunteers to help. Check out his tongue-in-cheek request in this newsletter, and give him a call if you are interested in helping!

The Board has also reevaluated the schedule of Society annual meetings. This year, we're going to do something a little different. Instead of two meetings, we're going to hold one large meeting this October. The NCAS Coastal Plain Chapter and the East Carolina University Anthropology Department have agreed to jointly host this meeting in their new facilities on the ECU Campus, and the shared focus will be on prehistoric, historic, and underwater archaeology on the Coastal Plain. Those of you who attended the 1997 spring meeting in New Bern know what a great meeting they organized, and we're expecting nothing less this time around! Specific details will follow in the next two newsletters, as information comes available.

Even though the Society doesn't have a spring meeting scheduled this year, I encourage you to make at least one trip to an archaeological site in the forthcoming months. Field schools are being held all around the state this summer. Contact your local universities to find out where and if they allow visitors (or volunteers). New exhibits have been installed at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson as well as Fort Fisher, both prominently featuring the archaeology of these State Historic Sites. And when was the last time you visited Town Creek Indian Mound? There are plenty of opportunities for encountering archaeology in North Carolina this spring and summer.

As for me, I'll be at Fort Dobbs State Historic Site on April 16-17 for their 249th anniversary celebration, discussing my recent reanalysis of their artifact collections. If you're interested in what life was like for British soldiers at this French and Indian War period frontier fort, stop by, meet re-enactors portraying Hugh Waddell and other colonial soldiers, and learn about the archaeology done at Fort Dobbs. More information is available at <http://www.fortdobbs.org>.

Finally, thank you for being a part of the North Carolina Archaeological Society. This is **your** organization. Feel free to contact any NCAS officer or me and share your feedback and ideas with us!

2005 State Fair Appeal for Volunteers: The Tongue-In-Cheek Approach

Shane C. Petersen

Planning for the 2005 North Carolina State Fair is in the works, and your Society needs you to answer the call. For many years, the North Carolina Archaeological Society has relied heavily upon the public exhibits sponsored at the North Carolina State Fair for the trifold purpose of public outreach, membership recruitment, and sales revenue. During those years Dee Nelms (and staff of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology) has largely shouldered the Herculean effort of pulling off successful logistics to insure that the requirements of the event are met. Increasing costs and decreasing commitment on the part of the Society membership has caused our dedicated Board members to reevaluate our commitment to the State Fair Booth, one that has been in place for 20 years! In a sense, this year's fair will be seen as a referendum on the program to determine if it is the best expenditure of our collective resources. To that end, I am asking the membership to individually reflect on the importance of the Society exhibit at the State Fair. If you believe that this program is important to you and is a worthwhile effort for our organization in meeting its mission objectives, then I ask you to participate this year. In particular, volunteers

are desperately needed to "staff" the booth **throughout the fair**. This year the fair will be held on October 14-23, 2005. In past years, shifts have been four hours long during the hours of operation. Those wishing to work double shifts are always encouraged to do so. Each volunteer will receive a day-long pass (paid for by the NCAS), so that you can serve the booth and enjoy the rest of the day at the fair. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers for an emergency "on-call" list. Occasionally, scheduled volunteers are unable (for whatever reason) to fulfill their obligation to serve at the booth. Members of the "on-call" list would hopefully be able to fill in at those times.

A 2005 State Fair Committee is being formed, including Tom Beaman, Linda Carnes-McNaughton, and myself. It is my fervent wish that any Society member with ideas or services to offer this program contact the committee members. Any volunteers may contact me at (919) 715-1557 or via email at shanetammy@mindspring.com. Thank you very much for considering our appeal, and I hope to see you next fall at the fair!

Mark Ashley Mathis

Mark Ashley Mathis, 52, of Raleigh, NC, passed away at Rex Hospital on Friday, March 18, 2005 following a lengthy illness.

He was born in Elk City, Oklahoma, son of the late Dr. James L. Mathis and Ann K. Mathis of Washington, NC, who survives him. Also surviving are his wife, Susan Alexander Mathis; daughter, Kathryn Alexander Mathis; brother, Jeffrey L. Mathis and wife, Diane of Grimesland, NC; sisters, Linda Blakeley of Puerto Morelos, Mexico, Leslie Gray and husband, Bob of Grimesland, NC and Lynn Mathis of Hertford, NC; as well as six nieces and many other extended family and loved ones.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Oklahoma State University, he went on to complete his postgraduate work in anthropology at the University of Arkansas. For more than 27 years, Mark was employed as an archeologist with the Office of State Archaeology, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources. Mark was also a long time member of the Society. Throughout his career, he was extensively published, was loved and well respected among his peers. His passion and dedication to his work was inspiring to those who worked closely with him. Mark's greatest pride was his daughter, Kathryn, who will miss his love and steady hand. (adapted from obituary in *The News and Observer*, March 20, 2005, p. 10B)

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	Fall Issue	August 31
Summer Issue	May 31	Winter Issue	November 30

NCAS Officers

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

Vice-president: Tom Oakes, 113 Perkins Lane, Coinjock, NC 27923.

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

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Executive Board Members: Linda France Stine, John Mintz, Paul Mohler, Brian Overton, Archie Smith, Ruth Wetmore.

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