



**North Carolina
Archaeological Society**

Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

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"Archaeology Days" Event in November

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCMNS) in Raleigh is planning to hold a weekend event called "Archaeology Days," scheduled for **November 18-19, 2006** and funded in part by the Alcoa Foundation.

This event will be modeled on the museum's other weekend events, such as "Bugfest" and "Astronomy Days," which have been very popular over the years. The event will coincide with a Native American Heritage Festival that will be held at the North Carolina Museum of History, right across the plaza. It's a great opportunity for the general public to learn more about North Carolina archaeology.

The event will be like a science fair, with engaging archaeological activities and displays scattered throughout the museum. The kinds of activities and displays will include:

- * "Snapshots" of N.C. archaeology (e.g., displays focused on particular sites or projects), with lots of artifacts and visuals for show and tell.

- * Demonstrations of ancient technologies (knapping, pottery-making, etc.).

- * Demonstrations of archaeological techniques (mapping, faunal identification, use wear analysis, pottery reconstruction, raw material identification, etc.).

- * Featured speakers and films on archaeology.

More information will be posted on their web site (www.naturalsciences.org) as the event takes shape. Additional information will be sent to NCAS members via the NCAS webpage and the fall newsletter, so be on the lookout.

In order to make this event a success, we will need the help and active participation of North Carolina's archaeological community. The North Carolina Archaeological Society will host a booth, as will many of the state's university programs and consulting firms. If you'd like to volunteer in staffing this event, please contact Brenda Moore (bmoore@email.unc.edu). For staffing the NCAS booth and/or participation in some other activity please contact Brian Overton (bpoverton@dot.state.nc.us).

Don't miss the wonderful and unique opportunity to learn, share and teach more about the archaeology of North Carolina.

Field Project Planned for Town Creek

The 2006 Fall Meeting of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, to be held at Town Creek Indian Mound on Saturday, October 7th, will coincide with an on-site research project sponsored by the Society, the Friends of Town Creek, and the Research Laboratories of Archaeology. The planned project will involve mapping, remote sensing, and excavations. The specific goals of this project are: (1) to locate existing datum points and establish new survey control points across the site; (2) to evaluate different remote sensing techniques using a previously excavated block within the palisaded area of the site and then apply those techniques to a previously unstudied area outside the palisade; and (3) 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 6-8 (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. Demonstrations of remote sensing methods and surveying techniques also will be given.

If you would like to participate for one, two, or all three days, please contact Dee Nelms at 919-733-7342. Detailed information on the Fall Meeting will be in the next newsletter.

2006 State Fair Archaeology Booth Volunteers Needed

Planning for the 2006 North Carolina State Fair is upon us, and your Society needs your help. This year the fair will be held on October 13-22. Shifts are four hours long during the hours of operation in the Governor Kerr Scott Building. Two people will be assigned to each slot. Those wishing

to work double shifts are always encouraged to do so. Each volunteer will receive a daylong pass (paid for by the NCAS), so that you can serve the booth and enjoy the rest of the day at the fair. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Dee Nelms at 919-733-7342 for available times.

Office of State Archaeology Lectures

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 Pirate's 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.

Currituck County Dig

Last fall when the NCAS decided that we would sponsor an archaeological dig in Currituck County and an article concerning the event was appeared in the local papers, I received several telephone calls from teachers expressing their excitement and approval. Some of them had taken part in similar events during their college years and wanted their students to experience the "correct" method of archaeological excavation.

As the event unfolded, groups of students accompanied by their teachers came to the site and took part by troweling, screening, and receiving information and instructions from Joe Herbert and his staff. Many students and faculty came back "on their own" on Saturday and Sunday to assist and learn.

As I watched each group as they were introduced to the project, I found their reaction very interesting. All were polite and attentive, but in each group there were several who were "straining at the bit" to get every

word and to see all that was happening. It was like someone had flipped a switch and a light had popped on in their heads; they wanted to learn and were excited about it.

To me, this was worth all the work and preparation that went into this event, to see those young minds alive and experiencing something that they will never forget.

Perhaps a budding archaeologist was born!

After the excavation was over, I was asked to meet with the Junior Historian Club from Currituck High School to answer questions about the dig and to discuss archaeology in general. Later, I learned that a project they had produced about the Twiddy-Saunders excavation had received high marks from State Education officials. The rewards of an excavation are many, but maybe none are as important as the creation of new interest in young minds.

Tom Oakes, NCAS President

**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 Oakes, 113 Perkins Lane, Coinjock, NC 27923.

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