



**North Carolina  
Archaeological Society**

**Newsletter**

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

FALL 2007, Volume 17, Number 3

## 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**

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## Clovis Dethroned

Excerpts 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 than 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 (12<sup>th</sup>)

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 (13<sup>th</sup>)

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 (14<sup>th</sup>)

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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.blairhousebb.com/> Blair House Bed & Breakfast. Located in historic downtown Troy, approx. 20 min. north of the site. A little pricey, but a very nice place.

<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.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ex/1/en/hotel/rcknc?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/ex> Holiday Inn Express. Located in Rockingham, approx. 30 min. south of the site. Clean, reasonably priced, nearby 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.unca.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.ils.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 5<sup>th</sup>

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 10<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, we will take nominations from the floor at the members meeting at Town Creek on October 13<sup>th</sup>. 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:

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.

**Vice-president:** Terri Russ, PO Box 81, Hillsborough NC 27278

**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:** Jeff Irwin, Matthew Jorgenson, Paul Mohler, Brian Overton, Tara Potts, Scott Seibel

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