

North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

SUMMER 2013, Volume 23, Number 2

2013 NCAS Annual Fall Meeting and Best of Badin Festival Falls Rd. and Walnut St., Badin, NC 28009 September 21, 2013

This year's fall meeting will be held in Badin, NC in conjunction with the Best of Badin Festival and the town's centennial celebration. Following the Members Meeting, special events will include guided tours of the Hardaway, Lowder's Ferry, and Morrow Mountain Rhyolite Quarry sites; a chance to view "The Ancient Carolinians" exhibit of artifacts from UNC's Hardaway collection; hands-on archaeology activities for children; and the various attractions of the Best of Badin Festival.

Schedule for the Day

- 9:00 AM – 8:30 PM Best of Badin Festival (www.badin100.com/Best_of_Badin_Festival.html)
- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Tours of the Narrows Dam (transportation provided)
- 9:30 AM Refreshments for NCAS members (Alcoa Conference Center)
- 10:00 AM NCAS Members Meeting with elections (Alcoa Conference Center)
- 11:00 AM Hardaway Site Tour led by Dr. Randy Daniel (transportation provided)
- 2:30 PM Tours of the Lowder's Ferry Site and the Rhyolite Quarry at Morrow Mountain State Park led by Dr. Randy Daniel (personal transportation required; meet at the NCAS tent)
- 9:00 PM Fireworks

Site Tours

Dr. Randy Daniel of East Carolina University will lead the tours of the Hardaway, Lowder's Ferry, and Morrow Mountain Rhyolite Quarry sites. Dr. Daniel has a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is an expert on stone tool analysis and hunter-gatherer settlement systems.

Hardaway, which is otherwise closed to the public, is the oldest known site in North Carolina and has greatly influenced the development of regional Southeastern archaeology. In the 1950s, archaeologist Joffre Coe studied the stratigraphy and projectile point types from Hardaway, the nearby Doerschuk, and Lowder's Ferry sites, and the Gaston site in Halifax County to reconstruct the Piedmont area's Archaic cultural sequence. Once Coe had delineated the projectile point sequences at all four sites, he used cross-dating to determine their relationships relative to each other. When Coe looked at the stratigraphy from the four sites together, he was able to propose a projectile point chronology for the entire Archaic period. A refined version of Coe's Archaic chronology is still used by archaeologists working throughout the southeastern United States.

More recently, Randy Daniel's (1998) analysis of the Hardaway assemblage has challenged popular ideas about Early Archaic settlement adaptations in the Southeast. Specifically, Daniel's research suggests that it was not food procurement, as previously proposed, but rather stone procurement that most significantly influenced Early Archaic settlement patterns. Daniel has demonstrated that the stone tools from the Hardaway site were predominantly made from a distinctive aphyric (fine-grained) rhyolite that would have been available at the Morrow Mountain Rhyolite Quarry site located 8 km to the south. He proposes that the combination of Hardaway's remarkably diverse mixture of curated and expedient tools and the nearby high-quality rhyolite at Morrow Mountain suggests that Hardaway was both a residential base camp and a locus of tool manufacturing and replacement during the Early Archaic period. For thousands of years, Morrow Mountain would have been the place to go to obtain high-quality stone, and Hardaway would have been the place to go to turn that stone into new tools, exchange information and obtain spouses, and take advantage of the area's other natural resources. Indeed, Morrow Mountain rhyolite was so desirable for tool making that today only piles of lithic debris remain at the quarry to attest to the former presence of visible outcrops.

Bus transportation will be provided to the Hardaway site following the NCAS Members Meeting. Personal transportation is required to get to the Lowder's Ferry and Morrow Mountain Rhyolite Quarry sites; interested parties should meet at the NCAS tent at 2:30 PM to caravan.

"The Ancient Carolinians" Exhibit

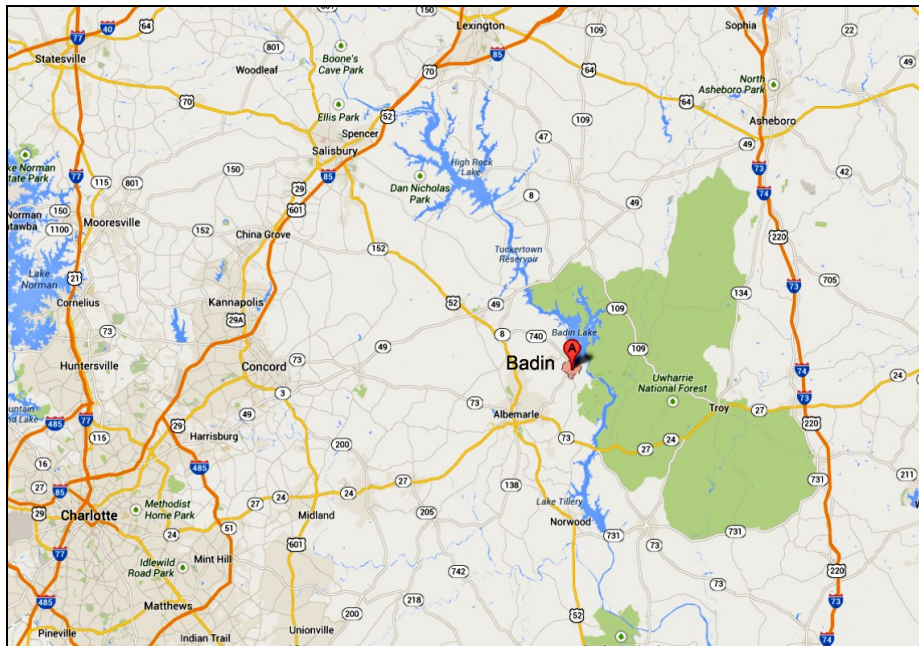
This exhibit tells the story of Hardaway through artifacts and interactive activities. Geared toward students in grades 3 through 8, the exhibit has been traveling around North Carolina since 2008. Beginning this fall, it will reside permanently in Badin.

About Badin

The town of Badin was founded in 1913 as a work camp by a French company planning to harness the Yadkin River's power for an aluminum smelter. In 1915, the French turned their attention to World War I and abandoned the town, which was later purchased by the Mellon Company of Pittsburgh. The settlement was completed in 1917 by Alcoa, which was then part of the Mellon Company. More details about the town's centennial celebration can be found at <http://www.badin100.com>.

Questions?

Please contact Steve Davis (rpsdavis@unc.edu; 919-962-3845).



Map of central North Carolina showing Badin, the site of the NCAS's Fall Meeting (from Google Maps).



The 2013 Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology will be held on Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21, at historic Fort Caswell on Oak Island. Members of the North Carolina Archaeological Society and Junior North Carolina Archaeological Society are invited to attend either one or both days.

The Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites brings together archaeologists who specialize in the exploration of historic period archaeological sites primarily in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. This year's conference will feature presentations and posters on geophysical archaeology, stoneware pottery from Edgefield, South Carolina, and summaries from recent excavations at Fort Caswell, Brunswick Town, and the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath. There will also be a showing of a new documentary film, "Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay", based on the archaeology of an ante bellum enslaved African-American potter. A complete schedule of papers and events will be available on the conference website (www.sechsa.org) by mid-August.

Conference attendees will also be able to take a guided tour of Fort Caswell, attend a reception at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, as well take a "behind the scenes" tour of the archaeological remains at Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson.

If you are interested in attending, you can complete a Registration form at the conference website (www.sechsa.org). There is no professional organization to join and no annual dues to pay, only a small nominal fee that includes lunch.

We hope to see you at Fort Caswell in late September!

Great Turnout at the Town Creek Indian Mound 2013 Spring Meeting

The Society held its 2013 spring meeting on April 27th at Town Creek Indian Mound. The North Carolina Archaeological Society and the Friends of Town Creek co-sponsored the event, which included a poster session highlighting recent research, a walking tour of the grounds, pottery-making demonstrations, an Ask-the-Archaeologist table, and a variety of hands-on activities and crafts.

Poster presentations by Dr. Tony Boudreaux and three of his students (former and current) at East Carolina University provided an overview of the Mississippian community at Town Creek and recent and planned investigations. Daryl Armour summarized his analyses of artifacts from public buildings associated with the mound, and Heidi Rosenwinkel described her efforts to identify clusters of burials within one of the large cemeteries at the site. Taryn Ricciardelli, who was awarded the Whitey Graham Endowment Award for 2013, discussed her plans to look at the distribution of sites around Town Creek as a way to investigate Mississippian settlement patterns. Tony also led a walking tour of the site that further explored the community's layout, occupational history, and relationship to other Mississippian sites.



Poster presenters Tony Boudreaux, Daryl Armour, Taryn Ricciardelli, and Heidi Rosenwinkel at Town Creek.

Following lunch, Master Catawba Indian Potter Caroleen Sanders demonstrated her craft. Caroleen, who often incorporates traditional animal motifs in her designs, described how she digs and processes her clay, how she builds her pottery, and what burnishing does to the surface of the pieces. She explained how she learned to make pottery from her mother and aunt and what pottery-making means to the Catawba Nation. Finally, she spent time answering questions from the enthralled visitors who watched her demonstrate her craft.

Throughout the day, visitors of all ages participated in a variety of hands-on activities. The NCAS hosted artifact identification and archaeobotany tables, while Friends of Town Creek offered traditional southeastern Indian crafts and games. The Exploring Joara Foundation staffed a cookie excavation activity for kids. A Boy Scout group was also camping in the Interpretative Center and joined the NCAS for some of the activities. Attendance for the day was about 200 visitors.



NCAS members and visitors enjoy a walking tour of the site led by Tony Boudreaux.



ECU alum Daryl Armour and grad students Taryn Ricciardelli and Heidi Rosenwinkel help UNC's Steve Davis make a map of the mound using a GPS-based surveying instrument.

The NCAS wishes to thank all of the presenters, volunteers, site staff, and participants who contributed to the event's success!

NCAS Officers

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Executive Board Members: Daryl Armour, Tom Beaman, Tony Boudreaux, Kevin Donald, Joel Hardison, Charles Heath.

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 – January 31
Summer Issue – April 31

Fall Issue – July 31
Winter Issue – October 31

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