



**North Carolina
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450th Anniversary of the Founding of Fort San Juan and the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail

The Exploring Joara Foundation, Inc. (EJF) has announced plans to mark the 450th Anniversary of the founding of Fort San Juan and the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail. Fort San Juan (1567–1568) was built by soldiers under the command of Spanish Captain Juan Pardo, and represents the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States, 18 years before the English “Lost Colony” at Roanoke and 40 years before Jamestown.

From December, 1566, to May, 1568, Juan Pardo led two Spanish army expeditions from the Spanish colonial capital of Santa Elena (located on today’s Parris Island Marine Corps Base near Beaufort, SC) through the South Carolina coast and Piedmont, into the Piedmont and mountains of North Carolina, and over the mountains into eastern Tennessee. His mission was to establish a roadway and a series of forts from Santa Elena to northern Mexico. He received orders to “pacify the Indians” he met along the way. This effort was intended to secure the Spanish colonial expansion into “la Florida” — today’s North America.

Pardo relied on existing Native American roads to make his way as far as the southern Appalachian Mountains. Along these native pathways his army camped at more than 30 Native American settlements, and he built forts at six of the Native towns. Although Pardo failed in his mission, the six forts were occupied for 18 months before they were destroyed by their local host communities.

According to Dr. David Moore, Warren Wilson College archaeologist and Senior Archaeologist for the Exploring Joara Foundation, the archaeological remains of Fort San Juan and the town of Joara are located at the Berry site, a large 16th century archaeological site less than ten miles north of the town of Morganton in Burke County, North Carolina.

Moore says “the events that took place at Fort San Juan and along the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail in the sixteenth century shaped the American frontier for the next 200 years.” According to Moore, most Americans are unaware of the significance of this early colonial episode. “Our idea of early colonial history often begins in the 18th century with the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War between the colonies and Great Britain.” “It’s possible,” says Moore, “that if the Native Americans along the trail had not destroyed the Spanish outposts in 1568, much of the American South would be considered Latin America.”

In the early 1980s a group of scholars at the University of Georgia began to re-examine work done by the Swanton Commission in the 1930s to define the path of Hernando de Soto. Working with more than 50 years of modern archaeological data as well as new examinations of ethnohistoric sources, Dr. Charles Hudson and his graduate students, Marvin Smith and Chester DePratter, and a host of archaeological colleagues, crafted a new interpretation of De Soto’s route as well as that of Juan Pardo. In 1986, as a direct result of this new research, David Moore, then a graduate student in Anthropology at UNC-CH, began work in the Catawba valley and at the Berry site, to try to identify evidence of 16th-century Native American settlement that would correspond with the new research which identified the Catawba valley in North Carolina as a principal portion of the new routes.

Moore's work not only confirmed the existence of a sizable 16th-century Native American population in the Catawba River valley but he also identified a small assemblage of possible sixteenth-century Spanish artifacts at the Berry site (31BK22) in Burke County. Since 2001, Moore, now employed at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, along with Dr. Robin Beck, University of Michigan, and Dr. Christopher Rodning, Tulane University, has led an annual Warren Wilson College field school at the Berry site.

Between 2001 and 2012, Moore, Beck, and Rodning directed more than 500 field school participants, including many members of the public as well as college students, at excavations of the presumed location of Fort San Juan. In the process, they excavated the unique remains of several burned houses believed to be associated with Fort San Juan. In 2013, they discovered and defined the limits of Fort San Juan using a combination of excavation and remote testing. Each year, the Berry site field school reveals more details of Joara and Fort San Juan. Anyone above the age of 14 who is interested in taking part in the field school may register at: <http://inside.warren-wilson.edu/~arch/>. No experience is required to take part in this unique and significant project.

Since 2008, the Exploring Joara Foundation, located in Morganton, has worked with Moore and his colleagues, Rodning and Beck, to bring this exciting and important history to the public. The foundation presents regional archaeology and history to thousands of students and members of the public through school programs, public presentations, and their "Living History Village" at the Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton.

Marie Palacios, Executive Director of the Exploring Joara Foundation, explains the goal of the 450th Anniversary events. "We will sponsor a series of educational programs, museum exhibits, and festival events to highlight the significance of the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail to American colonial history. Over the next few years, along with our regional partners, we will establish a new culture and heritage trail corridor over nearly 600 miles from Beaufort, South Carolina, into the mountains of North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. We want to increase public awareness of the early Spanish colonial efforts and of the crucial role of Native Americans in our colonial story. We want to honor our modern Native American communities as well."

According to Palacios, the Exploring Joara Foundation will work with local communities and historic sites to set up a series of historical markers to commemorate the routes believed to have been used by 16th century Native Americans in their every-day travels throughout the region. These are the roads over which Juan Pardo's army also traveled. The Spanish soldiers did not cut new trails, says Moore; "they followed trails already used by Native Americans for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years. The Native American world encountered by the Spanish army was a fascinating world of complex chiefdoms, the members of which spoke a variety of languages, and were the ancestors of modern tribes such as the Catawba, Cherokee, and Cheraw Indians."

Palacios and Moore believe that the Spanish and Native American Colonial Trail will add to the growing number of opportunities for heritage tourism to help sustain and build local communities.

Over the next two years, EJF will lead the interstate activities that mark the Spanish colonial activities carried out by Juan Pardo's armies in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Planned activities consist of festivals and historical reenactments of the meetings between Pardo's army and Native Americans at or near the presumed locations of several Native American towns recorded in the Spanish documents. The first of these festivals will be held August 4–5, 2017, in Morganton, North Carolina. EJF will also hold a major 450th Anniversary fund-raising benefit auction on March 17, 2017, at the Metro Center in Hickory, North Carolina.

The planning and organization of the commemoration will involve a wide variety of local and regional organizations across South Carolina, North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee, including the Exploring Joara Foundation, the Catawba Nation, The Museum of the Cherokee Indians, and the Santa Elena Foundation, Beaufort, SC.

For more information about the 450th Anniversary of the founding of Fort San Juan and the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail, please contact:

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Uplands Archaeology in the East Symposium XII

Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

February 24-26, 2017

(for registration and other information, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/appstate.edu/upland/home>)

Friday, February 24

Anne Belk Hall, Room 322

3:00-5:00 Registration
7:00-9:00 Registration and Socializing

Saturday, February 25

Anne Belk Hall, Room 325 or 118

9:00-9:20 **A century of white settlement in western North Carolina: Archaeology of the Hiwassee Reservoir**
Lance Greene (Wright State University)

9:20-9:40 **Rediscovering Redwares in the Catawba Valley of North Carolina: An Exploration of Jacob Weaver's Kiln Site and Pottery**
Linda Carnes-McNaughton (Fort Bragg DPW Environmental Division)

9:40-10:00 **Ceramics from the Ravensford Site**
Tasha Benyshek and Paul Webb (TRC Environmental Corporation)

10:00-10:20 **Ceramic Analysis and Geophysical Survey of the Rotherwood Site (40SI61), A Mississippian Site in Upper East Tennessee**
Rachel M. Grap and Reagan L. Cornett (East Tennessee State University)

Coffee Break

10:40-11:00 **Houses and House-Life in the Southern Appalachians: Insights from Big Data**
Benjamin A. Steere (Western Carolina University)

11:00-11:20 **Black Bears in the Archaeological Record of the Greater Appalachian Region**
Heather A. Lapham (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)

11:20-11:40 **The Southern Appalachian Politico-Ritual Terrain: A Comparative Network Perspective**
Jacob Lulewicz (University of Georgia)

11:40-12:00 **Preliminary Analyses of Shell Bead Production at Carter Robinson**
Maureen Meyers (University of Mississippi)

Lunch Break

1:40-2:00 **Learning more about Fort San Juan and Joara: Continuing Investigations at the Berry Site**
David G. Moore (Warren Wilson College), Christopher B. Rodning (Tulane University), Robin A. Beck (University of Michigan), and Abra J. Meriwether (Warren Wilson College)

2:00-2:20 **"In the darkest part of the Nation": Investigations at the Valley Towns Baptist Mission, Cherokee County, North Carolina**
Brett H. Riggs (Western Carolina University)

2:20-2:40 **GIS on the Qualla Boundary: An Archaeological Site Database for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office**
Emma Mason (Georgia State University/Georgia Historic Preservation Division)

2:40-3:00 **Archaeology at the Late Precontact Wall Site in Central North Carolina**
R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr. (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)

Break

3:20-3:40 **The Savannah River Phase in the Appalachian Summit Region: Excavations at 31YC31 in Yancey County, North Carolina**

Matthew Jorgenson, Daniel Cassedy, and Peter Sittig (AECOM – North Carolina and North Carolina Department of Transportation)

- 3:40-4:00 **Tracing Ceramic Origins in the Highlands: Refining the Swannanoa Phase in Space and Time**
Cameron Howell (ERM)
- 4:00-4:20 **Along Ancient Paths: Archaeology at the Big Creek Shell Pit Site (40Hw382)**
Jay Franklin (East Tennessee State University), Caroline Yon Bernard (Boston University), Meagan Dennison (University of Tennessee), and S. D. Dean (East Tennessee State University)
- 4:20-4:40 **Considering the Entanglement(s) of Appalachian Hopewell Blades and Mica**
Larry R. Kimball (Appalachian State University)
- 4:40-5:00 **Mann Valentine and South Appalachian Summit Archeology in the 1880s**
Bennie Keel

7:00-9:00 – Social in Anne Belk Hall, Room 322

Sunday, February 26

Anne Belk Hall, Room 325 or 118

- 9:00-9:20 **Site Formation Processes of Sandstone Rockshelters on the Southern Cumberland Plateau**
Sarah C. Sherwood and Martin A. Knoll (University of the South)
- 9:20-9:40 **Gimme Shelter: Archaeological Survey of Rockshelters on Grandfather Mountain**
Josh Goodwin (University of Florida)
- 9:40-10:00 **Site 31WT221, a Prehistoric Site in a "Saddle," Watauga County, North Carolina**
Caleb Smith (North Carolina Department of Transportation)
- 10:00-10:20 **Caching Quartzite: Persistent Places and Focused Mobility in the Virginia Blue Ridge**
Carole Nash (James Madison University)
- Coffee Break**
- 10:40-11:00 **Geomorphology and Dating of Four Terraces along the South Fork of the New River, Implications for the Location and Preservation Cultural Deposits in the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province**
Keith C. Seramur and Ellen A. Cowan (Appalachian State University)
- 11:00-11:20 **Geophysical Investigations at the Mississippian Pile and West Mound Sites, Upper Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee**
Jeremy G. Menzer (University of Arkansas) and Eileen G. Ernenwein (East Tennessee State University)
- 11:20-12:00 **Geophysical Survey at Cane Notch, Nolichucky River, Upper East Tennessee**
Eileen G. Ernenwein & Jay D. Franklin (East Tennessee State University)
- 12:00-12:20 **Experimental Study of Hunter-Gatherer Base Camp Taphonomy in the Southern Appalachian Highlands**
Thomas R. Whyte and Emma C. Jones (Appalachian State University)

Posters

Posters will be exhibited in Anne Belk Hall Room 327 for the duration of the symposium. Poster authors will be available for interpretation during the Friday Evening Social and during paper session breaks.

Interpretation of GPR and Magnetometer data collected at archaeology Site 40BT8 on the Little Tennessee River, Blount County, Tennessee

Neeshell Bradley-Lewis, Keith C. Seramur and Ellen A. Cowan (Appalachian State University)

Ceramic Microhistory of a Middle Woodland Feature from Biltmore Mound Site (31BN174)

Cala Castleberry (Appalachian State University)

The Functions of Bipolar Tools

Larry R. Kimball (Appalachian State University)

An Experimental Study of Potter Handedness in the Pre-Contact Period of the Appalachian Summit

Autumn Melby (Appalachian State University)

Beyond the WPA: Geophysical Survey of Hiwassee Island

Shawn Patch (New South Associates), Sarah Lowry (New South Associates), Erin Pritchard (Tennessee Valley Authority), and Lynne Sullivan (University of Tennessee)

More than Monuments: Middle Woodland Occupation Areas at Garden Creek

Alice P. Wright (Appalachian State University)

Alice Wright Receives C.B. Moore Award

Each year at its annual meeting, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) honors a young scholar for excellence in southeastern archaeology and associated studies by presenting them with the C. B. Moore Award. The award is named for Clarence Bloomfield Moore, a gentleman-scholar who in the late 19th and early 20th centuries investigated numerous ancient Indian sites along the waterways of the American South and published most of his findings through the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

Last October in Athens, Georgia, SEAC bestowed its C.B. Moore Award on Dr. Alice Wright of Appalachian State University. A current NCAS board member, Alice received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2014 and specializes in the archaeology of the Southern Appalachians and the American Southeast, with a particular interest in the Middle Woodland period. We are fortunate to have Alice among the archaeologists who study our state's ancient heritage.

Previous recipients of the C.B. Moore Award who have a North Carolina connection include: Rob Beck, Tony Boudreaux, Randy Daniel, Jane Eastman, Gayle Fritz, Kandi Hallenbach, Patrick Livingood, Jon Marcoux, Chris Rodning, and Greg Wilson.

Federal Funding for Archaeological Research Threatened

Archaeological research throughout the United States, including North Carolina, depends heavily on federal programs set up to protect, preserve, and interpret our nation's rich cultural heritage. In North Carolina, systematic archaeological survey and site investigations began during the Depression with funding from federal programs such as the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and much of this work was brought about by the strong advocacy of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina (predecessor to the NCAS). In fact, Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site and the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC-CH owe their very existence to federal support for archaeology in the late 1930s. Today, this vital support for archaeology in our state is threatened. In the spirit of our Society's founding principles as an advocate for archaeology in our state, I urge members to thoughtfully consider the letter below by Diane Gifford-Gonzales, President of the Society for American Archaeology, and take whatever action you deem appropriate.

R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr.
Editor, North Carolina Archaeological Society

From:

Society for American Archaeology

Dear Members,

You may have heard that in the coming weeks the Trump administration plans to submit a budget to Congress that defunds the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). These federal agencies, especially NEH, help support the protection of the archaeological record by funding our members' research and field work. The National Humanities Alliance says that elimination of these agencies would save the federal government 0.02% of its budget, and is in part a move to cut off support for innovative - and sometimes dissenting - fact-based research in the humanities.

If you care about the quality of our cultural lives, and about freedom to investigate our past and present, I urge you to click on this link (http://www.nhalliance.org/help_us_nip_efforts_to_defund_neh_in_the_bud) and contact your representatives in Congress.

Please recall that the Trump budget has not yet been submitted to Congress, and that negotiations over its provisions have not yet begun. This issue will probably resurface for us all again this spring.

Please share this message to your family, friends, and colleagues - and consider visiting your congressional representative's office soon to voice your concerns to staff members there.

Sincerely,
Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, President



2017 Dues Reminder

If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2017 dues payment to: North Carolina Archaeological Society, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120. You also can renew your membership through PayPal at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Join/PayPal.html>. Your current (paid) membership year is indicated at the top right-hand corner of the mailing label below.

NC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members should submit articles and news items to Steve Davis (rpsdavis@unc.edu) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Winter Issue – January 31
Spring Issue – April 30

Summer Issue – July 31
Fall Issue – October 31