



**North Carolina  
Archaeological Society**

**Newsletter**

Summer 2017, Volume 27, Number 3

Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 2759-3120

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

## **2017 Annual Fall NCAS Meeting and Guided Bus Tour**

Join us for the 2017 Annual Fall NCAS Meeting on October 14 at Town Creek Indian Mound in Mt. Gilead, North Carolina. After last year's successful Cherokee-area bus tour, we have decided to offer another exciting guided tour experience for our members. This year we will be tracing over 12,000 years of North Carolina pre-history, including stops at Morrow Mountain State Park, the Hardaway site, and Town Creek Indian Mound.

For thousands of years, Morrow Mountain was one of the most important locations in the region to obtain high-quality knappable stone. This stone, called rhyolite, was quarried to make all sorts of tools including knives, scrapers, and projectile points. 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.

The nearby Hardaway site is the oldest known site in North Carolina and has greatly influenced the development of regional Southeastern archaeology. Hardaway, which is otherwise closed to the public, came to the attention of archaeologists in the 1930s and later excavations revealed stratified layers of soil that contained some of the earliest cultural remains in the state. In the 1950s, archaeologist Joffre Coe (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) studied the stratigraphy and projectile point types from Hardaway. He used cross-dating to reconstruct the Piedmont area's Paleo-Indian and Archaic cultural sequences. A refined version of Coe's Archaic chronology is still used by archaeologists working throughout the southeastern United States.

Town Creek Indian Mound is one of the most well-known archaeological sites in North Carolina. The people who built Town Creek were part of what is known as the Pee Dee culture and the eastern-most expression of the South Appalachian Mississippian mound-building tradition. The reconstructed palisades and buildings seen at the site today are based on over five decades worth of excavation and research at the site.

Dr. Randy Daniel of East Carolina University will lead the tours of the Hardaway 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. Rich Thompson, the site manager for Town Creek Indian Mound, will lead our tour of that site.

We have reserved a picnic shelter at Morrow Mount State Park where we will stop for lunch. We ask that participants bring their own picnic lunch. Please also bring comfortably fitting shoes, a water bottle, and rain gear. The schedule for that day is as follows:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 9:30 am    | Refreshments for NCAS members and NCAS Board of Directors Meeting    |
| 10:00 am   | NCAS Business Meeting with elections                                 |
| 11-3:00 pm | Bus Tour starts at Town Creek Indian Mound (Transportation provided) |

The NCAS is subsidizing part of the cost of the tour, allowing us to offer it for \$10 for NCAS members. The cost for non-members is \$15, which covers the cost of transportation. Space is limited so reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it by mail or email by September 29 to David Cranford, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599; Email: [cranford@unc.edu](mailto:cranford@unc.edu).

## River Bridge on the Pasquotank

by Martha Williams (Museum of the Albemarle)

Ten thousand individual fragments from 23 five-foot square excavation units comprise the contents of a growing archeological collection that, since 2013, has been housed at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Recovered from a remote stretch of the Pasquotank River north of Elizabeth City, the collection encompasses everything from fragments of slip-decorated earthenware milk pans and engraved wine decanters to straight pins, shingles, and shoes—even a cast-iron grave marker. The general date range for most of the collection spans the period between approximately 1780 and 1850, although a relatively few items (such as white salt glazed and Rhenish Westerwald stonewares) are even older; very few artifacts date from the post-Civil War period. Analysis of the stylistic motifs and identification of makers' marks confirm that many of these items originated outside of North Carolina. Among the many (primarily historic) items in the assemblage are utilitarian earthenwares that could have originated in Alexandria, Baltimore, or Philadelphia (Figure 1); a wide range of ceramic tablewares from England (Figures 2-4); and a ca. 1845 snuff bottle from Troy, New York (Figure 5).

Philip Madre and Eddie Congleton, two diver-historians from Washington, North Carolina, have worked to systematically recover the materials from the so-called River Bridge site (PQR0043). Operating under a permit from the Underwater Unit of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, they recovered the materials from the site, which also includes features such as two parallel rows of submerged bridge pilings, most of a sunken 60-foot long barge, and the remains of bridge abutments on the banks of the upper Pasquotank River. Madre, a Pasquotank County native, agreed to donate the collection to the Museum of the Albemarle, where it could be properly documented, inventoried, curated, and made available to researchers.

Archival research has sought to answer the question of how and why so many objects wound up at the bottom of the Pasquotank River. Review of Pasquotank and Camden County land records, materials at the State Archives in Raleigh, and online sources like Ancestry.com and the George Washington papers at the Library of Congress reopened a long-forgotten chapter of northeastern North Carolina history to reveal that northern Pasquotank County was an early hub of intense commercial activity. As early as 1736, court records suggest that a bridge spanned the northern reaches of the Pasquotank River. A 1755 North Carolina law required the establishment of an official inspection station near that bridge to certify that exports like shingles, lumber, and barrels of salt pork and tobacco met government standards; land records refer to that station as the "stamping place." When Washington traveled through northeastern North Carolina around 1760, he noted that ocean-going vessels from New England could navigate up the river as far as that bridge, and deeds from the 1790s document the warehouses that were located near the bridge on both sides of the river. The descendants of many of the landowners and merchants associated with those commercial enterprises—Hinton, Munden, Old, Sawyer, and Abbott, to name a few—still reside in Pasquotank and Camden counties.

When the Dismal Swamp Canal was completed in 1805, this stretch of the Pasquotank marked the place where vessels transiting the canal re-entered the river, suggesting that these warehouses were used to store bulk cargoes that were transported through the canal. In the 1830s, the River Bridge also was the site of a post office (Figure 6). Increasing siltation of the river itself coupled with competition from railroads and the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal (opened 1859) resulted in a decline in canal traffic. To mitigate these adversities, a 4.2-mile bypass known as Turner's Cut was completed in 1856. This extension of the original canal by-passed the River Bridge junction, thereby reducing or eliminating the need for storage warehouses on the upper stretch of the river. Significantly, the temporal distribution of the River Bridge artifacts reflects closely the time period during which all vessel traffic passed through this now-isolated stretch of the Pasquotank River.

The Museum currently is preparing an exhibit that will focus on the River Bridge site and this collection. Proposed opening is scheduled for 2018. Stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, you can learn more about the Museum at <http://museumofthealbemarle.com/>. Current exhibits include Our Story: Life in the Albemarle, North Carolina Shad Boat, Tarheels in the Trenches, and I Do! Weddings in the Albemarle (1831-2015), among others.



Figure 1. Slip-decorated dairy pan (ca. 1775-1825). Possibly from Alexandria, VA, or Philadelphia, PA.



Figure 2. Shell-edge pearlware plate (1800-1845) marked "William Adams." From Burslem, England.



Figure 3. Lustreware pitcher with sprig-molded decoration (ca. 1820-1860). Probably from Staffordshire, England.



Figure 4. Glazed earthenware teapot with engine-turned decoration (ca. 1760-1780). Probably from England.



Figure 5. Snuff bottle (ca. 1845) marked "E. Roome, Troy, New York."



Figure 6. 1830s map locating the post office at River Bridge (from the North Carolina Map Collection).

## NCAS Grant-in-Aid Program — Request for Proposals

The NCAS invites applications for grants in support of research pertaining to North Carolina archaeology. Awards will be made according to the following guidelines:

1. Applicants must meet one or more of the following criteria: (a) a graduate or undergraduate student actively pursuing a degree in archaeology or a related field; (b) an individual enrolled in an internship program with a museum, a state historic site, an archaeological park, or a Native American group (with state or federal recognition); or (c) an avocational archaeologist who is a member of the NCAS and has demonstrated a concern for the protection or study of archaeological resources within the state (including working under the direction of professional archaeologists).

2. An individual must apply for the award with a proposal that states how the grant will aid in the individual's research relevant to North Carolina archaeology. Each proposal must include (a) a statement of research design (up to 2 pages long), (b) a budget showing how grant funds will be spent in pursuing this research, (c) a curriculum vitae, and (d) a letter of support from a professional archaeological mentor or advisor.

3. Each grant award will not exceed \$500. The budget may include any direct expense in support of the proposed research, except for wages paid to the grant's recipient. Examples of allowable expenses include travel (fares, mileage, and per diem), supplies, and fees for specialized services (photography, radiocarbon dating, drafting, etc.). Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead.

4. Selection criteria shall include, but need not be limited to, (a) the quality of the proposed research, (b) the likelihood that the research can be successfully carried out in a timely manner, (c) the individual's promise as a professional or avocational archaeologist, (c) the degree to which the individual has contributed to the NCAS.

5. Normally, the term of the grant shall be for one year, subject to extension for an additional year. The recipient shall submit interim reports of progress and expenditures to the Committee's chair at six-month intervals from the initial date of the grant. A final report is due within six months after the grant's term ends. This final report must include a description of the project's research results, as well as a detailed summary of expenditures made under the grant. If asked, the recipient of the grant will present the results of his or her research at a NCAS meeting. Each recipient is also required to submit an article to the *NCAS Newsletter* or to the Society's journal, *North Carolina Archaeology*.

The next deadline for receipt of proposals is November 1, 2017. Awards will be announced by December 31, 2017. Send all materials to NCAS Grant-in-Aid Program, c/o Dr. Randy Daniel, Department of Anthropology, Flanagan Building, Mail Stop 568, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858.



### October 2017 Archaeology Month

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) will host a series of events throughout the month of October in celebration of North Carolina's archaeological heritage. Events will include weekly lunchtime lectures on topics such as the archaeology of Cherokee households (Dr. Ben Steere, Western Carolina University), and two evening lectures at the Museum of History on the archaeology of Catawba coalescence (Dr. Steve Davis) and Moravian archaeology as understood through excavations at Old Salem (Dr. Michael Hartley). A symposium on October 19 will highlight the great research projects completed by staff, students, and interns through the OSA Research Center this year on collections from Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Halifax State Historic Site, and Charles Towne (31BW133). An updated schedule with lecture titles will be posted as these events are finalized at <http://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/get-involved/archaeology-month>. Please check often for updates!



Southeastern Archaeology Conference • Nov. 8-11, 2017 • Tulsa, OK

## Lisa-Jean Michienzi Resigns as NCAS Business Manager

The NCAS Board of Directors is saddened to report that Lisa-Jean Michienzi, our Society's business manager and departmental administrator for UNC's Research Laboratories of Archaeology, has accepted the position of Executive Assistant in the UNC Office of Faculty Governance. With her new duties, she is unable to continue as NCAS business manager. The NCAS board wishes to extend its gratitude to Lisa-Jean for her exemplary service to the membership in handling Society finances, membership renewals, t-shirt sales, the periodic mailing of newsletters and journals, and as the point of contact for our members. She will be greatly missed.

Until a new RLA administrator is hired who can assume the role of NCAS business manager, all NCAS dues payments and other business-related matters should be directed to: Steve Davis, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

## North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Lecture Series

The Office of State Archaeology hosts speakers each month throughout the year on many great aspects of archaeology. Topics will focus on recent investigations and research conducted in North Carolina. All lectures are free and open to the public. They are held at 11:30 am in the auditorium of the Archives and State Library building (109 East Jones Street) in Raleigh. Additional information can be found at <http://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/>.

**August 16, 2017 • Conserving Our Underwater Cultural Heritage: An Introduction** *presented by Sarah Watkins-Kenney, Queen Anne's Revenge Project*

Since the early 1960s, North Carolina's Office of Archives and History has been striving to implement public laws and policies for the protection, preservation, and investigation of underwater archaeological sites in the state. Please join us as Sarah Watkins-Kenney, Queen Anne's Revenge Project Lab Director and Chief Conservator, introduces some of the concepts, challenges, and choices available for the conservation of underwater archaeological sites and finds, both in situ and ex situ. Various approaches and choices made will be described and illustrated, including those that have been and are being applied in North Carolina.

**September 13, 2017 • Late Archaic Residency in the Appalachian Summit Region: Excavations at the Weatherman Site** *presented by Matthew Jorgenson, Peter Sittig, and Daniel Cassedy, AECOM*

Excavations at the Weatherman site (31YC31) on the floodplain of the South Toe River documented deeply stratified Archaic deposits. The most intensive was a Late Archaic component dominated by hearth remnants and numerous broken and whole Savannah River projectile points made primarily of local quartzite. A summary of findings at this site, with particular attention to spatial organization and lithic resource utilization, is presented here and compared with other Savannah River sites in the Appalachian Summit.

SAVE THE DATE

COMING  
UP

## Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 15–16, 2017

The 6th Annual Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology (SECHSA) on the Archaeology of Transportation will meet on September 15–16 at the historic Spencer Shops, located just north of Salisbury, North Carolina. Transportation has historically played, and continues to play, a vital role for the movement of people, their cultural practices, and material goods. Registration and more information about the conference is available at <http://sechsa.org>. As is tradition, there is no professional organization to join and no annual dues to pay, only a small nominal fee to attend.

## Member News

The North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) is pleased to announce that John J. Mintz has been named State Archaeologist as of July 1, 2017. Mintz joined OSA in 1998 as Assistant State Archaeologist before becoming Deputy State Archaeologist in 2015.

**— Election Ballot Enclosed —  
Cast Your Vote Today!**

### Follow NCAS on Social Media

We post and tweet Society events and outings and general archaeology news on Facebook and Twitter. To stay up to date with the latest happenings...



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### NCAS Officers

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**Newsletter Editor:** Heather Lapham, hlapham@unc.edu

**Executive Board Members:** January Costa, David Cranford, Jim Daniel, Eric Deetz, Shane Peterson, Jon Schleier, and Alice Wright



### NCAS Newsletter

#### Publication Schedule

Members should submit articles and news items to Heather Lapham ([hlapham@unc.edu](mailto:hlapham@unc.edu)) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following dates as deadlines for your submissions:

**Winter Issue – January 31**

**Summer Issue – July 31**

**Spring Issue – April 3**

**Fall Issue – October 31**

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