



**North Carolina
Archaeological Society**

Newsletter

Summer 2019, Volume 29, Number 3

Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 2759-3120
<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas>

Appalachian State Field School Update

Alice Wright (Appalachian State University)

Despite one of the rainiest Junes on record in northwestern North Carolina, the 2019 Appalachian State Archaeological Field School successfully completed the first season of the New River Headwaters Archaeological Project in Ashe County. Directed by Dr. Alice Wright and in collaboration with Dr. Colin Quinn and the Hamilton College Archaeological Field School, 14 Appalachian State students conducted shovel test survey, multiple types of geophysical survey, and test excavations at a series of sites known as the Woodie district. First identified nearly 60 years ago, these sites have produced artifacts from the Early Archaic through Late Woodland periods; our ongoing research at Woodie thus stands to illuminate long-term dynamics of settlement, society, and interaction with and beyond the High Country landscape. For example, excavations of a Late Woodland component of the Woodie district yielded a lithic assemblage characterized by considerable raw material variability, suggesting far-reaching procurement or exchange strategies. We also explored the possibility that the Woodie district is part of a ritual landscape or cosmography, as suggested by its association with a massive petroglyph known as Cranberry Rock. Students spent the season carefully cleaning, documenting, and photographing this cupule boulder, and on our last day of fieldwork (of course!), we discovered at least four more petroglyphs upstream of Cranberry Rock. We are grateful to the landowners and collaborators who made possible the 2019 field season, and look forward to continuing these investigations in the coming years.



Berry Site Field School Update

Rachel Briggs (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

We are proud to report that the Berry Site Field School located in Morganton, North Carolina, and home to the Spanish Fort San Juan de Joara and the Burke phase Native town of Joara, was a four-week smashing success! This summer, Dr. David Moore (Warren Wilson College), Dr. Robin Beck (University of Michigan), Dr. Chris Rodning (Tulane University), and Dr. Rachel Briggs (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) were fortunate to lead excavations in two separate areas of the site: the interior of the Fort, and the northwestern edge of Joara (located to the west of the Fort). Excavations within the interior of the Fort continue to yield exciting new finds as well as a growing list of questions, but the real excitement this summer came from our work outside of the Fort. This summer, we continued removing plowzone from the top of a square structure. Sure enough, we now have three clearly defined edges of what looks to be a very large, potentially rebuilt, Native constructed building. Even more exciting, during the final days of our field season, units opened just to the east of the structure revealed an unexpected second structure, this one burned!

As always, work at the Berry site isn't possible without the support of the Berry Family, as well as amazing students, volunteers, staff, and the local support of many Morganton (and greater North Carolina) residents. This summer, Abra Meriwether (Manager of the Warren Wilson College Lab and Berry site), Michelle Pigott (Tulane University), Lauren Bossio (University of Michigan), David Heavner, and Kaitlyn Lowrance (Louisiana State University) helped guide and supervise the day-to-day work of eight Warren Wilson College, six University of Michigan field school students, and 35 site volunteers. Additionally, we were joined for one week by Dr. Jason Ur (Harvard University) who educated staff and students alike on drones and remote sensing, capturing some fantastic images along the way! On our annual Public Field Day, held on June 22, we welcomed over 300 interested visitors to the site where vendors and representatives from the Exploring Joara Foundation, the North Carolina State Archaeology Office, and traditional skills demonstrators greeted visitors.



Guided site tours were also provided.

Finally, we would like to announce that next year marks the twentieth anniversary of on-going field work and, more importantly, of Public Field Days at the Berry site! To celebrate, we're making big plans—feature excavations, news articles, and, of course, a Homecoming Field Day, to be held on June 20, 2020! As always, we welcome everyone, but we particularly want to see the familiar faces of all those who helped make the site what it is, from students to volunteers to staff to friends and family who supported us both in and out of the field.

To learn more, visit the Exploring Joara Foundation's website at <https://exploringjoara.org>.



Field School at Brunswick Town State Historic Site Update

Charles Ewen (East Carolina University)

East Carolina University's 2019 field school at Brunswick Town State Historic Site followed up on the discovery of a buried brick foundation made the previous summer. Preliminary excavations last year, led by ECU doctoral student Matt Harrup, revealed what appeared to be a portion of an 18th c. tavern. This year's field school was able to locate the four corners of the structure (15' x 25') and excavated half of the interior. The artifacts recovered (primarily drinking vessels, bottle glass, and pipes-tems) supported the identification as a tavern and coupled with historical research on the lot, bracket its period of use between 1735 until it burned around 1767. One of the more interesting artifacts was a glass cufflink jewel inscribed "Wilkes and Liberty 45" which represented a rallying sentiment against the reign of George III. Next year's field school will complete the excavation and explore behind the structure for outbuildings.



Siouan Project Field School Update

Heather Lapham and Steve Davis (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

The Research Laboratories of Archaeology at University of North Carolina held their summer field school in Hillsborough at the Wall site, a Native American village occupied during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries by ancestors of the Shakori and Eno tribes (groups local to the Chapel Hill area). Excavations led by Dr. Heather Lapham and Dr. Steve Davis focused on an artifact-rich midden overlying several large pit features (see photo below) located just outside the town's palisade along its southern edge adjacent to the Eno River. We found numerous ceramic sherds and lots of well-preserved food remains, represented by charred plant materials and animal bones, especially white-tailed deer. Many of the deer bones were still articulated with one another, indicating limited processing of carcasses and rapid burial of remains. We will be washing and cataloging the materials back in the laboratory this fall. Thanks to a fabulous team of students and volunteers for a successful field season, and to Classical American Homes Preservation Trust for welcoming us on their land!



Request for Information and Assistance

Keith Reeves (an NCAS Member with Architects Design Group) is preparing an exhibit on the archeology and history of Sheets Gap Road, North Carolina. The exhibition, which will open in 2021 at the Ashe County Arts Council Facility in West Jefferson, will focus on the unique cultural attributes from prehistory to contemporary times and environment of the rural Blue Ridge Mountains that separates Ashe and Wilkes Counties. Keith seeks your insights into the region's pre- and post-contact periods to help him better understand the context of this area and present the information in an accurate and professional manner. If you can be of assistance, please contact Keith via email (ISKR5@aol.com), phone (407-920-6744), or mail (PO Box 1210, Winter Park, FL 32790). Compensation for services may be arranged based upon the level of participation and assistance.

News to Share? Ideas to Explore?

The NCAS Board of Directors wants to hear from YOU, the membership, on your ideas for new ways to explore and enjoy the archaeological heritage of our state. Every idea, suggestion, or request is important and should be heard, especially if it comes from you, our membership. This is your organization and we all share in the mission to enhance our understanding and educate others on the preservation of archaeological resources. Please use the contact information to the right to reach a current board member and share your thoughts and ideas on programs, events, tours, lectures, or news about a site you've found. Just send us a note, we're all EARS!

2019 Membership Dues

To renew your membership today, please submit your dues payment to: NCAS c/o Mary Beth Fitts, Office of State Archaeology, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619. Or, you can renew your membership online via PayPal at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Join/PayPal.html>.

NCAS Officers

President: Hannah Smith (hs@hannahsmith.com)
Vice-president: Shane Petersen (SCPetersen@ncdot.gov)
Treasurer: Mary Beth Fitts (MaryBeth.Fitts@ncdcr.gov)
Secretary: Linda Carnes-McNaughton (linda.f.carnes-mcnaughton.civ@mail.mil)
Editor: R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr. (rpsdavis@unc.edu)
Newsletter Editor: Heather Lapham (hlapham@unc.edu)
Executive Board Members: Catie Bailey, Danny Bell, January Costa, David Cranford, Jim Daniel, John Krizmanich, and Angela McArdle



NCAS Newsletter

Publication Schedule

Members should submit articles and news items to Heather Lapham (hlapham@unc.edu) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Submission deadlines are as follows:

Winter Issue – January 31 **Summer Issue – July 31**
Spring Issue – April 30 **Fall Issue – October 31**

NC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 Research Laboratories of Archaeology
 Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120