

NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

109 EAST JONES ST., RALEIGH, N.C., 27601-2807

FALL 1992, Volume 2, Number 3

NEWSLETTER

Return to Hunting Creek

Excavators returned to the Hunting Creek site this spring to continue investigating aboriginal burials disturbed by cultivation and artifact looters. This marks the second season there after the North Carolina Center for Archaeological Research (CFAR) member Paul Brendle reported the site's destruction in the spring of 1991. Working under the direction of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA), CFAR provided a field crew, equipment, logistical support and volunteer coordination for the project together with support from the Soil Conservation Service and Horizons Unlimited, Inc.

During the 1992 season, we concentrated on getting a better picture of the site's archaeological remains. The plowzone was removed from a 20'x40' block to expose both new features as well as the burials and features identified by the salvage work done in 1991. All together, excavations from the two seasons have uncovered numerous human burials, 19 cultural features and 64 postholes. Most notable among the features dug this past season was a large shell and trash midden containing a variety of artifacts, including mussel shell and animal bone, bone tools, pottery, stone tools, two articulated turkey skeletons and five intrusive burials.

Hunting Creek is important because it shows the presence and richness of a Late Woodland period (ca. AD 900 - AD 1500) village or hamlet associated with a culture archaeologists call the Uwharrie Phase. Set

on a hilltop, the site is a rare find in North Carolina's Piedmont region because most upland sites were destroyed by soil loss and severe erosion following European colonization. Another of the site's unique aspects is its distance from water, which would have had to be carried from a source about 500 meters away. Hunting Creek gives archaeologists an unparalleled opportunity for long-term research into this poorly understood period.

The project gave, as well, an opportunity to assist the Office of State Archaeology in training Soil Conservation Service personnel in the recognition and protection of archaeological sites within soil management program districts. The SCS filmed much of the work and plans to incorporate it into its national training program on cultural resources.

The 1992 excavations, conducted from March 2 to March 29, logged 640 hours of labor from the primary field crew; it included CFAR members John Davis, Mike Murrow, Terry Mills and John Arsenault. Another 382 hours were logged from 25 volunteers. Indeed, the project couldn't have been done without volunteers willing to endure the inclement weather conditions of sub-zero wind chill, rain, hail, snow flurries, and high winds that plagued the dig. And, of course, a significant debt is owed to the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Keith F. Sparks, whose assistance and cooperation made the project possible.



Found on the surface, this 3"x2" soapstone effigy is a unique find.

Piedmont Chert Quarry

During July and August of 1992, Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey in northern Lee County, North Carolina. The project area lies within the Colon Cross-Structure, a cross-faulted feature separating the Durham and Sanford Triassic basins. The Pekin formation, the lowest of the three horizontal Triassic deposits, is exposed in the 8 mile long and 5 mile wide Cross-Structure. Geologists have reported the presence of fossiliferous argillite and chert within the Pekin formation.

Two of the sixteen sites recorded during the survey appear to contain intact deposits of chert debitage. One site, 31LE83, is a quarry and lithic reduction site that is located on either side of a dry stream bed, where a first order stream had exposed veins of chert. The chert present at the site is dense and contains no fossils. It varies in color from dark gray to coffee- or cream-colored. Debitage collected from the site includes flakes, shatter fragments, and exhausted cores, most of which are dark gray chert. Many slab-like chert vein fragments were also present at the site. These appear to have been discarded because they were too thin to contain sufficient usable chert.

The second site, 31LE86, located on a nearby ridgetoe appears to have been a lithic workshop and possibly a short-term habitation site. The artifacts at the site include used chert flakes and debitage and

metavolcanic artifacts including a biface and debitage. No large, unmodified chert slabs were present at this site.

These sites represent the first documentation of a rare Piedmont chert source that has been exploited by Aboriginal peoples. This heretofore unknown resource raises new questions about trade and exchange networks in the Piedmont. Previously, the occurrence of similar cherts in piedmont sites was assumed to be from sources in the mountains. The identification of a chert quarry in the Piedmont requires re-evaluation of such assumptions.

Additional testing is planned for each of these sites. A key component of this testing will be the examination of collections from established repositories and local collectors to locate artifacts manufactured from the Lee County chert. The goal of this search is twofold: first, to locate temporally-defined tool types made from the chert and; secondly, to determine the spatial distribution of the material. Any information about artifacts of dark gray, coffee-colored, or cream-colored chert would be appreciated. Please contact Loretta Lautzenheiser, P.I. or Jane M. Eastman at Coastal Carolina Research, Inc., Tarboro, North Carolina 27886. Telephone: (919)641-1444.

Loretta Lautzenheiser

Public Comment Invited On Development of State Historic Preservation Plan

Would you like to help design a comprehensive historic preservation plan for the 1990s? Now's your chance!

The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) invites you to participate in developing a comprehensive statewide plan that will guide our historic preservation program into the 21st century. The plan will determine how we identify, protect and enhance the state's valuable historic resources, thereby helping to shape a better future for the citizens of North Carolina.

Public Questionnaires have been developed for gathering ideas on what should be in the plan and the priorities for action. Questionnaires can also be obtained from Elizabeth Dowd, State Historic Preservation Office, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh 27601-2807, or telephone 919/733-6545. **Comments are needed by February 28, 1993.**

Regional meetings to review the draft historic preservation plan will be held in spring 1993.

1992 NC State Fair Exhibit

The archaeology exhibit at the 1992 North Carolina State Fair (located in the Kerr Scott Building) featuring the Broad Reach Site (Carteret County), the Hunting Creek Site (Davie County), and the Cullowhee Valley School Site (Jackson County), was a tremendous success. It appears from semi-official tallies that we reached over 17,000 people with the exhibit.

Cooperative, work-intensive efforts like the Fair exhibit benefit our group through new memberships and enhanced public identities. We attract people's attention by showing them artifacts and photographs. And then we can pass along the real "message" about the need for protecting and interpreting North Carolina's archaeological resources. Public education at its best.

If you are interested in working the booth at the State Fair in the coming years, please contact Dee Nelms (919-733-7342) to be placed on the mailing list.

Book Review

Clovis Settlement Patterns: Part I, Nottoway River Survey. By Joseph M. McAvoy. A.S.V. Special Publication 28, Richmond Pages i-x and 1-171; 100 illustrations, including maps. Reviewed by Howard A. MacCord, Sr.

Archeologists involved in PaleoIndian studies have long felt a need for surveys and analyses in limited regions to identify and define lithic sources, artifact distributions, and various stone industries. From these it may be possible to deduce settlement patterning, land-use, territoriality, and other cultural traits. This has now been done for an area of Southside Virginia, specifically the drainage of Virginia's Nottoway River at and east of the Fall Line. The area includes a major PaleoIndian workshop site (Williamson Site) and several other known lithic sources.

McAvoy and his family have for the past three decades searched areas along the Nottoway and its tributaries, recording finds, doing test excavations, inventorying farmers' collections, and tapping the knowledge held by other people who collect relics in that area. They identified five major lithic sources and describe the appearance of the stone, using

macroscopic and limited 'high-tech' analyses. We look forward to more-intense research in the future, as the archeological community develops sophisticated labs. They plotted over twenty camp sites with PaleoIndian components, and they recorded locations of random finds of identifiable PaleoIndian tools and weapons. From these loci they deduce PaleoIndian habits in hunting, foraging, and gathering. These give a hint of territoriality.

As the McAvoy's searched for PaleoIndian remains, they concurrently found and recorded other prehistoric sites and data. They amassed much data on various phases of the Archaic Period, which they plan to publish as Part II of this publication effort. This too will be a welcome addition to the archeological literature of Virginia and the middle Atlantic Coastal region. Meanwhile, Part I should be in the working library of all students of our PaleoIndians.

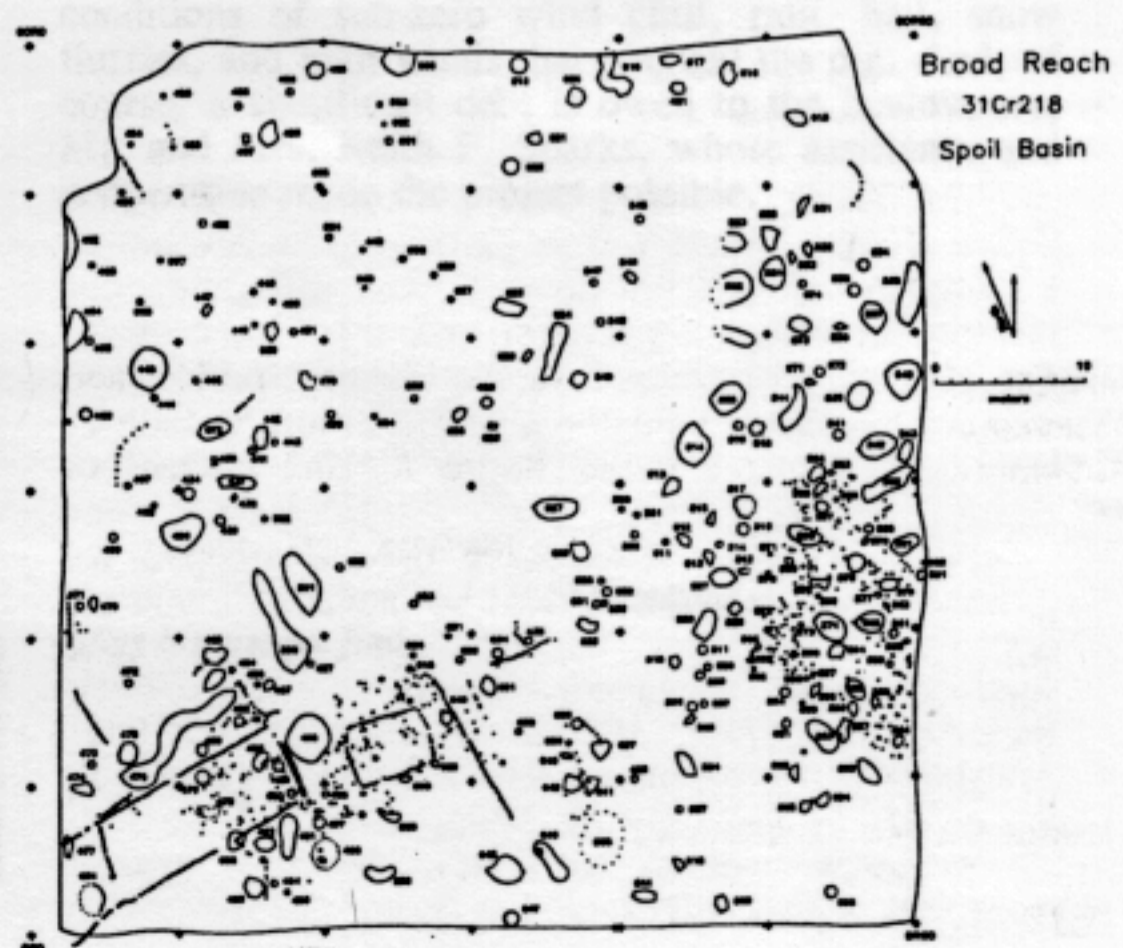
The book is beautifully written, illustrated, and printed. It was printed by Dietz Press in Richmond, whose standards are unequalled. The book may be purchased from the author at 5861 White Oak Road, Sandston, VA 23150, OR from the ASV Publications Office, 10604 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA 23233. The cost is \$25.00 postpaid.

Broad Reach Work Completed

In September and October of 1992, the Office of State Archaeology completed a second season of investigations at the Broad Reach site (31Cr218) in Carteret County. Broad Reach is a large shell midden and habitation site located on Bogue Sound, between Morehead City and Swansboro.

Using a road grader and paddle pan, the plowzone (approximately 25 cm) was removed from an area of about one acre adjacent to and slightly overlapping the shell midden. Last year, approximately 7.5 acres was removed from an area located further away from the midden, exposing over 400 cultural features. In the recently cleared area, an additional 270 features were identified, including shell-filled pits, smudge pits, cobble caches, lithic workshops, and structural postmold patterns. The postmold patterns included a rectangular structure measuring approximately 4.9 x 6.1 meters and a longhouse approximately six meters wide and more than 17 meters long. The full length of the longhouse could not be determined due to time constraints and the fact that it extended into the area that was not stripped of plowzone. Our first direct evidence of corn was recovered this year as well. Several charred cob fragments were excavated from an apparent smudge pit.

Further information on the project is forthcoming, so stay tuned!



Board Members

Board member elections were held at the Fall 1992 meeting at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia on October 31st. New Board members include Tom Padgett and Ruth Wetmore, replacing Robert Graham and Jack Sheridan. We wish to thank each of the departing directors for their support and involvement in the NCAS, and look forward to working with the new directors.

NCAS Officers

President: J. Kirby Ward, 101 Stourbridge Circle, Cary, NC 27511.

Vice-President: Richard Terrell, Route 5 Box 261, Trinity, NC 27370.

Treasurer: E. William Conen, 804 Kingswood Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

Secretary: Vincas P. Steponaitis, Research Laboratories of Anthropology, CB# 3120 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Editor: Mark A. Mathis, Office of State Archaeology, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 E Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807.

Executive Board Members: Stephen R. Claggett, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Loretta Lautzenheiser, William D. Moxley, Jr., Thomas Padgett, Ruth Y. Wetmore.

North Carolina Archaeological Society
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

