



North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807

SUMMER 1995, Volume 5, Number 2

Town Creek Meeting Gets Big Attendance

The North Carolina Archaeological Society (NCAS) held its Spring 1995 meeting at Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site on Saturday, April 29. It turned out to be a beautiful, sunny, spring day, and members and visitors turned out in force, with over 200 people attending. NCAS members arrived from all over the state, including many from the far away reaches of the mountains. NCAS President, Richard Terrell, officially opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. He noted that this year's meeting was special as it was being held jointly with the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC), and he welcomed ASSC members, many of whom traveled to the meeting on a chartered bus.

Archie Smith, Site Manager at Town Creek, and his hard-working staff put a lot of effort into hosting this event. Visitors were treated to Town Creek's new Native American Crafts Learning Center in addition to the regular site features such as the reconstructed village and mound and exhibits at the visitor's center. A special treat was site specialist Carolyn Plowman's demonstration of Native American cooking and canoe building at the Learning Center. In another part of the site, Alan May from the Schiele Museum in Gastonia instructed visitors in the art of using blowguns and other Native American weapons.

The featured speaker, archaeologist Stanley South, who in a past life was a former site manager at Town Creek and helped in the reconstruction of the Town Creek temple mound and stockade, lived up to his reputation as an engaging speaker. His presentation about the early development of the Town Creek historic site was accompanied by slides and punctuated with numerous anecdotes. An overflow crowd attended the talk.

Also attending the meeting was Dr. Joffre Coe. Dr. Coe conducted the

initial archaeological excavations at the Town Creek Indian Mound, then known as the Frutchey Mound, and he was instrumental in having the site developed into a State Historic Site. Incidentally, the University of North Carolina Press has scheduled for fall release a book on the early Town Creek excavations authored by Dr. Coe. For further information about the pre-publication offer on this book, contact The UNC Press (1-800-848-6224, source code CON2).

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Stanley South (left) and Joffre Coe (right) together again at Town Creek Indian Mound after many years.



Activities at Town Creek included blow-gun instruction for the Steponaitis sisters by Alan May.

After Stan South's talk, everyone convened for a catered lunch. Thanks to Whitey Graham for arranging this spread which featured some of North Carolina's best Piedmont BBQ.

After lunch, Linda Carnes-McNaughton gave a presentation and brief tour featuring the recent site stabilization work conducted along the river near the stockade. Linda and Archie have worked hard on this project over the past couple of years. Not only has the effort helped preserve the site, but Linda discovered several interesting features in an area where a retaining fence is to be erected. Video clips of the stabilization work were shown periodically through the day and Linda brought a display that included some of the artifacts from her recent investigation.

Throughout the day, attendees were able to peruse several exhibits and displays. The Tar Heel Archaeological Society (Burlington) brought an exhibit of artifacts from their region of the state. Forest Service archaeologists had a photo display summarizing their research in

various regions of the state, including the nearby Uwharrie National Forest. The Research Laboratories of Anthropology from UNC, Chapel Hill exhibited their CD-ROM site

report of their extensive excavations at the Siouan sites near Hillsborough.

Printed t-shirts and publications were available for purchase from a number of concessionaires, including *Sunrise and Greentree* (David Moore), the NCAS, the ASSC, and Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site.

Rounding out the day was a softball game. This was purported to be a North-South event but informed sources tell me that the teams were mixed, including people from both sides of the state line, all ages and certainly a variety of skill levels. "Umpire" Steve Claggett made sure the "rules" were followed and "Coaches" Joy Shattuck and Dee Nelms report that auxiliary oxygen sources did not have to be employed. Somehow--accounts vary as to how this was accomplished--the scoreboard showed the North coming out on top. As a result, the visiting team was awarded the dubious distinction of receiving the first "Semi-annual Run For The Border" trophy--which was presented to Al Goodyear to hold until a future rematch. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.



South Carolinian Al Goodyear graciously accepts the 1995 NCAS/ASSC softball trophy.

NCAS Life Members

Cindy Autry
Pat Bailey
Lois Barclay
William Covington
Steven Gray
Sonia Herring
Katherine Johns
Mark McCravey
Donald McLeod
Eugene Majerowicz

Jeffrey Mitchem
P.R. Rankin, IV
Patricia Rose
Adrian Shamblin
Pat Sprunt
Vin Steponaitis
Eddie Thomas
Kirby Ward
Charlotte Warren
Ken Winter

1995 NC State Fair

We are planning for the 1995 NC State Fair exhibit for October 13-22. The Cane River Site in Yancey County (31YC91) will be our display this year. If you want to sign up early to help man our booth located in the Kerr Scott Building, please contact Dee Nelms @ 919/733-7342 for available times. We need your help.

News from the Otarre Chapter

The Otarre Chapter of the North Carolina Archaeological Society hosted two chapter meetings in 1994. Forty to fifty members and friends attended each of the meetings, both of which were hosted by the US Forest Service at the US Forest Service Experimental Station in Asheville.

The Spring Meeting in April featured a presentation by Mark Mathis, OSA, on the excavations of the Broad Reach site in Carteret County, and John Cable, New South Associates, on the excavation of the Young Harris site in North Georgia. The afternoon featured a wonderful demonstration of aboriginal technology by Mike Murrow, of Albemarle.

The Fall Meeting, in early November, featured presentations by three local archaeologists. Rodney Snedeker, US Forest service, talked about the very successful USFS Volunteer excavation at the Appletree site in Macon County. David Moore, Western Office Archives and History, talked about the turn-of-the-century mound excavations in Caldwell County, and Anne Rogers, Western Carolina University, talked about her current research on 16th century Spanish beads. Many visitors brought artifacts for identification (including two fluted points!).

The Otarre Chapter is looking forward to a productive year in 1995. We hope our second Summer Field Day will be a big success (see next article for more information). Anyone who would like to join the Otarre Chapter is asked to be sure to mark your preference on your NCAS membership renewal.

Otarre Chapter Summer Field Day

Saturday, June 24, 1995

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

USFS Appletree Campground
Macon County

Over 250 people attended the first Otarre Chapter summer field day, held at Warren Wilson College in July, 1993. We hope to see even more friends and visitors at this year's gathering.

The 1995 Field Day is hosted by the Otarre Chapter along with archaeologists from the US Forest Service and Western Carolina University who are conducting an excavation on a site that includes middle and late Archaic and Mississippian components.

Visitors will be able to watch the excavations that are underway and will also be treated to a variety of demonstrations of aboriginal technology including hide-tanning, flintknapping, making ceramics, bone tools, and soapstone tools. You can also try your hand at throwing a spear with an atlatl or shooting a blowgun (we will have a blowgun shooting contest with prizes awarded in different age groups!). There will also be additional activities for children.

This is an event for the whole family. It is free and open to the public. We will be mailing announcements with all the details, including a map. If you would like to receive one, please call David Moore at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville at 704/274-6789. Hope to see you at Appletree where you can visit our beautiful mountains and learn about mountain archaeology!

Otarre Officers 1995

Dr. Anne Rogers (WCU), President
Linda Hall (Weaverville), Vice-president

Scott Ashcraft (Asheville), Treasurer
Rodney Snedeker (Asheville), Editor

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 March 31
Summer Issue June 30

Fall Issue September 30
Winter Issue December 31

NCAS Officers

President: Richard Terrell, 3789 Hoover Hill Road, Trinity, NC 27370.
Vice-President: William D. Moxley, Jr., 2307 Hodges Road, Kinston, NC 28501.
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.
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Associate Editor: Dee H. Nelms, Office of State Archaeology, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807.
Executive Board Members: Mark McCravey, Thomas Padgett, Anne Poole, Margo Price, Larry Rose, Ruth Y. Wetmore.

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