



## **Twiddy-Saunders Site (31CK179)**

In 2005, the North Carolina Archaeological Society coordinated an excavation at the Twiddy-Saunders site (31CK179) in Currituck County. Over the course of three days, local volunteers working under the direction of professional archaeologists partially excavated the site, which was threatened by development. Former NCAS president and Currituck County resident Tom Oakes spearheaded the effort, and the Currituck County Board of Commissioners provided financial support. Former NCAS board members Joe Herbert and Clay Swindell ensured that the

recovered materials, now curated by the Phelps Archaeology Lab in the Department of Anthropology at East Carolina University, were properly processed and documented.

Clay Swindell and current board member Daryl Armour recently completed several educational posters about the Twiddy-Saunders site and excavation. These posters describe the project and present interpretations of the site based on the archaeological evidence. They can be viewed on the NCAS website at <http://rla.unc.edu/ncas/Posters>.

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## **NCAS Meeting Attendees Visit the Hardaway Site and Morrow Mountain State Park**

The Fall Meeting of the North Carolina Archaeological Society was held on September 21, 2013 in Badin, North Carolina. Our gathering of about 40 society members coincided with the Best of Badin Festival, which also celebrated the town's founding in 1913 by the French company L'Aluminium Français. While most know of Badin as the former home to ALCOA's Badin Works, it is known to archaeologists, professional and amateur alike, primarily for the Hardaway site located nearby. Hardaway was where the late Joffre Coe established the archaeological sequence representing North Carolina's earliest

Native American inhabitants, and it remains one of the most important sites in the state.

In the morning we held our business meeting. Tom Beaman was elected President-elect and David Cranford and Hannah Smith were elected to the NCAS board of directors. By a subsequent vote of the board, John Krebs will serve out the remainder of Tom's term as a board member. After the business meeting, members had the opportunity to view the "The Ancient Carolinians" exhibit, which focuses on early Native American lifeways based on archaeology at Hardaway and other sites in the Uwharrie mountains. Developed as a traveling exhibit by

UNC's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center and the Research Laboratories of Archaeology with support from ALCOA, "The Ancient Carolinians" will remain permanently in Badin once a facility is constructed there to house it.

The highlight of the meeting was a tour of the Hardaway site, led by East Carolina University professor and longtime society member Randy Daniel. Randy described the archaeological excavations there between 1949 and 1980 by Coe, David Phelps, Trawick Ward, and others from UNC, and he discussed how Hardaway had provided insights into North Carolina's most remote period of human history. It made for a memorable outing by all.

Lunch was provided by the several street vendors at the Best of Badin Festival, and society members also had the opportunity to visit the festival's various craft, educational, and artifact exhibits.

After lunch, with a very light rain starting to fall, about 20–25 members drove to Morrow Mountain State Park, where Randy continued his role as tour guide, discussing the archaeology of Lowder's Ferry and the survey of ancient rhyolite quarries he conducted in the Uwharries years earlier with UNC geologist Bob Butler. We toured the new natural history museum at the park, which also has several displays on local archaeology and early history, and then we went to see the Lowder's Ferry site, now a boat ramp parking lot on Lake Tillery. Unfortunately, we were unable to drive up Morrow Mountain and see the evidence for ancient quarrying activity there because of earlier storm damage and road closures. Despite this disappointment, it was a memorable meeting as society members had an opportunity to get reacquainted with one another and learn about the unique archaeological resources of eastern Stanly County.



NCAS members viewing "The Ancient Carolinians" exhibit in Badin. Photo by Vin Steponaitis.



Randy Daniel and NCAS members at the Hardaway site. Photo by Tony Boudreaux.



NCAS members at the Morrow Mountain State Park nature museum. Photo by Tony Boudreaux.



NCAS members at the Lowder's Ferry site on the bank of Lake Tillery. Photo by Tony Boudreaux.

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### 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:

Winter Issue – January 31

Spring Issue – April 31

Summer Issue – July 31

Fall Issue – October 31