



**North Carolina
Archaeological Society**

Newsletter

Spring 2019, Volume 29, Number 2

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

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

Experimental Archaeology at Town Creek Indian Mound: Cutting Trees Using Fire

by Daniel Alexi (Town Creek Indian Mound)

Town Creek Indian Mound has been experimenting with fire to cut down trees. Two trees were selected for removal, a living pine and a standing but dead ash. Both measured about 8” in diameter near the base. We used a stone adze to remove the bark before building a fire around each tree, which we kept burning for about six hours. The adze was also used to chop while the fire was burning (Figure 1). After the initial burn period, we were able to push over the dead ash but not the living pine tree (see Figures 2-4 on page 2). In addition to a fun experimental archaeology project, the tree felling exercise gave us a first-hand impression of what “fire-finished” cut lumber might have looked like. The knowledge and experience gained will help Town Creek create more historically accurate reconstructions going forward.



Figure 1. A close-up view of the pine tree and adze.

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Figure 2. Getting started on the pine.



Figure 3. The ash tree burned more easily.



Figure 4 (right). The living pine was difficult to burn.

OSA and NCAS Share Archaeology with Boy Scouts at Regional Conclave

by David Cranford (Office of State Archaeology)

On Saturday, April 13, NCAS and the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) put on a joint display/exhibit at the Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow Cardinal Conclave at Camp Durant near Carthage, North Carolina. This event brought together nearly 1,500 adult and youth Scouters from across North Carolina to camp and enjoy the outdoors, rain or shine. The Society was asked to participate in a special event called OAXperience, which brings together nearly 80 different community organizations to provide the scouts with educational exhibits and/or short experiential learning opportunities. Several NCAS Board members volunteered to make sure North Carolina archaeology was well represented.

Tom Beaman displayed some of the printed matter that NCAS produces, such as the *North Carolina Archaeology* journal and back issues of the *NCAS Newsletter*, while showing off our t-shirt and cap offerings. At an adjoining table we had a display on the construction of southeastern cane arrows, presented by Jim Daniel, as well as photos and artifacts from the multi-component "West Site" in Currituck County by one of our newly-elected Board members, John Krizmanich. In between these displays, David Cranford demonstrated flint knapping, producing a range of replica projectile points and scrapers during the day. We were extremely pleased at the interest we elicited, the excellent questions we received, and the number of scouts who made repeat visits. A good day and a good showing for both NCAS and OSA.



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2019 Membership Dues

Renew your membership today to stay current with the Society's latest news. 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>.

Membership types include: Student (\$10) • Regular (\$15) • Family (\$20) • Sustaining (\$25) • Institution (\$25) • Life (\$250). To find out the status of your membership, email NCAS Treasurer at MaryBeth.Fitts@ncdcr.gov.

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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**

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