

DR. TIPPITT RECEIVES THE ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

J. Alan May, Ph.D., RPA
(Schiele Museum of Natural History)



Figure 1: Ann is presented with the framed Order of the Long Leaf Pine by John Torbett (NC House of Representatives, 108th District) and NC Speaker of the House Tim Moore (111th District).

On September 28, 2023, Dr. V. Ann Tippitt, Executive Director for the Schiele Museum of Natural History, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine (**Figure 1**). This occurred prior to the unveiling of the newest exhibit in the Museum Lobby: Quetzalcoatlus, the largest flying reptile from the Late/Upper Cretaceous Period (abt. 100.5-66 Ma). Ann was completely surprised, as her attention leading up to the event had been entirely on the installation of the museum's latest exhibit (**Figure 2**).

Ann started her archaeological research at the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (1980-1983). She moved on to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where she then completed a Ph.D. in Anthropology (May 1997). From 1988 to 1996, Ann was Curator of Collections at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia, NC. Ann

later served as the museum's Assistant Director (Interpretations) from 1997 to 2004 and then as its Interim Director until 2005 when she was selected President/Executive Director, a position she has held ever since.

In her field of archaeology, Dr. Tippitt has served in various positions with the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), including chairing the Native American Scholarship Committee, which awards deserving Native American students in the field of archaeology with financial assistance. Much of her recent work in archeology has been to provide students with the opportunity to interact with professionals in the field.

Dr. Tippitt is highly respected and sought-after by her colleagues across North Carolina and the United States. Her expertise was especially evident in the recent closing of the Illinois State Museum, where she provided invaluable counsel to their leadership during the difficult process of closing the institution to the public and securing the institution's collections. Ann has also served on the North Carolina Archaeological Society (NCAS) Board and as one of the inaugural reviewers for the Whitey Graham Award (Endowment). Ann is a past President of the North Carolina Archaeological Council (NCAC), serving two terms as such, and has served on and is an alumnus for the North Carolina Humanities Council.

As a community leader, Ann has served as a member of the Gaston County Travel Tourism board, providing the group with a wealth of knowledge about Gaston County and its visitor services during the process of selecting the current Travel Tourism director. She is a Rotarian and has been a liaison for the Gastonia Rotary Club, negotiating

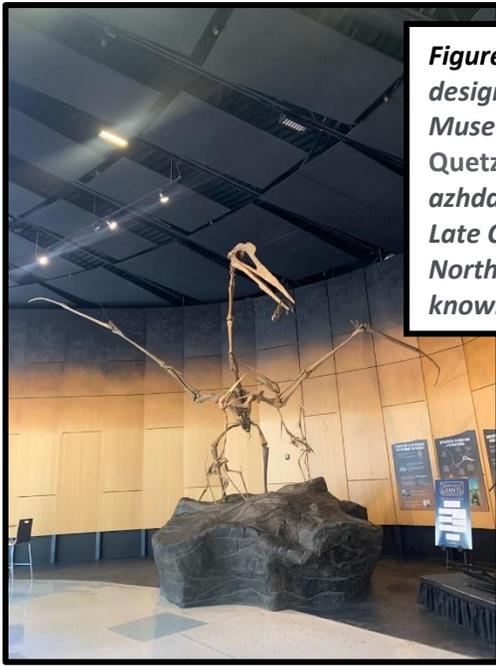


Figure 2: Located in the newly designated V. Ann Tippitt Schiele Museum of Natural History Lobby, Quetzalcoatlus is a genus of azhdarchid pterosaur known from the Late Cretaceous Maastrichtian age of North America and was the largest known flying animal of all time.



Figure 3: Ann with her portrait by artist Martha Manco in the newly designated V. Ann Tippitt Lobby of Schiele Museum of Natural History.

a long-term contract with the Gastonia Conference Center. As a passionate member of Gastonia's Sister Cities community initiative, Dr. Tippitt has made numerous trips to Gotha, Germany to spread the message of peace through people. Through her leadership, the Schiele Museum and the Schloss Friedenstien engaged in a successful museum exhibit exchange (2017 and 2018), merging her passion for the Sister Cities program and her love of the museum. Ann was admitted as an Honorary Member of the Museumslöwen (museum lions) in recognition of the merits for the Exhibition Exchange Project between the Sister Cities of Gotha and Gastonia on May 3, 2018 (Community for the Promotion of the Museum of Nature Gotha e.V.).

As the Director of the Schiele Museum, Ann's outstanding work has brought the reputation of the museum and the trust of the community to new levels never experienced under previous administrations. Under her leadership, the museum has raised over \$3.5 million to build the first LEED Gold Certified building in Gaston County, the Environmental Studies Center. This multi-functional space can host a range of events, from a group of homeschool students dissecting a shark to hosting the Gaston Chamber of Commerce Salute to Business and Industry Gala. Because of Ann's leadership and enthusiasm, the Schiele Museum was also able to replace the aging and obsolete planetarium instrument in the James H. Lynn Planetarium and has raised more than \$750,000 in six months to upgrade the planetarium to a new digital format in March 2016.

In summary, Ann has demonstrated excellence, creativity, and initiative in her museum profession, community service, and in southeastern archaeology (**Figure 3**). Her leadership and commitment have made significant contributions to the Schiele Museum, the field of archaeology, and the community of Gaston County.



NEW NCAS BOARD MEMBERS

Please extend a warm welcome to the society's newest board members: **Danny Gregory (President-Elect)**, **Mike Carpenter (At-Large)**, and **Melissa McKay (At-Large)**. We would also like to offer our appreciation to not only **Sarah Watkins-Kenny, Douglas Hill, and Shane Petersen** for their service as they rotate off the board, but also **Mary Beth Fitts** for her continued efforts as our organization's Treasurer.

NCAS CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF STUDYING AND PRESERVING OUR STATE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Dr. Linda F. Carnes-McNaughton, RPA
(DPW Environmental Division – Fort Liberty) &
Theresa McReynolds Shebalin
(Durham Academy & Current NCAS President)

On October 7, 1933, the inaugural meeting of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina (i.e., earlier name for the NCAS before it merged with the Friends of North Carolina Archaeology in 1991) was held at

the home of Burnham Colburn in Biltmore Forest. The meeting convened with about 25 people in attendance (**Figure 1**), electing Rev. Douglas Rights (the “architect of archaeology” in North Carolina, at the time) President of the organization. A welcome letter from Governor Ehringhaus was read to the group, after which Rev. Rights presented an overview entitled, “North Carolina as an Archaeological Field.” Dr. John Swanton from the Bureau of American Ethnology then talked about Carolina Tribes of the Southeast, showing slides(!) to highlight his remarks, including a regional map of “chief cultures” (e.g., Hopewell, Adena, Fort Ancient, Cumberland, Natchez, Caddo, Choctaw, Moundville, Cherokee et al.). Swanton also emphasized the importance of accurately and consistently recording all artifacts recovered from site excavations to create an expanding body of scientific data for these resources.



Figure 1: The Inaugural Meeting of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina (October 1933).

After the morning session, guests enjoyed “a bountiful luncheon” provided by the Colburns. The group was then entertained by an afternoon lecture from Dr. Neil Judd of the Natural History Museum, who spoke on “Preserving the Heritage of the Past.” Judd emphasized the importance of conducting an archaeological survey of the state and the necessity of re-educating the public on the commercial value of relics. He suggested creating a map to show general locations of sites discovered but with restricted access to protect the resources. As an example, he mentioned that the Boy Scouts, keen to “dig sites” for badge credits, should be re-directed to making surface collections, recording locations, and locating trail systems so as to contribute to the scientific knowledge of archaeology. His belief was that commercialization of artifacts could lead to vandalism, fakery, and destruction of sites, impeding scientific work. Following Judd’s talk, several suggestions were made to create an annual publication to exchange news and information (“a bond between members of the Society”) and raise the level of awareness and preservation. Future venues for the annual meeting were discussed, and those who lingered were taken to dinner at the Biltmore Forest Country Club. All in all, it was a good beginning (see [NCAS Bulletin Volume 1, No. 1 Cover \(unc.edu\)](#)).

In honor of our 90th “birthday,” the NCAS met near Asheville to mark this momentous occasion, on October 7-8, 2023. Warren Wilson College (WWC) in Swannanoa hosted the event at the Canon Lounge, Gladfelter Building. The celebration was organized by Linda Carnes-McNaughton with help from current NCAS officers, Dr. Scotti Norman and her students from WWC, and Scott Shumate at Biltmore Forest (for the Sunday tour). Special sponsors were TRC Environmental (pizza lunch) and the North Carolina Archaeological Council (evening party/reception).

Following a BOD meeting and a membership meeting to elect new officers, seven speakers presented new findings on sites and projects located in the western part of the state. The speakers included Dr. Scotti Norman (WWC), Dr. David Moore (WWC and The Exploring Joara Project), Dr. Tom Whyte (Appalachian State University [ASU]), Dr. Jane Eastman and Dr. Brett Riggs (Western Carolina University), Dr. Alice Wright (ASU) and Dr. Cameron Gokee (ASU). Topics included sixteenth-century Spanish settlements, prehistoric and historic settlements of Boone,



Figure 2: The 90th Birthday Celebration for the NCAS (October 2023).

Figure 3: Sunday's tour of Biltmore Forest, led by Scott Shumate.



Cherokee cosmoscapes, and prehistoric settlement along the New River. Dr. Moore and newly elected NCAS board member Mike Carpenter also set up a static display to highlight ongoing research and findings at the Berry Site.

In addition to the special talks, our NCAS merchandise table was superbly staffed by Tom and Pam Beaman, offering the latest in trendy t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and other logo items (including a brand-new hoodie!). A special raffle prize was featured as a Big Blue Bucket-O-Books, and 35 items were offered in a Silent Auction. After the talks and wrap-up, more than 40 folks returned in the evening for a birthday party with a large cake, snacks, and merriment (**Figure 2**). Dr. Moore was the winner of the raffle prize, which he kindly distributed most parts of to the remaining crowd in attendance, amongst great guffaws of laughter.

On Sunday morning, 35 members of the group loaded up in vans (thanks to WCU and the Office of State Archaeology) to head to Biltmore Forest (BF) for a tour of archaeological sites guided by Scott Shumate (BF Archaeologist; **Figure 3**). It was a glorious autumnal day (albeit a bit chilly), and everyone enjoyed the program (especially those donning the warm new NCAS hoodies!). Although many in the tour group would have happily headed to one more site as the day warmed up, the group dispersed around noon to allow members time to travel home.

For 90 years, the North Carolina Archaeological Society has inspired its members and the public to learn about the cultural resources of North Carolina and the importance of protecting and preserving them. We celebrate our longevity as one of the oldest state archaeological societies in the nation and invite old and new members to share their ideas and dreams for NCAS as we enter our 10th decade!



The 33rd Annual North Carolina Maritime History Council Conference 2023 will be held in Greenville at Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center overlooking ECU's Dowdy-Ficklen Football Stadium. The preliminary agenda for the conference (Nov. 30th to Dec. 2nd) can be viewed at the link below. Some members here might be interested in some of the talks! Registration for the conference is open on the website as well.



[2023 Conference Agenda \(ncmaritimehistory.com\)](https://ncmaritimehistory.com)



National Native American Month started off as an effort to get a day of appreciation and acknowledgment for the unique contributions made by the first Americans for the growth and establishment of the United States. The effort has now resulted in a whole month being celebrated for that purpose.

To learn more about the upcoming American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, [visit the North Carolina Museum of History website](#).

To read this year's proclamation, click on [Federal Register :: National Native American Heritage Month, 2023](#).

NCAS Board

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NCAS Newsletter

Publication Schedule

All NCAS members should submit articles and news items to Paul J. Mohler (pjmohler@ncdot.gov) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Winter Issue – January 31 Summer Issue – July 31

Spring Issue – April 30 Fall Issue – October 31

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