North Carolina Appalachian Summit Archaeology: New Visions of Ancient Times

Broyhill Inn & Conference Center
Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

October 2nd and 3rd, 2009

The North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, in association with the Department of Anthropology, Appalachian State University, is hosting a symposium, titled “North Carolina Appalachian Summit Archaeology: New Visions of Ancient Times”. The Symposium will be held in the Powers Grand Hall at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center, www.broyhillinn.com/home, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina on October 2nd and 3rd, 2009. The Broyhill contains guest rooms, a restaurant, and a bar. Other (cheaper) accommodations, only a short drive from the Broyhill, include a Comfort Inn, Super 8, and Hampton Inn.

This symposium seeks to bring together archaeologists from across the state to discuss current research issues related to the mountains of North Carolina. Much has changed in the past twenty-five years, since the publication of The Prehistory of North Carolina: An Archaeological Symposium. Much has not. In his contribution to that book, Burton L. Purrington left us with many questions intended as guidelines for future research in mountainous North Carolina. As mountains have been leveled and valleys filled by developers, and as caves, rockshelters, and trash heaps have been plundered for profit, archaeologists have continued to discover, salvage, preserve, and unravel more evidence of the human past. In this symposium on the archaeology of the western region of North Carolina, researchers from various private, state, and national institutions provide both general perspectives on the archaeology of the region and specific responses to some of Purrington’s questions. Indeed, we have learned a great deal!

The symposium will open Friday evening at 7:00 with a keynote address by Dr. Burton L. Purrington, Professor Emeritus, Missouri State University. Presentations by various archaeologists researching the region will take place from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday (see schedule below). There is no fee for attending the conference. Anyone with an interest in archaeology is welcome. We do, however, request that you contact the organizer, Thomas R. Whyte (whytetn@appstate.edu or 828-262-2283) to ensure that adequate space and refreshments are available.

Friday Evening, October 2nd, 2009

7:00-8:30PM Keynote Address: “Reflections of an Ancient Mountaineer.” Burton L. Purrington, Professor Emeritus, Missouri State University.

8:30-11:00PM “Alcohological” Research (hanging out in the bar!) with live music from The Lost Faculties.

Saturday, October 3rd, 2009

9:00-9:15AM Welcome and Introduction to the Symposium. John J. Mintz (North Carolina Office of State Archaeology), & Thomas R. Whyte (Department of Anthropology, Appalachian State University).


9:45-10:00AM “The Early Woodland Component at the Warren Wilson site: Recent Investigations.” Linda Hall (North Carolina Office of State Archaeology).

10:00-10:15AM BREAK

10:15-10:30AM “New Models of Hopewellian Ceremony in the Southern Appalachians.” Larry R. Kimball (Appalachian State University), Thomas R. Whyte (Appalachian State University), and Gary Crites (University of Tennessee).

10:30-10:45AM “The Missing Late Woodland Period of the Appalachian Summit.” Thomas R. Whyte (Appalachian State University).

11:00-11:15AM  “Cherokee Foodways: An Early Qualla Phase Perspective.” Jane M. Eastman (Western Carolina University).

11:15-11:30AM  “Cherokee Ethnogenesis in Southwestern North Carolina.” Christopher Rodning (Tulane University).


11:45AM-1:30PM LUNCH

1:30-1:45PM  “Mid-Nineteenth Century Material Adaptations in Southwestern North Carolina.” Lance Greene (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill).

1:45-2:00PM  “Ravensford Archaeology.” Paul Webb (TRC Environmental).

2:00-2:15PM  “Cherokee involvement in Archaeology since 2000.” Russell Townsend (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians).

2:15-2:30PM  “From Pardo to the Parkway: Non-Native Historical Archaeology in the North Carolina Mountains.” Thomas E. Beaman, Jr., RPA (Wake Technical Community College), Heather L. Olson, RPA (TRC Environmental), and John J. Mintz (North Carolina Office of State Archaeology).

2:30-2:45PM  “Pottering in the Mountains of Western North Carolina: An Archaeological and Historical Study.” Linda Carnes-McNaughton (Cultural Resources Program, Fort Bragg, NC).


3:00-3:15PM BREAK


3:30-3:45PM  “Exploring Rockshelter and Cave Use in the Southern Appalachians.” Cheryl Claassen & Mary Beth Compton (Appalachian State University).

3:45-4:00PM  “New Roads and Ancient Times: NCDOT-Sponsored Archaeology in the North Carolina Mountains since 1983.” Caleb Smith & Matt Wilkerson (North Carolina Department of Transportation).

4:00-5:00PM Discussion.