

North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Lecture Series

The Office of State Archaeology hosts speakers monthly throughout the year on the many great aspects of archaeology. Topics will center on recent field investigations or research conducted in North Carolina. All lectures are held in the auditorium of the Archives and State Library building and are free and open to the public. Please join us for these informative and fascinating events!

Monthly Lecture Series

August 16, 2017

Conserving Our Underwater Cultural Heritage: An Introduction

Presented by Sarah Watkins-Kenney, QAR

11:30am, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh

Since the early 1960s, North Carolina's Office of Archives and History has been striving to implement public laws and policies for the protection, preservation, and investigation of underwater archaeological sites in the state. There are many thousands of known underwater sites, constituting part of our "underwater cultural heritage." Since the 1970s, heritage conservation has expanded beyond just concern with technical preservation of tangible remains to also aim to preserve intangible aspects. Concepts, attitudes, and expectations for conservation are continually changing. Please join us as Sarah Watkins-Kenney, QAR Lab Director and Chief Conservator, introduces some of the concepts, challenges, and choices available for the conservation of underwater archaeological sites and finds, both in situ and ex situ. Various approaches and choices made will be described and illustrated, including those that have been and are being applied in North Carolina.

September 13, 2017

Late Archaic Residency in the Appalachian Summit Region: Excavations at the Weatherman Site (31CY31) in Yancey County, North Carolina

Presented by Matthew Jorgenson, Peter Sittig, and Daniel Cassedy, AECOM

11:30am, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh

Excavations completed by AECOM for the North Carolina Department of Transportation at the Weatherman Site (31YC31) on the floodplain of the South Toe River documented deeply stratified Archaic deposits. The most intensive was a Late Archaic component dominated by hearth remnants and numerous broken and whole Savannah River projectile points made primarily of local quartzite. A summary of findings at this site, with particular attention to spatial organization and lithic resource utilization, is presented here and compared with other Savannah River sites in the Appalachian Summit. These Summit Region sites are contrasted to other Late Archaic Sites in the neighboring regions of the Piedmont and Ridge and Valley provinces. Finally, a summary of other Late Archaic cultural manifestations across the Greater Southeastern region is presented. We suggest that the inhabitants of the Appalachian Summit region during the Late Archaic shared some cultural ideologies with the broader region, but by and large were participating in their own version of a Late Archaic system of lifeways.

October 2017 Archaeology Month

The Office of State Archaeology will host a series of events throughout the month of October in celebration of North Carolina's archaeological heritage. Events will include weekly lunchtime lectures on topics such as the archaeology of Cherokee households (Dr. Ben Steere, Western Carolina University), and two evening lectures at the Museum of History on the archaeology of Catawba coalescence (Dr. Steve Davis) and Moravian archaeology as understood through excavations at Old Salem (Dr. Michael Hartley). A symposium on October 19th will highlight the great research projects completed by staff,

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students, and interns through the OSA Research Center this year on collections from Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Halifax State Historic Site, and Charles Towne (31BW133). An updated schedule with lecture titles will be posted as these events are finalized at <http://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/get-involved/archaeology-month> - please check often for updates!