President’s Column

Greetings Archaeology Society Members,

I’d like to start off by reminding members that we’ll be holding our regularly scheduled July 12th board meeting (see the calendar on our website, www.assc.net) in Beaufort at the Burlap Cafè. We would love for you to join us. Plan to arrive at 10:00 AM as the meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30. The meeting agenda will include discussion on the development of a collector/avocational archaeologist site form. We will also discuss preparations for a new legislative initiative to establish an emergency archaeology salvage fund. In addition, we would like member input for setting up some informal statewide society events, such as a BBQ.

Mark your calendars for November 15th. Our Fall Field Day will be held at Croft Park in Greenville off of Croft Street. The annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference will also be in town that week and several archaeological themed events are planned.

The t-shirt design contest has been extended to August 15th and some additional prizes have been added to the pool.

New hats have arrived and are available for purchase on our website.

- James Stewart

ASSC T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

We have extended our deadline for submissions & sweetened the pot!

The contest is open to everyone.
Artists are encouraged to be creative and can use up to two colors in their design.

The winner will receive $50 cash prize, their signature on the shirts, and a free t-shirt featuring their design. Winners will be announced on the ASSC Facebook page and in the next newsletter.

Please submit original artwork by August 15, 2014 to:
archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com
or
Archaeological Society of South Carolina
PO Box 1357

Follow ASSC on Twitter
@SC_Archaeology
Beaufort Chapter Update

The Beaufort Chapter is growing and continuing to increase the visibility of archaeology in the Low Country. We have had two meetings, both collaborations with the Beaufort District Collection of the Beaufort County Library. Both meetings were held at the downtown branch of the Beaufort County Library. Our 1st meeting was held the end of May with 38 people. Dr. Eric Poplin, Senior Archaeologist of Brockington & Associates in Charleston, spoke about Altamaha Town.

At our 2nd meeting, June 9th, 48 people attended. We examined the recently installed exhibit on the Combahee River Raid that resulted in widespread destruction of rice plantations along the river and the freedom of more than 700 enslaved people in June 1863. The exhibition was a great collaboration between Brockington & Associates, SC Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Beaufort County. Poplin also discussed the archaeological excavations that were part of the project.

But don't think that we're just catering to adults north of the Broad. Another financial collaborative effort has found the new chapter working with Beaufort History Museum and the Document Diggers LLC to fund and present 3 children's programs with the Beaufort County Library Children's Department.

On June 12th, we sponsored Pickett Educational's Camp Dig-It at the St. Helena Branch. Fourteen children attended. Volunteers included Peggy Pickett, Linda Davis and myself, Mary Lou Brewton. Linda's husband, Jack, shared some old medicine bottles he'd found years ago and the Beaufort History Museum also shared some artifacts. Each child left with a very official certificate.

Because ASSC/Bft is so new, we were only able to sponsor one camp, however, Andy Holloway, a recent College of Charleston graduate, contributed funds through his business Document Diggers, LLC. Beaufort History Museum contributed not only artifacts, but funds to have 2 more camps, July 10th at the Downtown Branch for 6-12 yr olds and July 24 for 12-15 year olds.

We also partnered with the Parris Island Museum and Historic Society to host a "dutch treat" luncheon to hear Dr. Lynn and 2 graduate students, Alyssa Reisner and Sonia Valencia, who have built a new display featuring a 500 year old canoe found 25 years ago by Beaufortonian and local hobby diver and collector James Cooler. After the lunch and lecture, the group of over 75 people re-convened at the Parris Island Museum to take part in the ribbon cutting and light refreshments to see the Canoe display and ask questions about the history of and the process of conserving the Canoe.

Upcoming events include the 2nd Annual Arkaios Cultural Heritage & Archaeology Film Festival Oct. 23-25 at the Coligny Theater. The festival showcases the discovery of past cultures gained from archaeological research and illustrated by documentary films. The event is free and open to the public.
Hilton Head Chapter Update

In April, Dr. Chris Gillam gave us an excellent presentation on the peopling of the Americas. Chris has been working on this topic for over thirty years, and has contributed a great deal of research and professional writing on this question. Chris presented a similar lecture at the ASSC Annual Conference, but with the additional time available was able to provide us more information on his research.

In May, Dr. Keith Stephenson of SCIAA spoke to us about the Mississippian period mounds and chiefdoms of the Central Savannah River Area from AD 1000 to 1450. Keith described to us a number of sites in the valley, each with several mounds, which were occupied and built by chiefdoms and their followers between 1250-1450; however, the area was uninhabited by the time of the de Soto expedition in 1540.

We all greatly appreciated the detail and the depth of both Chris’ and Keith’s presentations, and their willingness to share their knowledge with us.

The Chapter is taking its annual summer break, and will hold its next general meeting at 1 pm on September 16, 2014, at the Coastal Discovery Museum.

ASSC Grant-in-Aid

The Grant-in-Aid Program was established to assist graduate students in their thesis or dissertation research. Funds raised during the course of the year are available on a competitive basis to graduate students, both at USC and out-of-state universities, who are working on theses or dissertations that pertain to the archaeology of South Carolina.

You may use the PayPal button on the Society’s website (http://www.assc.net) or send a check or money order to:

ASSC Grant-in-Aid
PO Box 1357
Columbia SC 29202

DONATE YOUR ARCHAEOLOGY REPORTS & BOOKS TO GRANT-IN-AID!

Unwanted books and reports are being collected to sell at this year’s SEAC in Greenville. All proceeds will be donated to ASSC Grant-in-Aid.

Deadline is mid-October

For more information, please contact Ramona Grunden at RGruden@trcsolutions.com.

Foothills Chapter Update

We have just completed the excavation at Walnut Grove Plantation, with a complete success. We averaged 18 people each day, with complete coverage by Fox News, The Spartanburg Hearld Journal, and two independent photographers. Artifacts from about 1760 through the 1950s were recovered. The Foothills Chapter members and all the other volunteers made it a fun and successful excavation. In the fall we plan to do some work at a location near the Green River, where prehistoric artifacts have been located. Lamar and Angie Nelson plan to work at the Fisher site with Lorene Fisher in July and yes it will be hot. Lamar has been asked to do two programs at USCS, one on Walnut Grove and the other on Native American artifacts. In addition, he will also be presenting for SMC in Spartanburg. Ron Swain will do a presentation on historical maps in August. We are taking July off and will have no meeting. All of the programs we have been doing have led to new members and several visitors. The fall will be very busy for all of us and we welcome all the other chapter members to visit us if you are in the upstate.
Update: Salvage Excavations Conducted at the Original Settlement of Camden (38KE1)

Chad Long, SC Department of Transportation

Fearing the loss of significant archaeological information from a nationally significant resource, Dr. Ken Lewis of Michigan State University, notified professional archaeologists working in the southeast that the City of Camden was preparing to construct a gravity and force main sewer system within the original settlement of Camden (38KE1) in the spring of 2014. The construction of the sewer system would involve deep excavation within the palisaded portion of the original town. The 20’ easement for the construction project was signed by the Historic Camden Foundation, but contained no provisions for conducting archaeological excavations. Based on excavations at the site in 1974-1975 (Lewis 1976), it was determined that the sewer line (as originally proposed) would impact intact archaeological resources on the east and west sides of Broad Street. The east side of Broad Street had been previously impacted by construction activities although intact features and dense artifact deposits were identified by Lewis at the northern end. It was also known that west side of Broad Street contained intact 18th-century archaeological deposits associated with Adamson’s Store.

Despite numerous requests made to the Mayor and City Council to perform archaeological excavations prior to construction, the city moved forward with the project. Notified of the city’s imminent plans for construction, Chris Judge posted to the ASSC Facebook page that volunteers were immediately needed for a salvage excavation project. The response was overwhelming and a team of archaeologists was pulled together within 12 hours to conduct what amounted to a small-scale data recovery effort. Equipment for the project was gathered from various state agencies, consulting firms, and personal supplies. Investigations were directed by Chad Long who was assisted in the field by Dr. Bill Jurgelski, Sarah Stephens, and Tracy Miller. The team of field volunteers included: Tariq Ghaffar, Carl Steen, Sean Taylor, Meg Gaillard, Chris Judge, Dr. Jon Leader, Sean Norris, Lisa Hudgins, Jim Errante, Jeff Craver, Bill Vartorella, Charles Baxley, and Davie Beard.

Archaeological excavations were carried out in front of heavy machinery on the morning of April 2. Within a single day, volunteers excavated 3 5 x 5’ test units, 2 slot trenches measuring 60’ in length, midden deposits, and 2 historic posthole features. Towards the end of the day, the contractor excavated a trench along the proposed centerline to allow archaeologists to look for additional features. Mapping and additional sampling of the area was performed the following day until heavy equipment forced archaeologists out of the trench.

The project resulted in the recovery of important information that relates to the history and development of Camden during the late 18th to early 19th century. Hundreds of artifacts were recovered including, pipe stems, musket balls, dark green bottle glass, delftware, red ware, west German stoneware, cream colored, and decorated pearlware. More importantly, the excitement stirred by the project played an important role in convincing the city to revise the alignment of the sewer line in order to avoid intact 18th century resources on the west side of Broad Street. Dr. Leader also spoke to the media and wrote a strong letter to the city emphasizing the importance of the archaeological resources at Camden and the need to revise the project plans. The artifacts from the project are currently being washed, inventoried, and analyzed. A short report that describes the results of the project and the importance of the resources that were recovered will be prepared in the near future.

In summary, it was a shining moment for archaeologists working in the state to come together and demonstrate to the public why we are so passionate about these resources. Everyone involved in the project is to be thanked. The challenge now is to share what we learned from the project in order to educate the City of Camden and Historic Camden Foundation about why these resources are so important and how they can be protected through preservation planning.
Walnut Grove Plantation Excavation (38SP22)

Lamar Nelson, ASSC Foothills Chapter

I was asked by the Spartanburg County Historical Association two years ago if I would like to try and locate the slave quarters at Walnut Grove Plantation. No known documentation exists describing their location. After meeting with the board, and getting written permission, I started getting a team of professionals, avocationals, and volunteers to do the work. On September 14, 2013 we took a small group and surveyed the property. We located 18 potential sites and flagged them. We went back in February 2014 and conducted shovel testing on three of the sites. Historic artifacts were found at all the locations. It was determined that a larger scale excavation was needed at a future date. The excavations were held June 2-6, 2014 and about 18 people were on site each day. Volunteers included professional and avocational archaeologists and students.

We excavated two 2x2 meter units at different locations. Unit 1 was excavated to a depth of 30 cm below ground surface (cmbgs). The unit was heavy with ceramics, including salt glazed sherds, pieces of glass, along with cut and wire nails. We had two exciting finds; a large brass door key, possibly from the main house, and a copper piece similar to ones seen in museums, that may have been a piece worn by slaves. Because of several artifacts located in the wall of Unit 1, an additional 1x2 meter unit was excavated adjacent to the original unit.

Unit 2 consisted of hard, compacted clay. Due to the soil and low density of artifacts we stopped at 15 cmbgs. Artifacts recovered included cut nails, glass, two shell-edged ceramic sherds, and several possible button backs.

In addition, finger print analysis was done by experts Jon Eizinger and Jessica Phillips on several large pieces of glass, with negative results. The entire excavation was a complete success. All of the artifacts will be cleaned, analyzed, and returned to Walnut Grove with a report of the findings.

I want to thank the Historical Association for allowing us to do the work, the ASSC Foothills Chapter, Lorene Fisher, Angie Nelson, Debra Dillard, Todd Putman, Bob Hanselman, Roger Lindsey, Dave Sexton, Margrett Burns, and all the other volunteers for all the hard work. Thank you to everyone.
Finding Dave: The Discovery and Excavation of an Alkaline-Glazed Stoneware Jar and its use as a Means for Outreach

George Wingard,
Savannah River Archaeological Research Program,
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

In 1950, the Atomic Energy Commission purchased a large tract of land encompassing much of Aiken, Barnwell, and Allendale counties, South Carolina. This acquisition area, known today as the Savannah River Site (SRS), displaced six thousand people – which meant they had to leave their homes, churches, businesses, and neighbors.

In 2006, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) staff working on an archaeological compliance project on the SRS discovered a shattered alkaline-glazed stoneware vessel in a 1950s era trash pile. (Figure 1) It is marked with "Dave" and the date April 16th, 1862 and is the only known, nearly whole, Dave vessel excavated in an archaeological context.

Staff of the SRARP began displaying the Dave vessel at outreach venues, which prompted the idea to create a short documentary on the discovery of the jar and its use as an outreach tool. Working with filmmaker Mark Albertin of Scrapbook Video Productions the documentary - titled Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay - began as a small project but soon grew to seventeen on screen interviews, sixty hours of footage, and nearly an hour in length. Individuals interviewed included local potters, historians, artists, and archaeologists. (Figure 2)

The film focuses on Dave, an enslave potter from the Edgefield District of South Carolina, a major production center for stoneware, who learned to read and write – leaving his name, date, and inscriptions on a number his wares. Dave was born around 1801 and is last heard of in an 1873 Edgefield Advertiser article. During his long life it is estimated he created around one hundred thousand pots, but to date only about 170 are marked with his name, date, verse, inscription, or a poem. A major point discussed in the film is Dave’s openness to write on the wares he created during a time when law established that no slave should learn to read or write. The film also explains the artifact’s discovery, and its use as an aid in discussing the importance of archaeology, history, and relating Dave’s story for public education. (Figure 3)

One of the goals of the film was to expose the public to Dave’s incredible story with the hope more evidence of his life would be found. For years it was theorized that Dave had a “silent period”, the years between 1843 and 1849, where Dave did not inscribe any of his wares. In February of 2014, during a presentation by the SRARP on Dave and the documentary, a family brought in a signed “Dave” dated 1845. With this date the “silent period” is now not as silent and the film’s goal of helping to depict more of Dave’s life has been fulfilled.
The film has been entered in many film festivals around the country. At this point, the film has been a finalist in the Best Documentary category at the Dixie Film Festival in Athens, GA; Audience Favorite at the Arkhaois Film Festival on Hilton Head, SC; was a finalist in the Best Documentary at the Beaufort International Film Festival in Beaufort, South Carolina; was First-Runner Up Best Documentary at the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and won First-Runner Up Best Film and Most Inspirational Film at the Archaeology Channel International Film Festival in Eugene, Oregon. The film was also given an “Award of Merit” by the Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies. Recently the University of Delaware and Boston University both have asked for copies of the film with the plan to include it in their curriculum on African-American History.

As a non-profit project the film cannot be sold but is currently being placed in local schools, museums, and libraries. For more information on the film please visit the Facebook Page, Discovering Dave: Spirit captured in Clay.

Send articles, photos, ideas, and suggestions for the next issue of Features and Profiles by August 29th to Sarah Stephens
sastephens6@yahoo.com
Use of Aerial Photography at Rebellion Farms (38BK2091)

Aaron Brummitt; Quinn-Monique Ogden; Patrick H. Morgan; and Jeremy C. Miller

The archaeology staff at S&ME, Inc. recently completed the fieldwork portion of the data recovery efforts at the Rebellion Farms property (Site No. 38BK2091). Archaeological remains at the site consist of features associated with former structures, features used for a variety of material processing and/or refuse disposal, and related artifact assemblages. The deposits span from the prehistoric Late Archaic period through the middle of the twentieth century. In planning the investigation we anticipated that analysis of houses, storage features, and processing facilities built during the prehistoric and early colonial English periods would add to our understanding of local and regional history, cultural change over time, and how concepts of household/community design and planning may have changed with relation to social and economic values.

The fieldwork consisted of the documentation of features in five excavation blocks across the site. In order to record the location of subsurface features, we marked the features with a nail and flagging tape and recorded the location of each feature and the corners of the excavation blocks with a total station. Although most features were photographed individually with a handheld camera, we also used an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to photograph each block and large sections of select areas within an excavation block.

Use of a UAS allowed acquisition of more inclusive and comprehensive photographs of the site without

Figure 1. UAS photograph of features in Block D.

Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Blocks B, C, and E. This type of photograph, acquired from Google Earth, is the only type of aerial image that would have been available to most archaeological studies prior to the development of low cost UAS technology.

the complications of creating a mosaic photograph, the safety risks of routinely ascending and descending a ladder, or the logistical constraints of mobilizing and demobilizing a mechanical lift. Although archaeologists have used low altitude aerial photography for some time by employing kite-mounted cameras or radio controlled airplanes, only recent technological advances have made the use of a UAS a cost-effective and time-efficient method for employing aerial photography for the acquisition of spatial data.

Analysis of the artifacts and interpretation of individual features is underway and ongoing. We anticipate that the use of aerial imagery, when combined with the results of the laboratory analysis will allow for a better interpretation of the spatial arrangement of activities conducted across the site and a more complete understanding of past concepts of household and community design.
Southeastern Conference on Historic Site Archaeology
The 3rd annual SECHSA Conference is scheduled for September 19-20, 2014 in Stone Mountain, Georgia. As a local community on the edge of a modern metropolis, Stone Mountain inspires this year’s theme of “Looking In, Looking Out.” Archaeology in SECHSA’s region of interest explores places, happenings, and developments at the local level that had regional significance or that reflect the influences of wide-ranging processes or events on local places. For instance, rock quarried from the Stone Mountain vicinity was put to use locally but was also shipped throughout the country. At the same time, changes in engineering, construction, and other industries influenced local quarrying technology and practices. In keeping with this year’s theme, we encourage submissions that have studied the widespread forces that impacted localities as well as the small-scale developments that reverberated throughout the southeast. Because SECHSA is primarily an opportunity to share research and exchange ideas, however, papers touching on all aspects of southeastern historical archaeology are invited.

The deadline for submissions is August 4. For more information please visit SECHSA.org.

Conference on Reconstructive & Experimental Archaeology
The 5th annual Conference on Reconstructive and Experimental Archaeology (RE-ARC) will be held at the Schiele Museum, in Gastonia, NC, October 17-19, 2014. The keynote speaker, on Saturday afternoon, will be Jean-Pierre Houdin, who will speak about his investigations of the internal ramp of the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

The goal of the conference is to bring together professional, student, and avocational archaeologists and historians who are deeply interested in how members of past human societies interacted with the world. Presentations about experimental archaeology, reconstructions, educational projects, international projects, and related topics are welcome. There are opportunities to set up demonstrations either inside or outside. Students, avocational archaeologists, and professionals are all welcome to submit an abstract for either a paper or a poster.

The submission deadline for proposals is August 30, 2014. Please send an abstract of your presentation or poster, up to 150 words, to Dr. Bill Schindler at: wschindler2@washcoll.edu.

For more information please visit http://www.rearc.us/.

Slave Dwelling Project Conference
September 18-20
Savannah, GA
See: http://slavedwellingproject.org/slave-dwelling-conference/

Preserving the Historic Road Conference
September 26-28
Savannah, GA
See: http://www.historicroads.org/

Southeast Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting
November 12-16
Greenville, SC
See: http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting.html
Features and Profiles
Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.
c/o Sarah Stephens
549 Center Street
West Columbia, SC 29169

About the Society
The Society is assisted and supported by the Office of State Archaeology, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, and also works closely with the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists. The Society is chartered and operates under State Law as a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Mission Statement
The Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. is an association of professional and avocational archaeologists and concerned citizens uniting together in a cooperative effort to understand the prehistory and history of South Carolina. It is a Society of dedicated members exerting their combined efforts toward the interpretation and preservation of South Carolina’s rich cultural heritage.

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ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD DAY
NOVEMBER 15th, 2014
Croft Park, Greenville