Letter from the President

Photo by Maria LoRocca.: Due to sea level rise and recent storm surges, Pockoy Island is quickly losing its shoreline. Thousands of years ago, this beach was once part of the island’s interior. Just behind these trees, Native American shell rings more than four thousands years old are at risk of being lost. On the far left is a strip of pluff mud that was an ancient inland riverbed perhaps navigated by Native Americans. Sept/Oct 2018. South Carolina Wildlife Magazine.

My Fellow Society Members,

With the coming of the New Year, we are looking forward to our Annual Conference planned for Saturday, February 16, 2019. This year’s focus is Heritage at Risk: Coastal Erosion of Archeological Sites in South Carolina. According to recent data from the website SeaLevelRise.org, South Carolina’s sea level has risen 10 inches since 1950 and is continuing to accelerate at the rate of 1 inch every two years. Rising seas increase the speed of erosion along the state’s beaches, barrier islands, tidal marshes, and maritime forest. The resulting effect of this situation is destructive impacts to the coastal archaeological resources of our state. Most coastal flooding and erosion occurs during the fall season as a result of “king tides,” surges with a foot and a half higher rise than normal. Moreover, the increasing frequency and velocity of Atlantic hurricanes result in severe impacts to coastal sites. When 10 inches of sea-level rise is added to these fall tides and hurricanes,
shoreline archaeological site destruction is accelerated. Examples of threatened resources include those Late Archaic large shell deposits on Edisto Island, in particular the Pockoy Shell ring on SC Department of Natural Resources property and the Spanish Mount shell mound on SC Parks and Recreation land. The Pockoy Shell ring, which used to be situated in a tidal marsh and maritime forest environment, is now on the shoreline of the Atlantic, and suffering erosion from every storm and “king tide.” The Spanish Mount shell mound, which at one time covered half an acre and was so elevated in height that it could be seen by early European sailors on ships in the Atlantic, has been destroyed completely by tidal creek erosion. Faced with this devastation, both sites have undergone recent salvage archeology by archaeologists within each of the respective agencies.

In an effort to understand the magnitude of threats to coastal sites along the Eastern seaboard, David Anderson and colleagues have addressed sea-level rise and the loss of cultural resources through data amassed in their Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA). They argue that “archaeologists and society at large should direct increased attention to planning for and mitigating losses to irreplaceable heritage resources in the form of the physical record of past human settlements.” Admittedly, solutions are not simple, and sea-walls have proven ineffective in blocking tidal site destruction through erosion. As Anderson and colleagues note, some studies show that sea-level rise may only submerge cultural resources, depending on the rate and rapidity of rise, rather than destroy them. This may be the case in some locales, but current evidence along the South Carolina coast indicates the destruction of sites at a rapid pace. This topic will be emphasized in presentations of impacts to coastal sites at the 2019 Annual Conference, so mark your calendar now and make plans to attend. For further information on the threats of sea-level rise on archaeological sites see David Anderson and colleagues’ article titled Sea Level Rise and Archaeological Site Destruction: An Example from the Southeastern United States using DINAA online at https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0188142.

As a reminder, at the Conference, the Society will be awarding research grants to Graduate Students studying the archaeology of South Carolina. Please be sure to consider a tax-deductible gift to enhance archaeological research by the next generation of South Carolina archaeologists through the ASSC Graduate Student Grant-in-Aid Program.

-Keith Stephenson, President
Fall Field Day 2018

Over 200 people attended this year’s annual Fall Field Day held at the 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek in Cayce, SC. Though the event was rained out in the afternoon, participants were able to attend walking tours of the park, see demonstrations of early technology, bring in artifacts for identification, and visit with archaeological organizations from across the state to learn more about their current research. Due to the success of the event, the ASSC plans to return to the 12,000 Year History Park for Fall Field Day 2019. October 26, 2019 has been set as the date for next year’s field day. There will be a call for vendors and participants in early 2019.
Thank You!
The ASSC would like to give a big thank you to the vendors, organizations and individuals who participated in this year’s Fall Field Day and made the event possible. Please check out their websites to continue to follow along with their research and outreach.

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) Maritime Research Division

South Carolina Archaeology Public Outreach Division (SCAPOD)

Seven Ages

University of South Carolina Lancaster (USCL) Native American Studies Center

Clemson Warren Lasch Conservation Lab

Fuz Sanderson, Earthskills

Scott Jones, Media Prehistoria

SC DNR Heritage Trust

Los Chicanos Food Truck

We would also like to thank the 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek for providing us the incredible space for the event and to James Stewart, Gary Kelly, and Sue Anthony Kelly for providing the great tours of the park.

If you didn’t have a chance to go on the tour, make sure you follow 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek for the schedule of free guided tours offered throughout the year.
Southeastern Archaeological Conference

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference was held on November 14-17 in Augusta, GA. The Conference was organized by ASSC member Karen Smith and ASSC president Keith Stephenson.

Archaeological research at sites across South Carolina was presented throughout the conference during a number of interesting papers and posters. A special session entitled To the Pleistocene!: Honoring the Career of Albert C. Goodyear II was organized to celebrate the more than 40-year career of long-time ASSC member Dr. Al Goodyear. The session highlighted Dr. Goodyear’s contribution to South Carolina Paleoindian studies with his work at the Topper and Big Pine Tree sites. The full program of the conference, including abstracts from the papers, posters and panels, is available online at: https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/SEAC2018ProgramBookforWeb.pdf.
ASSC at SEAC

ASSC participated in the Book Room at this year’s SEAC, offering merchandise and previous publications to conference participants. The ASSC 50th Anniversary installment in the Legends of South Carolina Archaeology koozie series was debuted at SEAC. The Stan South koozie was a big hit and is available for purchase online if you were not able to grab one at the conference. Get this limited edition before it sells out!

Thank You!

A special thank you to Savannah Hulon for overseeing the ASSC table throughout the conference and to BJ Clifford for designing the Legends of South Carolina Archaeology koozie series.
**2019 Annual ASSC Conference**

The 2019 Annual ASSC Conference will be held on Saturday, February 16th, 2019 in Columbia, SC. The theme of the conference will be *Heritage at Risk: Coastal Erosion of Archeological Sites in South Carolina*.

Next year’s conference will be divided into two halves, with the morning session dedicated to the topic of sea level rise and associated threats to archaeological sites along South Carolina’s coast. The afternoon session will include papers presented on archaeological research at prehistoric and historic sites across South Carolina and the Southeast.

If you would like to present at the 2019 Conference, please be on the lookout for the Call for Papers early next year. ASSC will be requesting abstracts for the morning and afternoon sessions.

The location of the 45th Annual Conference will be announced in early 2019.
From the Archives

The 50th Anniversary edition of *SC Antiquities* out early next year will highlight 50 years of South Carolina archaeology. In 1993, the 25th Anniversary issue was published, including syntheses of archaeological research in South Carolina and the history of the organization. As we close-out the 50th Anniversary year of the ASSC, James Michie’s retrospect from his article entitled *History and Prehistory of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina Inc.* reminds us all of the heart of the society’s origin and mission:


In Retrospect

“Quite often I find myself remembering those early years prior to the realization of chronology and the depths of antiquity, to that time when I sent a box of arrowheads to the Smithsonian. I remember trying to find Carl Miller, writing a high school paper on the glories of radiocarbon dating, and thinking that someday we would learn something about the age of artifacts because of Willard Libby’s marvelous invention. I remember when there were no archaeologists in South Carolina, and I remember the gap that existed between the first professional and his entourage of eager, but undeniable, followers who were hungry for knowledge. But that was long ago and those were days of unsatisfied statics when there was no substantive direction.
But I also remember sitting down with Bob Stephenson and listening to his vision of a collective society that contributed to the overall knowledge of history and prehistory—a society without barriers or walls that opened doors to communication and knowledge. And because of Bob's unchanging position I also remember that it was through the Society and the Institute that Bob Parlor, Sammy Lee, Walt Joseph, and others became some of the finest field technicians in this state, and that Dave Anderson, Mike Trinkley, Mike Hartley, Joe Joseph, Paul Brockington, and others, including myself, were led into the profession of archaeology.

Al Goodyear, Nena Powell and others auctioning at the 1991 Archaeology Fall Field Day of the ASSC. Antiquities Volume 25 1993.

Today with the multi-activity of Fall Field Day, the intellectual diversity of Archaeology Week, the growing numbers of chapters, the support of Grant-in-Aid to graduate students, our newsletter, Features and Profiles, our scholarly journal, South Carolina Antiquities, our Officers and Board of Directors, and with our strong alliance with the Institute of Archaeology, how could we ever envision a time when there was almost nothing. For the past 25 years we have risen to the catharsis of an undeniable knowledge and a swelling conviction that our Society is a major contributor to the advancement of archaeological research and public education. We are now a staid organization with our many fibers woven deeply into the structure of South Carolina archaeology.”

To read the full article and others from the 25th issue of South Carolina Antiquities, view the ASSC Antiquities Archive.
Reprint: Letter to the Editor

In a recent editorial in The State newspaper, archaeologist and ASSC Member Christopher Judge wrote about being responsible stewards of our state’s archaeological resources and ASSC’s efforts to promote responsible collecting. The full letter is reprinted below and is also available online.

We all should be stewards of artifact finds

Recently, The State reported on an archaeological site discovered by a trespasser on zoo property. The Native American community was upset, and they demanded that something be done about this. In some quarters, it is traditional cultural practice to collect arrowheads from the ground surface. At issue is the question of who owns the past? My answer — we all collectively own the past and we should all be stewards of these resources.

Responsible artifact collecting includes reporting finds to professional archaeologists. The soil at an archaeological site often tells stories to those trained to interpret the subtle nuances in soil. Many of the items collected for study by archaeologists such as small fish scales and carbonized seed are needed to tell the complete story of the past. The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology located at USC Columbia and the Native American Studies Center at USC Lancaster welcome members of the public to bring artifacts for identification. The Archaeological Society of South Carolina is working to promote responsible artifact collecting.

October is South Carolina Archaeology Month statewide with opportunities to get involved with programs that raise our awareness of the prehistoric and historic archaeological past. The Annual Fall Field Day sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina will take place on Sept. 29 in Cayce at the 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek! Bring your artifacts and archaeologists will identify them.

CHRISTOPHER JUDGE
LANCASTER
In November of 2015 the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) assembled a Task Force whose purpose was to accomplish three main goals: “1) define appropriate relationships among professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and artifact collectors; 2) develop a position statement on the subject for dissemination by SAA; [and] 3) suggest concrete actions to promote the statement’s message” (Pitblado et al. 2018:14). This Task Force recently published the conclusions of this three year effort in the November issue of “The SAA Archaeological Record,” the SAA’s periodical magazine. Along with its conclusions, the Task Force also included several recommendations that are particularly relevant for discussion as it pertains to the functions of our Society. The following discussion is closely modeled after the original SAA article, the majority of that which follows should be accredited to the Pitblado et al. 2018 article which this is meant to summarize. For more details regarding the Task Force’s process and results, please consult the original Pitblado et al. (2018) article that can be accessed here.

First, a brief discussion of the Task Force’s methods will help place these conclusions and recommendations into context. The Task Force was co-chaired by Dr. Bonnie Pitblado of Oklahoma University and Dr. Michael Shott of the University of Akron, and was comprised of 13 total members ranging from all manner of professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and artifact collectors, who were diverse in geographic region, gender, and ethnicity. These members reviewed a 20-page reading list developed by the Task Force of articles and publications that covered various perspectives of collaborations among archaeologists and collectors in diverse settings around the world,
engaged in four months of email discussions covering all manner of relevant topics, and collectively developed a draft statement for dissemination among numerous organizations for review and comment. This statement received responses from 249 individuals, 53% of whom fully supported the statement, 18.5% of whom supported it with minor modifications, 22.5% of whom supported it with substantive changes, and 1% of whom had mixed feelings about the statement including uncertainty that the statement was a good idea in the first place.

Among the responses received from this effort, were a variety of common themes. These themes are drawn verbatim from Pitblado et al. (2018:15-16):

- Archaeologists must stop being rude, elitist, and dismissive of artifact collectors.
- The statement should deal more fully with the issue of ‘commercialization’ of the archaeological record.
- The statement should more explicitly recognize descendant communities as stakeholders within the context of artifact collecting.
- We should emphasize even more than the draft statement already did the importance of public education and outreach (with educational targets including not only artifact collectors, but the aforementioned rude and elitists archaeologists).
- Clearly define terms such as ‘professional archaeologist’ and ‘artifact collector’ or simplify them to better reflect stakeholder identities.
- Encourage if not require archaeologists to share the results of their research with the public that funds it, and to do so accessibly.

The Task Force published online a revised statement in the summer of 2018. Therein the SAA came to recognize non-professional individuals who were both deeply interested in archaeology and especially astute and careful in their habits of collecting and documentation, as “responsible and responsive stewards” (RRS). Within this statement, the SAA encourages collaboration between RRS and professional archaeologists in ways that do not conflict with professional ethical principles and codes which archaeologists have pledged to uphold. Furthermore, the statement encourages that archaeologists develop positive and productive relationships with RRS that “promote understanding and support for the preservation of the archaeological record” (Pitblado et al. 2018:16). In order to do this, the statement points out that both communities “…need to approach prospective collaboration with a mutual sense of respect and genuine interest in learning from each other” (Pitblado et al. 2018:16). Several premises were also published prior to the recommendations in order to clarify the SAA’s stance. In short summary these premises state (Pitblado et al. 2018:16-17): 1) nothing in the document or
recommendations are meant to suggest that archaeologists should breach ethical principles or codes that they have pledged to uphold within the SAA or other organizations; 2) the SAA does not encourage anyone to begin or continue the collection of artifacts, but does recognize that many people have the legal right to possess and collect artifacts and do so with interest in sharing them with professionals whom have much to learn from these collections; 3) the SAA does not condone uncontrolled or unsupervised excavations, especially as they pertain to excavations that are illegal under applicable laws; and 4) the “...SAA eschews the collection or disturbance of any objects, or remains associated with a human grave or burial that is not legally permitted and conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologists in compliance with the SAA and other applicable codes of conduct and standards of research performance.”

Finally, the recommendations from the conclusion of this Task Force are included here verbatim (Pitblado et al. 2018:17):

- Provide education for archaeologists and archaeology students regarding the importance of privately held collections as potential sources of information about sites and the irreplaceable loss of this information when responsible and responsive stewards are ignored or treated disrespectfully.
- Where possible, encourage responsible and responsive stewards to work with a professional or avocational archaeologist to record and document sites and collections and to enter that information into the state archaeologist’s or State Historic Preservation Office files.
- To capture archaeological data that may otherwise by permanently lost, encourage the development of national databases of documented and analyzed privately held and legally acquired collections, akin to those developed in England and Wales through their Portable Antiquities schemes.
- Encourage responsible and responsive stewards to donate their documented collections to an appropriate museum or public curation facility. If donation is not feasible, teach responsible and responsive stewards best curation practices so that they can provide maximum protection for collections.
- Encourage responsible and responsive stewards to join organizations and programs that provide training to increase their archaeological knowledge and skills and make it easier for them to share their knowledge with archaeologists.

Here within South Carolina, it is especially encouraging for a relative newcomer to the archaeological discipline, such as myself, to see that there has been a long history of collaboration between professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and artifact collectors, of
which the Archaeological Society of South Carolina is a profound testament. Such collaboration here in our state has enhanced our knowledge of our state’s archaeological record in many unique and meaningful ways, a list of which is far too long to synthesize here, and which would have never been possible without such collaboration. Moving forward I hope that our Society and its membership will continue to embrace this approach and will keep in mind the many recommendations of this SAA Task Force statement. The archaeological record is a giant puzzle, with an immeasurable number of pieces, dimensions, and potential perspectives, and of which we are all instinctively interested. Let us continue to focus on this shared interest, rather than our differences, and continue to find new and meaningful ways to engage with all members of the public, especially those who are most interested. Let us find new ways to incorporate non-professional perspectives and collections, and new methods of collaboration that will enable diverse members of the public to engage with the archaeological record and contribute to our knowledge of it in ways that are productive and meaningful. The human past via the archaeological record belongs, in one way or another, to all of us. Let us continue to represent a positive example of collaboration, cooperation, and respect for all who wish to connect with it.

References Cited
ASSC Grant-in-Aid

Donors

ASSC would like to thank the following donors who have generously supported the Grant-in-Aid program:

  Don Rosick
  Julie Schohn

ASSC Grant-in-Aid

We are now accepting Grant-in-Aid applications for 2019.

How to Apply

The ASSC offers Grant-in-Aid up to $1,000 to any graduate student working on a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation that addresses the archaeology of South Carolina, both historic and prehistoric as well as terrestrial and underwater.

Applicants, head to our application page to learn about the application details and apply today: https://archaeologysc.org/grant-in-aid-program/how-to-apply/. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2019.

We would like to thank long-time ASSC member Don Rosick for his major donation over the past year to help fund the continuation of the Grant-in-Aid program.

How to Donate

The ASSC sponsors the Grant-in-Aid program to provide financial assistance to graduate students working on research topics that focus on archaeological investigations in South Carolina. Grant-in-Aid funding can be used to assist graduate students working on theses or dissertations that pertain to the archaeology of South Carolina at both in-state and out-of-state universities. Funds from several hundred to one thousand dollars are available on a competitive basis to graduate students. Please tell graduate students that you think may be interested in applying about the program.

The ASSC Grant-in-Aid program has helped provide $28,000 over the past 27 years to help support more than 50 student research projects in the state of South Carolina. This program would not be possible without the long term support of our society members. If you would like to donate to Grant-in-Aid, visit our donation page for more details: https://archaeologysc.org/grant-in-aid-program/donate-to-grant-in-aid/
Updates from the Foothills Chapter

Current Board Officers
President: Todd Putnam, rcputnam@icloud.com
Vice President: Henry Price, hleepsc@yahoo.com
Secretary and Treasurer: Angie Nelson, inelson952@yahoo.com
Newsletter: Laura Price, hleepsc@yahoo.com

Meetings of the Foothills Chapter are held at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Spartanburg Community College Tyger River Campus Hwy 290, Room 222, Duncan, SC. We are always looking for new members, please come join us!

Updates from the Hilton Head Chapter

Current Board Officers
President: David Gordon, dsgordon@hargray.com
Vice-President: George Stubbs, skipjack585@roadrunner.com
Secretary: Carol Dembowski, ckd2007@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Rita Kernan, rakhi@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: George Stubbs

Chapter monthly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, from September to May, with the exception of December when the Christmas Social is normally held early in the month. Meetings are held at the Hilton Head Coastal Discovery Museum on Honey Horn Plantation in the Discovery House.

Issues of the Hilton Head Chapter monthly newsletter, Island Archaeology, are now available online. Please visit https://archaeologysc.org/chapters/hilton-head-chapter/ to view previous issues.

Monthly Meeting
The November monthly meeting of the Hilton Head Chapter was held at the Coastal Discovery Museum on Saturday, November 10. Joe Wilkinson gave a talk to the chapter entitled Hardin Hafted Biface Technology in the Lower Southeast and Across the Eastern United States.
Have You Seen a Hardin?

Have you seen a Hardin point from a collection or site in South Carolina? If so, please email Joe Wilkinson at Jwilkinson.usc17@gmail.com to help him add to the growing data on this projectile point.

Photo by Joe Wilkinson. Hardin points from across the Southeast.

Photo by David Gordon. Joe Wilkinson presents on the Hardin Project to the Hilton Head Chapter at the November monthly meeting.
Happy Holidays from ASSC!
December 2018

Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.
c/o Keely Lewis
601 Willowood Parkway
Chapin, SC 29036

Archaeological Society of South Carolina Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT: ___ New Membership ___ Renew Membership*
Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Membership Level Desired:
___ Individual: $25    ___ Student: $15    ___ Senior: $15
___ Family: $30    ___ Senior Family: $25    ___ Life: $500
___ Institutional: $100

Please make checks to:
Archaeological Society of South Carolina.
Mail to: Savannah Hulon, Society Treasurer
P.O. Box 1357 Columbia, SC 29202

*Membership renewal is also available online at
https://archaeologysc.org/membership/ through PayPal.

About the Society
The Archaeological Society of South Carolina operates under State and
Federal Law as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax
deductible. The Society is assisted and
supported by the South Carolina
Institute of Archaeology and
Anthropology, the University of South
Carolina, and the Council of South
Carolina Professional Archaeologists.

Membership Information
ASSC members receive an annual copy
of the journal, South Carolina
Antiquities, the quarterly newsletter
Features & Profiles, along with free
entry to events such as our annual
archaeological conference.

For more information, please contact
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