

Hilton Head Island Archaeology Chapter

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George Stubbs, Editor

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Welcome Drs. Jon Leader and Eric Poplin—What the Heck is It?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, October is Archaeology Month, and as usual we have a number of archaeological activities scheduled.

Our annual What the Heck Is It? Is scheduled for October 6th, and we will once again welcome back our long-term friends, Dr. Jon Leader and Dr. Eric Poplin, who will be our experts. The What the Heck Is It? is always interesting, even if you do not bring in any artifacts for identification; I find the identification process very educational. If you have artifacts, bring them in, even if you have done so before; there will always be new people to learn from them. Invite your friends and neighbors, and their artifacts!

Hilton Head History Day is October 13th, and there are numerous tours and events for locals and tourists planned. This year, instead of working at Green's Shell Ring, we have been asked to supply docents at the Sea Pines Shell Ring to explain the site for the trolley tours. We already have several people signed up to be docents, but let us know if you are interested in helping out.

The Arkhaios Film Festival again will be in Columbia this year on 12-14 October.

Our speaker for our November 10th meeting will be Joe Wilkinson, a rising star in South Carolina archaeology who did a prize-winning paper on Hardin biface projectile points at last year's ASSC Annual Conference. He will be updating us on his continuing research on these little-known but significant points.

--Dave Gordon

WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

The Hilton Head Island Chapter of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina's annual program of identifying unknown artifacts brought in by Chapter members and the general public will be held on Saturday, October 6th starting at 1 PM until 4 PM in the Coastal Discovery Museum's Discovery House.

Professional archaeologists Dr. Jon Leader, the South Carolina State Archaeologist, and Dr. Eric Poplin, Vice President of Brockington, Inc., will comprise the expert panel identifying and dating these treasured artifacts.

Archaeology magazines and archaeology month posters will be available for pickup (free). Refreshments will be available for folks waiting to have their artifacts analyzed.

For the Chapter: two or three volunteers to help staff the event would be helpful. Thank you.

The Public is invited and admission is free. Search your house and bring in anything which you need to have analyzed, identified and dated by our expert panel.

MEETING DATES

The October meeting, our annual "What the Heck is It?", will be held on Saturday, October 6th, starting at 1 PM in Discovery House, Coastal Discovery Museum.

The November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 10th.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President, David Gordon, called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM on Saturday, September 8, 2018, at the Coastal Discovery Museum. A quorum was present. New and old business items were reported.

OLD BUSINESS: Treasurer reported a working balance of \$368.10 in the Chapter's account. President reported the tour of Palmetto Bluff cemeteries as the May meeting event, availability of new brochures, and the benefits of membership.

NEW BUSINESS: President introduced Linda Piekut from the Heritage Library Foundation. Linda announced an event they are planning on November 9. It will consist of a forum with lunch and reception at the Zion Cemetery. Included on the program are presentations from the contractor for the mausoleum and possibly Dr. Matthew Sanger, archaeologist from Binghamton University. President also announced our chapter's involvement with the Beaufort County Passive Parks and development of a passive park at Ford's Shell Ring. Also announced the upcoming officer elections, the ASSC Fall Field Day on September 29 in Cayce, SC, the Beaufort County History Day on October 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Sea Pines Shell Ring, and the ARKHAIOS Archaeological Film Festival in Columbia October 12, 13, and 14.

Our next meeting will be our annual **What the Heck?** on October 6 from 1 to 4 at the Coastal Discovery Museum.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tariq Ghaffar, an archaeologist with SC Department of Natural Resources since 2016, presented an overview of history and findings of Green's Shell Ring. Tariq has been active with contract field archaeology since 1990, taught at Camden Military Academy, and published archaeology articles in SC Wildlife Magazine and SC Antiquities Magazine.

Shell enclosures are thought to represent the social, political and religious complexity of the Mississippian cultures (1000 -1600 AD), the last and most advanced of the prehistoric Native American cultures. This culture relied on agriculture and probably had an influence on trade. Green's Shell Enclosure, which has long interested Tariq, dates to the Irene period (1300 – 1450 AD). It was first excavated in 1965. The Irene phase is named for the area of the Georgia coastline, along the lower Savannah River and Sea Island area to the north and south of the mouth of the Savannah. Irene pottery designs are simple with concentric festoons, circles, guilloches and swirls. Tariq pointed out that problems at Green's Shell Ring are erosion (with sea levels higher now than in 4000 years) and looting/vandalism.

Tariq shared a sampling of his collection of pottery from the Irene phase.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

ROMAN ERA RESIDENCE FOUND IN ANCIENT MEMPHIS

MIT RAHINA, EGYPT – Ahrum Online reports that a Roman era residential building with four entrances and several corridors has been uncovered in the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis. Mostafa Waziri of the Supreme Council of Antiquities said the structure's outer walls and inner staircases had been built with red brick. Waziri said the excavation team found purification basins carved from limestone and limestone holders for offering pots decorated with images of the God Bes. A bath and a room that may have been used for rituals was found on the main structure's southwestern side.

Archaeology Magazine



Drs. Jon Leader and Eric Poplin identifying artifacts at "What the Heck is It?"

OFFICER ELECTION

The officers on the Chapter's 2018 Board have agreed to run for election for the 2019 Board. However, nominations and volunteers may be made from the floor. Fresh ideas and new ideas are always welcome.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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