

Hilton Head Island Archaeology Chapter

September 2018

George Stubbs, Editor

Volume 16, Number 6

Welcome Tariq Ghaffar discussing Green`s Shell Enclosure

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is good to welcome everyone back after an eventful summer. While we didn't have our monthly meetings, we were very busy. Several of our members were able to support Dr. Matt Sanger's work at Mitchellville, Zion Cemetery and the Sea Pines Shell Ring. We also had our Chapter table at the Coastal Discovery Museums Family Fun Day.

We have started a new project to support the efforts of Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head to develop a passive park at Ford's Shell Ring. This will require some volunteer work as well as financial support, which will come out of the memorial fund that was created to honor our late friend and colleague, Bob Campbell. We will keep you posted on this interesting and important project.

The ASSC will once again hold the state-wide Fall Field Day, which will be held on September 29 at the 12,000 Year History Park in Cayce. We will share more details when the plans are finalized.

Our speaker this month is Tariq Ghaffar, who is an archaeologist with SC DNR. Tariq and I worked together at Kolb a few years back, and he was heavily involved in the artifact recovery project after the flood in Columbia. He's especially interested in Green's Shell Ring. Welcome, Tariq.

GREEN`S SHELL ENCLOSURE

Green's Shell Enclosure is an earthen and oyster shell ground feature of late prehistory and was occupied during the Mississippian period. The Mississippian culture was the last and most advanced of the prehistoric Native American cultures. The culture was sedentary and agriculturist as opposed to the hunter-gatherers of earlier cultures.

It marks a fortified wall of an Indian village. It is the only feature of this type known to exist in South Carolina. Further, it is one of 20 or more prehistoric shell structures located from the central coast of South Carolina to the central coast of Georgia. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Properties August 7, 1974.

Green's Shell Enclosure is a low earthen embankment, two to six feet high and 30 feet wide at the base, which dates to the Irene period from 1300 to 1450 AD. This dating was determined by ceramics found on the site dated to these periods and charcoal found during the excavation which was carbon 14 tested in laboratory to confirm this time frame. The shell ridge is open to Skull Creek and closed to the landward. The rim, comprised mostly of oyster shells, is mostly intact. Covering 2 acres, it is a fortified village built by farmers who used shells for everything from tools to objects used for religious rituals.

TARIQ GHAFFAR

Tariq Ghaffar studied at USC, has done contract archaeology for numerous organizations since 1990, has taught at Camden Military Academy (2001 – 2016) while staying involved in field research and publication. He has published articles about archaeology in SC Wildlife Magazine and SC Antiquities Magazine. He has been with SCDNR archaeology section since 2016.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Native American fort found in Connecticut

NORWALK, CT - A 1600s Native American fort uncovered as part of a rail bridge replacement project is shining some light on a tribe's first dealings with Europeans, archaeologists said during a tour of the site.

The find on a small sliver of land next to railroad tracks that carry Amtrak and Metro North commuter trains is considered one of the most important discoveries in the Northeast for Native American history.

Not only did experts recently find the remains of the 17th century fort, they discovered some artifacts including arrow and spear tips that date back an estimated 3,000 years, indicating Native Americans were active at the site for generations. No evidence of human remains has been found.

"It's one of the earliest historic period sites that has been found so far," said archaeologist Ross Harper. "And it's very rich in artifacts including Native American pottery and stone tools, as well as trade goods such as glass beads, wampum, hatchets and knives. It's definitely one of the more important sites, not just for the area but New England in general."

Associated Press

WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

Start planning now – find your unidentified artifacts to bring in for Jon and Eric to analyze.

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.

SC Archaeology Month (October) posters and archaeology magazines will be available to be picked up (free). Refreshments will be available for those waiting for the panel to analyze their artifacts.

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 September meeting will be held on Saturday, September 8th, starting at 1 PM in Discovery House, Coastal Discovery Museum.

The October meeting will be our annual artifact identification program – "What the Heck is It?" - on Saturday, October 6th.



Drs. Jon Leader and Eric Poplin examine an artifact during "What the Heck is It?"



Field trip to Tybee Island light house

CHAPTER OFFICERS

David Gordon	President	email: dsgordon@hargray.com
George Stubbs	Vice President	email: skipjack585@roadrunner.com
Carol Dembowski	Secretary	email: ckd2007@hotmail.com
Rita Kernan	Treasurer	email: rakhhi@aol.com
George Stubbs	Editor	Chapter`s Newsletter