MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to all after a busy summer. Our members were very active in supporting archaeological work at the Sea Pines Shell Ring and Mitchelville, as well as at Dr. Kim Cavanagh’s Barnwell site. We also had our Chapter table with our new display board at the Coastal Discovery Museum’s Family Fun Day.

We continued our project to support Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head in their efforts to develop a passive park at Ford’s Shell Ring. We worked with the County and with Dr. Matt Sanger to develop the way ahead for the archaeological research needed at the Ford’s site. The work at Ford’s will require volunteers, and we plan to use the funds in the Bob Campbell Memorial Fund to support this project.

The ASSC will once again hold its state-wide Fall Field Day, which will be held on October 26th, 10-3 pm, at the 12,000 Year History Park in Cayce. For more information, see the ASSC’s Facebook page. We will once again have our Chapter table there.

We have a special treat for our September meeting on September 14th. DNR has recently released a new documentary, “The Ring People,” which covers research on shell rings, including those with which we are quite familiar. Come and see some of your favorite archaeologists in starring roles!

And begin planning for an archaeologically busy October: we will have our What the Heck IS It? on October 5th, and we will be providing docents for the Hilton Head History Day on October 12th. The Arkhaios Film Festival will be held October 10-13 in Columbia, and Fall Field Day on Oct 26th.

-Dave Gordon

THE RING PEOPLE

Forty centuries ago, American Indians left their mark on the landscape of coastal South Carolina with the construction of shell rings. Nearly 60 shell rings have been identified along the coastline of the Southeastern United States. Today, archaeologists from SCDNR, a dozen universities and the National Park Service search for clues on these Late Archaic period sites.

The DNR documentary focuses on the peoples who made the different shell rings with which we are familiar, and features Karen Smith, Matt Sanger and a number of our other friends and will be shown at our September meeting.

OFFICER ELECTION

Per our Chapter’s by-laws nominations for 2020 officers are to be submitted in September, the slate is announced in October and the election is held at the November business meeting.

We encourage members to volunteer to be a year 2020 officer to guide the Chapter. New blood and fresh ideas with new officers are always welcome. Please volunteer to our president, Dave Gordon. Nominations are also welcome.

MEETING DATES

The September meeting will be held on Saturday, September 14th, starting at 1:00 PM in the Coastal Discovery Museum, Discovery House.

The October meeting will be our annual “What the Heck is It?” artifact identification program on Saturday, October 5th.
Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Coastal Discovery Museum by president, David Gordon. A quorum was present. In attendance were vice president George Stubbs, secretary Carol Dembowski, treasurer Rita Kernan, and 6 attendees. David brought our new Chapter display board. Rita brought cookies!

Old Business:
President presented old business as the availability of the 2017 Edition of South Carolina Antiquities for 2107 paid members who have not yet picked up their copy, reminding that a good part of our Chapter dues goes to the State to support the Antiquities Journal for printing and mailing.

President talked about the success of our April meeting, a field trip to Pon Pon Chapel of Ease in the Walterboro area.

New Business:
April meeting minutes were approved.

The treasurer gave the May 2019 Treasurer’s Report as follows:
Treasury balance on February 9, 2019: $2,944.62.
Dues Deposits on February 28, 2019: $190.00
Dues Deposits on March 19, 2019: $70.00.
Chapter’s balance: $3,204.62
Robert Campbell Memorial Fund balance: -$2,345.00.
Chapter’s balance minus Campbell Fund: $859.62
Dues collected for 2019 owed to ASSC: -$345.00.
Chapter’s working balance: $624.62

President announced this as our last monthly meeting before our summer break and that our next meeting will be held in September at the Coastal Discover Museum.

Also announced was the return of Dr. Matt Sanger and the Binghamton University archaeology team June 8 through July 20 to work at Mitchelville and the Skull Creek Shell Rings, and possibly Sea Pines Shell Ring and Zion Chapel of Ease. Our Chapter can provide volunteers for docents, screening and documenting, etc., coordinated through David Gordon. President also mentioned Dr. Sanger and his team are looking for housing and catering for their stay.

Guest Speaker:
President introduced Brandy Joy and Evan Welker from USC as our guests. Brandy shared her doctoral research on the foodways of emancipation for the James Islanders on the Stono Plantation (Charleston) following the Civil War. Her work follows the more than 3 decades of investigation conducted by the staff of the Charleston Museum and others on the Stono site. Brandy’s presentation covered the span from 1865 into the 1930’s where there was evidence of a tenant settlement used for the food history. Brandy and her team concentrated on bones, dishware, ceramics, glass, how these people were eating and storing foods, the kinds of vessels they were using, and the sources of their food and associated changes. They also performed additional excavation outside the grid assigned to assess the breadth of the tenant area. Oral histories they found proved their findings and added data regarding domesticated animals.

Brandy’s findings concluded that the foodways did not change very much between the enslaved and emancipated eras, except for the technologies associated with growing, harvesting, and hunting.
Brandy led a very informative presentation as well as lively discussions on her research, especially her statistics.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.
ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Idaho Finds Suggesting An Earlier Date For The Peopling Of North America

Researchers led by Loren Davis of Oregon State University have unearthed stone tools, butchered remains of an extinct horse and a hearth or fire pit at Cooper’s Ferry site, situated at the junction of Rock Creek and the lower Salmon River in western Idaho. Charcoal and bone samples have been radiocarbon dated to between 16,560 and 15,280 years ago, indicating people were living in western Idaho 1,000 years before melting ice created a corridor from Alaska southward to North America. This suggests that the early people traveled by boat from Beringia rather by land to people North America.

Archaeology Magazine

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 5th 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.

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.

Drs. Jon Leader and Eric Poplin analyzing artifacts,

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