Letter from the President

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina was founded a half-century ago to advance the public education of South Carolina’s history dating back to 10,000 BC. Our society also formed to promote the protection and preservation of archaeological sites in our state. I have written previously about the importance of “context” in the archaeological record. Namely, that every archaeological artifact with a documented and recorded “context of origin in the ground” contains information about the humans who produced, used, and discarded these objects.

Another major key concept of archaeology is the “preservation” of all archaeological sites in their entirety. Archaeological sites are finite resources that when destroyed through professional archaeological excavation, environmental devastation, or non-methodological digging can never be replaced. When sites are excavated methodologically by professional archaeologists, the location of each artifact is recorded on a site map so that they can be documented in their original context.
Contrary to intuition, every professional archaeologist would rather preserve all sites intact rather than excavate artifacts from their original archaeological context. In other words, archaeologists would rather not dig an archaeological site for artifacts, but instead preserve it intact, unless the site is in danger of being destroyed through commercial development or environmental devastation such as shoreline erosion. With site preservation in mind, I urge the public to protect and save all archaeological sites for future generations to learn more about our past human condition.

-Keith Stephenson, President

2020 ASSC Executive Committee Elections

It is time for the Archaeological Society of South Carolina's 2020 executive committee elections! The following questions in this survey will address our annual board election for four member at-large positions, newsletter editor, student representative, and vice president. All your responses will remain confidential. Your responses will not be linked to who you are in any way. The survey will be open until January 17, 2019.

Link to elections: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3Z5P63

The open positions and candidates, as nominated, are below. Write-in options will also be available for all positions.

Member at Large:
Bach Pham, Kelly Higgins, Will Britz, Katherine Carter, John Fisher

Newsletter Editor:
Keely Lewis-Schroer

Student Representative:
Jessica Cooper (USC)

Vice President:
Savannah Hulon
Fall Field Day 2019

The 32nd Annual Fall Field Day was held on October 26th in Cayce at the 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek. Over 200 people from across Georgia, South, and North Carolina attended the event.

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.

SC DNR Heritage Trust
Fuz Sanderson
Seven Ages
Media Prehistoria
SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Native American Studies Center
Bobby McLeod
Warren Lasch Conservation Lab
Columbia Gem and Mineral Society
Archaeological Society of SC-Hilton Head Chapter
SCIAA Maritime Research Division
Wolf Pizza Co.
Thank You!

A special thank you to the 12,000 Year History Park for hosting this year’s Fall Field Day.

Photos from Fall Field Day

A collection of photos from this year’s Fall Field Day. Thanks to Michelle Fuller for these great photos!
Grant-in-Aid
Donors

The ASSC Board would like to thank Michelle Schohn for her support and generous donation to the ASSC Grant-in-Aid fund.

ASSC Grant-in-Aid

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 is 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.

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/

Currently, no applications have been received for the 2020 Grant-in-Aid award. The award will be presented at the 2020 ASSC Conference. If you know a graduate student working on a thesis or dissertation pertaining to the archaeology of South Carolina at an in-state or out-of-state university, please encourage them to apply for funding from Grant-in-Aid. For information on how to apply: https://archaeologysc.org/grant-in-aid-program/how-to-apply/
ASSC Membership

The 2020 Membership rates are as follows. Please note that the membership rates were updated in 2018:

- Individual: $25
- Student: $15
- Senior: $15
- Family: $30
- Senior Family: $25
- Life: $500
- Institutional: $100

You can pay your dues one of four ways:
- In person at the 2020 ASSC Conference
- Through your local chapter
- Through Paypal, via the instructions on our website: https://archaeologysc.org/about/membership/
- By mailing a check to:
  Archaeology Society of South Carolina
  PO Box 1357
  Columbia, SC 29202

Membership Contact Information

If your contact information has changed recently, please be sure to send your updated email and address to archaeologysocietysc@gmail or notify an ASSC Board Member at the 2020 ASSC Conference. Updating your contact information is important to ensure that your journal, newsletter, and other ASSC communications are received.
2020 ASSC Conference

We are currently accepting abstracts for the 46th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology. The conference will be held on Saturday, February 15th, 2020 in Columbia, SC.

Each year the society holds a conference on South Carolina archaeology, focusing on the archaeological work being done within the state. In past years, the conferences has included professional presentations from professors and students from various colleges and universities in the South, local cultural resource management firms, nonprofessional archaeological enthusiasts, and more.

We welcome not only general conference presentations, but also panel discussions, video, talkbacks, or other alternatives that would fit within our conference. Please send your abstracts to archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com by January 20th, 2020.

This year’s conference will focus on the contributions and current status of avocational archaeology in the state.

ASSC Awards

The ASSC Board seeks nominations for candidates for the 2020 ASSC Awards. If you would like to nominate an ASSC member for the rewards listed below, please email archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com by January 20th, 2020.

Robert L. Stephenson Award for Lifetime Achievement

This award is given to a senior scholar who has made significant and sustained contributions to South Carolina archaeology and participated in ASSC during her or his career.

Distinguished Archaeologist of the Year

This award is given to an outstanding avocational archaeologist who has made significant contributions to South Carolina archaeology and participated in ASSC.
Archaeology News and Events

Watch
The Ring People
SCETV
https://schumanities.org/featured/the-ring-people/
On December 30 at 7:30PM, South Carolina ETV will air “The Ring People," a 30-minute documentary that investigates the ancient South Carolinians who created one of the largest and most intricate oyster shell structures known to man.

Lost Secrets: Civil War Spies
Travel Channel
https://www.travelchannel.com/shows/lost-secrets/episodes/civil-war-spies
On December 15th Travel Channel debuted “Civil War Spies.” This episode was shot in Beaufort, SC and focuses on the history and archaeology of Harriet Tubman and the Combahee River Raid as well as the Gullah/Geechee Nation.

Listen
Seven Ages
Archaeology in the Volunteer State
The latest edition of the Seven Ages Audio Journal looks at how recent Amazonian wildfires are endangering archaeological resources and complicating the jobs of archaeologists in the region. The program also features an interview with Tom Poland, an author and researcher with a new publication focused on Carolina Bays, and David Dean, an avocational archaeologist involved in education and archaeology in Tennessee.

Do
SCDNR Heritage Trust
2020 Archaeology Lab Days
The 2020 Heritage Trust Archaeology Lab calendar is now available. Register Online at: EventBrite.Com

Savannah River Site Heritage Museum
https://www.srsheritagemuseum.org/
The museum is open from 10 AM- 2 PM on Tuesday through Saturday and just debuted its new exhibit “6000 Stories” developed by New South Associates.

USCL Native American Studies Center
Cherokee Women- Invincible Spirits
https://www.facebook.com/events/450012508975756/
On January 17, 2020 from 12 – 1 PM, the Native American Studies Center will host historian Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert for an exploration of the lives of Cherokee women from the time before Europeans arrived in the Americas to the twenty-first century using Cherokee myths, visual images, and artifacts crafted by the hands of Cherokee women.

Submit Your Announcements and Events
If you have an announcement or event that you would like included in an upcoming issue, please email it to the Newsletter Editor, Keely Lewis-Schroer, at KSchroer@scdah.sc.gov.
ASSC 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

About the Chapter
Formally organized in 1998, the Foothills Chapter serves the Greenville-Spartanburg-Pickens area and boasts a membership of about 25. In addition to regular meetings, chapter members enthusiastically participate in archaeological site surveys, “road trips” to projects in progress, and spread the word about upper South Carolina history and pre-history via talks and demonstrations with area School and civic organizations. Membership in the Foothills Chapter is open to all who have an interest in studying, recording, and preserving South Carolina historic and prehistoric remains.

Monthly Meetings
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.

ASSC 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, rakhhi@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: George Stubbs

Monthly Meetings
Chapter monthly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, from September to May, except for 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.
Activities of the ASSC Hilton Head Chapter in 2019
David Gordon

The Hilton Head Chapter has been very active this past year, with a program of speakers, field trips, archaeological excavations, and actions in our community to promote archaeology and preserve our archaeological heritage.

January 2019
Our January speaker was Rita Elliott, who presented on the Revolutionary War battle of Purysburg. Rita was assisted by Dan Elliott. They have conducted archaeological research at the Purysburg site as part of The LAMAR Institute out of Savannah. They combined a professionally done documentary with a great discussion of their field work to give us a most excellent program. Thanks to Rita and Dan.

February 2019
Our February Chapter speaker was Dr. Sarah Miller, who wowed us with her documentary and talk about the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease near Walterboro.

We also participated in the ASSC’s 45th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology at USC in Columbia. For us, the highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the Robert L. Stephenson Award for Lifetime Achievement to our own George Stubbs. In addition to serving as our Chapter President for 10 years, George also served two terms as the State President. He has had a major impact on both our Chapter and the ASSC as a whole and continues to play an important role in our community. Congratulations, George, and thank you!

March 2019
Our March speaker was John Goldsborough, who spoke to us about his experiences in the early excavations at Sta Elena with the legendary Stan South. I think we all enjoyed his very detailed presentation. We also were invited to put up our table at the Santa Elena Center’s 500th Birthday Party for Pedro Menendez. Thanks to Carol Dembowski and Joe and Rita Kernan for turning out to staff the table.
April 2019
For our April meeting, we had a very interesting field trip to the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease near Walterboro. Dr. Sarah Miller, who spoke to us on Pon Pon for our February meeting, gave us a most informative tour. Carol Dembowski did all the coordination and organization for this enjoyable trip. Thanks Carol!

May 2019
Our May speaker was Brandy Joy, who made a presentation on her doctoral dissertation research on foodways of emancipated James Islanders after the War of Succession. This is particularly important research, as archaeological investigations can help us to get to the ground truth about this complex era with its competing historical narratives.

Summer 2019
During our summer break (June-August) 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.

September 2019
September was a busy month for our Chapter. In addition to our regular meeting, where we watched the DNR documentary on “The Ring People,” we also provided docents for a tour of Green’s Shell Enclosure, which was part of a tour program organized by the Coastal Discovery Museum. Rita Kernan did an excellent job of explaining the history and archaeological significance of Green’s, as well as the challenges facing the site due to erosion. Carol Dembowski ably assisted Rita.
October 2019
In October, we had our traditional What The Heck Is It? artifact identification program with our good friends Dr. Jon Leader and Dr. Eric Poplin. As always, we saw some interesting things and got to increase our archaeological knowledge, as well as have fun together.

We also had a table for the Chapter at the ASSC Fall Field Day at the 12,000 Year History Park in Cayce. People were very interested in our display board, which showed them what our Chapter does to promote archaeology in the local community.

November 2019
At our November meeting, we showed the DVD “Square Holes,” which is a documentary covering the excavations at the Johannes Kolbe Site near Darlington. “ This film tells the story of one of the longest running archaeological research sites in South Carolina, one which had a lot of involvement by the ASSC and its members. It has many of our friends in it, including Chris Judge, Sean Taylor, Carl Steen, Andrew Agha, and others. At least one of our chapter members shows up in the background. Our Chapter also continued our efforts to support a passive park to showcase the archaeological resources of Ford’s Shell Rings. Seven members of the Chapter attended a meeting of the Beaufort County Council to give formal comments in support of the project. We were very well received by the Council Members. We attended a later meeting of the County Council in which the Council voted to approve the funding for passive parks, including the one at Ford’s Shell Ring. We will continue to work with Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head on this project.

December 2019
In December, we had our Christmas Luncheon at Truffle’s restaurant in Bluffton in one of their private rooms. We had good food, good conversation, and a good time. We are now looking forward to another excellent year of archaeological activities in 2020.
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: Ashley Stewart, 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
ASSC at:
archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com