My Fellow Society Members,

Greetings to all in this most peculiar time of COVID 19! I know that many of you are using these days as an opportunity for catching up on lab work and writing, as well as for the more mundane projects of excavating your own closets, attics, and garages. Please read the articles on our webpage, Facebook, and in this Newsletter about what your fellow members are doing to practice Pandemic Archaeology.

The ASSC Executive Committee continues to meet (via Zoom) and plan for activities for the Society when we can resume them. We are also working on our regular projects, such as Grant-in-Aid, the Newsletter, and our journal, South Carolina Antiquities. We have a very dedicated, capable, and hardworking team, and I am delighted to be working with them.

A special project we are working on is developing a program to certify avocational archaeologists. Since I am an avocational, this project has particular significance to me.
While I have been interested in archaeology all my life (I still have a book on archaeology my grandmother gave me when I was eleven), I did not actually begin active participation in archaeological work until 2011, when I saw a small notice that an archaeologist was speaking at the Beaufort County Library. That was Chris Judge, and he invited me to come work at the Kolb site.

That got me started with archaeological practice and with the ASSC, where I found many people like myself who wanted to do archaeology but were not professionals. I also found that there were numerous professional archaeologists who were more than willing to share their knowledge and experience with non-professionals, and who were happy to give nonprofessionals opportunities to actively participate in archaeological research.

My initial issue was figuring out how I would learn the proper skills of doing archaeological research. While Chris Judge, the other professionals, and the more experienced volunteers at Kolb, and later at Topper, gave me great on-the-job training, I wanted to find a coherent training program that would teach me the knowledge and skills of being an archaeologist without taking on a Masters’ program.

I found certification programs for avocational archaeologists in Arkansas, Virginia, Maryland, and other states, and while I found the Maritime Archaeology Program in South Carolina, there was no program for training or certifying land-based avocational archaeologists in our state. Although I was able to begin to learn the craft of archaeology through on-site experiences and academic programs, I still thought it would be good if we had an avocational archeologists’ certification program in South Carolina.

This is not a new or original idea. James Stewart, when he was ASSC President a few years ago, began work on the idea of a certification program. Others have supported the idea. At our 2020 ASSC Conference, our Keynote Speaker was Dr. Jodi Barnes, who was specifically invited to talk to us about her work with the avocational archaeologist certification program in Arkansas.

Now, the ASSC is in the process of developing a program whereby we can help would-be avocational archeologists learn information, acquire skills, and gain experience in archaeological research. The ASSC– probably in partnership with other organizations– can then recognize their training and certify them as meeting a standard of proficiency. This should be a community effort. We would like the input and participation of both professionals and avocationals to develop this program. Specifically, we would like to know:
Avocationals: What do you need to learn? What gaps in your knowledge, training and experience do you see that you want to fill?

Professionals: What do you want your volunteers to know and to be able to do? What needs to be in this program? What are the best ways to teach the information and skills, and to provide useful experience to those starting out in archaeology?

If you are interested in participating in developing this program, please contact me directly at davidstottgordon@gmail.com.

Be safe and wash your hands!

-David Gordon, President

Meet Our Incoming President

David Stott Gordon (Dave) is a retired Army colonel who spent 30 years as an Army lawyer, and currently works as a consultant for DoD. He holds an AB degree in psychology, an MA degree in history, and a JD degree in law. He also holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Historic Archaeology from the University of Leicester in England. He has worked at several archeological sites in South Carolina. He has been President of the Hilton Head Chapter, ASSC, since 2013, and served as the ASSC Vice-President 2018-2020. He lives in Bluffton.
Welcome to Our New ASSC Board Members

The ASSC Executive Board is happy to introduce our newest members elected for the upcoming year. Will Britz and Katherine Parker will serve as Members-at-large, replacing the positions of Jessica Cooper who has moved into the role of Student Representative and Savannah Hulon who will be serving as Vice President. The ASSC Executive Board would like to extend our sincere thanks to Keith Stephenson who recently completed his two-year term as ASSC President. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership during this time and for always offering us his wisdom and laughter.

While a student at USC Lancaster, Will Britz was offered an opportunity to attend an archaeology field school for free. Not knowing much about archaeology, he took the offer and quickly fell in love with it. He then finished his degree in Anthropology at USC’s main campus and graduated in 2012. After school Will worked as a field technician across the southeast for many companies, including New South, Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas, TRC, and others. Will now works as an Archaeologist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust. He has been a member of the ASSC for several years and is enjoying his new role as a board member.

Katherine Parker is a PhD student in Anthropology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Her research explores the relationship between moonshining, identity, and landscape in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Additional research interests include the archaeology of Anglo-Native interactions in the colonial Chesapeake, the material culture and built landscapes of Contact-period conflict, and Industrial landscapes in the Southeast. Katherine is involved in several public archaeology projects in the Southeast, which include coordinating and teaching non-credit courses in archaeology, conducting ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys of abandoned cemeteries with local community members, and collaborating with indigenous groups in the Chesapeake to conduct GPR surveys of tribal lands. Her hobbies include biking, board games, and checking out local distilleries on the weekend. Originally from Spartanburg, Katherine graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology with distinction in Archaeology from the University of South Carolina in 2014. She has more than seven years of experience in CRM across the Southeast and Midwest that include traditional and geophysical survey methods. A member of ASSC since 2013, Katherine is excited to get more involved with the society as a member-at-large.
The 2020 ASSC Conference was held on February 15, 2020 at Gambrell Hall on the University of South Carolina campus. Over 150 members and guests from across the state and beyond attended this year’s conference. The theme of this year’s conference was *Avocational Archaeology: The Role and Contributions of Avocational Archaeologists*.

Conference Sessions

The morning session at the conference focused on presentations on the role and contributions of avocational archaeologists in SC. These presentations highlighted various archaeological projects in the state led by avocational archaeologists, from an underwater examination of the locks of the Santee Canal to the excavation of a cache at the Fisher Site in Barnwell County. Several memorable presentations also discussed contributions to the field that have arisen from collaborative work between avocational and professional archaeologists.

The keynote address by Jodi Barnes followed, in which she chronicled Arkansas’ development of the first public archaeology program in the U.S. and the important role of avocational archaeologists throughout the history of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. She built on this history to offer recommendations for public archaeology in the future.

The afternoon session began with a captivating panel on avocational archaeology that led to discussions on the methods, contributions and concerns for public archaeology in the future.
The remainder of the afternoon highlighted various archaeological research projects occurring across South Carolina. The historical archaeology presentations included research projects to geochemically characterize bricks from various kilns throughout Charleston, to create a predictive model for clandestine liquor distillation sites in the Francis Marion National Forest, and to continue the success of pro-social archaeological research and outreach efforts at Historic Brattonsville. The prehistoric archaeology talks included an overview of archaeological research conducted along the Congaree Creek and the study of sites dating to the Early Archaic period based on existing projectile point typologies. The Maritime Research Division at SCIAA presented on the discovery and investigations of the cannons from the CSS Pee Dee and their grant-funded underwater archaeology educational program that has reached over 3,000 8th Graders in SC.

Concluding remarks by President Keith Stephenson and the annual ASSC Business Meeting ended the day. David Gordon was announced as the incoming president and the new members of the ASSC Executive Board, Katherine Parker and Will Britz, were welcomed. It was announced that the theme of this year’s archaeology month poster will also be Avocational Archaeology. An update was given that ASSC Journals are expected to be sent out to 2019 members in Spring 2020.

Clockwise from top: Keynote address by Jodi Barnes. Lamar Nelson presenting on the Fisher Site. Ernest Helms giving a memorable talk on his time at the Kolb Site. Jim Spirek presenting on the discovery of the CSS Pee Dee Armament. Katherin Parker’s talk on clandestine liquor distillation sites. Coastal Carolina professors Carolyn Dillian and David Palmer with their students at this year’s conference. Photos by Bach Pham.
2020 ASSC Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award: Anthony “Tony” Caldwell Harper

At this year’s conference, the Lifetime Achievement Award was posthumously awarded to Anthony “Tony” Caldwell Harper, who passed away last September. Nena Rice accepted the award on his behalf. Harper made many tremendous contributions to supporting archaeology in the State of South Carolina and will be greatly missed.

A touching tribute to Harper, written by Tommy Charles, is included in the December 2019 issue of Legacy: http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/legacy-vol-23-no-2-december-2019

Publication of the Year Award for contributions to South Carolina Antiquities: Dr. Carolyn Dillian and Katie Stringer Clary

Dr. Carolyn Dillian and Katie Stringer Clary were awarded Publication of the Year for their paper, “Artifacts and Accessibility: 3-D Technologies for Museum Exhibits,” in the 2019-2020 SC Antiquities.

Their paper presents collaborative work to increase archaeological accessibility for the sensory impaired and tactile learners through 3-D focused museum exhibits. This work represents an inclusive and cooperative effort amongst students, faculty, the local community, and their target audiences. The paper will be included in the latest issue of SC Antiquities which will be sent out to ASSC members this month.
ASSC Grant-in-Aid Award Winner

This year’s Grant-in-Aid has been awarded to Johnny Dodge, an archaeology master’s student from the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Dodge was awarded the Grant-in-Aid funds for an analysis of Structure V1 and the associated artifacts, from the Mulberry Plantation mound-site (38KE12) on the Wateree River near Camden, South Carolina. The funds will be used to obtain two radiocarbon dates from sherds found within the structure to more accurately and definitively date the structure itself. As of now, only one absolute date for the structure exists, and these new radiocarbon dates will aid in a better understanding of the structure, site, and potentially the Mississippian household in general. Dodge was previously awarded ASSC’s Publication of the Year Award in 2019 and hopes to present an abbreviated version of his research in a future issue.

Johnny Dodge receives the Publication of the Year Award from Keith Stephenson as the 2019 ASSC Conference. Photo by David Gordon.

About the Grant-in-Aid Program

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 $29,000 over the past 28 years to help support more than 51 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/.
2020 Features and Profiles Submissions

Do you have any archaeology outreach opportunities or updates that you would like highlighted in the next newsletter? Please send articles, photos, ideas and suggestions for the next issue of Features and Profiles to the Newsletter Editor, Keely Lewis-Schroer at archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com.

Fall Field Day 2020

The ASSC Executive Board met virtually for the May 2020 bi-monthly board meeting.

The ASSC Executive Board is continuing to virtually meet and plan for the upcoming year. While facing the current COVID-19 pandemic, with the health and safety of our members as our foremost concern, we are still dedicated to offering a Fall Field Day for the public to learn about the daily lives of the people of South Carolina's distant and recent past. We are uncertain at this time if this will include a in-person or virtual gathering, but we are seeking input from our members on creative ways to hold Fall Field Day while staying true to our educational mission. We will continue to keep members updated as our planning progresses. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas for Fall Field Day 2020 by sending us a message at archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com.

ASSC Membership

It’s time to renew your ASSC Membership. The 2020 Membership rates are as follows:

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

You can pay your dues one of four ways:

- 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
Call for Submissions: South Carolina Antiquities

South Carolina Antiquities is published annually by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC). Society members and non-members alike are invited to contribute articles to the 2020 issue. We need articles, book reviews, and “Notes from the Field” submissions. Articles can range from research, syntheses or discussion pieces of a topic relevant to archaeology, or the reporting of interesting archaeological discoveries. Book reviews can cover any archaeologically relevant book, which may include history books of relevance to historic or prehistoric archaeology. “Notes from the Field” contributions are short (1-3 page) summaries of current or recent fieldwork or research in South Carolina archaeology and/or history.

Please submit research articles directly to the Journal Editor. Submissions to the journal are subject to peer review and to the discretion of the editor. Manuscripts submitted for review should conform to the style guide published in American Antiquities (April 1983, vol. 48, no. 2). All submitted materials should preferably be submitted in up to date digital formats. Should anyone have physical copies of materials that need to be digitized for publication, please email the Journal Editor for assistance and/or guidance. Digital figures should be submitted as individual JPEG files with a minimum of 300 dpi. The journal is now accepting figures in full color. Please email the Journal Editor, Joe Wilkinson at jwilkinson.usc17@gmail.com or archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com if you have any questions. He looks forward to receiving your submissions.

For the Archives: Congratulations to our ASSC Archivist!

The Native American Studies Center’s monthly Lunch and Learn Lecture Series is getting a new name, thanks to a fundraising challenge seeking to honor one very distinguished faculty member at USC-Lancaster. The series will be restyled as the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, with one of the 12 lectures each year designated as the W. Brent Burgin Annual Lecture. The series, typically held the third Friday of each month covering topics related to local and regional cultural history, is renamed in honor of the Native American Studies Center’s Director of Archives and ASSC Archivist, Brent Burgin. Donations can be made to the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series Fund Account (#A32366) through the Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster and may be made online; the tax-deductible gift may be earmarked for “Lunch and Learn.” For more information about this honor and Brent Burgin’s dedication to this public outreach program check out the full article by Ashley Lowrimore in the latest edition of the Center’s newsletter.
Archaeologists Working from Home

Though things are currently shutdown, South Carolina archaeologists are still finding ways to get the work done. In our Archaeologists Working from Home series, we are reaching out to archaeologists during the lockdown to see how they are working from home. Some excerpts from the series are included below and highlight what these archaeologists have been working on. To follow along with the series and see the past posts in full, visit our Facebook or our website at https://archaeologysc.org/. If you would like to submit to the series, please email us at archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com.

Martha Zierden, curator of Historical Archaeology at the Charleston Museum

“I’ve been working on site reports, particularly for our investigation of the 1780 Siege of Charleston and excavations in the rear yard of the Aiken-Rhett House. I’ve also been reading and writing drafts of revised exhibit labels. Lastly, I’ve still been in touch with my colleagues working on our NSF-funded Colonial Cattle Economy research.“

Karen Smith, Heritage Trust Archaeologist at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

“One of the exciting new projects is a paper on bone pins that Kiersten Weber and I are working on. This research formed her senior thesis at USC. In quarantine, we are taking it a bit further by looking at evidence for individual artisans in the execution of designs among very similar bone pins.

With Will Britz’s help, I brought home one of our flotation tanks and dozens of float samples that we’ve been slowly processing at Parker Annex. I am fortunate to have a well water system at home, so I can process the samples without being charged for water usage. This also gives me a chance to be outdoors, and we all know life is better outdoors!”
Carolyn Dillian, Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Geography at Coastal Carolina University

“My online teaching and administrative duties have kept me very busy, so I haven’t had much time to work on my research, but the semester just ended, so I am finally able to start working on the artifacts I brought home with me. Much of my laboratory work focuses on using geochemical analyses of stone and ceramic materials to understand trade and exchange networks in the past. I use an Olympus Vanta portable x-ray fluorescence spectrometer to analyze the elemental fingerprint of these materials, which then (hopefully) allows me to match that fingerprint with geologic or manufacturing locales.

For example, my work with David Palmer is an analysis of brick kilns and brick structures in the South Carolina Lowcountry, particularly from his excavations at Brookgreen Plantation and from kiln sites near Charleston (this work is also in collaboration with Eric Poplin and Charlie Philips). We are trying to determine if different kilns have a different geochemical signature (resulting from the unique brick recipe they used). We presented preliminary results of this work at the Archaeological Society of South Carolina conference in February 2020 and will do more with the data I gather while working from home this spring and summer. We hope to get back out into the field soon!”

Chris Judge Assistant Director at the USC-Lancaster Native American Studies Center

“Saving approximately 12 hours a week in commute time (will I ever want to go back?), I have been rather productive on the research and reporting front. I submitted a grant proposal answering a competitive call for “creative and cost effective” plans for long term monitoring of erosion at a site in South Carolina and was the successful candidate. The award also came with a bonus $10,000 to be used for my own research purposes. Full disclosure, I was the only candidate!”
In 2019, I was the recipient of generous funding from the USCL Campus Dean to obtain four radiocarbon dates from organic materials recovered from archaeological features at the Johannes Kolb site, located on the Great Pee Dee River in Darlington County, South Carolina. This was a test of a model I developed for the decline in basal width of Triangular Arrow Points. A report is due this month, so I had time to do a little more in-depth research. These C-14 dates targeted three features, two of which had Triangular Arrow Points and one of which had a Stemmed Woodland Arrow Point. The dates are all between A.D. 800 and A.D. 900, squarely within the Late Woodland. One feature (04-25) had three Triangular Arrow Points averaging 17.56mm that conformed to the model I developed for the decline in the basal width of this point type while three Triangular Arrow Points in a Late Woodland feature (06-37) fall within the later Mississippian/Other Late Prehistoric range at 14.73 mm. Oh well, that is why we do science.

More Virtual Archaeology Resources to Check out During Quarantine

New South’s Portal to the Past
Created for a digital Archaeology Month, this site includes a virtual archaeology tour, online exhibits, an interactive field notebook and much more to explore.

Archaeological Institute of America and Archaeology Magazine’s Interactive Digs
Follow along with over twenty excavations happening all over the world from your computer screen.

Penn Museum Living Room Lectures
Curators and museum experts from the Penn Museum lead lectures on their favorite topics and encourage viewers to raise a glass with the lecturers during your living room viewing.

DigVentures Virtual Field School
The six-week online course and virtual field school on how to do archaeology is currently being offered for free throughout June.

For a comprehensive list of virtual archaeology resources, visit the page updated by the Archaeological Institute of America.
An Unusual Schist Artifact from Upper Lake Marion

Robert C. Costello

My field work as an avocational archaeologist in South Carolina during the past two decades has focused primarily upon artifacts and data derived from surface collecting along the shoreline of upper Lake Marion in Clarendon and Sumter Counties. Access to shoreline areas of interest has been accomplished almost exclusively by kayak. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and high lake levels have precluded the feasibility of further field work in recent months. Being virtually housebound this Spring in response to the pandemic has provided an exceptional opportunity to catch up on documentation of past field work, especially after completing the challenge of teaching chemistry courses on-line for the second half of Spring semester to conclude 40 years of what had been exclusively in-class lectures and laboratories. Among the resources accessible at home for continuing archaeological documentation are time, my entire artifact collection, computer, internet access, cameras, daylight lamps, dissecting microscope, measuring tools including micrometer caliper and electronic balance, plus all records of expeditions. These records include narrative accounts of each expedition, site photos, in-situ artifact photos, and GPS locations of all artifacts recognized as significant when recovered. Fortunately, the subject of this note was recognized as unique when recovered and its GPS coordinates were recorded.

One of the most remarkable opportunities for surface archaeological studies in this area was presented by the extremely low lake levels resulting from the extended drought from fall 2007 through winter 2008. The drastic decline in the level of Lake Marion led to exposure of vast areas of lakebed which normally could be accessed only by diving. One previously reported recovery from this period was a large assemblage of Allendale-Brier Creek chert expedient tools, Costello (2011). The artifact reported herein was recovered during a follow-up expedition to the same area undertaken for the primary purpose of searching for more of the tool assemblage, an endeavor which resulted in no additional recoveries but did reveal several projectile points and a few tools manufactured from indigenous lithic materials.

The subject of this note is a very unusual artifact recovered on the follow-up expedition. Two adjacent recovered objects at first were mistaken for skull fragments with sutures, one with an apparent eye socket. Upon realizing that both were artistically worked stone, the following GPS location data were recorded: N 33° 34.473′, W 80° 28.684′. The two pieces turned out to be matching broken fragments of a serrated schist artifact. Based upon photos accompanying our subsequent e-mail exchange, Tommy Charles suggested that it could be a gorget. A return trip to the site the following week failed to yield additional fragments; and soon it had been flooded by the rising lake. At the time of recovery, the lake level was 68.3 feet, 8.5 feet below full pool; and the recovery site was in a nearly flat area of lakebed barely above the water level. For reference, the current lake level is around 76.5 feet, placing this location under about eight feet of water.
As recovered, the larger of the two fragments was heavily stained on one side, presumably due to being exposed to lake sediments. Photos were taken before and after gluing the two pieces together at the break. Then the artifact was treated with 6M HCl for 60 minutes, resulting in removal of virtually all the rust-colored stain and facilitating detailed examination of the lithic material. This technique for stain removal from artifacts recovered from aquatic sites was described in a previous publication, Costello (2017), and currently is being employed in studies of artifacts recovered from rivers in SC and GA, Costello and Goodyear (2019).

The metric attributes of this artifact following processing are presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>attribute</th>
<th>mass</th>
<th>length</th>
<th>width</th>
<th>thickness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>value</td>
<td>33.07 g</td>
<td>73.57 mm</td>
<td>56.53 mm</td>
<td>3.48 mm*</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Metric data. *Thickness measured at 3/4 distance from proximal to distal end; values at midpoint and at the proximal end, respectively, were 5.10 mm and 12.16 mm.

A duplex composite photo prepared for this note is shown in Figure 1. Various aspects of photo editing were performed using Microsoft Photos, Paint and Picasa Photo Editor.

![Figure 1](image)

Figure 1. Obverse (dorsal) side left, reverse (ventral) side right; proximal end bottom in both views.

The character of the lithic material is well-illustrated here; it seems to be a variety of folded schist with small, dark crystalline inclusions. This type of material is a metamorphic rock which originates in mountain ranges. Insufficient evidence exists to determine whether it was transported to its recovery area by human agency or by rivers that originate in the mountains of North Carolina. This example is very paramagnetic and can be lifted by a magnet of moderate strength.

The diagonal break is consistent with the postulate that it was caused by a downward blow from the upper right that yielded the observed damage to the right edge as seen in the obverse view. Basal damage is suggested by the jagged edges in this area, but it is possible that at least part of this represents unmodified original surfaces of the blank. This feature is evident both in the obverse (left image) in Figure 1 and in the side view in Figure 2.
Figure 2. Side view from left, proximal end on right.

The intentional modifications observed in the basal portion of this artifact are challenging both to interpret and to document with photographs. The author’s best attempt to document it in a single photo is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Diagonal view from a proximal ventral perspective.

The proximal end of the artifact features a bowl-shaped hollowed depression with a forward-angled drilled smaller hole within. The bowl-shaped hollow slants backward at an angle of approximately 100° when viewed from the left side; the drilled hole tilts forward at an angle of approximately 65°, both measured with the proximal end on the right and the obverse (dorsal) side up. Portions of the hollow exhibit polish. Perhaps these features can provide clues as to mode of mounting/hafting for ornamental display or for use as a functional tool. Results of a brief search for examples of analogous serrated ornaments and tools follow.

Hothem, Lar (2007), p. 295, includes a photo of point-shaped pendant with serrated lateral edges and base plus incisions on surface. Arc shaped remnants of drilled holes are present on both sides slightly distal to the base, and a circular, abraded area suggestive of drill hole initiation is present near the tip. Its listed provenience is Monroe County, TN. Since the serrations occur around all the edges and on the base, it seems likely that they are ornamental rather than functional. On p. 279 Hothem illustrates a “sawlike artifact, serrated or saw-tooth edge, dark hardstone” recovered in New Mexico. This appears to be an example of a serrated-edge tool.
Another serrated ornamental artifact appears in an illustrated online article, Converse (2010). His Fig. 6, p. 37 shows an edge-serrated artifact described as “A rare two-hole Glacial Kame gorget of yellow quartzite with inclusions.” He speculates further: “The broken portion prompted the owner to make a series of deep tally-marks around the entire circumference except at the broken part.”

A structurally analogous tool with serrations resembling the schist artifact was described by Murphy and Murphy (2017) in a note which described a flattened serrated edge gun barrel end flesher of 4 cm width which they obtained in Wyoming. They describe fleshers as tools employed to remove remaining flesh in the processing of hides and provide a very informative brief review of the history of use of such tools by Native Americans.

In the context of possible function as a fleshing tool one might consider whether the angles of the two ground/drilled proximal areas could be interpreted as the attachment area of components of a handle which would function in a pushing or drawing motion during use. However, the curvature of the edges of the Lake Marion schist artifact would seem to argue against its function as a flesher. More likely the proximal area would comprise the logical location of its attachment for ornamental purposes, perhaps as a pendant.

A final question is whether this artifact is nearly complete or whether it represents approximately half of a bilaterally symmetrical ornament. It almost certainly is not a banner stone fragment, as its plane would be approximately perpendicular to its mounting, and it thus would seriously inhibit the trajectory of a spear shaft to which it was attached.

The author will welcome comments from anyone familiar with analogous artifacts that could provide further clues (bobc@mailbox.sc.edu). Many more photographs are available for sharing upon request. Perhaps further discussions can be continued in this newsletter.

References:
Converse, Robert N.
2010 The Phenomenon of Engraved Slate. Ohio Archaeologist Vol. 60 No. 4 Fall 2010.

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2017 Qualitative Analysis of Stains on a Chert Artifact from Upper Lake Marion. South Carolina Antiquities 49: 57-59

Costello, Robert C. and Albert C. Goodyear
Metal Detecting Leads to Archaeological Discovery of Possible Squire Pope Home Destroyed During the Civil War

Katie Epps Director, Heyward House, Historic Bluffton Foundation

The Town of Bluffton is revitalizing property along the May River, which once belonged to Squire William Pope, a prominent planter and politician who represented St. Luke’s Parish in state legislature as a senator and representative. There are no known photographs or drawings of his summer residence, which was destroyed during the Civil War. On June 4, 1863, the Town of Bluffton was fired on by Union gunboats as soldiers marched to burn the town. The homes along the river were good targets; therefore, it was likely that the Squire Pope summer house was hit by heavy artillery, anchored less than a thousand yards away.

The Town of Bluffton is turning the waterfront property into a park and will rehabilitate the summer kitchen and carriage house for reuse. The Town is vested in Bluffton’s history and preservation; therefore, Town Manager Marc Orlando gave permission to HBF members and ‘Metal Detectives’, Missy Malool and Bunny Williams, to metal detect on the property (38BU1143). He hoped that they would find the foundation of the main house during their exploration. Many Pope/Wright family members believed the house had eroded into the May River. Mrs. Malool and Mrs. Williams traversed the site with their metal detector, screened the soil, and took GPS readings of the artifacts they found. As they neared the river, their metal detector pinged. They excavated an 1899 V Nickel and hit three articulated bricks. They called Katie Epps, a staff member of the Historic Bluffton Foundation (HBF) and an archaeologist. Epps, Malool, Williams, and HBF Executive Director Kelly Graham, excavated around the brick and uncovered a very disturbed but obvious architectural feature.

Previous work on the property included shovel testing but did not find architectural features in that area. We chose to probe the surrounding area and open units where we found brick and mortar concentrations because we were on a tight timeline to complete our excavation. We probed around the original architectural feature and uncovered 3 additional piers for that structure, all of which were only 1 or 2 courses thick and L shaped. The brick of this foundation dated to post-Civil War and was a small ancillary structure. Very few non-architectural artifacts were found in this area. We continued probing between the original piers toward the ca. 1850s carriage house. We found three square and rectangular brick piers with scorch burns on them, melted glass, nails, and ceramics. These brick piers consisted of Savannah Grey brick, were much more substantial in size than the first four we found, and were oriented slightly different to...
the river, all of which indicated this was a different structure from the first piers we found.

Additional archaeologists and volunteers joined us, including Ian deNeeve, JaColeman Hutto, and Nick Walton. We excavated around each pier, screened, mapped, and photographed the units. We probed and opened additional units to explore the brick and mortar concentrations we found; however, we did not find additional intact piers before our deadline. Fortunately, Malool and Williams metal detected prior to our excavations and found the area north of where we stopped excavating contained a heavy concentration of nails compared to the rest of the site. That section was later compacted by heavy machinery and was the staging area for dirt piles; therefore, the area was inaccessible for much of our time on site.

Both structures are located on the interior of the park and will not be disturbed by construction. Fill dirt will be added to the site for drainage. One of the piers was less than 8 cm below the surface, so additional fill dirt will help protect the site. The Town of Bluffton took GPS readings of the pier locations and the town will reconstruct the base of each pier as a visual representation for visitors. Way signs will also be added to the park to provide interpretation.

Artifacts are still being processed and further analysis will continue. If the opportunity arises in the future, the Town will be able to conduct additional archaeological investigations, since the site is being protected. A photo-mosaic was composed using drone photography of the excavation area and will be made available on the HBF website at HeywardHouse.org. In reflecting on this joint effort to preserve Bluffton’s history, Malool said, “Bunny and I are so happy to have been a part of this joint effort between the Historic Bluffton Foundation and the Town of Bluffton.” Graham added that, “Missy and Bunny are tireless volunteers and joyful HBF members, who have brought many historic discoveries and artifacts into the light of day.” The collaboration between metal detecting and archaeologists allowed us to find “a needle in a haystack”. Without the ‘Metal Detectives’ and their respect for context and the archaeological process, the location of these structures may have been lost forever underneath the grass of the Wright Family Park.
ASSC Foothills Chapter

Current Board Officers
President: Henry Price, hleepsc@yahoo.com
Vice President: Todd Putnam, rcputnam@icloud.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 BMW Center, 210 Commerce Court, Duncan, SC – Room 308.

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. The chapter will not be meeting from June-August 2020.

Issues of the Hilton Head Chapter monthly newsletter, Island Archaeology, are available online.
Archaeological Society of South Carolina Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT: ___ New Membership ___ Renew Membership*

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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
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Institute of Archaeology and
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