

Hilton Head Island Archaeology Chapter

February 2017

George Stubbs, Editor

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WELCOME JON LEADER DISCUSSING FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, we enjoyed a very interesting presentation on the Catawba nation by Brent Burgin. Dr. Matt Sanger, of Binghamton University, visited us again and did scans of the Zion Chapel of Ease and Cemetery site with ground-penetrating radar. The hope is to locate features such as lost graves and the location of the Chapel, which disappeared in the late 1800s. Matt will be back at the Shell Ring in July.

This month, our speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Leader, the state archaeologist. Most of us know Jon, as he has been a long-time regular expert at our annual "What the Heck is It?". We look forward to having Jon speak to us.

February 18 will be the ASSC 43rd Annual Conference in Columbia. This will be an interesting program of academic papers and discussions, and is free to ASSC members. Hope to see you there.

--Dave Gordon

MEETING DATES

The February meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 11th at 1:00 PM in the Discovery House.**

We will hold our meetings on Saturdays to accommodate folks who work on weekdays and to see if we can improve attendance.

The next Chapter meeting will be held Saturday March 11, 2017.

FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology and anthropology are the study of historic human remains in the objects, buildings and other artifacts associated with them. Forensic archaeologists and anthropologists can apply the same techniques to crime scenes, to get evidence from human remains, as well as from drugs, guns or stolen goods found at crime scenes, whether recent or decades-old.

A forensic archaeologists first involvement may be to help the police locate the site where a body and victims personal items are buried through geological and geophysical surveying techniques as well as using imaging and photography.

The forensic archaeologists may also help with the excavation, using similar tools and expertise to those used at an archaeological dig. This has to be done slowly and painstakingly, and the archaeologists will record and preserve anything found at every stage and depth as it may be vital evidence. The color and state of the soil may be useful in the investigation.

Forensic archaeologists can date items found in gravesites, including bones, using a range of techniques. Carbon dating can determine whether the graveside is recent or ancient.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The President called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on Saturday, January 14th at the Coastal Discovery House Museum. A quorum was present. The November meeting minutes were approved as distributed. A balance of \$898.63 in the Chapter's account was reported by the Treasurer.

BUSINESS: The President reported the SC Antiquities Journal distribution problem has still not been resolved, and he will continue to pursue the matter until circulation resumes. Our guest speaker (Brent Burgin) indicated he would assist in tracking down the ongoing hold ups. David also indicated that Mark Sanger will return to the island to continue shell ring mapping this summer in July & August. Next month's speaker will be Jon Leader.

GUEST SPEAKER: Brent Burgin established the Native American Studies Archive at the University of South Carolina Lancaster and serves as the archivist for the Archaeology Society of South Carolina. Brent has a BA, MLIS and Certificate of Graduate Study in archives and records management from the University of South Carolina. The presentation was titled "A Brief History of the Catawba Indian Nation".

The Catawba Indians lived in much of North and South Carolina dating back at least 6000 years, and first had contact with Europeans in the mid 1500's. Brent described how disease, war and slavery decimated the tribe between 1500 – 1900. A 1721 map was reviewed which identified 21 tribes in the South Carolina geography -- over time reduced birth rates, war and disease forced their consolidation into the Catawba nation. Discussion followed, and historical records reviewed showing alliances and treaties over the years which eventually reduced the tribe circa 1763 to be forced into a 15sq mi. reservation. In 1840 the Catawba's were pushed into a small 1sq mile patch of land where they remain today. During their declining years the tribe continued to create a distinct type of pottery, which gave them some minimal kind of economic lifeline. Brent also described limited migration west, citizenship timelines and ongoing lawsuits to regain land. Examples of Catawba pottery were displayed to conclude the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Saturday February 11, 2017 at Discovery House.

Respectfully Submitted: Bob Campbell

JON LEADER

The guest speaker for the February monthly meeting will be Dr. Jonathan Leader.

He earned his Ph.D from the University of Florida Gainesville, and heads the Office of the State Archaeologist. His research interests and background include the ancient Near East, Micronesia, Eastern Unites States pre and proto history, submerged resources, cultural resource management, remote sensing and GIS, archaeometry, archaeometallurgy and conservation.

Jon teaches and lectures on a regular basis in four departments at the university. His most current research projects include Ft Motte, Historic Camden, CSS PeeDee, the Hunley, Calhoun House and Az Zubayr, Iraq.

FORT FREMONT

Guided tours of Fort Fremont are given by the St. Helena Branch Beaufort County Public Library every fourth Saturday of the month. Starting at the library you learn the history of the fort, see a scale model of the fort as it stood in 1898, and then take a tour of the remains of the fortifications.

The Chapter took a field trip of the fort several years ago but this is an expanded version and opportunity. The tour lasts about two hours, is free and no reservations are required. This sounds like a fun field trip if the Chapter is interested.

ASSC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ASSC Annual Conference will be held Saturday, February 18th, in Gambrell Hall on the campus of USC, Columbia. Registration starts at 8:00 AM.

ASSC WEBSITE

There is a new website at www.archaeologysc.org. However the up-to-date Chapter page is on the old website at ASSC.net until further notice.

ANNUAL DUES

It is that time of year again. Please submit your Chapter and Society annual dues to the Treasurer, either at the February meeting or by mail. Make your check payable to the Hilton Head Island Archaeological Chapter. Note, per ASSC By-Laws, you must be a member of the Society to be a Chapter member. Write one check to our Treasurer and Rita will send your dues to the Society's treasurer.

	Individual	Family	Senior (62+)	Senior Family (62+)
ASSC	\$20	\$25	\$10	\$15
HHI Chapter	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15

Please invite friends, family members, and neighbors who are interested in history and archaeology to join the Society and our Chapter. The goal of the society is to preserve the prehistoric and historic culture of South Carolina.

The treasurer's address is: Rita Kernan, Treasurer, 48 Hearthwood Dr., Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Live Civil War Ordinance Uncovered by Hurricane Matthew

Charleston, South Carolina - Live Science reports that a pile of 16 Civil War era cannonballs was discovered on Folly Island by a beach walker the day after the winds and waves of Hurricane Matthew attacked the shoreline. Although the cannonballs were heavily corroded, a cylindrical notch where a timed fuse would have been placed was still visible on one of them." Initially, the city wish to display them," said Andrew Gil Reese, Folly Beaches director of public safety." However, they were inspected and a large number of them were found to be explosive cannonballs and thus contained old and very unstable gunpowder." Local officials and the U.S. Air Force Explosive Team destroyed most of the cannonballs. The remaining examples were taken to the nearby Navy base.



This is a gun emplacement at Fort Screven on Tybee Island which is similar to gun emplacements at Fort Fremont.

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