

# Archaeotext



Wetmore Collection, Norwalk Coast

*The Newsletter of the Norwalk Community College  
Archaeology Club and  
The Archaeology As An Avocation Program*



## Club Meetings – Fall Academic Semester

### **Save These Dates! -**

**Nov 12** - Thurs 8:00 pm -

**Native Peoples and Plants  
At the Mashantucket Pequot  
Reservation**

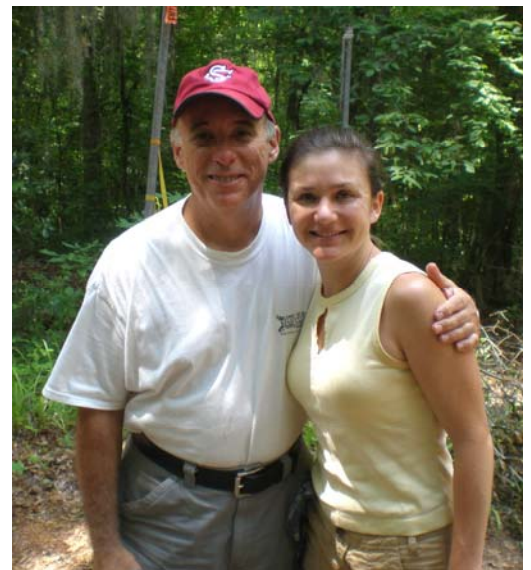
**Dec 10** - Thurs 7:30 pm -

**DOUBLE BILL!**

**The Topper Site -  
Ice Age Man  
in South Carolina**



**November 12 - Thursday 8:00 pm  
Culinary Arts Dining Room – West Campus  
Native Peoples and Plants at the  
Mashantucket Reservation  
Kimberly Kasper  
UMASS Amherst**



**December 10 - Thursday -  
Refreshments 6:45, Meeting 7:30 pm  
PepsiCo Theatre – East Campus  
The Topper Site - Intriguing Evidence  
of Ice Age Man in South Carolina  
DOUBLE BILL - Tom Pertierra - USC  
Ashley Smallwood - Texas A&M University**

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This talk discusses plant use at twelve Historic period Mashantucket Pequot sites on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation located in southeastern Connecticut. These sites, which date between 1660-1930 A.D., reflect integration of Old and New World plants, as the Mashantucket Pequot respond to increasingly restricted access to traditional habitats and a shrinking land base. Through an investigation of the domesticated crops and wild plants, we can gain an understanding of the decisions involved in the plant-related aspects of Mashantucket Pequot foodways during this time period.

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In 1998, archaeologists from the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, while excavating an extensive and rare stratified Clovis site on the Savannah River in Allendale County, SC, discovered stone implements far deeper in the ground than they had ever encountered before. Subsequent excavations have been led by Dr. Al Goodyear of USC, along with other prominent Southeastern archaeologists and a dedicated team of graduate students.

These studies have revealed that ancient humans were present 16,000 or more years ago, some two to three thousand years earlier than previously allowed by textbooks. Known as the Topper Site, it appears to be one of several sites in the eastern U.S. produc-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## December 10th Annual Meeting— Tom Pertierra and Ashley Smallwood

(Continued from page 1) **Topper - Ice Age Man in South Carolina** ing evidence that humans were living in the western hemisphere during the last Ice Age. Though controversial, Topper joins other notable sites such as Meadowcroft, Gault and Monte Verde in casting great doubt on the "Clovis First" theory.

The NCC Archeology Club and Certificate Program is most fortunate to have two key players from this very exciting site to speak to us at our December 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pot Luck Meeting. **Tom Pertierra** is **Director of Operations** at the site, overseeing all logistics and organizational aspects of the six week annual excavation.



Tom is an avocational archaeologist who lives in Greenville, Florida. His scholarly interests include the peopling of the Americas' and Quaternary Research. Since 2001, Tom has been a dedicated supporter of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey Program at the University of South Carolina, and the Founder and Executive Director of the program's direct support organization SEPAS, Inc. which provides and coordinates all logistical aspects of the University of South Carolina's SEPAS Program. Tom also specializes in producing public and academic archaeological conferences and workshops such as the 2005 Clovis in the Southeast Conference convened in Columbia, SC and the 2008 Paleoamerican Origins Workshop at the University

of Texas at Austin. Tom is an advocate for objective public archaeology programs and a lobbyist for responsible isolated finds legislation. He is a member of numerous archaeological societies including ASAA, SCAS, CSA, SAA and CSFA.

One item of particular interest developed by Tom is the unique SEPAS on-site mobile laboratory.

The trailer which houses the lab not only transports all required field equipment, but is also complete with air conditioning, computer work station for real time data entry, as well as microscopic and photographic capabilities. This allows researchers immediate access to portable, up to date data sets shortly after excavation, avoiding lengthy delays between a dig and compilation of data. This mobile lab is being made available to other southeastern public archaeology projects where the general public is allowed and encouraged to take part. It is the philosophy of SEPAS that archaeology also belongs to the public avocational enthusiasts and is not the exclusive domain of a few academics or government bureaucrats.

Joining Tom will be **Ashley Smallwood, Senior Science Supervisor** at Topper. Ashley is also a graduate student at Texas A&M University and one of the country's top experts on Clovis biface production.



2008 NCC Team at Topper with Dr. Al Goodyear, Director

*Please do not miss this exceptional evening*, to be held Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, at the PepsiCo Theatre, East Campus, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres at 6:45 pm, and the meeting at 7:30 pm.



The Deep Pit on the Pleistocene Terrace, site of Pre-Clovis artifact finds



Ashley Smallwood with Clovis point and large Clovis preform

### Ashley Smallwood - Texas A&M Univ.

I am studying Clovis technology in the southeastern U.S., with a specific focus on the adaptive context of Clovis biface production. I have supervised excavations at the Topper Clovis site in South Carolina since 2005, and I am analyzing the lithic assemblage from this site as well as assemblages from the other important Clovis sites in the Southeast, including Williamson (VA) and Carson Conn Short (TN). The goal of my dissertation is to identify the signatures of Southeastern Clovis biface technology and the organization of this industry to culturally define Clovis in the region.

Ashley will be presenting on:

### Biface Technology at the Topper Site and the Implications for Mobility

Topper is a multi-component site in Allendale County, South Carolina with intact buried Clovis deposits. This paper is a preliminary analysis of a sample of the biface assemblage from the site. Analyses will focus on spatial patterns of distributions associated with biface reduction, elements of the reduction sequence, and conservation of raw material in biface manufacture. As one of few stratified quarry sites in the region, Topper has the potential to inform our understanding of Clovis settlement and mobility.

Want to volunteer at Topper in May of 2010?  
go to [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net)

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**November - Native People's and Plants**



Domestic Homestead (1760-1770 A.D.) - whole site

Kimberly is a Ph.D candidate in Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Since 2000, Kimberly has worked in the field of archaeology with a focus on



Storage facility (multi-component)



Mashantucket Pequot Fort (1675-1680 A.D.)- Feature 92 - trash pit)

archaeobotany, the study of plant remains. She received her first Master's Degree in Anthropology from Florida State University in 2003 where she worked on analyzing materials from Early Archaic underwater sites in Florida and Copper Age sites in Hungary.

In 2004, she began the Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts where her research focus shifted to New England and began to work with the Mashantucket Pequot. Currently, she holds a dissertation research fellowship at the Mashantucket Pequot Research Center and Museum.



Kimberly Kasper recovers botanical remains by floatation.

Kimberly completed another Master's Degree program at the Univ. of Sheffield focusing on environmental archaeology. At Sheffield she worked on archaeobotanical remains from various projects in Hungary and Greece from the Neolithic to Bronze Age



Mashantucket Pequot Fort (1675 - 1680 A.D.)- Palisade soil stain

Domestic homestead (1765-1775 A.D.) Feature 5 -hearth



## REPORT FROM THE FIELD - GALLOWS HILL

### NEWS FROM THE SUMMIT OF GALLOWS HILL

The fall semester at the Gallows Hill site started with a bang on opening day with the recovery of both historic and prehistoric artifacts from the new block excavation outside the late 18<sup>th</sup> century building.



**Historic artifacts** from the Gallows Hill Site

Top row, left to right: dry-bodied stoneware sherd, redware bowl sherd with incised lines, two co-fitting bowl rim sherds

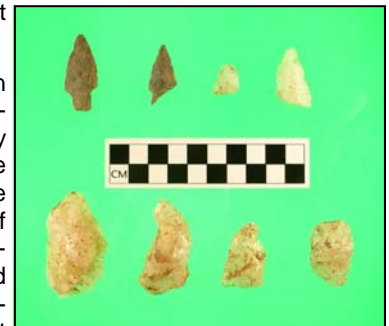
Bottom row, left to right: two co-fitting plate/dish rim sherds, redware rim sherd

As an enthusiastic Introduction to Archaeology class began to dig, a number of historic redware sherds and prehistoric lithic debitage were found. Now, several weeks later, one excavation unit has been completed and five others continue to be dug.

Several dozen redware sherds have been recovered. Unlike the situation in the adjacent building, most of these sherds are very small, the result of weath-

ering forces such as frost-fracturing and quite likely the effects of trampling by the site's historic period occupants. Based on rim size and shape, at least three or four different vessels are represented. Two co-fitted rim sherds are from a bowl and another is probably from a plate or dish. In addition, a sherd of dry-bodied (unglazed) stoneware was found. Probably the fragment of a bowl or other hollow ware vessel, it is the only sherd of its kind found at the site over the years.

Prehistoric artifacts found in the initial excavations at the block several years ago consisted of a very large quartzite cobble-hammerstone that was also used as an anvil stone and quartz lithic debitage. The size of the hammer-anvil stone was suggestive of the area as having been used as a lithic workshop, which is supported by the results of the current excavations. So far, many pieces of quartz debitage have been found, some of large size, as well as a few chert flakes. Other items include a smaller cobble hammerstone, two chert projectile points, two fragmentary quartz points and several quartz biface fragments.



**Prehistoric artifacts** from Gallows Hill  
Top row, left to right: two gray chert stemmed projectile points, two quartz point tip fragments  
Bottom row: early stage quartz bifaces

Weather permitting, excavations will continue into November. Our Thursday night laboratory sessions will resume on the following dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and 17. Club members wishing to participate in the field or lab sessions may call the Archaeology office for details.

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**Salvage Archaeology  
in Action - The Scofield  
Barn Project**



The barn before the move



Ezra Scofield

In 2005, members of the NCC Archaeology Club were asked by Ms. Judy Groppa, Executive Director of the Darien Historical Society, to conduct archaeological investigations at the Bates-Scofield site, where an early 19<sup>th</sup> century barn was to be removed and the land developed.

This barn was historically part of the Bates-Scofield house site. The house, built in the 1730's and named for its original farming family, had been moved in the late 1960's to its present location on 45 Old King's Highway, where it serves as the headquarters for the Darien Historical Society. The barn, left behind along with much of the backyard of the Bates-Scofield house, was used for many years by Mr. Dick Sanford, who donated it to the Darien Historical Society. The sale of the property and its impending development meant that the barn would have to be removed prior to construction.

The NCC Archaeology Club worked with members of the Darien Historical Society and local Boy Scouts to excavate a number of shovel test pits on the property before it was developed.

Many dozens of artifacts were recovered. Most of these were domestic items such as glass containers and ceramic sherds, chiefly dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, a few pieces of quartz and chert lithic debitage indicated that the site had also been used by Native Americans in prehistoric times.

The Scofield barn was also investigated to determine its age. James Sexton, architectural historian, estimated that it was built between 1820 and 1830 based on its method of framing. Professor William Wright and Ms. Ashley Curtis of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Laboratory were able to narrow the date to 1827 based on the dendrochronological analysis of eight of the beams in the barn's frame which still retained their outer-most annual growth rings, a basic requirement for tree-ring dating that allows the year of the cutting of the tree to be established.

The dismantling and reconstruction of the barn was done by historic carpenter Brett Brierley and the addition to the Bates-Scofield House that connects it to the barn was designed by architect Neil Hank and built by the A. V. Tuchy Builders. It greatly enhances the DHS's operations and mission, boasting new classroom and administrative space and, in the barn, a spacious exhibit hall. To celebrate, an opening dedication of the structure was held on September 20, complete with a wonderful exhibit chronicling this major project of the society. Entitled "A Preservation Tale: How the House Moved and the Barn Found It", it featured a series of historic paintings, maps and photographs of the Bates-Scofield farmstead and the two buildings on it.



The barn after the move

The Darien Historical Society is open from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays. House tours are given on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-4:00 p.m. (it is advised to call ahead at 655-9233).

**Archaeology As An Avocation - Spring 2010 Course Offerings**

Three courses in the Archaeology as an Avocation program will be given this upcoming spring semester 2010. For further information, call Ernie Wiegand at 857-7377.

**Advanced Techniques in Archaeology (ANT 223) - Mon & Weds 7:00 - 8:50 pm.** This course, taught by Ernie Wiegand, focuses on a variety of archaeological techniques used in both the field and the laboratory. Students will learn the basics of mapping a site, conducting a range of analyses on archaeological materials such as floral and faunal remains, soils and, of course, artifacts. The major project of the course is the individual student research site survey in which students discover and study previously unknown prehistoric archaeological sites and/or undocumented collections. Several weekend sessions will include a field trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and an "Experimental Archaeology" luncheon (not to be missed!).

**Cultural Anthropology (ANT 105) - Mon & Weds - two sections - Section 1 - 10:00 - 11:20 am and Section 2 - 1:00 - 2:20 pm.** This course is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology offered on Mondays and Wednesdays by Professor Mary Frances Carmell at two times. This course illuminates social systems and patterns of behavior the world over. From tribal societies to enclave communities in our current times, under examination will be those beliefs, values, customs, rituals, laws and material culture - all those social structures that provide identity and that inform and explain a people's world view.

**Physical Geology (GLG 121) - Mon & Weds 9:00 - 11:50 am** Taught by Ernie Wiegand, this course offers an introduction to physical geology, and examines the composition of the earth, and the forces, both external (glaciers, rivers, oceans, wind and gravity) and internal (plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes), that shape our world.