



Common Ground

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Pee Dee Project Enters Twelfth Year

Since the summer of 1988 CFAR volunteers have provided critical assistance to the Pee Dee Archaeological Project directed by Dr. Billy Oliver of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology. Volunteers have labored diligently in the field, in the laboratory, and often contributed both time and money to the success of the project that is a continuation of the work first begun by Dr. Joffre Coe in 1937 at Town Creek Indian Mound. During this period much has been learned about those Native Americans archaeologists identify as "*the people of one fire.*" The archaeological remains of this culture were named Pee Dee after the river that flows through the region.

Several years before the cre-

Richard Myers, John McLain, and Terry Mills made a formidable excavation team. They were part of the 1986 field crew at the Leak Site in Richmond County, NC.



ation of CFAR, Joffre Coe, Dr. Pressley Rankin, and then graduate student Bill Oliver walked across a broad, fertile floodplain in Richmond County, North Carolina. Their eyes swept over the exposed earth looking for small fragments of pottery and pieces of stone. They were not disappointed. The ground was covered with chips, fragments of pottery and fire-cracked rock. This area along the Pee Dee River was called "the Leak Lowground" after a prominent family that had owned the tract during the 19th century. More recently it had been owned by Homer Andrews and presently by Jordan Lumber and Supply of Mount Gilead, NC.

The lowground was known to be the location of a large Indian village that had been heavily scoured by floodwaters in 1936.

After the Spring flood many thousands of artifacts, including large pottery urns, human skeletal remains, and stone arrow points littered the surface of the ground. As young men both Coe and Rankin had observed the flood's aftermath and col-



CFAR members Bill Terrell, Elizabeth Brooks, and Terry Mills display artifacts found during 1998 excavations at the Teal Site in Anson County, NC.

lected artifacts from the site that would thereafter be identified as the Leak Site, 31RH1. The Leak Site was the first archaeological site to be recorded in the state site files for Richmond County.

Little did they know at the time that their association and connection with this site would span more than fifty years. Coe went on to found the archaeology program at the University of North Carolina and became a distinguished professor of anthropology and archaeology. Rankin became a medical doctor and established the Rankin Museum in nearby Ellerbe, NC. The Rankin Museum exhibits cultural, historical, archaeological, and geological materials Rankin collected over the years. The Museum recently



Co-Executive Director's Message

from

Robert A. Schwager and Patricia S. Rose



It is our pleasure to announce a name change for CFAR from the NC Center for Archaeological Research, Inc. to the **Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research, Inc.** The acronym CFAR continues in use as our primary identification. Our name change will not effect the mission or purpose of CFAR to support archaeological research and educational projects in North Carolina. Very simply, the Board of Directors felt it was a fitting tribute to "*the father of North Carolina archaeology,*" Joffre Lanning Coe.

Coe's vision for conducting archaeological research and promoting public education about the results forms the basis for much of our archaeological knowledge in North Carolina. Coe was among the founders of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina. He conducted the first scientific archaeology in North Carolina at the Keyauwee site outside Asheboro in 1936, conducted excavations at Occaneechi near Hillsborough in 1938-1941, directed excavations and reconstruction of Town Creek Indian Mound from 1937-1987, wrote the classic monograph *Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont* (1964) that revolutionized perspectives on the Eastern Archaic period, established the prehistoric origins of Cherokee culture, 1966-1971, initiated historic and



Joffre Lanning Coe

prehistoric research into the Siouan cultures of the Piedmont, 1972-1981, and published the book *Town Creek Indian Mound, A Native American Legacy*, 1995.

Coe's landmark works provide a lasting legacy for all North Carolinians. Our lives, and those of many others, have been forever enriched because Joffre Coe was curious about the past, explored it, and shared his discoveries with all of us. By changing our name to the **Coe Foundation for Archaeological**

Research, we wish to honor his contributions to science, archaeology, and education while we continue to explore the past, and share the results with others.

CFAR Board Members Present Foundation Charter to Dr. Joffre Lanning Coe

On January 13, 2000 Co-Executive Directors Robert A. Schwager and Patricia S. Rose, accompanied by Board members Judith Ambrose and Nancy Bradley presented Dr. Joffre L. Coe, Sally Denton Coe, and their son, Joff, a framed copy of the North Carolina Secretary of State's decree incorporating the **Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research, Inc.** Dr. Coe stated, "*Whatever contribution I may have made over the years to the*

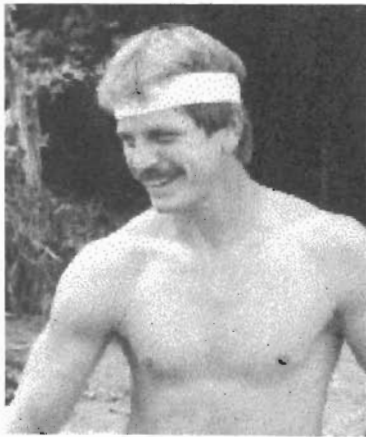


field I chose to devote my professional life to dims greatly in the light of this very special tribute."

CFAR

PROFILES

Terry Mills, an employee of **United Parcel Service** in Greensboro, NC has always had a curiosity about the past. His curiosity led



him to volunteer for an archaeological excavation the Office of State Archaeology was conducting near Bath, NC during the spring of 1985. His experience led to other volunteer work and a desire to refine his educational knowledge of archaeology.

Bill Terrell (*inset*) recently received the Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from Wake Forest University. Bill and his brother, **Richard** are avid bluegrass musicians. Richard works for Unifi, Inc., a textile company. Living on their family's farm in Trinity, NC they had an interest in collecting prehistoric artifacts. Over the years many artifacts had been found there. In fact, they collected an impressive array of projectile points, scrapers,

and pottery from sites on the farm.



They have meticulously documented their discoveries and organized their artifact collections.

Along with other CFAR members **Jack Miller** faithfully volunteers on Wednesday evenings washing, sorting, and cataloging artifacts at the



Office of State Archaeology laboratory in Raleigh. Jack works for **Garland C. Norris Co.** in Apex, NC and has been instrumental in developing corporate donations to CFAR. Jack worked at the Teal Site in 1998 and 1999.

Elizabeth Brooks, a Raleigh native and recent graduate of Georgetown University, also worked at the Teal Site during 1998 and 1999. Now enrolled at the University of Chicago to pursue graduate school in Anthropology, Elizabeth has a



background in classical archaeology and has worked in Scotland and Greece. Elizabeth adapted well to the sometimes harsh field conditions and was heartily adopted by the seasoned veterans of the field crew.

Judy Ambrose lives in Raleigh and volunteers at the Office of State Archaeology laboratory on week day mornings.



Judy eagerly takes on sorting and cataloging of artifact collections and has often extended her hours of service to work on a project.

CFAR

PROJECTS

Archaeology Discovery Kit

CFAR has formed a partnership with Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project, Inc., a non-profit educational resource developer, and the NC Department of Cultural Resources to develop **Timescope: The North Carolina Archaeology Discovery Kit.**

The Discovery Kit is intended for fourth grade students and teachers in North Carolina schools.

It includes an eight chapter book complete with original illustrations by CFAR member **Mike Hill**, text authored by Dr. Joel Gunn and Dr. Billy Oliver, 36 exquisitely replicated artifacts from actual North Carolina archaeological sites, and several innovative posters that explain artifact manufacture or cultural activities. The project is coordinated by CFAR member **Belinda Hardin**, director of special projects for CHTOP.



Belinda Hardin

Educational Exhibits and Presentations

CFAR member **Mike Hill** of High Point, NC performs flint knapping and demonstrates primitive technology for schools throughout the central Piedmont. Mike's renown as a master flint knapper was most recently demonstrated at The Uwharrie Lithics Conference held in February at

locations in Asheboro and Badin. More than one hundred archaeologists, educators, and enthusiasts attended the three day event. CFAR was also a financial contributor to the conference which was organized by the North Carolina Archaeological Council members Ken Robinson and Lea Abbott. Additional information on the conference can be found on the Office of State Archaeology webpage at www.arch.dcr.state.nc.us.

Projectile Point Guidebook Made Available

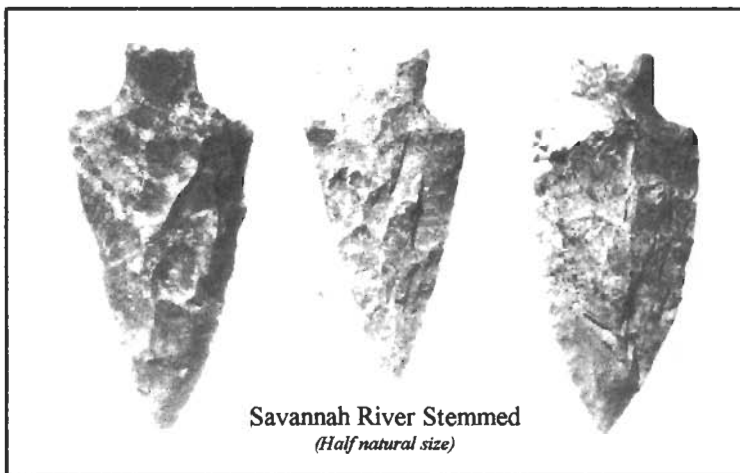
During the Uwharrie Lithics Conference Dr. Billy Oliver presented a detailed session on projectile point identification and typology. Each participant received a workbook containing type descriptions and illustrations for various projectile points that have been traditionally associated with the chronological sequence first identified by Dr. Joffre Coe in 1964. Dr. Oliver has kindly agreed to allow CFAR to publish this work and distribute it to others within the archaeological community.

If you collect arrowheads and need a definitive source to help you identify specimens that you have found, this book is intended for you. If you are an experienced professional or a dedicated enthusiast, this guidebook provides the original type definitions that are often obscure and hard to find for amateurs.

The CFAR projectile point poster will make a nice companion for this book. Look for further information in the next issue of **Common Ground**, or on CFAR's webpage at <http://>

ArtiFACTS

Facts about artifacts in North Carolina



Savannah River Stemmed
(Half natural size)

Savannah River

The Savannah River Stemmed projectile point type was first defined in 1964 by Joffre L. Coe in the *Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont*. Savannah River points are associated with the Late Archaic period, 3000-1000 B.C. Although Coe first defined this type, it was initially described by William H. Claflin from discoveries at Stallings Island located on the Savannah River between Georgia and South Carolina. Therein lies the explanation for its name, "Savannah River."

It is a large point with a broad, triangular blade, and a straight or slightly contracting stem. Bases can be straight, incurvate, or excurvate. Length ranges from 70mm-170mm with the average length about 100mm. Width

ranges from 35mm-70mm and averages 50mm.



Large Savannah River

Small Savannah River

Smaller projectile points dominate the later stages of the Savannah River phase near 1500 BC. Stanley South, considered among the country's preeminent archaeologists, first defined the Small Savannah type while working with Joffre Coe in the Roanoke Rapids area in 1959. Coe later referred to the occurrence as a "small variant" of the larger Savannah River. Still later, while working on the Cherokee Project, another Coe worker, Bennie Keel, identified essentially the same type by the name "Otarre."

The Otarre type was based on a cache of points, most of



Otarre cache

which were unfinished. This unfinished nature may reduce reliability of the type. However, Small Savannah River and Otarre points both fall within the same typological boundaries and occur during the latter portion of the Late Archaic (1800-1000 BC).

Pee Dee Archaeology Continues Lengthy Tradition Of Volunteerism

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panded and is a must visit location on any tour of the southern Piedmont.

Traditional explanations for Pee Dee culture first described them as "invaders" from the south, probably from areas of South Carolina and Georgia. Excavations conducted between 1986 and 1991 clearly showed the development of Pee Dee culture within three recognizable phases. Although the term "invaders" may not accurately describe the emergence of the Pee Dee in North Carolina, they appeared suddenly without cultural predecessors in the region. Their cultural baggage included distinctive pottery, ceremonial artifacts, and ritual burials which were dramatically different from the artifactual assemblage identified with non-Pee Dee groups in the region.

When Coe began excavations at Town Creek Indian Mound in 1936, he utilized Works Progress Administration workers and local volunteers. Although the WPA no longer exists,

volunteers still play a significant role in conducting archaeological excavations in the Pee Dee region.

CFAR members **Terry Mills, John Arsenault, Mike Murrow, Bill Terrell, and Nancy Bradley** have nine seasons of experience working on sites along the Pee Dee River. Although at first they knew little, they have developed skills in excavation, surveying, photography, mapping, and other technical aspects of archaeological fieldwork. They have also developed a keen understanding of artifact typology, analysis, and conservation. Without their contributions, and those of other CFAR members, the Pee Dee Project would not have uncovered the information that answered *when* this unique culture first appeared in the southern Piedmont.

If you have a desire to learn about the past and are willing to volunteer your time, suffer through heat and insects, you might be a candidate to join these modern-day explorers as they pursue knowledge of "*the people of one fire.*" Mark your calendars for the Spring, 2001 and look for announcements in the CFAR newsletter, **Common Ground**. The future for North Carolina's past may include you!



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