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Flotsam and Jetsam - May 1995

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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Flotsam and Jetsam

Formerly *The Goody Bag*

Volume Six, Number Two, SCIAA, Underwater Archaeology Division, May 1995

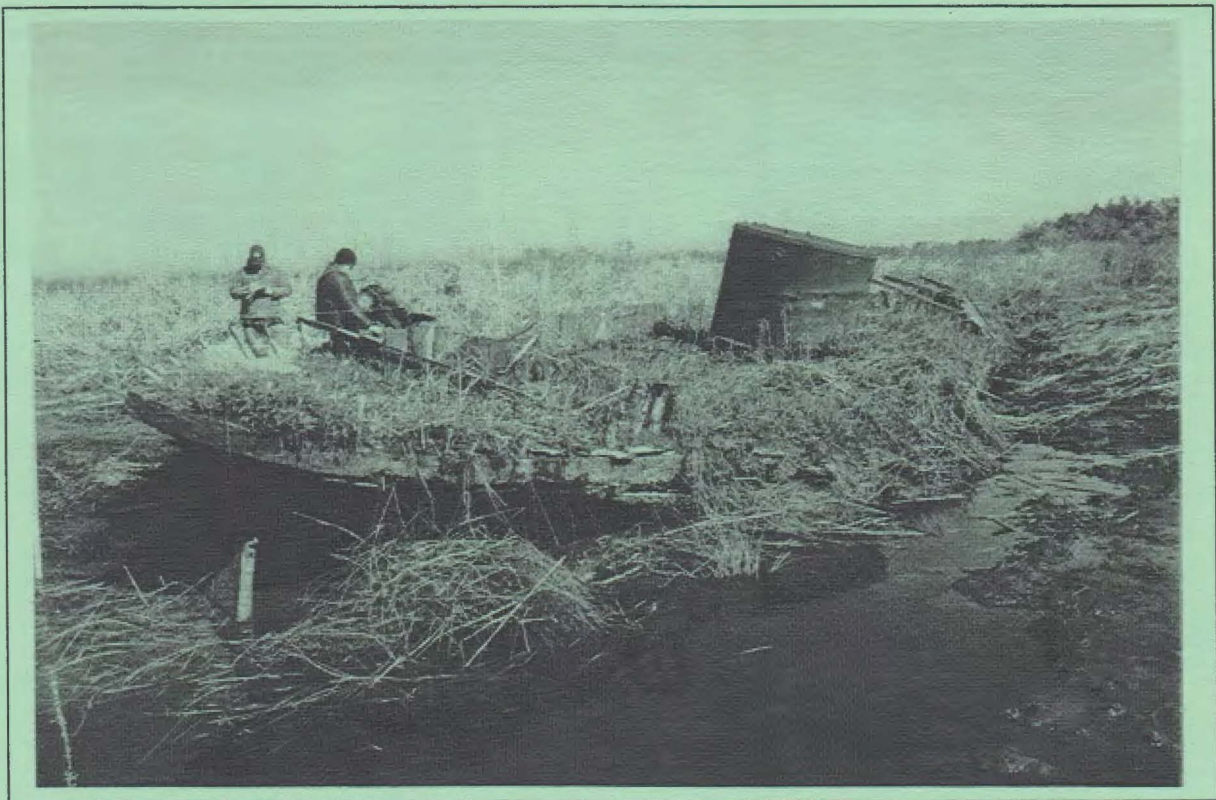
Wreck Graveyard Found in the Ashley River

Historically the Ashley River was navigable by small boats as far as 30 miles (48 kilometers) upstream from the city of Charleston. Above this point the river formed a large swamp. Vessels carried supplies, people and livestock up and down the river. The soil on either side of the river is light and infertile. These settlements were therefore occupied by the wealthier residents of South Carolina who either carried on business in Charleston or derived their incomes from more fertile lands elsewhere. Most of the residences survived until the Civil War when they were burned or destroyed by the Federal army. Well-known historic sites open to public visitation on the Ashley River include Fort Dorchester, Drayton Hall, Charles Towne Landing, Magnolia Gardens and Middleton Place. The

river and the boats were an integral part of life on these plantations and settlements.

SCIAA Research associate, Billy Judd, reported 13 historic sites within a four mile stretch on the river banks of the upper Ashley River to the Underwater Archaeology Division in February. The sites, which are exposed at low tide, include several vessels ranging in dates from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. A preliminary assessment of the architectural attributes of the vessels reflect an interesting transitional range from the 18th (or possibly earlier) to the 20th century. The majority probably slot into the 19th century. There are a variety of

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SCIAA Staff and Volunteers Recording Steamboat in the Ashley River
(Photo by Doug Boehme)

Reporting Finds

The Flotsam and Jetsam

(formerly the *Goody Bag*)

The Flotsam and Jetsam is a quarterly publication of the Underwater Archaeology Division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina.

Director
Dr. Bruce Rippeteau

Underwater Archaeology
Division Head
Christopher Amer

Sport Diver Archaeology
Management Program
Manager
Lynn Harris

Editors
Lynn Harris
Carl Naylor

The Flotsam and Jetsam welcomes submissions from the diving community. We are especially interested in photos and information on artifacts you collect. Send your articles, suggestions, ideas, and questions about hobby diving related topics that interest you to: *The Flotsam and Jetsam*, SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division Field Office, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, S.C. 29422.

Locations of Site must be More Specific "We Need Maps and Detailed Descriptions"

In an attempt to upgrade the quality of the quarterly reports received from divers who participate in the hobby license program, the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) has begun returning reports to divers whose reports do not meet certain standards. SCIAA has been offering annual Underwater Archaeology Field Training courses for five years now, and more recently weekend specialty workshops, which are intended to equip divers with field recording skills and an increased sense of responsibility. This year our staff will also be carefully assessing the contributions of the hobby diving community and considering future management strategies.

"Returning incomplete or unspecific reports is an effort to make the information we receive more useful in our research activities," according to Lynn Harris, head of SDAMP. "After all, the goal of the whole licensing program is to solicit information from the divers in order to study the patterns and density of artifact recovery from state waters. Accepting reports that do not fully report these activities defeats the program's purpose."

Harris noted that a major area of concern is a lack of sufficient locational information supplied by the diver. To simply indicate the location of a dive as "the Cooper River," does not provide precise enough information for the research goals of the program. Maps (topographical, highway, navigation charts, or even hand-drawn) with the dive site delineated are preferred, but are not necessary. However, a detailed description of the dive location is required. For example: Ashepoo River, 200 yards downstream from railroad trestle, ten yards from east bank of river.

Another problem is that divers often report multiple dive locations on the same report form and then fill in the types and quantities of artifacts found without specifying which artifacts came from where. This renders any attempt at using the artifact information for research purposes useless. Without the specific "where," the "what" and "how many" doesn't tell us anything. Additional dives made at other locations during a specific

reporting quarter should be reported on separate forms. The report forms sent to divers may be photocopied for these additional dives.

Also, divers are sending in the Fossil Report Forms with their Artifact Report Forms. The Fossil Report Forms are to be sent to Michael A. Ray, Chief Curator of Natural History, South Carolina State Museum, P.O. Box 100107, Columbia, SC, 29202-3107. In the past, we were forwarding these reports to the state museum when they were sent to us. In the future, Fossil Report Forms sent to SDAMP will be returned to the diver for forwarding to the state museum.

Divers who have reports sent back to them will have the opportunity to correct the reports and resubmit them. Divers who fail to resubmit their reports will be listed as having filed no report. Remember, divers who fail to submit reports risk having their license renewal disapproved.

Any diver who needs assistance or has any questions about completing or submitting the report forms should contact this office at (803) 762-6105.

Maps and charts can be purchased at:

SC Land Resources Commission
2221 Devine Street
Columbia SC 29205

SC Geological Survey
Harbison Forest Road
Columbia SC 29205

The Armchair Sailor
3 Lockwood Dr.
Suite 202
Charleston SC 29401

J.J. W. Luden
Concord Street
Charleston SC 29202

Ashley River

wooden sailing vessels a barge, a wooden motorized vessel and a steamboat of composite construction. Some are imbedded in the river banks with considerable vegetative growth and overburden. Others are covered only by a shallow mud layer.

These sites are only accessible at low tide. This area has the potential as an ideal terrestrial training opportunity for supervised Sport Diver Course 2 and 3 projects and simultaneously add substantially to the existing body of SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division information on vernacular watercraft. The diverse construction of the vessels could produce some interesting chronological and functional information. Furthermore, Billy estimates that erosion in the area is occurring fairly rapidly on some of the sites at present. It seems to be fairly critical that we do something soon.

In March SCIAA staff, College of Charleston student intern - Rusty Clark, Doug and Dee Boehme started

recording these sites. The first project was the steamboat. It had an overall length of 20.62 meters (67 ft., 10 in.) and a midship beam of 6.45 meters (21 ft., 3 in.). The steel propellor and steam boiler are still extant. The vessel had an iron hull, covered with thick wooden sheathing on the exterior and cement on interior - the first of this type that we have encountered in South Carolina. According to Alan Saltus, Louisiana underwater archaeologist, this construction method is prevalent in that area for late 1800s and early 1900s. Alan also mentioned that he had discovered literature references to "bone yards" describing graveyards in areas of rivers where old vessels were deposited. One of the clues that indicate that the steamboat we were looking at was old and worn, was the fact that several of the boiler's leaky steam tubes had been stopped up with cement. The construction details of the boiler were recorded in detail by Rusty as part of his internship training.

When comparing this information to historical references on boilers, we found a drawing of a "donkey boiler" which was a good fit. Construction features which give us a clue to the function of the vessel are two huge bitts in the stern area. These are commonly associated with tugs. The bitts were used to secure the line for towing. This would also possibly explain the presence wooden exterior sheathing on the steamboats sharp iron hull to serve as a protection measure for wooden boats being towed. There are still plenty more questions to be answered about this interesting vessel as we continue our research this year.

A team has also started work on one of the wooden vessel and we will be needing more trained volunteers at a later date. This will include a weekend and weekday schedule as we have to work according to the tide tables. If any SCIAA certified students are interested in helping please contact the Charleston office at 803 762-6105.

Projects and Training Opportunities

A number of opportunities to participate in archaeology projects for trained volunteers (SCIAA or NAS certification required) or archaeology students are available in 1995. To participate or find out further information refer to contacts listed.

Virginia - Work on the Chickahominy Shipyard. Contact Bill Utley at (301) 847-5549

St. Vincent Island - The Africa project in the Caribbean will continue in August and December. Contact Tom Banks at (209) 847-5393

Maryland - Several projects are planned. The Northern Rivers Survey including the North, Elk, Susquehanna, and Sassafras from May 15-26. A survey and recovery of threatened remains of the *USS Tulip*, a Civil War period vessel is scheduled for August 14-25. Tentative dates for the Nanticoke River Survey are October 2-20. Contact Susan Langley at (410) 514-7661.

Israel - The underwater dig at Cesarea, built from 22-10 BCE by Herod the Great is resuming two

field seasons from May through July 1995. The effort is sponsored through the University of Maryland and Haifa University. Contact Greg Hobson at e-mail at ghoson@aol.com.

Ocean Survey Project - To inventory submerged resources off Ocean City shoreline plans to go out once each month from May/Sept. Contact John Kiser at (410) 544-3607

Florida - Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary (NOAA). Survey of the City of Washington, a 19th century screw steamer and preparation of the documentation needed for National Register nomination. May, June and July. Contact Jim Smailes (202) 543-4895

South Carolina - Ashley River survey June - December 1995. Divers and non-divers. Contact Lynn Harris at (803) 762-6105.

Underwater Archaeology Training Courses

South Carolina - SCIAA Summer Field Training Course, Part I. Weekend of July 7th, 8th and 9th. Contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor for applications at (803) 762-8170.

Bermuda - The first Annual Underwater Archaeological Mapping Course to be offered by the Bermuda Maritime Museum and Georgia Archaeological Institute in early October this year by Augusta Dive Club Archaeologist, Mark Newell. The course will cover ten days in Bermuda, two travel days, two free days and six days mapping an early 19th century wreck on the south reefs of the sub-tropical island. Divers will make two dives per day in 25-30 foot water and will be trained in how to map the wreck using a baseline and triangulation techniques. The map will be used by the Bermuda Museum to create a printed dive slate which will be sold by local dive tour operators and the Museum to orient divers to the site. Accommodation is provided free by the Museum and there are cooking facilities in the dormitories. For further information contact Mark Newell at voice mail (803) 279-8216. Call soon as space is limited. Leave your name, number and address.

Dive Sites to be Included in the South Carolina Heritage Corridor

The South Carolina Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT) has initiated an exciting project to bring tourism to rural communities through the development of a heritage corridor which will run from the western Piedmont down along the Savannah Valley to Augusta where it will then follow the route of the old Charleston to Hamburg Railroad and River Road along the Ashley River to Charleston. This route, which includes 14 counties, represents a microcosm of the Deep South. It is a significant landscape, both naturally and culturally, and will offer visitors with an interest in natural and historical sites a smorgasbord of opportunities. The heritage concept will not be associated with the traditional idea of busloads of tourists with name tags, but instead trails along beaches, rivers, bays and canals along the corridor that allow independent recreational biking, hiking, rafting, kayaking, and diving.

The Heritage Corridor technique has been used by a variety of public and private interests to encourage historic preservation, natural resource protection, tourism and economic revitalization for both rural and urban areas in other parts of the nation. It also offers a flexible way for governmental and private organizations to work together. Essentially, it should benefit small businesses that invest in promoting cultural and natural sites. An important ingredient would be responsible usage with a preservation ethic in mind.

In many other states like Florida, Vermont, Michigan and countries such as Australia, shipwrecks are very successfully utilized as part of heritage tourism. For example, Florida has a system of underwater preserves established by the Florida Department of State in cooperation with the Florida Department of Natural Resources and local dive clubs and stores. The Underwater Archaeology Unit at Kure Beach, North Carolina has developed a preserve on the *USS Huron*. Sites are generally selected by local archaeologists working together with existing private sector groups such as charter boat companies and dive stores and clubs.

Selected underwater sites for the corridor would fit a number of criteria such as - 1) Accessibility 2) Popularity 3) Safety 4) Historic Theme 5) Photographic

potential etc. At the same time, we need to be aware of the sensitivity of some sites to increased boat wake or vandalism. Furthermore, selected sites would probably be ones which divers already visit. The Corridor project would assist in promoting the sites and the private sector groups which offer visitation opportunities to these sites. This could include brochures, pamphlets, exhibits, trail maps, interpretation centers, marketing trips and educational activities, site enhancement and safety features. SCIAA could assist in providing technical assistance and service as part of our existing public education program - SDAMP. For example, Florida has underwater trail maps explaining the history of the wreck and architectural features. These correspond with numbered tags on the wreck itself. Mooring buoys have been set for the dive boats anchoring on the site. Diving on the site is subsequently an educational opportunity to learn about Florida's history.

In South Carolina, we have a rich and diverse submerged cultural heritage. The Heritage Corridor is an opportunity to explore ways to enhance the economic potential and provide guidance in regard to funding sources for these locally conceived initiatives. However, ideas must come from the public and private sector - you!

Enclosed is a Resource Inventory Form. If you have any sites you would like to include or ideas for enhancement please let us know as soon as possible. We would also like to strongly encourage dive stores who offer charters to dive sites to become involved. Put down the cultural and natural sites you visit - both offshore and in the rivers. Bear in mind the route of the Corridor. It covers the following counties - Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester (Region IV); Bamberg, Barnwell, Aiken, Orangeburg (Region III); Abbeville, Greenwood, Edgefield, McCormick (Region II); Oconee, Pickens and Anderson (Region I). For the sites in Region III send the information to Mark Newell at SCIAA, 1321 Pendleton St., Columbia SC 29208. For sites in Region I, II, IV and offshore send information to Lynn Harris at SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston SC 29422. If you need any further information regarding the Heritage Corridor please call our Charleston office at 803 762-6105.

ShortTakes

Divers Urged To FAX In Artifact Reports

Hobby divers can now FAX their Artifact Reports to Charleston rather than mail them. The FAX number is (803) 762-5831. Divers are reminded that Fossil Reports still go to Michael A. Ray, Chief Curator of Natural History, South Carolina State Museum, P.O. Box 100107, Columbia, SC, 29202-3107.

No Reports, No License

Licensed hobby divers are reminded that quarterly report forms must be filed whether they have been diving or not. If a diver has not been

diving during a reporting quarter they should check the box marked "No Recoveries Made During This Quarter." When no report is received, we have no way of knowing whether a diver is not diving, has moved to Bahrain, or is still on the bottom stuffing their goody bag and missed the end of the quarter.

Divers who do not file reports with this office and with the state museum run the risk of having their license renewal denied.

Wrong Zip Code Printed

In the February issue of the *Goody Bag* we incorrectly listed our Zip Code in a story on page one. The correct address for the SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Office is P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC, 29422.

Resources Inventory Form

Date: _____

County: _____

Name of Person Completing this Form: _____

Name of Resource: _____

Resource Type: (eg., building, natural area, archaeological site, recreational site, etc.,) _____

Address of Property or Resource: _____

Public or Private Ownership (which and name): _____

Nearest Community or Major Intersection: _____

Description: _____

Access to Resource (from right of way/private road, etc.): _____

Condition of Resource (endangered, other): _____

Recommendations for treating the site: _____

What is the tourism potential or economic development potential (if applicable)? _____

Is owner or community in favor of promoting it as a tourist destination? _____

What improvements must be made to the resource (if any) to make it accessible are needed and would be appropriate? _____

Who would be responsible local parties for administering and promoting such a resource? _____

Awards

Carolina Archaeology field day and the USC showcase.

Jimmy received an award for his publication "The Cooper River Survey: An Underwater Reconnaissance of the West Branch." It was (Research Manuscript Series 218) was based on a survey by a group of volunteers undertaken under Jimmy's direction with guidance from SDAMP. Jimmy covers the history of the West Branch - the plantations, people who lived there and activities that

took place along the river. There is also an outline of the survey methods used and the composition and distribution of artifacts scatters. Preliminary site plans of three wrecks located in the survey area are included. An interesting comparison is made between past collecting activities in the area and the results of the survey. Jimmy also gave an excellent talk about this project at the ASSC meeting in Columbia.



Left to Right: Doug Boehme, SCIAA Director and State Archaeologist Dr. Bruce Rippeteau, Darryl Boyd



Left to Right: Dr. Bruce Rippeteau and Jimmy Moss (Photos by Dr. Albert Goodyear)

National CSS *Hunley* Team Formed By State Officials

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and state officials have formed a team to handle the wreck of the CSS *Hunley*, discovered off Sullivan's Island last month, USC officials said.

"This group will work closely with the federal government to ensure that all work on the site is conducted by the most informed and skilled team possible and that the vessel is afforded the very best protection available," said Dr. Bruce Rippeteau, State Archaeologist and Director of the Institute.

Representatives from the state and from the USC Institute have begun discussions with Dr. William Dudley, director of the navy's Historic Center in Washington, D.C. "It is important that the best advisors in our fields of expertise assist us in this undertaking," Rippeteau said.

In addition, three national scientific societies and five universities have been asked to advise the team on underwater archaeology, conservation and ocean engi-

neering.

The Institute's representatives to the Hunley Project Working Group are Christopher Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater Archaeology, Dr. Jonathan Leader, Deputy State Archaeologist and Conservator, who will coordinate the conservation and stabilization of the vessel and Dr. William Still, a noted Civil War historian, who will oversee and coordinate historical research.

The University of South Carolina Educational Development Fund has received donations for the CSS *Hunley* from the public, including the Sons of Confederate Veterans Palmetto Sharpshooters Camp of Anderson.

The 40-foot *Hunley* sank on February, 17, 1864 after ramming the Union warship *Housatonic*. All nine men aboard were lost. The wreck, which was discovered early in May in about 18 feet of water off Sullivan's Island, is considered priceless because of its historical significance.

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology
and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
1321 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29208

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