3-1-1997

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Maritime Conference Awards

By Carl Naylor

For licensed hobby divers, rewards come in many forms. Usually this means a collection of artifacts or fossils (all properly reported and conserved, of course). But for Michelle Mantooth and the Pee Dee Recovery Group, reward came in the form of recognition at the 1996 South Carolina Maritime Archaeology Conference held in September, 1996, at Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center near Charleston.

Michelle Mantooth of North Charleston won the award for Best Presentation at the conference for her talk on the Limerick plantation located on the East Branch of the Cooper River. Michelle has been diving the area for some time, and as a result became interested in the East Branch in general, and Limerick plantation in particular. Her presentation included a history of the plantation, its owners and activities, and an analysis of the artifacts that she has collected from the river near the plantation.

The Pee Dee Recovery Group won the award for Best Exhibit at the conference. Their exhibit featured the artifacts they have recovered from the area of the Mars Bluff Confederate Naval Shipyard on the Pee Dee River near Florence, and the work they have done in recording, not only the underwater portion of the shipyard, but the land component as well.

The Pee Dee group consists of Ted Gragg, Connie Gragg, Bob Butler, Deborah Coates, W. L. Clemmons, Amy Clemmons, Ronnie Summersett, James Wasson, Richie Sasser, and Holly Sasser. The group is presently conducting their research of the Civil War site under an Intensive Survey License issued by the Institute.

Other exhibitors included Lee Spence on his Civil War research, Lou Edens from Shem Creek Maritime Museum, Robin Denson on Florida's prehistoric underwater archaeology, Ron Anthony from the Charleston Museum, Michelle Mantooth on Limerick plantation, and Doug Boehme on bottle typology in South Carolina.

The maritime conference was split into three sessions: Avocational Archaeology Research, Special Presentations on South Carolina Maritime History, and Opportunities in Avocational Archaeology.

The Avocational Archaeology Research session featured presentations by Doug Boehme on underwater archaeology principles into sport diving certification courses, Dee Boehme on opportunities for non-divers to become involved in maritime archaeology, Jim Radz on Florida’s underwater avocational archaeology opportunities, and Kara Bridgeman on the Allendale Chert Quarry project.

The Maritime Archaeology Conference was held in conjunction with the 5th Annual South Carolina Archaeology Week and was sponsored by the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program of the Underwater Archaeology Division at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.
Schedule of Events for Sport Divers
By Lynn Harris and Carl Naylor

Fossil Workshop at Charleston Museum (Saturday, April 5, 9-12 AM)
Learn about South Carolina’s paleontological history and how to identify fossils with Dr. Albert Saunders from Charleston. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. The remainder of the fee should be paid to the museum on arrival. For more information contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

Waterlogged Artifact Conservation Workshop at the Charleston Museum (Saturday, April 5, 2-5 PM)
Techniques to conserve and preserve artifacts recovered from an underwater environment will be discussed by Ron Anthony from the Charleston Museum. This is also an opportunity to view the museum’s conservation laboratory and treatments in progress. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. The remainder of the fee should be paid to the museum on arrival. For more information contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

Underwater Archaeology Workshop (North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort, NC, Monday, April 14)
The goal of this workshop is to encourage participation and co-operation between amateur and professional archaeologists. This is a great opportunity to interact with our neighboring state. Any sport diver or maritime enthusiast wishing to attend or to present a 10-minute paper should contact Lynn Harris at (803) 762-6105. We would really like to have a good representation from our state. There is no charge for the workshop, but there will be a lunch cost.

Underwater Field Training Course Part I in Charleston (June 20, 21, 22, 28 & 29)
This two-weekend course combines theoretical lectures and practical sessions in artifact identification and underwater surveying methods. It will take place in the classroom, swimming pool, and on the Cooper River. The course is open to divers and non-divers. Equivalent exercises will take place on land. The cost is $150 (which includes a textbook and two days of diving). Send a $70 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422.

23rd Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology, Sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina in Columbia on USC Campus (Saturday, April 19)
There is a call for papers from sport divers, who have participated in projects or wish to speak about any other theoretical or methodological subject related to their experiences in South Carolina. Anybody interested in giving a paper should contact Carl Steen, Program Chair, at (803) 929-0294.

“Sight on This” Workshop at Old Dorchester State Park in Summerville (Saturday, July 19)
Learn how to use a transit, lay survey lines, dig test pits, and excavate archaeological units. This workshop will require active participation. The integral historical link between the land and the water will be a significant
theme. The importance of combining terrestrial and underwater fieldwork and survey methodologies will be explained in the context of Fort Dorchester’s location on the Ashley River. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. The remainder of the fee should be paid to the state park on arrival. Contact Monica Beck at (803) 873-1740 or 873-7475 for further information.

Ashley River Canoeing and Kayaking Shipwreck Trail (Saturday, July 26)
Paddle the Ashley River and learn about the maritime history of the area represented by shipwrecks embedded in the riverbanks. Tour guides will discuss a variety of diverse topics such as the vernacular boat construction techniques, shipwreck disposal patterns, trade, industry, and settlements along the river. Total cost to be determined based upon availability of canoes. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. For more information, contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor. For further information, please call Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

South Carolina Archaeology Week (September 27 to October 4)
Archaeology events will be held statewide. The theme this year for the poster is prehistoric with a focus on shell rings. Contact Nena Rice for further information and a Calendar of Events (in July, 1997) at (803) 777-8170.

“Going all the Way, the Right Way: Official Methods for Reporting a New Shipwreck Site,” Workshop in Charleston (Saturday, October 11)
Spend a few hours in the morning discussing the procedures and requirements for reporting a shipwreck site to the SCIAA Information Management Division. This will be followed by a boat trip out to some old wrecks lying on the beach at Snake Island on the Stono River to practice these methods. Divers and non-divers are welcome. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. For more information contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

Conference in Underwater Archaeology in Atlanta (January 7-10, 1998)
This annual conference will feature presentations and workshops offered by underwater archaeologists from all around the US and many other nations. We are considering a session on public participation in underwater archaeology and would like a few advanced FTC (Field Training Course) students to consider giving 10-minute papers. For more information contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.