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Progress Report from the "Pumpkin" Site

By Tommy Charles

The "Pumpkin" site, recorded as archaeological site 38GR226, is located in the northern part of Greenville County, South Carolina. The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology became interested in the site in autumn of 1994 when it was first visited and recorded as an archaeological site by an Institute archaeologist. Artifactual evidence indicates human occupation of this site began as early as 7500 BC and continued periodically until 500 AD and perhaps later. Test excavations revealed the predominant occupation of the site to be that of the Connestee (A.D. 200-600), a culture of the Middle Woodland period whose habitats are more commonly found in the mountains of North Carolina.

Field work at the "Pumpkin" site began in November of 1994 and continued periodically until completion in December of 1995. Lab analysis of excavated cultural materials has been completed and analysis of the ethnobotanical materials is in progress.

Ethnobotanical remains were recovered from twenty-three soil samples collected from sub-surface features—a combination of pits, hearths and post molds. The "floatation" process used to separate ethnobotanical materials from the soil samples was under the direction of Dr. Gail Wagner, Archaeologist/Ethnobotanist at the University of South Carolina Department of Anthropology. The volume of recovered materials far exceeded our expectations, and it is from these floral and faunal remains that we hope, and expect, to get our most informative data about this site.

Analysis of these materials is being done by Dr. Gary Crites, of Seymour, Tennessee, an expert in the field of ethnobotany. Dr. Crites' primary archaeological interest is the Middle Woodland period, and he was elated to receive such a large sample of floral and faunal remains from a site of that period. The ethnobotanical samples are the most extensive ever recovered from a prehistoric human occupation

site in the Piedmont of South Carolina, and Dr. Crites is hopeful that they will allow him to establish a botanical "baseline" for our area; presently there is none. The cost estimate for this analysis is \$5,200, considerably more than anticipated and partly due to the unexpected volume of materials recovered. This will strain the budget for "Pumpkin" and make it necessary to postpone obtaining several radiocarbon dates from post molds and features until additional funds can be found. Given the importance of the ethnobotanical data in the overall cultural analysis of the site the cost seems justified.

Archaeological research at "Pumpkin" is being conducted by SCIAA working jointly with volunteers from the Greenville area and with assistance from archaeologists at SCIAA's Savannah River Archaeological Research Program. Financing for the project is provided by local citizens through the ART. If there is interest in supporting this important research project, please contact Tommy Charles at SCIAA.

Historical Archaeology in Wachovia Book Completed

By Stanley South

Through grant funding from the Archaeological Research Trust in 1994 and 1995, Stanley South, assisted by Lisa Hudgins, brought to completion a book on archaeological work carried out at the Moravian settlements of Bethabara, as well as the Moravian pottery made by Gottfried Aust and Rudolph Christ that was recovered on these mid-eighteenth century sites.

The manuscript has been submitted for consideration for publication by Plenum Press of New York.



A tortoiseshell-glazed teapot made by Rudolph Christ was recovered by Stanley South during excavations at Old Salem. (SCIAA Photo)

PETROGLYPH AND ROCK SHELTER SURVEY

By Tommy Charles

A survey of certain portions of Greenville County (and possibly other Piedmont areas) for petroglyphs, or "rock art", and rock shelters will begin sometime in late fall/early winter of this year. The exact date will depend on when the leaves have fallen from trees to afford better visibility. The hunting season in those areas is also a factor that we will have to plan around. More about this as plans are finalized.