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# The Topper Site Pavilion Celebration

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# The Topper Site Pavilion Celebration

By Albert C. Goodyear, Director  
Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey



The October 21, 2006 tour of the new Topper Pavilion constructed in 2006. (SEPAS photo by Daryl P. Miller)

In the spring of 2006, after nearly a year of fundraising by many enthusiastic individuals and organizations, the permanent shelter over the deep Pleistocene excavation at the Topper site was finally built. Technically the structure is known as a pole barn as constructed by the well-known Hoover Buildings of Lexington, SC, owned and operated by Ted and Ron Hoover. The shelter, gloriously renamed the Topper Pavilion, is 50 X 70 feet and has successfully withstood the sun and rain for over a year. The building allows visitation of the deep and controversial portion of the Topper site excavation year-round with no damaging floods from rain. It functioned extremely well during the 2006 excavation season. Like the Topper site itself, the Pavilion is on Clariant Corporation land, and Clariant made the last big donation, which allowed the construction in time for the 2006 dig.

Clariant Corporation, at Martin, SC, offered to build a viewing deck inside the building where tours can safely see the excavations in progress. This deck was completed in April of 2007 and is a most helpful addition to the building. Thanks to Bill Hartford, Plant Manager, who spearheaded the project, and Jim Thompson, Mark

Freeman, Chris Lane, and Pat Hudson who helped design the deck. John Thompson, Jimmy Elkins, David Thomas, Vincent Aiken, Richard Williams, Warren Butterfield, Gene Freeman, and Mark Hutson ably put it together. Our great thanks to these employees who donated their time and talent to build it.

On October 21, 2006, there was a celebration at the Topper site commemorating the construction of the Pavilion. Over 200 invitations were sent to donors and friends to partake in a whole hog BBQ cooked by retired Clariant employee Al Stevens and catered by Carolina BBQ of New Ellenton, SC. Artifact displays from Topper as well as interesting private collections from the region were available at the picnic shelter along with t-shirts and coffee mugs of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey.

Approximately 150 people came for the tour and luncheon and witnessed the ceremonies down at the site.

The site tour included a few brief speeches by myself and Dr. Thorne Compton, Director of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, recognizing the scientific importance of the Topper site and the role of the



Tom Pertierra, Rebecca Barrera, and Al Goodyear holding the newly installed permanent sign describing the significance of the Topper site. (SEPAS photo by Daryl P. Miller)

public in bringing us to this place of success. Two permanent outdoor signs were presented; one describes the significance of the Topper site in New World prehistory, the other lists the names of donors whose financial assistance helped build the pavilion. Signs installed down in the Pleistocene excavations show the stratigraphic position of Clovis and the pre-Clovis occupations in the upper Pleistocene sands and Pleistocene terrace including the location of the two 50,000-year old radiocarbon dates. The list of donors who helped make the pavilion possible is at the end of this article.

We also took the opportunity on this occasion to recognize several individuals for their efforts in the Topper site research as well as the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey. Dr. Thorne Compton and myself presented a plaque to Clariant Corporation for their many years of support. Mr. Jeff Vitters, Head of Human Resources at Clariant at Martin, received this award on behalf of Bill Hartford. Those present receiving an award were Daryl P. Miller, John W. White, Elizabeth Stringfellow, Larry Strong, and David Anderson on behalf of himself and



Mr. Jeff Vitters receiving an award on behalf of Clariant Corporation from Dr. Al Goodyear and Dr. Thorne Compton. (SEPAS photo by Daryl P. Miller)

Jenalee Muse. Individuals receiving their awards at a later date were Bill Hartford, John Kirby, Tommy Charles, John Thompson, and Edward Cantey.

Given the quality of construction of the pavilion, we look forward to many more years of protected excavation in the ancient Pleistocene deposits. The building was purposely placed toward the hillside where previous testing has indicated several hundred more cubic meters of intact Pleistocene archaeology are yet to be excavated.

### List of Donors Who Helped Make the Pavilion Possible

Elizabeth A. Allan, Atlanta, GA  
 Allendale Co. Chamber of Commerce, Allendale, SC  
 H.M. "Mike" Anderson, Barnwell, SC  
 The Barnwell County Museum, Barnwell, SC  
 Robert and Adele Bland, Kiawah Island, SC  
 Thomas M. Boulware, Barnwell, SC  
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 Branch Banking and Trust Company, SC Bankers Asso.  
 David N. Brown, Lexington, SC  
 Richard and Wynn Callaway, Douglasville, GA  
 David Cannon, Barnwell, SC  
 Clariant Corporation, Charlotte, NC  
 Brenda Owens and Bob Collins, Barnwell, SC  
 Bill and Ann Covington, Southern Pines, NC  
 Robert C. Costello, Sumter, SC

(In honor of Donald P. and Helen M. Costello)

Joseph and Ruth Cramer, Denver, CO  
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 Betty Stringfellow, Johns Island, SC  
 Larry and Bess Strong, Allendale, SC  
 Michael L. Wamsted, Augusta, GA  
 Neill Wilkinson, Charlotte, NC  
 Kenneth L. Weiss, Treasure Island, FL  
 George T. Youngblood, Spring, TX



Signs placed in the Clovis and pre-Clovis levels of the Topper site underneath the pavilion. (SEPAS photo by Daryl P. Miller)