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The Goody Bag - May 1994

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

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Charleston Field Office Moves

by Carl Naylor

After seven years afloat in Charleston Harbor our Charleston Field Office is now on solid ground. At the end of April we moved into new quarters at the Fort Johnson Marine Resources Center on James Island having been put ashore from our floating offices aboard the N.S. Savannah at Patriot's Point Maritime Museum. The N.S. Savannah has left Charleston Harbor and has been taken to a shipyard on the James River in Virginia for an extensive refit.

Fort Johnson is also the home of the Division of Marine Resources and the Charleston office of the Division of Law Enforcement of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, the College of Charleston’s Grice Marine Biology Lab, and the Medical University of South Carolina’s Marine Biomedical Research Program. Federal facilities at Fort Johnson include the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service’s Southeast Fisheries Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Field Office.

“The move makes sense from a functional point of view since we work in cooperation with the Wildlife Department’s Law Enforcement Division who have enforcement powers under the 1991 Underwater Antiquities Act and with the College of Charleston with whom we conduct independent study courses,” according to Christopher Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater Archaeology at SCIAA.

The Charleston Field Office was established in 1987 when the Underwater Antiquities Management Program (UAMP) was created by the legislature to review Public Notices to determine the impact of construction activities in state waters. These activities range from the building of small private docks to the construction of major highway bridges. In 1989 UAMP was merged with SCIAA’s Underwater Archaeology Division and continued to function as it had before while also assisting in the research activities of the Underwater Division. In May of 1991, the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) was moved to the Charleston Field Office while the Columbia office took over review of Public Notices. In addition to licensing the state’s hobby divers, SDAMP also is charged with developing underwater archaeology educational programs. These include the popular Field Training Courses and Projects which allow interested divers to learn basic underwater archaeology techniques and principles and practice them in the pool and open water.

To locate our new offices follow the signs to building three once you enter Fort Johnson. We are located just past building three on the right in a mobile office unit. Our new phone number is (803) 762-6105; our fax number is (803) 762-5831; and our new address is P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, S.C., 29422. Y’all come visit now, y’hear.
New Address For Artifact Report Forms

Divers licensed to collect artifacts through the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) are reminded to send their Artifact Report Forms to our new address at Ft. Johnson Management Program rather than to our old address at Patriots Point. Our new address is SDAMP, P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, S.C., 29422. License Applications and Li-

Letters To The Editor

To The Editor:

I have wanted to write for some time to advise you and your readers of my interest in Civil War-era pontoon boats. I have been researching and writing a history of permanent Confederate Engineer organizations for the past ten years. As a historic preservation professional I am sensitive to linking history to sites and artifacts, and consequently appreciate the need to find and interpret any surviving portable bridge fabric.

I would be pleased to correspond with individuals who have an interest in these boats. They were very well built, usually using hardwoods for the majority of their frames and sheathing, so their survival is likely. They were also used at literally hundreds of bridging sites across the south. Associated with the boats are boat anchors (naval, rocks in boxes, and so on), chain, trestles, pilings, and bridge approaches.

James E. Jacobsen
4215 Northwest Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310

Editor's Note: No, the new Artifact Report Form is a revised version of the old Artifact Report Form, providing more room for detailed drawings and better explanations of activities. The Artifact Report Form is to be accompanied with the Fossil Report Form for reporting your collecting activities. The Artifact Report Form is to be sent to us, while the Fossils Report Form goes to the South Carolina State Museum (see Briefs, this issue). Your local dive shop can provide you with copies of the forms, or you can contact the Charleston Field office.
Boyd and Boehme Receive Awards

Conference Held At Litchfield

by Hamp Shuping and Robin Denson

The first Carolina Discoveries Underwater (CDU) Conference kicked off on May 21 at Litchfield-by-the-Sea with only 60 persons attending. Of those, 18 were directly involved in the conference either by giving a presentation, assisting with a display, or volunteering to deal with the crowd expected to register early Saturday morning. Those crowds never came! Only nine new registrants were added to the pre-registration list of 31!

Those who came to the first CDU Conference were generally pleased with the content of the presentations and the venue, although some expressed desire to see a larger range of artifacts on display. That was the feedback from the six or seven persons who managed to stay at the conference through the last item, a round table discussion about the program and its future.

Bruce Rippeteau, State Archaeologist and Director of SCIAA, gave the opening remarks and pointed to the progress that has been made between sport divers and the professional community as a result of the Sport Diver Archaeology Program (SDAMP). Many of the presentations were given by active members in the program who have begun to make significant and real contributions to understanding South Carolina’s past.

The morning session in the main theater was chaired by Chris Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater Archaeology, and included talks on South Carolina’s past as known from archaeology, identification lectures on bottles, historic ceramics, and Native American artifacts.

The second session began with an introduction to the Artificial Reef Program administered by Marine Resources Division at Fort Johnson, our new home in Charleston for the SDAMP office, and continued with an introduction to the the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program for those who may not have been familiar with it.

Next we heard from Jim Michie, a professor of archaeology at Coastal Carolina, on the evolution of Oaks Planta­tion, the home of Joseph and Theodosia Alston. He was followed by Hamp Shuping giving more information on the potential for local archaeology on the Pee Dee region.

The artifact fair which began at 1:00 pm was competing with the two other sessions going on in the afternoon. In the main theater, The Project Session chaired by Carl Naylor highlighted projects run by sport divers Jimmy Moss (Cooper River Survey), Darryl Boyd (Savannah River Survey), Robert Bush and Doug Boehme (B & B shipwreck), and Hamp Shuping (Management of Archaeological Projects—Waccamaw). The first three projects are in various stages of completion and served as nice illustrations of how sport diver projects can progress. The final talk was designed to assist others who may wish to become involved in running projects with good advice on how to get started.

In the second afternoon session, Billy Judd gave a riveting hour-and-a-half presentation and display on rice flats and barges as well as lowcountry plan-

(Continued On Page6)

Shorts

(Continued From Page 2)

logical Society of South Carolina (ASSC), hobby diver and chapter president Jimmy Moss (license # 2628) presented a slide show on the underwater survey he directed of the Cooper River between Mepkin Abbey and the Trestle bridge at Strawberry. The survey took place during the summers of 1992 and 1993 (see the January 1993 issue of The Goody Bag for details on Jimmy’s survey in the Cooper River).

Be Alert For Snakes

As the diving season bubbles into full swing with the warm weather and water temperatures, divers are warned that this is also the season for snakes. During a recent dive by SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division staff in a small creek off the Cooper River, a water snake was observed actually swimming in circles around the diver’s bubbles. The snake swam off before the divers surfaced and was kept off the dive boat by alert topside personnel. Divers who leave their boats unattended while they are on the bottom should be careful when getting back in their boats—there may be more waiting for them than lunch and a beer.
Work Begins On B&B Wreck

by Doug Boehme
SCIAA Research Associate

After several months of patiently waiting for the water temperature and visibility to improve, work has begun again on the B & B shipwreck (see Nov. 1993 issue of The Goody Bag).

On Friday, April 29, SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division personnel joined myself and Robert Bush (the other “B” in the B & B wreck) for a visit to the site to make some much-awaited observations and gather construction information about the wreck.

Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater Archaeology Christopher Amer and graduate student Bill Barr joined Robert and I in the water to begin the survey of the vessel, while Joe Beatty and Carl Naylor remained topside to provide valuable assistance and keep a snake watch.

Chris pointed out several details that Robert and I had overlooked during our initial survey of the vessel. We also took measurements of the keelson, floor timbers, fasteners, and futtocks, as well as several wood samples for analysis. From these measurements a preliminary drawing of the vessel has been made.

Much of the outer planking of the vessel remains intact, almost to the gunwale in places. This makes the ship quite interesting as few shipwrecks of this age have any upper structure left. The date is still uncertain, although it was probably built at or prior to the mid-1800s.

Future plans include a full-scale project this fall by a small team of sport divers (preferably with field school training) working closely with SCIAA’s Underwater Archaeology Division. Anyone interested in participating in this project should call me, Doug Boehme, at 875-5006 or the SCIAA Underwater Division Field Office at 762-6105. Upcoming articles in The Goody Bag will detail the progress being made.

Field Training Course Set For August 26-28

Want to learn more about underwater archaeology in South Carolina? The next SCIAA Underwater Division Field Training Course (FTC) is scheduled for August 26, 27, and 28, 1994 in Columbia.

Each FTC consists of two-and-one-half days of lectures and pool practical training. Participants attend a Friday evening lecture, an all-day Saturday session, and a somewhat shorter Sunday session. All participants in the course receive a certificate of achievement from

Field Training Course Registration Form

Yes, I want to preregister for the SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division’s Field Training Course to be Held in Columbia on August 26-28, 1994.

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Telephone ____________________________

Make check or money order for $70 per student payable to SCIAA and mail along with this pre-registration form to SDAMP, P.O. Box 12488, Charleston, S.C., 29422.

(Continued On Page 6)
What Is It?

W.D. Clifton Jr. (hobby license #747) sent us this photo (at right) of a chamber pot he found recently in the Combahee River. The pot, which appears to be in amazingly good shape, is a form of earthenware called "combed and dotted yellow slipware" and dates to the early eighteenth century. It was made in the west of England, particularly in the Staffordshire area.

The combed effect was produced by covering the vessel with a white clay slip which was "combed" to allow the darker body below to show through. The vessel was then lead glazed, giving the white slip a yellow color upon firing. Because of the dots around the rim, this form of pottery is often called "dotware." Good find!

The Adventures of Diver Mouse

SDAMP Talks
With Sharks
(And Survives)

SDAMP manager Robin Denson was fortunate to have survived an encounter with sharks on April 28 at the monthly meeting of the Shark Scuba Club in Florence.

Several sharks were swarming to devour their steak meals at Western Sizzlin' while listening to the new owner of Hurricane Dive Shop in Myrtle Beach speak about future plans for the store. The sharks seemed to have calmed after their meal and enjoyed hearing Robin speak about the sport diver archaeology management program as well as the field training courses.

A Field Training Course in Florence is tentatively scheduled for the fall, sometime around October. If you are interested, please contact Tony Hughes at Rt 7, Box 135, Florence, 29505, (home 661-0737 or work 669-7734) or the Charleston field office at 762-6105.

Special thanks to Julius Duke for inviting us to attend and to club president Bob Butler for his hospitality (i.e. the free steak).
Conference

Institute in recognition and support of his participation in the program. Over the past year, Doug has located and reported a new site, assisted with excavation and artifact cleaning at Pritchard Shipyard, provided several talks and presentations to local libraries and schools as well as instructing at SCIAA field training courses. We look forward to supporting Doug formally as he continues to expand his role in South Carolina archaeology.

Some participants expressed concern about running the conference next year with concurrent sessions because often they wanted to attend programs running at the same time. Conference organizers, likewise expressed concern about running the conference next year at all! More than two thousand flyers were distributed for this year’s conference throughout the state, targeting sport divers in the program and all dive shops and local Pee Dee area historical societies. The result was 41 persons in attendance!!!

Another participant has suggested soliciting the assistance of local sport divers to make the conference more visible in their respective regions. If you are interested in assisting with marketing the second annual Carolina Discoveries Underwater Conference in your area, please contact the Charleston Office at (803) 762-6105.

A survey of those who attended is planned to help determine how we might organize and run a bigger, better program next year. Suggestions include moving the date forward to early March and potentially realizing that only a small number of sport divers really want to attend such a conference. To those who did attend, we thank you for your interest and participation and look forward to seeing you next year at the second annual Carolina Discoveries Underwater Conference.

Course

SCIAA. An optional certification with the Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS) is available. Instructors for the FTC include sport divers, SCIAA staff, and South Carolina State Museum staff.

Upon completion of the FTC, divers are eligible for SCIAA’s Field Training Projects which consist of recording previously unrecorded underwater sites for inclusion in the South Carolina State Site Files.

The August FTC will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Each class is limited to a maximum of sixteen divers. A minimum of twelve divers is required to hold the class. The cost of the course is $70 per student with an additional $50 for the NAS certification. If interested or for more information, contact the Charleston Field Office at (803) 762-6105.

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