October 2014
Volume 5, Issue 3

Things You Need to Know:

• Oyster Roast November 8th
• Quarter 3 2014 Reports Due October 10th
• MRD Offices Closed November 25th-28th, December 22nd-January 1st

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The Maritime Research Division will be hosting its 4th Annual Maritime Heritage Awareness Oyster Roast this November. This event is to help raise awareness of the needs of maritime heritage in the state of South Carolina. There are multitudes of underwater archaeological sites all over the state that range from 4,000-year-old canoes to 20th century tugboats. The many waterways served as the roads of their time and experienced early settlements, wars, agricultural growth, and technological advancements. The waters of South Carolina and the sites they hold can answer many questions about our past as Americans and as people.

The mission of the Maritime Research Division is to protect these incredible cultural and natural resources, learn from them, and share that information with all those interested in the past. The MRD Maritime Heritage Awareness Oyster Roast serves as a platform in the pursuit of this mission. Previous roasts have helped us raise funds for much needed equipment as well as education and outreach programs. This year we hope to focus on completing our remote sensing equipment package for future study of sites reported by sport divers. Get involved and talk with archaeologists and other members of the public about what this state can do to further the protection, preservation, and education regarding our very own maritime heritage resources.

Join us November 8, 2014 from 4-7pm in Charleston for an evening of oyster, live music, a silent auction, and learning about the maritime archaeology our great state of South Carolina has to offer. Tickets are on sale now for $25 per person ($30pp after October 17th).

Oysters, chili (with vegetarian option), dessert, and iced tea will be provided, but feel free to bring a cooler with beverages of your choice.

For more information on the roast and where to order your tickets, please visit our website at: www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/2014oysterroast.

Ticket order forms and payment must be received by October 31, 2014. Tickets will not be available at the event.

We hope to see you there!
October Quarterly Reports

This is a reminder that your Quarter 3 2014 reports are due by October 10, 2014. These reports should cover all of the collecting you have done between July 1st and September 30th of 2014.

Please file your artifact reports using our online system. You can submit forms online at: src6.cas.sc.edu/sdamp
(Note: If this is the first time you are filing on this system, you will need to activate your account by following the directions on the home page).

All report forms can be found on our website at: www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/forms
Please use the newest versions of the forms. We will no longer be accepting outdated versions.

Artifact Reports
Your artifact reports should be filed online or may be sent to:

Artifact Report Forms
PO Box 12448
Charleston, SC 29422

You may also fax forms to: (843) 762-5831
Email forms to us at: mrd@sc.edu

Fossil Reports
Your fossil report forms should be emailed to Dave Cicimurri at: dave.cicimurri@scmuseum.org
Or mailed to:
Curator of Natural History
301 Gervais St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Make sure that you file reports with both agencies even if you have not done any collecting. If you have not done any collecting, just tick the box that reads “No Recoveries Made This Quarter” and send it to the appropriate agency.

If you have any questions regarding reports, please visit our website at: www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/onlinefiling
Or give us a call at: (843) 762-6105.

ASSC Fall Happenings
By Sarah Stephens, ASSC Newsletter Editor

Things are starting to pick up for the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) as fall approaches. In early September, members accompanied The Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists (COSCAPA) on a tour of prehistoric lithic quarries in Edgefield. Jim Bates and Chris Moore led the tour and informed us about the different materials found at the site and their attributes. Our chapters will be hosting multiple events throughout October for archaeology month. Some of these events include artifact identification programs and multiple presentations on Woodland archaeology, which will be held in Hilton Head and Beaufort. For more information on the October chapter events, please visit our calendar at www.assc.net/events/calendar or review the September ASSC Features and Profiles Newsletter Issue 3.

We are excited to host the 27th annual ASSC Fall Field Day on Saturday, November 15th. Admission is free, so bring the whole family! This year the event will take place at Croft Park in Greenville, located north of downtown, in conjunction with the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. Fall Field Day brings together archaeologists, prehistoric and historic skills demonstrators, and others who present on past South Carolina life ways as a means to encourage public interest in the state’s vibrant cultural history. Demonstrations will include black-smithing, indigenous pottery making, Archaic period hunting technology, and flint-knapping. There will also be presentations on late 19th century tenant farming technology and attire along with piedmont folk storytellers. In addition, we (Continued on page 3)
ASSC (Continued from page 2)

will have an artifact identification table, a knap-in, and delicious Latin American food available from the ASADA food truck.

Find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @SC_Archaeology for more event announcements. We hope to see you there! For more information on the ASSC and how to become a member, please visit our website: www.assc.net. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and an annual copy of the journal, South Carolina Antiquities.

The Maritime Research Division is a proud supporter of the Archaeology Society of South Carolina. We hope you will consider joining this great organization.

Upcoming Events

Oyster Roast
The MRD will be hosting our 4th Annual Maritime Heritage Awareness Oyster Roast on November 8th. Please see page 1 for details on the roast or visit our website: www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/2014oysterroast.

SEAC
The MRD is hosting a southeastern maritime archaeology symposium at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference this November 12th-25th in Greenville, SC. SCIAA is sponsoring the conference this year and it will feature archaeologists from all over the southeastern US. For more information on the conference, please visit: www.southeasternarchaeology.org.

Student Lectures
In November, the MRD will be meeting with fellow SCIAA archaeologist’s public archaeology students at USC to discuss the MRD’s education and outreach as well as the Hobby Diver License program. We will also be meeting with the College of Charleston Archaeology Club to speak about upcoming internship opportunities.

Office Closed
The Charleston office will be closed November 25th-

MRD News

It is important to us that our divers and friends are aware of the education and outreach we do throughout the year. We hope to keep you updated on all that we are involved in so that you too will get involved.

Remember that MRD is on Facebook! Leave a message on our wall!

July
• Nate Fulmer and Ashley Deming received a surrendered anchor unintentionally recovered offshore from Ft. Moultrie. For more information on this story, please see page 5.
• The MRD hosted a special event at the Charleston RiverDogs game on July 18th. We had a great group of around 10 people and the RiverDogs won!

August
• Ashley Deming and Nate Fulmer conducted a site assessment in a creek off the Stono River on August 5th. See story on page 6.
• MRD Charleston along with volunteers Joe Harvey and Bruce Orr hosted an archaeology of piracy display at the 2nd Annual Charleston Pirate Festival on August 10th.
• The MRD teamed up with the SCIAA’s Applied Research Division for a project off the shores of Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown, SC. See story on pages 7-8.
• The MRD worked with the US Coast Guard to survey offshore for the wreck of the USRC Alexander Hamilton. See story on page 7.
• Columbia Pub Night was held August 27th at the British Bulldog and featured a special artifact and fossil identification night. Approximately 40 people attended the Pub Night event.

September
• MRD Charleston conducted dive equipment training at the W.L. Stephens Aquatic Center in Charleston.
• Charleston Wing Night was held September 24th at the new Kickin’ Chicken location in West Ashley with 13 people in attendance.

Upcoming:

October
• Quarter 3 2014 reports are due October 10th.

November
• Oyster Roast November 8th from 4pm-7pm.
• Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Greenville, SC November 12th-15th.
• Archaeology Fall Field Day November 15th.
• MRD Charleston offices closed November 25th-28th.

December
• MRD offices closed for the holiday season December 22nd- January 1st.
Archaeology Month
By Nena Rice Powell, SCIAA

The SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina is finalizing the coordination of the 23rd Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month to be held in October 2014. The fall event focuses on cultural programs offered in every corner of the state. Each year the month-long event produces a topical poster focusing on current archaeological research in the Palmetto state.

This year’s theme is entitled “The Woodland Period in South Carolina—1000 B.C.-A.D. 1200.” The poster front features a great example of a recently reconstructed pottery vessel from a South Carolina site. In fact, the glue is barely dry on this Cape Fear Fabric Impressed vessel from the Ashe Ferry site, 38YK533 (Riggs and Davis 2014)! Beyond the pottery, there is much about the Ashe Ferry site that says Woodland Period, and we are happy to showcase it. Thanks go to Chad Long, SCDOT, and Brett Riggs, UNC-RLA, for contributing the image. The back matter will feature photo and text vignettes on Woodland Period sites stretching from the coast to the mountains and from the Savannah to the Great Pee Dee Rivers. We wish to thank Karen Y. Smith and Keith Stephenson for designing this exciting poster in 2014.

Archaeology Month activities will begin in October 2014 with a variety of statewide events focusing on prehistory, history, culture, and historic preservation. The 26th Annual South Carolina Archaeology Field Day sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) will be held at Croft Park in Greenville, SC on Saturday, November 15, 2014, in conjunction with the Southeastern Archaeological Conference that will be from November 12th-15th. There will be demonstrations of Native American, African, and European technology, maritime archaeology, as well as new programming, of which details are now being finalized.

For a list of scheduled events in connection with Archaeology Month visit the SCIAA website: artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/archaeology-month-2014. For any questions concerning Archaeology Month, please contact Nena Rice (nrice@sc.edu) at SCIAA at 803-576-6573.

Hobby Diver of the Quarter

This section of the newsletter is devoted to the hobby diver(s) who go above and beyond the call of duty. He/she has submitted excellent reports, been an exceptional volunteer, has gone out of their way to preserve cultural and/or natural heritage in the state, or has been a general inspiration to other licensees, the public, or us.

Each quarter we will pick a licensee that resembles one or more of these noteworthy traits. Hopefully, it will be you! If you know of someone who fits some or all of these categories and would like to nominate them, please send us a brief email of who and why you think they should be Hobby Diver of the Quarter.

The honor of Hobby Diver of the Quarter for Quarter 3 2014 goes to licensee Catherine Sawyer (#4913).

This is the second time this award has gone to Catherine for her outstanding work with us. Catherine has been a licensed hobby diver since 2009. She began volunteering with us on the 2010 Allendale project and was back each year to learn more about Paleo.

For more information on Archaeology Field Day, contact Carl Steen (carl.steen@gmail.com) Archaeologist at Diachronic Research Foundation, at 803-782-8789 for more detailed information on Archaeology Field Day. Please come by SCIAA at 1321 Pendleton Street in Columbia and pick up a free poster!

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2014 Archaeology Month Poster

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For more information on Archaeology Field Day, contact Carl Steen (carl.steen@gmail.com) Archaeologist at Diachronic Research Foundation, at 803-782-8789 for more detailed information on Archaeology Field Day. Please come by SCIAA at 1321 Pendleton Street in Columbia and pick up a free poster!
Southeastern Archaeological Conference
By Ashley Deming, MRD

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference is being sponsored by SCIAA this year and will be held in Greenville, SC November 12th-15th. The conference will feature a variety of lectures ranging from archaeology of the late Pleistocene to the 1950s.

This year, we are thrilled to be chairing a symposium dedicated to southeastern maritime archaeology. The MRD will present about our public outreach as well as a few of our projects. We have also organized speakers to discuss maritime archaeology projects in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Presentations include topics regarding the H.L. Hunley, maritime archaeology in the Savannah River, fieldwork done by East Carolina University in Florida, and a few presentations about Blackbeard’s shipwreck the Queen Anne’s Revenge and its conservation.

This is going to be a great conference and we hope you consider attending. For more information on this conference and how to register, please visit the SEAC website at: www.southeasternarchaeology.org.

Hobby Diver (Continued from page 4)

Americans. Catherine has since been an avid volunteer with us on projects such as the 2013 Black River Project and the 2014 Hobcaw project (see article on pages 7-8).

Recently, Catherine and her dive buddy Jimmy Armstrong have been mapping barges in the Congaree and Wateree Rivers for us. Catherine has found some amazing artifacts while diving. Her reports continue to be exemplary and always include pictures with scale as well as detailed information about the sites where she collected the artifacts. She goes the extra mile and brings her artifacts into SCIAA as well as our events so archaeologists and others can study and appreciate them further.

Thank you, Catherine! You are truly an inspiration to us all!

Field Notes

Small Anchor Surrendered
By Nate Fulmer, MRD

Referred to us by Meg Gaillard, an archaeologist with SCNRD, a local boater contacted the MRD Charleston office this summer to report he had recently recovered an old anchor with his own while fishing near Fort Moultrie and had taken it home with him. Although it had been leaning against a tree for a month, the boater was kind enough to agree to submerge it in a small, plastic children’s pool until we could come take a look at it. The following week, we visited him at his home to assess the anchor and its condition.

Upon examination, it appears to be consistent with other anchors of a mid-19th century origin, perhaps a kedge. It is heavily corroded, but there seems to be enough good metal left to save through conservation. During the visit, we discussed state law regarding removal of ship hardware and detailed the conservation processes required to preserve the anchor. We gave him the option to conserve it as a custodian for the State, but after he was informed of the potential time and cost required to preserve it, we returned to Fort Johnson with the anchor and an almost-new kiddie pool. It joins a similarly recovered anchor also awaiting conservation at our office.

Recovered 19th century anchor from Charleston Harbor
In July, the MRD field office was contacted by a local resident regarding what he described as a large number of disarticulated bricks submerged in a small creek in western Charleston County. Although not a diver, he was interested in obtaining a Hobby Diver license to recover some of the bricks from the creek. A background search of historic resources on the creek revealed that several sites within or adjacent to this location are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and search of the state archaeological site files revealed the presence of two archaeological sites on the creek, both associated with historic causeways on Fenwick Hall plantation. Ashley Deming and I arranged to meet him at the Wappoo Cut landing prior to low tide to conduct the promised assessment in the Division’s johnboat at slack tide. Once in the creek, we quickly determined that the locations of interest to him were indeed the ends of the Fenwick Hall and Seven Oaks causeways. The bricks we observed embedded in the banks at both sites were likely used as fill to shore up the timber-planked deck near the creek. A section of intact timber planking was observed protruding from the banks above the brick fill at one of the sites. After visiting the sites with him and explaining their archaeological significance, we advised our new licensee against removing any bricks from those historic locations.

My name is Logan Crouse, and I am a junior at the College of Charleston. I am currently a double major in Archaeology and Anthropology with a focus on Maritime Archaeology. I am interested in a broad range of things, such as backpacking, reading, biking, surfing, scuba diving, and sailing, but travel is the thing I live for. Luckily for me, Archaeology and Anthropology work well with that part of my life. This summer, I spent forty days in Mongolia doing terrestrial archaeology on Bronze Age habitation sites. I am really excited to be interning with the Maritime Research Division. I will be cataloging and conserving a collection of artifacts collected during the 2013 Black River Project. I am also very excited that I will be working to help with MRD’s public outreach events, like this year’s upcoming oyster roast. I can’t wait to hear all the awesome stories that I’m sure the hobby divers will have to tell me. It is also nice to work alongside professional archaeologists, because I am learning a lot that they don’t teach in class. I am definitely a people person, and I am glad that I get to experience some public archaeology here at the MRD. I feel that if we as archaeologists want our field to be interesting to those around us, we must show them that we want to involve them as well.

I am hoping to attend the International Diving Institute after graduating from CofC so that I can get certified in underwater welding. After getting certified, I want begin work on as many maritime excavations as they will allow me to work on. I am fascinated by maritime warfare and feel that shipwrecks can help to complete the stories told by survivors. I am really excited to get into the field of maritime archaeology and can’t wait to dive deeper into the world below the surface.
Feature Articles

Each quarter we would love to feature one or two articles by you. Your article can be about an artifact or fossil you found, your collection, your research, your experience with the program, a humorous diving anecdote, or just something interesting that relates to South Carolina’s past. Feel free to include images that can be used with your article.

You should submit your articles to MRD for review and editing. Once we have approved your article, we will do our best to get it into the next issue of the Quarterly Reporter. If your article is accepted, we will contact you to let you know.

We want to hear from you, so get writing! Submit your articles to: mrd@sc.edu

MRD’s Ashley Deming and volunteer Ted Churchill on the 2014 Hobcaw Project

Search for the 1853 Wreck of USRC Alexander Hamilton

By Nate Fulmer, MRD

This summer, MRD staff assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in a side-scan sonar field survey for the mid-19th century wreck of the United States Revenue Cutter Alexander Hamilton just outside of Charleston Harbor. A new Legend-class USCG cutter named Alexander Hamilton was launched in August 2013, and we hoped a remote survey would help provide some clues as to the whereabouts of the remains of the first of five USCG vessels to bear this name.

Launched in New York in 1830, USRC Hamilton was a Morris-Taney class topsail schooner that operated out of Boston. The fastest vessel of her class, she continuously patrolled the eastern seaboard for much of her 22-year career before sinking near Stono Inlet during a powerful gale in December of 1853.

In late August, MRD staff joined USCG divers Michael Garst and Bill Glenn and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary aboard the vessel Honey Girl as we traversed a survey block in view of Folly Beach for four days. Despite battling heavy seas during the first couple of days on the water, we completed a survey of the entire block and mapped a number of interesting anomalies during the week. Although nothing was immediately identified as the remains of the schooner Hamilton, the data is currently being analyzed for some potential dive targets in the future. Huge thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work in this attempt to locate USRC Hamilton. We may not have found it yet, but we collected a lot of data and made some new friends in the process!

Hobcaw Barony Project

By Karen Smith, Applied Research Division, SCIAA

SCIAA’s Applied Research and Maritime Research divisions teamed up across two weeks this summer to survey the Winyah Bay-side of Hobcaw Barony, a 16,000 acre preserve in Georgetown County, South Carolina. This unique multi-institutional effort was sponsored by the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) and the Humanities Council of South Carolina and brought together land archaeologists, underwater archaeologists, hobby divers, videographers, the non-profit Belle W. Baruch Foundation, and our local sponsors in Georgetown.

The goal of our underwater project is to begin to systematically document what lies beneath the waters off the shores of Hobcaw, something that has never been done to this extent. Our underwater work in Winyah Bay articulates well with a longer-term collaborative effort to detail Native American settlement on the southernmost end of Waccamaw Neck.

We are pleased to report that the underwater survey was a resounding success! One highlight of the survey was the discovery of a possible shipwreck just off the shore of Little Dock. Given the condition of the wooden remains, it is (Continued on page 8)
Hobcaw (Continued from page 7)

possible that it dates to the
Baruch period (1905-1964),
though no written accounts
have been found, to date.
Divers also explored the
site of the old ferry landing
at the Waccamaw Neck
terminus of the Kings
Highway, called Frazier’s
Point. Though erosion of
the point is significant and
active in places, our
underwater team confirmed
the presence of brick fill
commonly used at landing
sites. They also recovered
some early 19th century
materials that fit which also
suggests a landing site.
As with terrestrial
archaeology, knowing what
is NOT underwater is just
as important – though not
always as flashy – as
knowing what IS
underwater, and the survey
work completed by the
Maritime Research Division
this summer carries us
closer to knowing both
what is and what is not in
the waters off of Hobcaw.
But above all, the weeks we
spent running the
magnetometer, squinting at
the side-scan sonar screen,
and diving on anomalies
were just plain fun –
discovery, comradery,
thunderstorms, enthusiastic
volunteers, sailor speak,
camera men – we had it all!
Stay tuned for more
information as we couple
our underwater work with
terrestrial survey in the
coming year.

Special thanks to
hobby diver volunteers Ted
Churchill, Catherine
Sawyer, and Jimmy
Armstrong, Georgetown
ART Board sponsors Bob
Mimms, Walter Wilkinson,
and Jo Baker, videographer
Patrick Hayes, and Hobcaw
historian extraordinaire Lee
Brockington.

Breathing Gas Contamination

By Brittany Trout, DAN Research Associate

Impaired judgment and
loss of consciousness, both
of which may be deadly
underwater, are among the
most severe symptoms
associated with breathing
gas contamination.
Hydrocarbons from
compressor lubricants,
carbon monoxide (CO)
from engine exhaust or
overheated compressor oil
and impurities from the
surrounding environment
are examples of
contamination sources.
Incidents involving
contaminated breathing gas
are rare, yet they do occur.
Ensuring breathing gas is
monitored and complies
with quality standards is a
responsibility of the dive
operator. Gas analysis by
an accredited laboratory is
recommended on a
quarterly basis. Divers also
play a major role in
breathing gas safety and
preventing dive accidents.

There are several steps you
can take to enhance your
safety:

Ask questions and be
observant.

Ask about...

- Compressor
  maintenance,

(Continued on page 9)
Diver Safety (Continued from page 8)

procedures and testing
- Whether the compressor operator monitors for CO and how often they send samples to a lab for analysis

Look for…
- Posted breathing-gas-analysis reports
- Fill room cleanliness, organization and ventilation
- The proximity of the compressor intake to sources of exhaust
- Whether the compressor has an hour meter that can be monitored for regular maintenance

Conduct a predive gas check.
- If your breathing gas has an unusual odor or taste, do not dive with it.
- Keep in mind that not all contaminants can be detected this way; CO, for example, is odorless and tasteless.
- CO detectors and color-indicating devices like the CO-PRO™ are available to check breathing gas.

If exposure is suspected, obtain confirmation.
- Identifying contamination incidents based on symptoms alone is difficult, as the associated symptoms are often similar to other diving-related and nondiving illnesses.
- If you suspect exposure to bad breathing gas, you should seek a medical evaluation and have the gas tested.
- Observing the health of other divers who had their tanks filled at the same source may help determine whether your symptoms are related to contamination.

DAN Can Help

DAN is offering gas analysis assistance. If you were involved in an incident possibly related to breathing contaminated gas and you have lawful control of the tank, preserve the tank and contact DAN Research—call +1-919-684-2948 or email research@dan.org.

Learn More
- Preventing Breathing-Gas Contamination
- Post Dive Symptoms Possibly Caused by Gas Contamination

Divers Alert Network (DAN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the safety and health of scuba divers. DAN operates a 24-hour emergency hotline (+1-919-684-9111) to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance for diving or non-diving incidents.

Conservation Corner

New Storage for the H.L. Hunley Artifacts
By Johanna Rivera H.L. Hunley Project, Warren Lasch Conservator Center, Clemson University

The Hunley collection is comprised of approximately 1500 artifacts. Of this around 1000 have been conserved so far using different conservation techniques. The Hunley collection ranges from hull components such as quarter plates, ballast blocks, pumps and tools to personal belongings from the crew members like pocket knives, pipes, textiles, buttons, shoes etc. In order for these artifacts to be stabilized, they had to go through a complex and long conservation process. Salts had to be removed from metals, a process that can take years while soaking in chemicals and water that has been trapped within the inner cells of the organic materials for over 100 years had to be slowly and carefully removed.

Once the artifacts have passed through the conservation process, they need to be stored in specific conditions to ensure their long-term stability. Metal artifacts for instance, need to be stored under 30% of relative humidity in order to avoid further corrosion. Organic materials need to be stored at 50% of relative humidity to avoid any physical changes such as warping or cracking. Fluctuations in relative humidity and temperature need to be avoided as they can be very damaging.

Over the years, our collection had been stored in specially conditioned rooms until the HVAC system quit working. This meant that our artifacts could potentially been exposed to higher relative humidity during summer as well as fluctuations due to the lack of a system to...
control it.

During this time each artifact was packed in special packages that were conditioned to meet the objects needs. Metals were stored in sealed packages with humidity absorbents such as silica gel as well as oxygen scavengers. The plastic used to seal the package had to be impermeable as to avoid humidity from going inside. This system prevented the formation of any corrosion product in the artifact. Organic materials were stored sealed under conditioned silica gel at about 45% to 50% relative humidity. Although this system is proved to be very effective in preserving the artifact it wasn’t very efficient in terms of time and money spent in the materials. For these reasons we decided that a more efficient way to store our collection was needed.

After exploring several options we decided to go for marine containers. These containers could be retrofitted to meet our artifacts requirements at a fraction of what it would have cost to fix our HVAC system and remodeling our old storage rooms. After choosing 2 gently used marine containers, a company specialized in retrofitting containers installed a new HVAC system capable of lowering and maintaining the relative humidity to 20% in the metals container and 50% in the organics container. The containers were completely insulated and lights, new doors and sensors were installed. Also an archival furniture company was contacted to design our furniture to fit some our larger and heavier artifacts such as ballast blocks, plates and the submarine’s wooden benches as well as the most delicate and small artifacts.

Once the containers were retrofitted and the furniture installed and bolted to the walls, the collection was moved. These containers will provide a conditioned environment for the artifacts that has been conserved as well as a great safe haven in case of natural disasters.

Left: Old storage rooms with the metal collections stored in specially conditioned packaging. (Copyright FOTH)

Above: Collection stored in specially conditioned packaging. (Copyright FOTH)
Left: Metals and organics containers entrance. (Copyright FOTH)

Right: Metals storage before the collection was moved. (Copyright FOTH)

Below: Organics storage container. (Copyright FOTH)

Right: Textile storage drawers. (Copyright FOTH)
Well, here we are near the beginning of the 4th quarter of 2014. This year has really flown by at the SC State Museum. Most of my time has been dedicated to planning and fabricating exhibits, and installing specimens into new displays. My biggest project was the installation of one of the largest collections of antique telescopes within a 6,000 square foot gallery that’s directly adjacent to our new observatory, on the fourth floor. This new permanent display has everything from 18th century English telescopes to 20th century American telescopes, including our 1926 Alvan Clark telescope. Be sure to stop by the observatory on your next museum visit and take the opportunity to see the sun through a solar viewer that’s connected to the Clark. Shorter days coupled with extended open hours means that you’ll be able to view the night sky through the Clark and see planets, stars, and even galaxies.

An exhibit that might be more appealing to all of you divers out there is a new exhibit called “South Carolina Unearthed”. The exhibit is in a 3,000 square foot gallery on the third floor, and it showcases the Museum’s collection of fossils and skulls of modern animals. The fossils, many of which were collected as dive specimens, represent animals that once lived in our state, including tapirs, capybaras, horses, American lions, dugongs, and saber-toothed cats. The modern skulls are from living species that are relatives of the extinct fossil species.

Another, smaller exhibit on the second floor highlights the MRD’s hobby diver program. Ashley, Nate and I installed a variety of artifacts (Native American points, earthenware sherds, bottles) and fossils (shark teeth, sloth bones) that were collected as dive specimens from some of South Carolina’s rivers. This first exhibit introduces the program to the general public, and the number of fingerprints all over the display cases is proof that our visitors are checking it out. Our goal is to keep things changing, on a rotating schedule, by having themed displays that will showcase fossils or specimens that have hobby divers participating in the program. This would be a great opportunity for you to support the hobby diver program and show off some of the things that you’re proud of finding. Stay tuned for calls from us enquire about borrowing items for an upcoming themed display. We hope you can make the time to see all of the new exhibits here at the SC State Museum!
Letters to the Editors

If you have something that you would like to say about the division or have questions that you think others like yourself would like to have answered, look no further. This section of the newsletter is just for you. Send in your questions, comments, and concerns and we will post them here. You can also send in comments responding to letters from other. MRD staff will respond to your comments and answer your questions for all to read.

Notes from the Editor

We often discuss responsible collection in this publication, but this quarter we’d like to offer some relevant clarification regarding artifact and fossil collection and what can happen with material collected under the Hobby Diver License after it is recovered. In recent months, we have received multiple calls regarding sales and movement of artifacts or fossils subsequent to collection in SC waters. There seems to be some misunderstandings regarding what the license and law allow. While the vast majority of licensees comply with reporting requirements of the Hobby Diver License, it has come to our attention that some transactions are occurring with unreported material prior to the transfer of title to the licensee.

As noted on the back of each license card, the Hobby Diver License is valid for recovery of paleontological and archaeological materials on a temporary, intermittent, small scale, noncommercial, recreational basis. If the aim is to dive everyday with the purpose of collecting material to sell/distribute or a diver is collecting more than what would be considered a recreational amount of material from any location, the Hobby Diver License is not applicable. Exclusive Licenses are available for commercial endeavors and are issued by the State Underwater Archaeologist Jim Spirek.

While small-scale sales of artifacts or fossils collected from state waters are not encouraged or pursued by SCIAA, these transactions are permitted only after the licensee obtains title to the material.

Useful Website Information

For more information on
MRD: http://www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd
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Ashley Deming, Nate Fulmer, & Charlie at the July RiverDogs game.