



Issue 2022(2)

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Features & Profiles

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina Quarterly Newsletter



Proceedings of the 48th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology. The ASSC Executive Board and attendees were grateful to meet in-person for a safe and successful conference in February. Photo by Bach Pham.

Letter from the President

Greetings ASSC members!

It was wonderful to see so many of you again this February for our first in-person event since March of 2020. It was a long-awaited day for many of us, and I think it's safe to say that the sentiment was reflected by the sense of camaraderie and positivity in Gambrell Hall. Events like the Annual Conference are a place to learn and share ideas, but they also help to bind our already tight-knit community a little tighter. For many of us, this is the one day a year that we interact with a large swath of the South Carolina archaeological community. It was a joy to me to see friends reunited and new connections being forged.

And, speaking of new connections, I would like to formally welcome our new Board members: John Fisher (Vice President), Cate Garcia (Newsletter Editor), Kiersten Weber (Member at-Large), JJ Lindler (Member at-Large), Noah Safari (Member at-Large), and Ashley Stepp (Student Representative). In case you weren't counting, that is a total of six new Board members, which is almost half of the Executive Committee and makes up five of the eleven voting positions. These individuals are just the newest additions to what I consider to be an exceptionally spirited and hard-working group. Optimism is high, and we, as a board and as a society, are looking to the future.

Contact the Society

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[@SC_Archaeology](https://twitter.com/SC_Archaeology)



[@ArchaeologicalSocietyofSC](https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSocietyofSC)

The only downside to gaining new Board members is that we must say goodbye to our outgoing members. I'd like to thank Keely Lewis, Keith Stephenson, Joe Wilkinson, Will Britz, Kelly Higgins, and Bach Pham for their service to the Society of the last few years. I would also like to give special recognition to Bach Pham, as he was instrumental in organizing many of our events, overhauling our website, amending our by-laws, and building up our social media presence, among many other things. Bach – we all appreciate you and everything you've done to support and elevate our organization.

A small, volunteer-only society like ours often faces many challenges. The COVID pandemic has forced us to reassess and innovate, making us a stronger, more collaborative group. It has also provided the side benefit of reduced expenses and left the Society in a better financial position than before the pandemic. Our new board is full of ideas and excited to further our mission of educating and uniting all persons interested in the archaeology of South Carolina. This year, we are looking forward to a special edition of our South Carolina Antiquities journal, new merchandise, and (fingers crossed) an in-person Fall Field Day event.

If you don't already, please follow our Facebook page to stay up to date on our events and other South Carolina archaeological events that we are proud to promote. And, if you haven't already, please don't forget to renew your membership for 2022 so that you don't miss out on journal publications or future newsletters!

- Savannah Hulon, President

ASSC Executive Board Members 2022

President: Savannah Hulon

Vice President: John Fisher

Secretary: Nina Schreiner

Treasurer: Ashley Stewart

SC Antiquities Editor: Jessica Cooper

Features & Profiles Editor:

Catherine Garcia

Archivist: Chris Judge

Member-at-large: Joseph Lindler

Member-at-large: Katherine Parker

Member-at-large: Noah Safari

Member-at-large: Kiersten Weber

Student Representative: Ashley Stepp

President Ex-Officio: David Gordon

State Archaeologist: Jonathan Leader

State Underwater Archaeologist: James Spirek

Welcome to Our New ASSC Board Members

The ASSC Executive Board is excited to welcome several new members to the board this year. John Fisher will serve as Vice President, Ashley Stepp as Student Representative, Catherine Garcia as *Features & Profiles* Editor, and Joseph (JJ) Lindler, Noah Safari, and Kiersten Weber as Members-at-large.

John Fisher received his BA in Anthropology from the University of South Carolina in 2013 after serving in the U.S. Army. He received his MA in the Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World from University College London in 2017, which allowed him to work in several countries such as Kazakhstan on late antiquity and early Islamic sites. He was recently accepted to the PhD program at UofSC. He is currently employed by SCIAA, where he works for the Applied Research Division and assists with battlefield archaeology projects. He is also Co-director of the Lost Fort of Castle Pinckney Project alongside Giles Dawkes of UCL.



Ashley Stepp received her BA in Anthropology from the University of South Carolina with a focus on archaeology. She is currently in graduate school pursuing a certificate in Historical Archaeology. She has worked at UofSC for almost 22 years.



Catherine Garcia is an archaeologist at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, where she has worked since 2019. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2021 with a BA in Anthropology and Spanish. Her research interests include precolonial ceramics, Late Archaic interactions, and public archaeology.

Noah Safari is a second-year graduate student in the MLIS program at the University of South Carolina. He is also pursuing a graduate certificate in Historical Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management. He also received his BA in Anthropology from UofSC. He is originally from Massachusetts but has adopted South Carolina as his home. His goal is to promote the preservation of our state's history.

Joseph (JJ) Lindler is from Chapin, South Carolina. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2021 with a BA in History and Anthropology, and he will be attending graduate school at UofSC this coming fall. He has worked with Dr. Al Goodyear at SCIAA for four years with a focus on stone tool analysis and public outreach.



Kiersten Weber is an archaeologist with the Heritage Trust Program of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2019 with a BA in Anthropology. Her research interests include Archaic bone tools, shell rings, and artifact photography.

The ASSC Executive Board would like to extend our sincere thanks to our outgoing president David Gordon for his capable leadership through the challenges of the past two years. We are looking forward to his continued involvement with the Board in his new role as President Ex-Officio. We are grateful as well to our outgoing board members Will Britz, Brent Burgin, Kelly Higgins, Keely Lewis-Schroer, Bach Pham, and Joe Wilkinson for their contributions to the ASSC.

Thank You!

The ASSC extends special thanks to this year's keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Sassaman, Professor at the University of Florida and long-time South Carolina archaeologist.

Dr. Sassaman's keynote address was entitled *Social Distancing in the Age of Climate Change: Late Archaic Interactions in Cosmological Perspective*.

2022 ASSC Conference

The 48th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology was held on February 19th, 2022 at Gambrell Hall on the University of South Carolina campus. Several dozen attendees were able to join us for the conference, and the presentations were also livestreamed virtually for those who were unable to attend in-person. Sincere thanks from the ASSC Board to all presenters and attendees who helped make the conference a success.

Conference Proceedings

The thirteen presentations at the conference centered on several important topics in South Carolina archaeology. One common theme was the ever-growing importance of collaboration and consultation with descendant communities in archaeological work, which was emphasized by several presentations highlighting collaborative projects with Native American communities. Other topics of discussion included the valuable contributions of avocational archaeologists to the field, gender disparities in CRM reporting, and many new research findings from both precontact and historical sites.



Presenters at the 2022 ASSC Conference.

Clockwise from top left: Robert Costello, Katherine Parker (University of Tennessee), Nicholas DeLong (Warren Lasch Conservation Center), and Johnny Dodge (University of South Carolina). Photos by Bach Pham.

Dr. Kenneth Sassaman's keynote address explored large-scale transitions and interactions at the end of the Late Archaic period in the Southeast. Dr. Sassaman's discussion of cultural responses to changing climates demonstrated the relevance of archaeological research to our present-day world and the continual importance of understanding the past.



Keynote address by Dr. Kenneth Sassaman (University of Florida). Photo by Bach Pham.

The annual ASSC business meeting was held in the afternoon. Savannah Hulon was officially announced as the incoming president, and the six new members of the ASSC Executive Board were welcomed.

2022 ASSC Awards

Distinguished Archaeologist of the Year: Rita Kernan

The Distinguished Archaeologist of the Year award was presented to Rita Kernan of the ASSC Hilton Head Chapter at the 48th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology.

Rita Kernan has served as Treasurer for the ASSC Hilton Head Chapter since 2014. She has worked tirelessly to support the mission of the ASSC and the Hilton Head Chapter by encouraging up-and-coming archaeologists with demonstrations, tours, and education; following through with our members on all things related to archaeology and Hilton Head Island; welcoming new members to the Chapter; and providing chapter and archaeological news to local newspapers and magazines.

Most recently, Rita Kernan has also spearheaded the Chapter's efforts to develop a passive park to open Ford's Shell Rings, a 4,000-year-old archaeological site, for public view. Rita frequently corresponded and met with both Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County officials to develop plans for the park, and she has worked hard to provide officials with the necessary data and ensure that they remain aware of the park's progress. Thanks to Rita's efforts, this initiative has now become a reality, and Ford's Passive Park will be an important venue to showcase this unique site to the public.

Rita Kernan has made many contributions to archaeology in the Hilton Head area and to the ASSC, and she is well deserving of the title of Distinguished Archaeologist of the Year. Congratulations Rita!



David Gordon presenting Rita Kernan with her award. Photo by Bach Pham.

Submit Your Announcements and Events

If you have an announcement or event that you would like to be included in the next *Features & Profiles*, please email us at archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com.

ASSC News & Events

Virtual Lunch and Learn: Are the Congaree Indians Descendants of Cofitachequi?

Native American Studies Center, Lancaster, SC

April 15th, 12:00 pm

Named for a Native American group who appear in colonial records for the first time in 1691, generations of historians, ethnohistorians, and archaeologists have lamented the meager data that exist regarding these Native American people. This presentation by Christopher Judge provides an overview of the Congaree. Email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu to reserve a limited in-person spot, or register to attend virtually [here](#).

Charles Towne Underground: An Archaeological Perspective

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Charleston, SC

April 22nd, 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Join a park ranger on a 45-minute walking tour that focuses on CTL's 17th-century archaeological resources and how they have enriched our understanding of the Carolina colony's first capital, Charles Towne. Visit the [South Carolina State Parks website](#) for more information.

Step Back in Time: Hampton Plantation Annual Living History Day

Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, McClellanville, SC

April 30th, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Learn about South Carolina in the 18th century from historic interpreters and reenactors, focusing on the Revolutionary War era and the workings of a Lowcountry rice plantation. Visit the [South Carolina State Parks website](#) for more information.

Kids' Archaeology Event: Make Your Own Gorget

Virtual Event

May 11th, 1:30 to 2:45 pm

Join Lelia Rice of the SC Department of Natural Resources for a free, virtual presentation of the archaeology kids' activity Make Your Own Gorget. This activity allows participants to express themselves through visual symbolism by making a gorget (a small clay disc to be worn). Participants also learn about the Mississippian period tradition of shell gorgets that were carved with symbols of significance to the wearer. Registration closes on May 4th and is limited to 250 registrants. Find more information and register for this virtual event [here](#).

Archaeological Investigations at Rose Hill Plantation

Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site

May 14th, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Join the State Parks archaeologist for a talk about the on-going archaeological work at Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site. During this program you will hear about the results of past work, view artifacts, tour the archaeological sites, and have a chance to get involved with future excavations. Visit the [South Carolina State Parks website](#) for more information.

Virtual Lunch and Learn: Rice Culture in South Carolina, Past and Present Native American Studies Center, Lancaster, SC

May 20th, 12:00 pm

Join Amanda McNulty of SCETV's *Making It Grow* for a discussion of South Carolina rice culture. Rice culture shaped the society and health of freed and enslaved South Carolinians. Today, breeding has brought back the original "Carolina Gold" rice which at one time gave South Carolina the highest per capita income in the world. Email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu to reserve a limited in-person spot, or register to attend virtually [here](#).

Spring Art & Craft Festival

Native American Studies Center, Lancaster, SC

May 21st, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

In conjunction with the annual Ag+Art and Red Rose Festivals, shop for pottery, jewelry, baskets, beadwork, and many more unique creations by Native American artists from around the region. Also, see demonstrations of flintknapping and candy dancing. This event is free and open to the public.

ASSC Executive Board Meetings

Meetings of the ASSC Executive Board are open to all current ASSC members. Meetings are held bi-monthly on Saturday mornings via Zoom. The tentative meeting schedule for 2022 is as follows:

May 21st

July 23rd

September 10th

November 12th

Current ASSC members who are interested in attending a board meeting should contact archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com for details.

Peer-Reviewers Wanted

South Carolina Antiquities is currently seeking peer-reviewers. If you are interested in being a peer-reviewer for the journal, please contact the journal editor Jessica M. Cooper at scantiquities@gmail.com.

Call for Journal Submissions

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina invites professional and avocational archaeologists to contribute to the annual, peer-reviewed journal *South Carolina Antiquities*. Members may submit research articles, notes from the field, or book reviews. Contributions to the journal are not limited in scope to South Carolina and may feature the archaeology of adjacent states or issues of archaeological practice.

South Carolina Antiquities conforms to the current **style guide** published by the Society for American Archaeology. All tables, figures, and images should be submitted as separate files and images must be in individual jpeg files with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Articles should be submitted to the editor for review no later than July 15, 2022.

If you are interested in writing a book review for the journal, please contact the journal editor Jessica M. Cooper at scantiquities@gmail.com to request a book to review.



ASSC Grant-in-Aid

The ASSC sponsors the Grant-in-Aid program to provide financial assistance to graduate students conducting research on South Carolina archaeology. Grant-in-Aid funding is awarded to graduate students at both in-state and out-of-state institutions whose theses or dissertations pertain to the archaeology of South Carolina. Awards of up to \$1,000 dollars are available to graduate students on a competitive basis.

The ASSC Grant-in-Aid program has provided over \$30,000 in the past 29 years to support more than 53 student research projects in the state of South Carolina. This program would not be possible without the long-term support of our society members. If you would like to donate to the Grant-in-Aid program fund, please visit [our donation page](#) for more details.

Thank You for Your Donations

Thank you to all of our valuable donors whose contributions to the ASSC support programs like the Grant-in-Aid program. Special thanks this quarter to Kara Bridgman Sweeney and Brooke Howard for their generous donations to the Society. We couldn't do it without you!

ASSC Membership Renewals

Please don't forget to send in membership renewals through the [ASSC website](#) or by mail.

Remaining an active member of the Society by renewing your membership is essential to supporting the initiatives and programming of the ASSC. Thank you for your support!

ASSC Membership

The ASSC website has added a Square Site for membership and merchandise purchases. Click [here](#) to access the Square Site and easily renew your membership for 2022 online.

The 2022 Membership rates are as follows:

Individual: \$25
Student: \$15
Senior: \$15
Family: \$30
Senior Family: \$25
Life: \$500
Institutional: \$100

Dues may also be paid in-person at the annual ASSC Conference, through your local ASSC chapter, or by mailing a check to:

Archaeology Society of South Carolina, Inc.
PO Box 1357
Columbia, SC 29202

Contact Information

Has your contact information recently changed? Please contact the ASSC at archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com to notify us of any changes to your mailing address, email address, etc.

This ensures that you will continue to receive the *South Carolina Antiquities* annual journal, as well as other important updates and announcements from the ASSC. Thank you!

Call for Members

Those interested are invited to join the ASSC Foothills Chapter. New members are always welcome at meetings. Membership information can be found on the [ASSC website](#), or [contact the ASSC board](#) with any questions.

Call for Speakers

The Foothills Chapter is in search of archaeologists to speak at chapter meetings! If you would like to present your research or experience in South Carolina archaeology, please contact lnelson952@yahoo.com.

ASSC Foothills Chapter

Current Board Officers

President: Henry Price, hleepsc@yahoo.com

Vice President: Todd Putnam, rcputnam@icloud.com

Secretary and Treasurer: Angie Nelson, lnelson952@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Laura Price, hleepsc@yahoo.com

About the Chapter

Formally organized in 1998, the Foothills Chapter serves the Greenville-Spartanburg-Pickens area and boasts a membership of about 25. In addition to regular meetings, chapter members enthusiastically participate in archaeological site surveys, “road trips” to projects in progress, and spread the word about upper South Carolina history and pre-history via talks and demonstrations with area School and civic organizations. Membership in the Foothills Chapter is open to all who have an interest in studying, recording, and preserving South Carolina historic and prehistoric remains.

Monthly Meetings

Meetings of the Foothills Chapter are held at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Spartanburg Community College Tyger River Campus BMW Center, 210 Commerce Court, Duncan, SC – Room 311 (please be advised that the room number has changed).

Updates

The ASSC Foothills Chapter has had several projects underway in recent months. Shovel testing was conducted at Hagood Mill in the fall but found no conclusive sites. Shovel testing was also conducted in March at a Jonesville site with over 50 prehistoric surface finds. The Foothills Chapter will be also conducting excavations for the twelfth time at the prehistoric Fisher Site in Barnwell County. A team of volunteers and chapter members will work at the site for four days.

Follow for Updates

Follow the Archaeological Society of South Carolina Hilton Head Chapter for more updates:



ASSC Hilton Head Chapter

Current Board Officers

President: David Gordon, dsgordon@hargray.com

Vice-President: George Stubbs, skipjack585@roadrunner.com

Secretary: Carol Dembowski, ckd2007@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Rita Kernan, rakhhi@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: George Stubbs

Monthly Meetings

Meetings of the Hilton Head Chapter are held on the second Saturday of each month from September to May, with the exception of December when the Christmas Social is held early in the month. Meetings are held at the Hilton Head Coastal Discovery Museum on Honey Horn Plantation in the Discovery House.

Issues of the Hilton Head Chapter's monthly newsletter, *Island Archaeology*, are available **on the ASSC website**.

Updates

The ASSC Hilton Head Chapter has been busy in 2022. In January, we had the special treat of showing "The Lost Kingdom of the Black Pharaohs," which was the Grand Prize Winner at the 2021 Arkhaiois Film Festival. This

was courtesy of our good friend Jean Guilleux, the Festival's founder. In February, Katie Seeber, an archaeologist with New South, gave us an interesting presentation on her PhD dissertation work at Mitchelville. In March, the Chapter's own Missy Malool, Bunny Williams, and Katie Epps gave us an excellent presentation on the archaeology they did at the site of the new Wright Family Park in Bluffton; this was of considerable interest locally, and we had a large turnout. In April, we had a field trip to Palmetto Bluff, where Mary Socci and Katie Epps, the archaeologists of the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy, gave us a tour of the archaeological sites. The Chapter continues to work with local governments to establish a passive park at Ford's Shell Rings to showcase the archaeological findings there.



Katie Seeber presenting at Hilton Head chapter meeting. Photo by David Gordon.



Features & Profiles

Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.

P.O. Box 1357

Columbia, SC 29202

Archaeological Society of South Carolina Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT: ___ New Membership ___ Renew Membership*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Membership Level Desired:

___ Individual: \$25 ___ Student: \$15 ___ Senior: \$15
 ___ Family: \$30 ___ Senior Family: \$25 ___ Life: \$500
 ___ Institutional: \$100

Please make checks to:

Archaeological Society of South Carolina.

Mail to: Ashley Stewart, ASSC Treasurer

P.O. Box 1357 Columbia, SC 29202

*Membership renewal is also available online at

<https://archaeologysc.org/membership/> through our Square Site.

About the Society

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina operates under State and Federal Law as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. The Society is assisted and supported by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the University of South Carolina, and the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists.

Membership Information

ASSC members receive an annual copy of the journal, *South Carolina Antiquities*, the quarterly newsletter *Features & Profiles*, along with free entry to events including our annual archaeological conference.

For more information, please contact
the ASSC at:

archaeologysocietysc@gmail.com