



News from the Exploring Joara Foundation

April 9, 2010



Field School

"Excavating Fort San Juan"

David Moore, Senior Archaeologist for the the Exploring Joara Foundation, will give a talk entitled "Excavating Fort San Juan" on Monday, April 19 at 7 PM in Leviton Auditorium on the campus of Western Piedmont Community College. (Directions: Take I 40 to Exit 103 and follow signs to the college).

A reception will follow in Hildebran Hall.

Volunteer archaeology lab

David Moore, Senior Archaeologist for the Exploring Joara Foundation, will host a volunteer archaeology lab at the Wall Center for Archaeological Research (220 New Street, Morganton), Monday, April 12, 6:30-8:30 pm. The volunteer lab is open to all members of the Exploring Joara Foundation. For information contact David Moore at 828-713-7520 or dmoore@warren-wilson.edu.



Courtney Long demonstrates throwing on a kick wheel

The First Annual Joara Pottery Festival ... Exploring 500 years of Pottery

The public is invited to the first annual Joara Pottery Festival, to be held at the Burke County Fairgrounds, on Saturday, May 22, 2010, from 10:00 am to 4:00 PM. Forty booths featuring some of the southeast's most notable contemporary and Native American potters.

This event is sponsored by the Exploring Joara Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is to provide continued support for the archaeological research in the upper Catawba and Yadkin River valleys, with a primary focus on the investigation of sixteenth-century interactions between European colonists and Native Americans in western North Carolina.

The foundation sponsors public involvement in Foothills archaeology through education programs, archaeological surveys, and excavations of Native American and Early European settlements. The Foundation takes its name from Joara; the major Native American town in the upper Catawba Valley visited by sixteenth-century Spanish expeditions led by Hernando de Soto and Juan Pardo. Pardo built Fort San Juan near the town in 1567, creating the oldest European settlement in the interior of the United States. Evidence of Joara and Fort San Juan has been unearthed at the

Berry archaeological site in northern Burke County. Evidence from the Berry site is changing history textbooks and has been covered in National Geographic, Smithsonian and Archaeology magazines and the UNC TV documentary “The First, Lost Colony.”

Numerous examples of Native American and European pottery and shards have been uncovered at the Berry site, including Blue Spanish Majolica. One of the goals of the Foundation is to preserve and promote the region’s rich pottery history and to encourage present day talented artisans working in this ancient art form. Activities during the day include pottery demonstrations, talks by archaeologists, displays of Berry site artifacts and music.

The entrance fee is \$4, children under 12 are free. Food will be available. Directions: Take Exit 105 off I 40 to Morganton. Turn on Sterling Street, which become Green Street. Travel 4.4 miles to Bost Road and turn right. The fairgrounds are on the left. For more information go to joarafoundation.org or call 828-439-2463.