

Office of State Archaeology Lecture Series

Late Archaic Residency in the Appalachian Summit Region: Excavations at the Weatherman Site (31CY31) in Yancey County, North Carolina

Presented by Matthew Jorgenson, Peter Sittig, and Daniel Cassedy

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 11:30 am in the auditorium,
Archives Building, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh
Free and open to the public



Excavations completed by AECOM for the North Carolina Department of Transportation at the Weatherman Site (31YC31) on the floodplain of the South Toe River documented deeply stratified Archaic deposits. The most intensive was a Late Archaic component dominated by hearth remnants and numerous broken and whole Savannah River projectile points made primarily of local quartzite. A summary of findings at this site, with particular attention to spatial organization and lithic resource utilization, is presented here and compared with other Savannah River sites in the Appalachian Summit. These Summit Region sites are contrasted to other Late Archaic Sites in the neighboring regions of the Piedmont and Ridge and Valley provinces. Finally, a summary of other Late Archaic cultural manifestations across the Greater Southeastern region is presented. We suggest that the inhabitants of the Appalachian Summit region during the Late Archaic shared some cultural ideologies with the broader region, but by and large were participating in their own version of a Late Archaic system of lifeways.