

Berry Site Field School 2023

Session Dates:

Week 1: June 5-9
Week 2: June 12-16
Week 3: June 19-23
Week 4: June 26-30



Tuition:

\$450 per week for non-credit participation
\$782 per week (1 credit per week) for college credit

Wall Center Room and Board (Limited):

\$80 per week (includes dinners Monday-Thursday)
Proof of vaccination required.

Welcome to the Berry Site!



Thanks for considering the Berry site for a rewarding and challenging hands-on educational experience in field archaeology. Are you a college student who needs to complete a field school for your academic major? Or maybe you're retired and always dreamed of working on an archaeological site. A high school student fascinated with the past? Have a full-time job but want to spend a special week in the summer to explore your secret passion? The Warren Wilson College Summer Archaeology Field School may be just the right experience for you!

Since 2001, the Warren Wilson College Archaeology Field School has enrolled over 600 students, some of whom are enrolling for college credit, others who just want a unique and rewarding experience. Each year we enroll a diverse group of students. We are very pleased to have you join us at the Berry site for summer 2023. Some years, we may have 20 to 30 participants per week, which makes for a hectic and exciting field school. You will have an opportunity to meet and work with interesting and fun people from around the country.



Project Background

Following the conquest of the Aztecs in Mexico and the Inka in South America, Spain looked to “La Florida” for more land and riches. Hernando de Soto and his army traveled from Florida through North Carolina in 1540 on their way to the Mississippi River. In 1566, Captain Juan Pardo left the Spanish town of St. Elena on the South Carolina coast and traveled into North Carolina in search of an overland route to Mexico. Scholars have debated the routes of Soto and Pardo for years but archaeological investigations at the Berry site (31BK22), north of Morganton in Burke County, provide evidence that both of these Spanish expeditions passed through the Catawba River valley.



The Berry site is a large (nearly 12 acres) Mississippian site that dates to the Burke phase (15th and 16th centuries A.D.) and is believed to represent an ancestral Catawba Indian town. We believe this site is the location of the native town Joara, at which Pardo built Fort San Juan in 1567. Pardo also built a small settlement named Cuenca, after his hometown in Spain. Our excavations have revealed the presence of five burned structures in this area. We believe these burned structures represent the domestic remains of the Spanish compound at Fort San Juan.





In 2013 we documented a portion of the moat that surrounded Fort San Juan. This was the first direct evidence of the fort that we had discovered and the news was reported in the New York Times (July 23, 2013) and many other news sources around the world. The Jan/Feb issue of Discover Magazine even listed this as Number 29 on their 100 biggest stories of 2013.

Cuenca and Fort San Juan represent the earliest European settlement in the interior of what is now the United States. We are quite excited to be back to learn more in 2022. We are particularly interested in learning about the relationship between Fort San Juan, Cuenca, and Joara.

Feel free to visit our Berry Site Field School Facebook page to see pictures from recent years. You can also visit exploringjoara.org, the website for the *Exploring Joara Foundation, Inc.*, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to public archaeology in the western Piedmont region. They have more information, pictures, and videos from the Berry site.



Here are some links to articles about the Berry Site from various years:

Article on Berry site from Our State Magazine, 2013. <https://www.ourstate.com/city-beneath/>

Article on Berry site from American Archaeology, 2008 (free download). <https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/wpfb-file/12-1sprg08singleslr-pdf/>

Article on Berry site from Smithsonian Magazine, 2006. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/spain-makes-a-stand-111144209/>

Article on Berry site from Antiquity Magazine, Online, 2004. <http://antiquity.ac.uk/ProjGall/moore/>

If you would like more comprehensive sources on the Berry site and Fort San Juan, we recommend the following books: *Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire*, edited by Robin Beck, Christopher Rodning, and David Moore, University Press of Florida; *Catawba Valley Mississippians*, by David Moore, University of Alabama Press; and *The Juan Pardo Expeditions*, by Charles Hudson, Smithsonian Institution Press.

Field School Requirements



This is an intensive course in archaeological field methods. Some participants are taking the course for credit and a grade; others are there for a non-credit learning experience. We work with everyone equally. Most importantly, we want you to come prepared to work and learn. Please be aware that the work pace sometimes moves slowly and at other times, more quickly and there may be a variety of tasks going on at the same time. It will be important to follow directions carefully and be sure to ask questions when you have them. We are all working to learn

Site Conditions



Most of our time is spent working in a pastured or plowed field. However, there will be certain tasks that may require working in the woods, around brush, or even some brush clearing. Poison ivy is always a possibility in these kinds of environments. As in any field, footing may be uneven; please use care as you move around the work site. Portable toilets are provided on site. Parking is available on site.

Housing at the Wall Center for Archaeological Research

David Moore and those students enrolled for Warren Wilson College academic credit will be staying at the Wall Center for Archaeological Research in Morganton (about a 20-minute drive to the site) during the field school. Our address is 220 New Street. (directions to the Wall Center are found at the bottom of this document).

There is usually room at the Wall Center for non-credit participants as well. Please contact Abra Meriwether or David Moore if you have any questions about housing. If you need additional information about local accommodations, please contact David Moore.

The Wall Center is the home of the Exploring Joara Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 2007 to support the field school and to create a regional public archaeology program. The Center includes dormitory space for 25 students and staff, along with office and lab space. For those of you familiar with our old field house with 1 ½ baths and 1 shower, you'll be pleased to learn that we now have 5 showers (and two clothes washers and dryers)! The Wall Center is fully handicapped-accessible.



There is a weekly \$80.00 housing fee. This fee includes the cost of dinners Monday – Thursday (catered by local family style restaurant). Proof of vaccination is required for housing at the Wall Center.

Some summers we have as many as 25 folks in the house. This will necessitate a great deal of cooperation and sensitivity so that we all enjoy each other as much at the end of the month as at the beginning. There are two large dorm rooms for up to 8 people and two smaller rooms for 4-6 people. Bunk beds and mattresses will be available for everyone. However, you will need to bring your own linens and towels. If you are flying, we have some spare linens that we can lend. All dorm rooms are gender specified. You will be assigned a room by field school staff.

There is a large kitchen and dining area and we will have a designated open room for hanging out. There is also an office for evening work. We have space outside for relaxing.



The kitchen has four refrigerators, a microwave, two dishwashers, a stove, and plenty of cabinet and shelf space to allow each student to keep their supplies well-organized. All kitchen utensils are provided. We will buy some group items such as coffee, condiments, etc. but each student is responsible for her/his own breakfast and lunch. There are several nearby grocery stores at which to shop. Dinners are catered from a local “family style” restaurant. Please let us know if you have special dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, kosher...).

You are welcome to bring music in whatever format you use, just remember that we will all have to share the “air space.”

Crew members and students may stay at the field house over the weekends if they choose to do so. Guests are not allowed overnight at the Wall Center without permission from David Moore.

Students may bring their cars. If you need transportation from Warren Wilson College, please let David know. There is usually a ride back and forth to campus every weekend for anyone who needs it. Transportation from the Charlotte or Asheville airports can be arranged for a small fee. Please let us know ASAP if you think you will need transportation.

Every Sunday night we will hold an orientation meeting at 8:00 p.m. for new students staying at the Wall Center. At that time we will go over the weekly schedule including site and Wall Center protocol.



Please be aware that this is a mixed-age field school. Our classes and dorm include high school students, college students, and members of the general public. The house is smoke free (you can smoke outside) and drug-free. Beer and wine are allowed but no hard liquor. No under-age drinking will be allowed. This is not a party environment. Any infraction of these rules will be cause for dismissal from the field school.

Other Local Accommodations

Hotels

Hampton Inn
Quality Inn
Comfort Inn & Suites
Days Inn & Suites
Sleep Inn

Bed & Breakfast

Irish Rose B & B
Bridgewater Hall Historic Inn

Campsites & RV Parks

Riverside Golf & RV Park
Steele Creek Park & Family
Campground
River Pointe RV Park &
Campground
Rose Creek Family
Campground



What you need to bring

All field equipment and supplies will be provided. You should be prepared to work outside and we recommend participants wear appropriate work clothes. We also recommend appropriate and comfortable shoes. You do not need heavy work boots; sneakers are fine. We also recommend hats to protect against sun exposure. Sunscreen and insect repellent are often useful. While work gloves are provided, you may wish to bring your own for a more comfortable fit.

You may bring a lawn chair to use at breaks and at lunch, but metal folding chairs are provided. We have a large shaded area for this purpose.

Work Schedule

Our field school schedule (Monday - Friday) is 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. We will leave the Wall Center promptly at 8:00 am so that we may be ready to work at 8:30. Some weeks we might have additional students from the University of Michigan and Western Piedmont Community College participating in the field school.

We will take a half-hour lunch break around noon and generally leave the site before 4:00 pm. You will need to bring your own lunch and snacks. We always have water at the site; you are welcome to bring any other non-alcoholic beverages.

We will work on the site at all times unless there is a formal announcement of a change of plans. For instance, in case of rain, we will meet at the site but may decide to work on lab chores at the field house. In case of rain showers and sprinkles, we often stay on site and work around or through them, depending on what tasks are underway.



Field School Staff

Project Directors

David G. Moore, Warren Wilson College (Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill 1999)

David Moore is a Professor of Anthropology at Warren Wilson College, in Asheville, North Carolina. David is the author of Catawba Valley Mississippians: Ceramics, Chronology, and Catawba Indians, published by the University of Alabama Press in 2002. He has written numerous book chapters and articles for peer-reviewed journals including Southeastern Archaeology. His edited volume, The Conference on Cherokee Prehistory, was published by Warren Wilson College in 1986.

David has been actively involved in the archaeology of North Carolina's mountain and western Piedmont regions since 1978. He served for 18 years with the N.C. Office of State Archaeology and has been teaching full-time at Warren Wilson College since 2000. He has directed major excavations at numerous sites in North Carolina including Hardaway, Warren Wilson, and Berry. His work in the upper Catawba Valley began in 1986.

with excavations at the Berry site as part of his dissertation research. He returned to the Berry site in 1997 with Robin Beck and Thomas Hargrove for a preliminary proton-magnetometer survey and has directed the WWC field School annually since 2001. In 2000, Moore formed the Upper Catawba Archaeology Project with Robin Beck and Christopher Rodning.

Robin A. Beck, University of Michigan (Ph.D., Northwestern University 2004)

Robin Beck, is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Assistant Curator of North American Archaeology at the University of Michigan. Beck is the author of Chiefdoms, Collapse, and Coalescence in the Early American South (Cambridge University Press, 2013). He has written numerous book chapters and articles for peer-reviewed journals such as Current Anthropology, American Antiquity, Latin American Antiquity, Ethnohistory, Southeastern Archaeology, and Native South. His edited volume, The Durable House: House Society Models in Archaeology (Center for Archaeological Investigations Press, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale), was published in 2007.

Rob has been a member of the Upper Catawba Valley Archaeology project since 2000. In 1996, as part of his M.A. project at the University of Alabama, he directed a settlement survey of Upper Creek-Warrior Fork, the tributary of the upper Catawba River along which the Berry site is located. He co-directed a proton magnetometer survey at the Berry site in 1997, and it was during this survey that the burned structures were first identified. He co-directed excavations at Berry in 2002-2004 and 2007-2014 and he has conducted extensive research and published on the routes taken by early Spanish expeditions through the southeastern United States. Rob has also conducted extensive research and written on Mississippian chiefdoms in the Southeast, including a recent article in *American Antiquity*, flagship journal of the Society for American Archaeology. Since 1998, he has also worked in the Lake Titicaca Basin of Bolivia and Peru, and from 2000-2001 directed excavations at the site of Alto Pukara in Bolivia as part of his dissertation research. In 2005, Rob received the Visiting Scholar post-doctoral fellowship to the Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University.

Christopher Rodning, Tulane University (Ph.D. UNC-Chapel Hill, 2005)

Christopher Rodning is Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University, where he has been the recipient of teaching awards from the Honors Program and the School of Liberal Arts. He is author of Center Places and Cherokee Towns: Archaeological Perspectives on Native American Architecture and Landscape in the Southern Appalachians, published by the University of Alabama Press in 2015. He is coeditor, with Robin Beck and David Moore, of Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire: Colonialism and Household Practice at the Berry Site, published by the University Press of Florida in 2016. He is author and coauthor of scholarly papers in journals such as American Antiquity, American Anthropologist, Historical Archaeology, Southeastern Archaeology, the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, the Journal of Cherokee Studies, North American Archaeologist, North Carolina Archaeology, and Louisiana Archaeology, and he is author and coauthor of chapters in several scholarly books from academic publishers in the U.S. and U.K. He is the current book reviews editor of American Antiquity, published by the Society for American Archaeology in partnership with Cambridge University Press, and he is series editor of "Archaeology of the American South: New Directions and Perspectives" by the University of Alabama Press.

Chris has been involved in the archaeology of western North Carolina and the Appalachian Summit area since 1994. He has been a member of the Upper Catawba Valley Archaeology Project since 2000, and he has been a co-director of investigations at the Berry site since 2001.

Rachel Briggs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Ph.D. University of Alabama, 2017)

Rachel Briggs, Teaching Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a new co-director at the Berry site field school. First participating in the Berry site field school in 2003, she has continued to be an

important part of the Berry site crew and research team. She completed her Ph.D. on Mississippian foodways and pottery at the University of Alabama in 2017.

Summer 2023 Field School Staff Members

Abra Meriwether (B.A. Sociology and Anthropology, Warren Wilson College, 2011)

Abra is the Archaeology Laboratory Assistant at Warren Wilson where she helps to direct the Archaeology student work crew and manages the yearly curation tasks associated with the Berry site Field School. She wrote her senior thesis in Sociology and Archaeology on an analysis of post holes at the Berry site. She was a field school participant in 2009 and has been a regular field school staff member since 2010.

David Heavner (local volunteer)

David is a local resident who attended his first field school in 2002. He has served as a volunteer or staff member ever since.

Need More Information?

Please contact David Moore at Warren Wilson College (828) 771-2013 (cell # 828-713-6348)
email: dmoore@warren-wilson.edu.

We are pleased to have you join us and look forward to seeing you in Morganton!

Directions to Wall Center for Archaeological Research:

From West of Morganton

Take I-40 east to Exit 103. Turn left onto Burkemont Avenue. Go 0.7 miles (passing Western Piedmont Community College on the right) to the intersection with US 64/70 Bypass. Stay straight on Burkemont Avenue another 0.5 miles to New Street on the right. Turn right onto New St. and go 0.2 miles (2 blocks) to the Wall Center for Archaeological Research on the right. It is the two-story, red brick building on the right, just past the sign for the Furniture Warehouse.

From East of Morganton

Take I-40 west to Exit 103. Turn right onto Burkemont Avenue. Go 0.7 miles (passing Western Piedmont Community College on the right) to the intersection with US 64/70 Bypass. Stay straight on Burkemont Avenue another 0.5 miles to New St. on the right. Turn right onto New St. and go 0.2 miles (2 blocks) to the Wall Center for Archaeological Research on the right. It is the two-story, red brick building on the right, just past the sign for the Furniture Warehouse.

Directions to Berry site:

Directions to the Berry site from west of Morganton

On I-40, take the Jamestown Road Exit (Exit 100). Turn left and follow Jamestown Road to US 70. Continue straight (road changes to Freedom Dr.). Turn left at the Hardees onto NC 181, and you'll see the K-Mart Plaza on the right. From K Mart plaza, continue north on Hwy. 181 for 4.1 miles to Goodman Lake Road on right. Take Goodman Lake Road 1.6 miles to end; turn right on Henderson Mill Road; go 1.9 miles to the Berry site on right; follow parking signs.

Directions to the Berry site from east of Morganton

On I-40, take Exit 105, turn right and follow NC 18 into City of Morganton. In town, NC 18 will become S. Green St. (one-way) and after you pass the court house, NC 18 and NC 181 will diverge. Follow NC 181 North, cross the Catawba River to the intersection with Freedom Dr. (Hardees on the left) Continue north on 181 past the K-Mart Plaza. Continue north on Hwy. 181 for 4.1 miles to Goodman Lake Road on right. Take Goodman Lake Road 1.6 miles to end; turn right on Henderson Mill Road; go 1.9 miles to the Berry site on right; follow parking signs.

Directions to the Berry site from Lenoir

Follow NC 18 south from Lenoir and turn right on Piedmont Road. Follow Piedmont Road about 4 miles. You will pass Arney's Chapel Methodist Church on the right and then turn left at the next road - Henderson Mill Rd (Worry Crossroads). Go about 0.7 miles (you will pass a nursery on the left and then a small bridge over Upper Creek. The road will curve to the left and then sharply to the right. Drive slowly and be careful of traffic in this curve since you will turn left into the farm road just as the curve straightens out (There are two farm roads adjacent to each other in the middle of the curve. Take the second one.). Follow the dirt road about 200 feet and there we are. Welcome!