

2026

SECHSA

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
ON HISTORIC SITES ARCHAEOLOGY



Materializing Memory & Managing
Futures: Archaeology & Perspectives in
the Changing Southeast

MAY FOREST STATE PARK
JAMES ISLAND, SC

AUGUST 20-21, 2026

Materializing Memory and Managing Futures: Archaeology and Perspectives in the Changing Southeast

On behalf of the local coordinators for the 2026 Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology, we would like to welcome all attendees to Charleston, South Carolina. This year, our country celebrates its 250th anniversary as an independent nation with much fanfare and reminders of our complex and dynamic history. As fundamental tenets of preservation, archaeology, and even structures themselves are becoming ever-increasing targets for change, we gather again to rejoice in our community. This year, conference organizers chose what we feel is one of the best cities to discuss these issues: Charleston. Since its inception, Charleston has grappled with colonialism, enslavement, violence, heritage, and honor in an ever-expanding sense of globalization.



All presentations and poster sessions will be hosted by South Carolina State Parks at one of its newest properties, May Forest State Park, located on historic James Island. The Park offers a unique vantage point overlooking Charleston's downtown peninsula and harbor, making it an ideal setting to discuss the complexities of the past and their impacts on today and the future. This area of James Island, where the Park is situated (at the end of Fort Johnson Road), is widely memorialized for its Civil War connections. However, that is only one of many memories this 23-acre tract, now occupied by May Forest State Park, holds. The parcel was formerly owned by the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, whose congregation dates back nearly two centuries in Charleston.

The group ran a school for free children of color in the 1840s, cared for both Union and Confederate wounded soldiers during the Civil War, founded the hospital that would evolve into the Roper St. Francis Healthcare system, and ran social service organizations that helped those facing poverty. The park is rich in



history, dating back to the Archaic Stage, and maintains sweeping views of the Charleston skyline and harbor, offering a beautiful perspective of the city. To make the most of the view, on Friday evening, all attendees and guests are invited to participate in a Charleston specialty, the Lowcountry Boil. This year's SECHSA meeting is going to be busy, featuring 15 papers and three posters on an interesting variety of topics. While it is a busy program, we hope you will have time to explore this beautiful and uniquely historical area of the Lowcountry. We have highlighted a few nearby

attractions and dining options as a starting point for discovering some local James Island favorites.

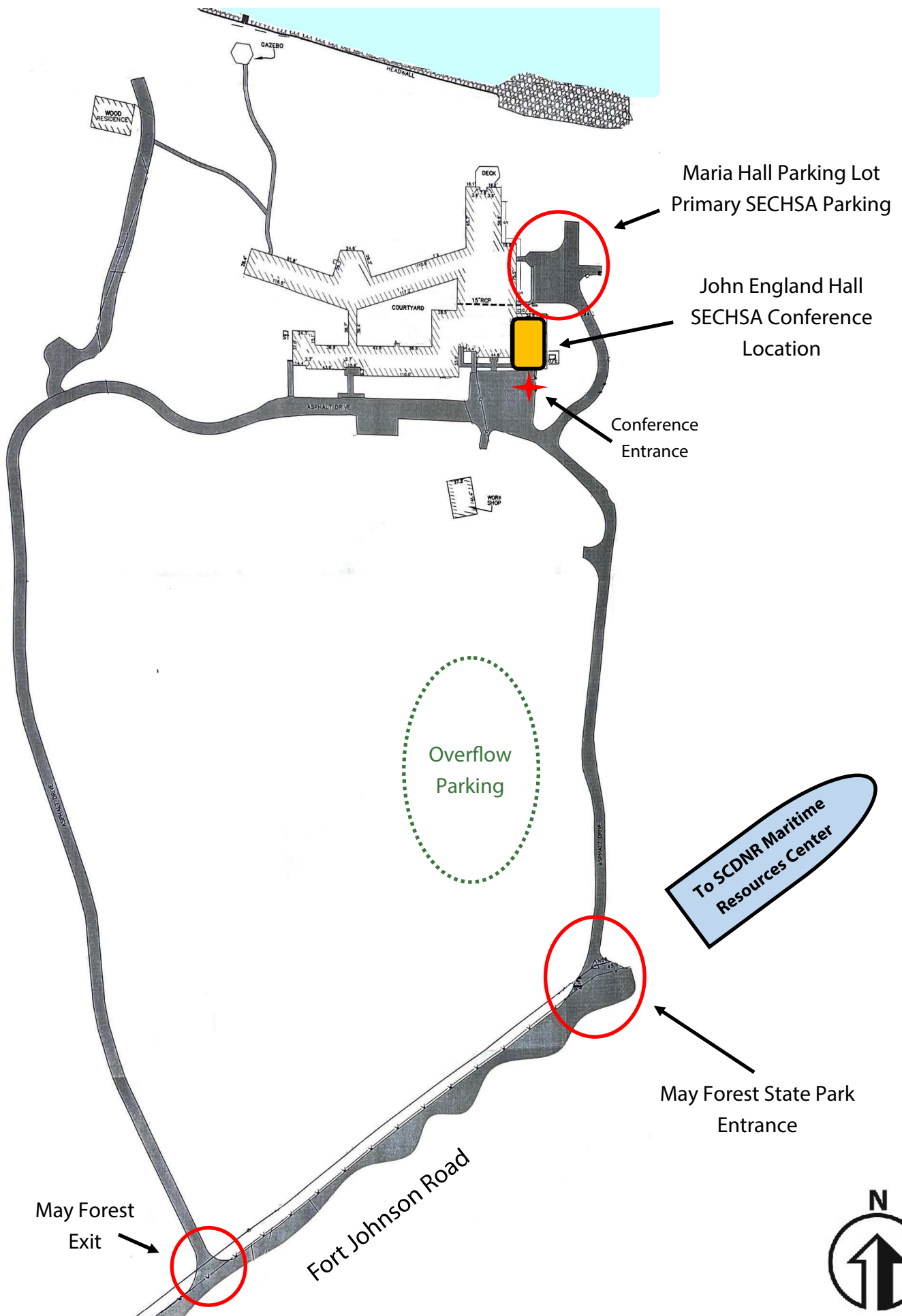
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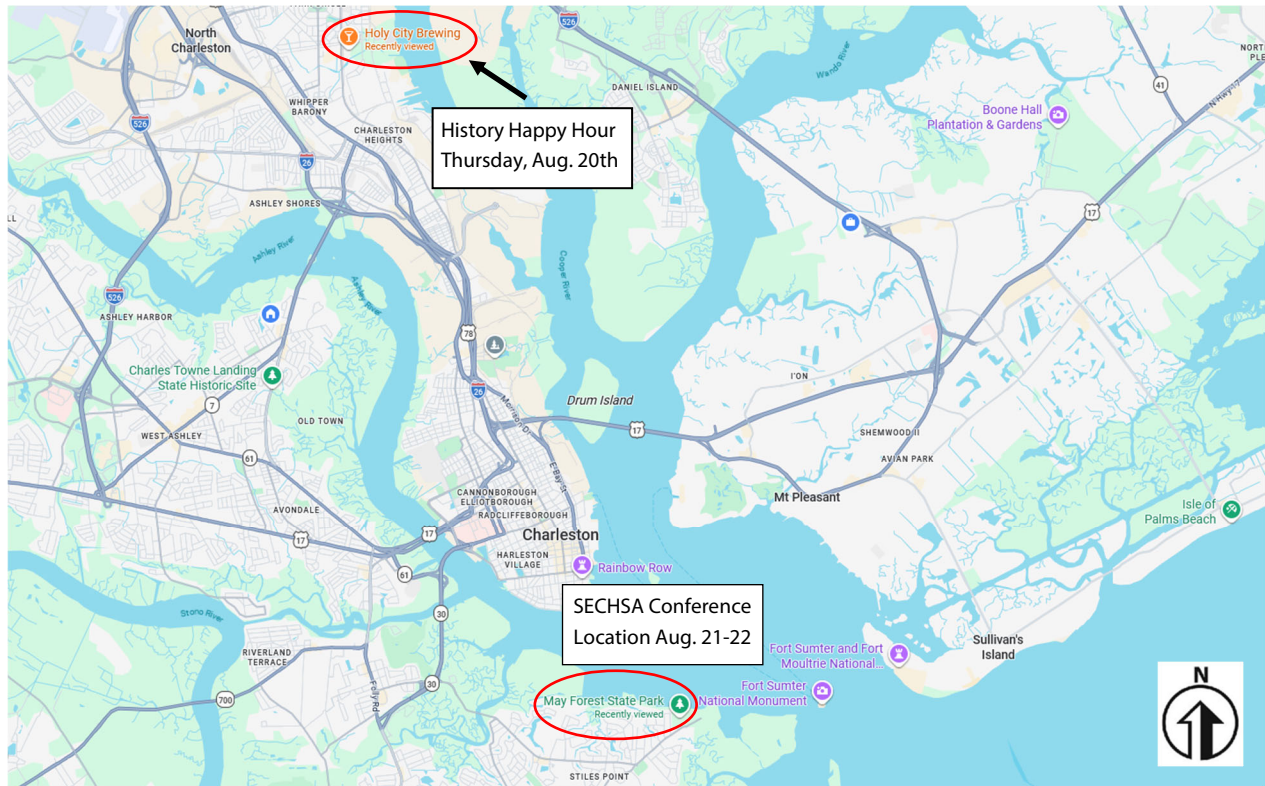
Special Thanks to our Location Host
South Carolina State Parks & May Forest State Park



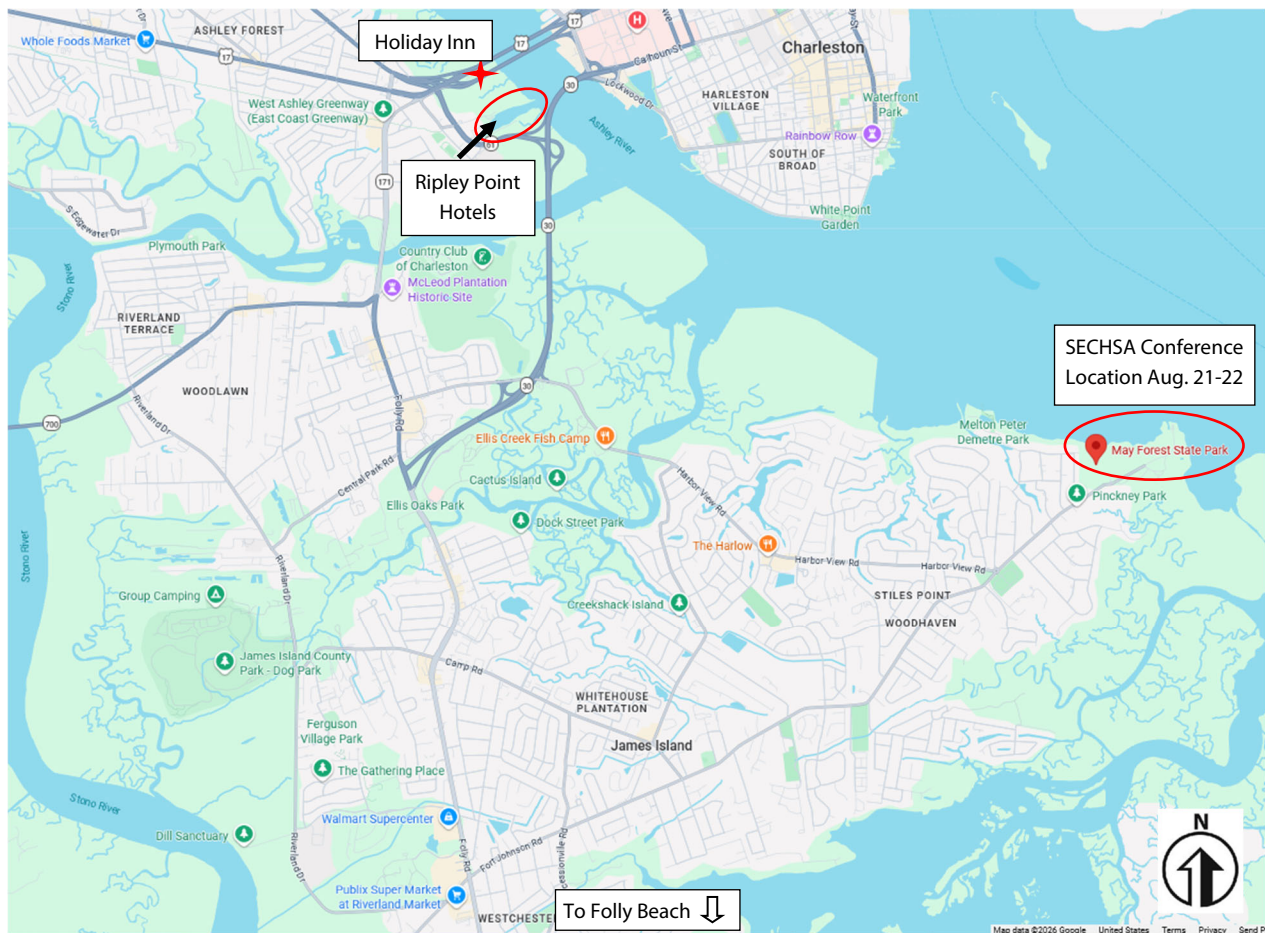
**THE COUNCIL OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS**



Greater Charleston Area



James Island Area



Conference Agenda Details

- ***History Happy Hour Reception***

Thursday, 5:00-7:30 PM

If you arrive in town early, consider attending the next Charleston History Happy Hour event as we kick off this year's SECHSA conference. Starting around 5:00 PM, this informal event, featuring local folks who share an interest in history and preservation, will be held at Holy City Brewing, 1021 Aragon Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405. The group will meet outside under the large awning.



- ***Curiosities and Oddities: An Artifact Workshop***

Friday, 9:00-11:00 AM

Do you have an unidentified artifact to show and tell? A class of objects you are uncertain how to catalog or interpret? A strange decoration mode? The stories connected to such objects are usually just as unique as the artifacts. We will spend our morning sharing and discussing the strange and unexpected aspects of archaeological material culture.

- ***Preservation: Perspectives, Practice, and Inevitability***

Friday, 1:30-3:30 PM

The Lowcountry maintains significant archaeological deposits, dynamic historical records, and cemeteries often restricted by class or racial groups; Charleston represents a difficult past that merges with an ever-changing skyline and a population mired in overwhelming commercial and residential development. After lunch, a panel discussion and facilitated conversation will examine these themes from regional perspectives, inviting members of the SECHSA community to engage in critical dialogues among colleagues in the Southeast. Panelists for this workshop are:

Ralph Bailey – Brockington and Associates

Ella Butler – Brockington and Associates

Marilyn Hemingway – Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

Omar Muhammad – Protect and Respect the Bodies

Brian Turner – Preservation Society of Charleston

- ***May Forest History Room Presentations and Self-Guided Fort Johnson Tour Opportunities***

Friday, 3:30 – 5:00 PM

A 30-minute tour and presentation of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy History Room that chronicles their almost 200 years of service. Group size is limited, and no photography is allowed inside the History Room. Tours will be organized on-site, depending on participation levels.

Just across from the entrance to May Forest is the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Marine Resources Center, where the original [Fort Johnson](#) once stood. This fortification, first constructed in 1708, is best known as the location for the first shot fired, starting the US Civil War on April 12, 1861. A self-guided tour pamphlet discussing the location's long history, produced by SCDNR, will be available to attendees interested in visiting.

- **Lowcountry Boil Conference Reception**

Friday, 5:30-8:30 PM



Join friends and colleagues on the shores of Charleston Harbor as we celebrate the 2026 annual conference with a Lowcountry specialty. Potatoes, corn, sausage, local shrimp, and special seasonings boiled to perfection. We will also have tea, lemonade, wine, and basic beers. Folks are also welcome to BYOB their favorite beverages for themselves or to share.

Conference Schedule

Conference workshops will be held on Friday, August 21, and presentations on Saturday, August 22. Both days will have a morning and an afternoon session. Parking is free and on-site at May Forest.

Thursday, August 20th

- 5:00 – 7:30 Charleston's History Happy Hour Reception

Friday, August 21st

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Conference Registration and Coffee Hour
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Curiosities and Oddities: An Artifact Workshop
- 11:00 – 1:30 PM *Lunch - On Your Own*
- 1:30 – 3:30 PM Perspectives, Practice, and Inevitability: Impacts on Conservation
- 3:30 – 5:00 PM May Forest History Room Presentations and Self-Guided Fort Johnson Tour Opportunities.
- 5:30 – 8:30 PM Conference Welcome Reception – Lowcountry Boil at May Forest

Saturday, August 22nd

- 7:30 – 8:20 AM Conference Registration and Coffee Hour
- 8:20 – 8:30 AM Conference Welcome and Introduction
- 8:30 – 9:50 AM Morning Session A – Stewardship and Public Archaeology
- 9:50 – 10:10 AM *Morning Break*
- 10:10 – 11:10 AM Morning Session B – Materializing Memory: Sites, Collections, and Landscapes
- 11:10 – 12:30 PM *Lunch Options*
“Build Your Own” Sandwich and Homestyle Sides Picnic Lunch Provided
-Or-
On Your Own
- 12:30 – 1:00 PM Poster Presentations
- 1:00 – 2:40 PM Afternoon Session A – Revisiting Places, Reframing Histories
- 2:40 – 3:00 PM *Afternoon Break*
- 3:30 – 4:00 PM Afternoon Session B – Emerging Analytical Approaches
- 4:00 – 4:45 PM SECHSA 2026 Business Meeting

Presentation and Session Schedule

Saturday, August 22nd

7:30 – 8:20 AM Conference Registration and Coffee Hour

8:20 – 8:30 AM Conference Welcome and Introduction - May Forest State Park Ranger Jay Reese

8:30 – 9:50 Morning Session A – Stewardship and Public Archaeology

8:30-8:50 *Understanding Archaeological Interpretation at Southeastern State Parks*

Rachael Lanning, University of South Carolina

8:50-9:10 *Community Engaged Research and Black Land Loss in the South Carolina Lowcountry*

Jodi A. Barnes, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program

9:10-9:30 *Case Studies in South Carolina's Abandoned Cemetery Law*

Ralph Bailey, Brockington and Associates

9:30-9:50 *Dust on the Bottles: Updates on Select Historic Legacy Collections at SCIAA*

Joseph A. Lindler Jr., Eleanor Davis, Sara Rogers, Ethan Anderson, Joanna Sports, Morgan Graybill, Mackenzie Kane, and Nina M. Schreiner, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

9:50 – 10:10 Morning Break

10:10 – 11:10 Morning Session B – Materializing Memory: Sites, Collections, and Landscapes

10:10-10:30 *This Ground on which We Stand: Results from the Archaeological Investigation of the May Forest State Park*

Lauren Christian and Cory France, New South Associates

10:30-10:50 *"IF THE OLD DOG SNIFFS ENOUGH, HE WILL FIND THE SOURCE:" A Case for the Discovery of John Bartlam's Kiln on the Wando.*

Jeff L. Sherard, Brockington and Associates; Martha Zierden, Emeritus, The Charleston Museum; Eric Poplin, Brockington and Associates

10:50-11:10 *An Examination of Slave Demographics, Architecture, and Pottery on an Inland Rice Plantation, Dorchester County, South Carolina.*

Larry James, Brockington and Associates

11:10 – 12:30 Lunch Break

12:30 – 1:00 Poster Session

The Reburying African American Ancestors Project

Larissa Daniels-Hill, Nina M. Schreiner, Julia Shough; South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

The Worked Bone Assemblage from USC's Historic Horseshoe

Ryan Gomez, University of South Carolina Public Heritage Lab

South Carolina DNR Statewide Cemetery Project

Karen Smith, Brian Long, Jodi A. Barnes, and Sam McDorman; South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program

1:00 – 2:40 Afternoon Session A – Revisiting Places, Reframing Histories

1:00-1:20 *Trainspotting: Aiken and the Charleston to Hamburg Railway 1833-1852*

Keith Stephenson, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and Carl Steen.

1:20-1:40 *The Point of Diminishing Returns* - Jonathan Schleier, Public Archaeology Corps

1:40-2:00 *New Perspectives at Fayetteville Arsenal (Site 31CD280) in Cumberland County, North Carolina* - Abigail Bythell, New South Associates

2:00-2:20 Latimer House Archaeology

Patrick H. Garrow and Cora Hoeing, Public Archaeology Corps

2:20-2:40 *Archaeological Monitoring at 38RD1598: Sourcing a Modern Midden*

Christopher Judge, Office of State Archaeologist, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

2:40 – 3:00 Afternoon Break

3:00-4:00 Afternoon Session B – Emerging Analytical Approaches

3:00-3:20 *The Evolution of Governor Robert Daniell's Home Site (38BK815), Daniel Island, Berkeley County, South Carolina*

David Baluha, Brockington and Associates

3:20-3:40 *GPR Survey of The Archaeological Conservancy's Eden House Preserve*

Jenifer Elam, Donald Rowe, and Ellen Turco, Richard Grubb and Associates

3:40-4:00 *Portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry in Plantation Brick Analysis*

Carolyn Dillian, Coastal Carolina University

4:00-4:45 2026 SECHSA Business Meeting

Lodging

A Google search using May Forest's address provides a good sense of the available options and their proximity to the venue. Downtown options are expensive, but a quick drive to May Forest via the James Island Connector. A few suggestions based on location as well as personal and colleagues' experiences.

Conference Room Blocks

We have arranged a small room block of 10 rooms at a special conference rate available Thursday through Saturday night.

[Holiday Inn – Charleston Riverview](#)

301 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 556-7100

CHSRVFrontOfficeManager@northph.com

\$189 plus tax, and must be booked by August 16th

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ROOM](#)

Known to most as the “Round Hotel”, it has a complimentary downtown shuttle and is next door to the premier Waffle House location visited by [Anthony Bourdain](#) and [Stephen Colbert](#).



Closest to the Conference Venue – Ripley Point

[SpringHill Suites – Charleston Riverview](#)

98 Ripley Point Drive, Charleston, 29407
843-571-1711

[Residence Inn - Charleston Riverview](#)

90 Ripley Point Drive, Charleston, 29407
843-571-7979

[La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Charleston Riverview](#)

11 Ashley Pointe Dr., Charleston, 29407
(843) 491-4793

Folly Beach Locations

[Tides Folly Beach](#)

1 Center Street, Folly Beach, 29439
Reservations 888-528-0730

[Folliday Inn](#)

116 W Ashley Avenue, Folly Beach, 29439
843-633-0469

Dependable Budget Accommodations

[Best Western Charleston Inn](#)

1540 Savannah HWY, US 17S, Charleston, 29407
843-571-6100

[Sleep Inn Charleston – West Ashley](#)

1524 Savannah Hwy, US 17S, Charleston, 29407
843-278-9971

Dining Locations

Lunch Options: 5-10 minutes from May Forest

Dawn Patrol Coffeehouse

608 Harbor View Road, James Island, 29412

0.9 miles

Neighborhood coffeehouse serving breakfast and lunch.

Coastal Crust

843-576-4562

979 Harbor View Road, James Island, 29412

2.0 miles

Homemade Neapolitan style wood-fired pizza and more.

Ellis Creek Fish Camp

843-868-5016

1243 Harbor View Road, James Island, 29412

3.2 miles

Great casual seafood with seating on the creek.
Parking can be challenging.

Bohemian Bull

843-868-5016

1531 Folly Road, James Island, 29412

5.0 miles

Laid back atmosphere with great burgers, sandwiches, and salads. Live music on Saturdays.

Baguette Magic

843-471-5941

792 Folly Rd, Unit A, James Island, 29412

5.6 miles

Amazing local bakery with breakfast and lunch choices.

Martin's Bar-B-Que

843-790-0838

1622 Highland Ave, James Island, 29412

5.8 miles

West Tennessee-style whole hog BBQ and other options.

Lunch Options: 10-15 minutes from May Forest

Charleston Crab House

843-790-0838

145 Wappoo Creek Dr, James Island, 29412

5.5 miles

Fried seafood and Low Country Boil served along with amazing views of Wappoo Creek.

Maybank Public House

843-203-6461

1970 Maybank Hwy, James Island, 29412

5.8 miles

Modern gastropub that features a wide variety of sandwiches, burgers, and salads.

Kwei Fei

1977 Maybank Hwy, James Island, 29412

5.5 miles

Western China, Sichuan-style cooking located next to the Pour House.

Bowens Island

843-797-2757

1870 Bowens Island Rd, Folly Beach, 29412

7.8 miles

Local oyster house and seafood favorite with a no-frills atmosphere with amazing creek views.

*After Conference Dinner / Happy Hour Options near May Forest
(All Open at 4:00 PM)*

[The Harlow](#)

843-459-2867

1015 Harbor View Road, James Island, 29412

2.1 miles

Great neighborhood spot featuring creative takes on classic American and Southern seafood.

[Edison](#)

843-872-5500

1014 Fort Johnson Road, James Island, 29412

2.4 miles

Casual upscale featuring seasonal dishes based on locally sourced ingredients.

Nearby Attractions

[Charleston Pour House](#)

1977 Maybank Highway, James Island 29412

Long-time favorite independent live music venue that hosts local, regional, and national touring bands. The venue features an indoor stage for evening performances and an outdoor deck stage for day and early evening shows.



Thurs, Aug 20th: Flow Tribe + J and the Causeways (Deck Stage)

Fri, Aug 21st: Fudge with Channel Bluff (Deck Stage)

Happy Landing w/ The Band Solstice (Main Stage)

Sat, Aug 22nd: 65 North Pickers (Deck Stage)

Sun, Aug 23rd: Motown Throwdown and Sunday Brunch Farmers Market (Deck Stage)

[Terrace Theater](#)

1956D Maybank Highway, James Island 29412

Great independent movie theater with first-run movies and a delightful concession stand. [CURRENTLY SHOWING](#)



[McLeod Plantation Historic Site](#)

325 Country Club Dr, James Island 29412

Operated by Charleston County Parks, the McLeod Plantation Historic Site is a 37-acre Gullah Geechee heritage site. The site offers engaging interpretive programs focusing on the Freedmen's Bureau's impact, Gullah culture, and the relationship between enslaved communities and the city of Charleston. \$20 for adults (ages 13–59), \$15 for seniors (60+), and \$6 for children (3–12). Children 2 and under are free.



Fort Lamar Heritage Preserve

1231 Fort Lamar Rd., James Island, 29412

A 15-acre cultural heritage preserve featuring critical Civil War earthworks associated with an important Confederate victory. The park is part of the Secessionville Historic District, which was listed on the NRHP in 1979. The site is free to visit during daylight hours.



Melton Demetre Park

640 Wampler Dr., James Island, 29412

City park featuring a 190-foot fishing pier, 40-foot floating dock, two sandy waterfront beaches, a covered picnic area, a small hiking trail, and great sunset views. The park is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.



James Island County Park

871 Riverland Dr., Charleston, SC 29412

Large local county park with miles of paved trails, disc golf, a playground, fishing and crabbing spots, and boat and bike rentals, offering countless ways to explore the local landscape. Admission is \$2 per person.



Presentation Abstracts

Papers (by order of occurrence)

Understanding Archaeological Interpretation at Southeastern State Parks

Rachael Lanning – University of South Carolina

Many natural and seemingly untouched spaces in South Carolina are rich with material histories, particularly those of marginalized communities. Archaeological work around the state of South Carolina and beyond has revealed material remains that exhibit these histories, yet at many places, archaeology/history is not the forefront of interpretive strategy. Still, without permanent museum settings or physical features to present, archaeological details of complicated histories can still be accessed by the public. In this project, I will be working with many State Parks and historical sites in the Southeast to understand reception of these interpretation strategies by park staff and visitors/descendant community members. I will be creating interpretive materials to exhibit how the archaeological work conducted at Sesquicentennial State Park over the last few years can bring the park's layered history more to the forefront. This presentation will focus on the outcomes of each of these processes.

Community Engaged Research and Black Land Loss in the South Carolina Lowcountry
Jodi A. Barnes – South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program

In 2017, Hurricane Irma uncovered the human skeleton of a young Black man who died between 1890 and 1930 in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Building relationships with local and descendant communities is a crucial part of the biocultural research to identify South Island John Doe. That research has resulted in intimate information about John Doe as well as personal family stories of Black land ownership and community building during the Reconstruction era. This paper provides an overview of the research on John Doe and Black community building, while situating the study within contemporary concerns about Black land loss and over-development.

Case Studies in South Carolina's Abandoned Cemetery Law
Ralph Bailey – Brockington and Associates

The recent flurry of cemetery projects in Charleston has brought new scrutiny to South Carolina cemetery laws, especially the Abandoned Cemetery Law. I will look at three historic cemetery projects in Charleston: Hampstead Cemetery on Reid Street, St. James Methodist Cemetery on King Street, and the Potter's Field at MUSC's Children's Research Institute on President Street to examine the efficacy of this law. I will also share some of the lessons I have learned as an archaeologist working on historic cemeteries in Charleston since the early 1990s and offer some thoughts on the future of cemetery preservation in South Carolina.

Dust on the Bottles: Updates on Select Historic Legacy Collections at SCIAA

Joseph A. Lindler Jr., Eleanor Davis, Sara Rogers, Ethan Anderson, Joanna Sports, Morgan Graybill, Mackenzie Kane, and Nina Schreiner – South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

One of the difficult legacies of archaeology is that the more excavations and research we conduct, the more we are faced with the continuing curation crisis in our storage facilities. The curation crisis has led to collections being forgotten, un-analyzed, or not managed according to best practices. This paper sheds light on multiple historic 18th-century legacy collections housed at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology (SCIAA) from across the South Carolina Low Country and Wateree and Catawba River Valleys. Over the course of 2026, these collections have been re-housed and curated to South Carolina state standards, making them accessible to researchers and students.

This Ground on which We Stand: Results from the Archaeological Investigation of the May Forest State Park

Lauren Christian and Cory France– New South Associates

In 2025, New South Associates and the South Carolina Department of Recreation and Tourism conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the newly acquired May Forest State Park property. As a result, three areas of interest were identified from the shovel testing survey, metal detector survey, and results from previous investigations in and around the property, which were subject to additional testing. The May Forest Park property encompasses a 23-acre parcel on the Fort Johnson peninsula of James Island, in an area that has been occupied and utilized by past people over multiple components including Late Archaic to Late Woodland-period deposits, eighteenth- to twentieth-century military occupations, and mid-twentieth-century residential and religious activities. Multiple investigations of Fort Johnson have been conducted since the mid-twentieth century. Understanding the known archaeology sites past the May Forest property line was imperative to interpreting the results of the May Forest archaeological investigation.

“IF THE OLD DOG SNIFFS ENOUGH, HE WILL FIND THE SOURCE:” A Case for the Discovery of John Bartlam’s kiln on the Wando.

Jeff L. Sherard - Brockington and Associates, Martha Zierden - Emeritus, The Charleston Museum, Eric Poplin - Brockington and Associates

Staffordshire potter John Bartlam traveled to Charleston in 1763. He found good clay at Cain Hoy on the Wando River above Charleston in 1765 and operated a “pott works” there for five years. After decades of searching, in 1991 Stanley South and others excavated a site associated with Bartlam that produced a large collection of Queens Ware, Tortoise Ware, and Blue China ware. But they did not find a kiln. During the 2014 survey of the 10,000-acre Cainhoy Plantation, archaeologists with Brockington identified two sites, including a brick kiln, that produced Bartlam pottery. In this paper, we describe the Bartlam wares recovered there and make a case for the identification of John Bartlam’s kiln.

An Examination of Slave Demographics, Architecture, and Pottery on an Inland Rice Plantation, Dorchester County, SC

Larry James - Brockington and Associates

This paper presents the results of the data recovery investigations at the historic Walnut Hill Plantation settlement (1740s-1870s) located in Dorchester County, SC. Walnut Hill once represented a large, working, absentee inland rice plantation organized around a primary land manager and a large enslaved population. By the early 1800s, Walnut Hill was heavily productive, with a plantation design depicting farm buildings, two long rows of slave dwellings, a main house, and several outbuildings. However, the plantation’s yield and promise saw a sharp decline with the changing economy around the mid-1800s. By examining the historical and archaeological data, a unique perspective emerges regarding plantation prosperity and instabilities between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Trainspotting: Aiken and the Charleston to Hamburg Railway 1833-1852

Keith Stephenson - South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and Carl Steen

On October 2, 1833, the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company officially opened the longest railroad in the world between Charleston and Hamburg, SC. To overcome a 350 ft elevation drop between Aiken and Hamburg, an inclined plane (IP) was constructed at Aiken that descended 200 ft in one mile, with the remaining 150 ft descent occurring along the 15 miles to Hamburg. In 2018, SCDNR excavated a portion of the IP that was exposed in Sand River. Further erosion required additional archaeological attention by 2025. This presentation will discuss aspects of the structural components of the double-tracked IP revealed during excavation in relation to the operation of the IP from 1833 until a bypass track was built in 1852, when the IP was closed.

The Point of Diminishing Returns

Jonathan Schleier - Public Archaeology Corps

In 2016 Public Archaeology Corps, in coordination with the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society, conducted a community based archaeological excavation of Civil War earthworks located at the proposed Ryder Lewis park in Carolina Beach, NC. The goal was to use the archaeological record to better

define the function of multiple Civil War earthworks located on site. Sadly, due to poor artifact recovery, very little was learned about the site. This project serves as a cautionary tale for Civil War archaeology on private land.

New Perspectives at Fayetteville Arsenal (Site 31CD280) in Cumberland County, North Carolina

Abigail Bythell – New South Associates

The Fayetteville Arsenal (Site 31CD280) is a NRHP listed antebellum and Civil War-era arsenal in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina. Originally constructed by the Federal government in the early to mid-nineteenth century, the complex was expanded upon by the Confederate States of America (CSA) during the Civil War. Due to extensive ground disturbance at the site over the past 160 years, it has been challenging for archaeologists to identify the exact spatial patterning of Civil War-era features. New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) recently conducted archaeological investigations and monitoring at Site 31CD280 during construction of the North Carolina History Center on Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction (History Center). The findings of this investigation give new perspectives on the placement of Civil War-era structures, construction methods, and how the CSA utilized the space west of the main arsenal building during the war.

Latimer House Archaeology

Patrick H. Garrow and Cora Hoeing - Public Archaeology Corps

Excavations were conducted on the grounds of the Latimer House in Wilmington, NC, during 1976 and 1977 by Thomas Loftfield of UNCW. The 1976 excavations were done in advance of ground disturbing activities around the standing slave/servant quarters in the back yard of the property while the 1977 project focused on a cellar and other areas under the building. A very large artifact collection was recovered during the excavations that was never reported or analyzed. The current project is analyzing both collections and will yield a report that documents life on the Latimer House property from the construction of the standing in 1851 and 1852 to the present. The analyses are being conducted in the absence of field notes, adequate unit descriptions, and the lack of provenience data for part of the artifact collection, problems that are common for many early artifact collections. Useful data are being extracted from the collections despite those deficiencies.

Archaeological Monitoring at 38RD1598: Sourcing a Modern Midden

Christopher Judge – Office of State Archaeologist, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

Archaeological monitoring of a manhole installation on the University of South Carolina campus this summer revealed a 1950's era community dump associated with the Wheeler Hill community. Wheeler Hill, a working class African American neighborhood, was condemned and razed as USC expanded in 1965. In recent years, researchers with USC's Center for Civil Rights History and Research and others have documented the insensitive manner in which this occurred through historical, photographic, archival, and oral history projects. My project included monitoring and photo documentation of artifacts prior to the removed soils transfer to a modern sanitary landfill. Artifacts include evidence of foodways-ceramics, glass, cutlery and zooarchaeological remains, containers from soda and beer consumption, toiletries, medicines, cosmetics, cleaning supplies, insect repellent, toys and clothing. We are fortunate in South Carolina to live

in a day and age where Town and Gown relations between colleges and communities preclude such behavior. Or do we?

The Evolution of Governor Robert Daniell's Home Site (38BK815), Daniel Island, Berkeley County, South Carolina

David Balhua – Brockington and Associates

This presentation summarizes the 2020 excavations in the southeastern mitigation area of 38BK815 on Daniel Island, which produced large numbers of cultural features and artifacts associated with nearly 250 years of occupation, ca. 1697-1941. Recent remote sensing investigations in 2026 revealed another large structure east of the mitigation area, which likely represents the foundation of Governor Daniell's home.

GPR Survey of The Archaeological Conservancy's Eden House Preserve

Jenifer Elam, Donald Rowe, and Ellen Turco – Richard Grubb and Associates

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. conducted a ground-penetrating radar survey of The Archaeological Conservancy's 2.64-acre Eden House Preserve in Bertie County, North Carolina. The survey's goal was to locate the footprint of Eden House, a governor's residence constructed circa 1720, which was occupied by two of North Carolina's Colonial governors. Pinpointing the location of the dwelling was the first of three research questions posed by Hoke Kimball, co-author of *Governor's Houses and State Houses of British Colonial America, 1607–1783*. The survey recorded thirteen anomalies and was successful in identifying a likely location for Eden House and several probable archaeological features related to its occupation in the eighteenth-century.

Portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry in Plantation Brick Analysis

Carolyn Dillian – Coastal Carolina University

Charleston, South Carolina, and its surrounds was once a hub of brick manufacturing. Exploiting the labor of people held in bondage, plantation owners produced brick for their own building needs and for sale throughout the region. However, architectural histories rarely highlight the identities and origins of people who worked to make the brick used in the structures and landscapes of the Southeast. Portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (pXRF) provides a non-destructive method for analyzing brick composition and the potential for sourcing to maker or kiln. This presentation discusses methods and ongoing research into developing a database of brick kiln chemistries for the region. The aim is to assist archaeologists in understanding how to get the best information from archaeological and architectural brick and provide a tool for interpretation that highlights the skill of those unnamed people held in bondage who made brick on South Carolina plantations.

Poster (by primary author alphabetical order)

The Reburying African American Ancestors Project

Larissa Daniels-Hill, Nina M. Schreiner, and Julia Shough – South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) has initiated the Reburying African American Ancestors Project. Utilizing archival and oral history records, Phase I

interrogates the circumstances in which African American ancestors were recovered, with the goal of identifying descendant and culturally affiliated communities for reinterment. This project prioritizes community-centered approaches that engage descendants' voices in reburial and recollection of African American experiences throughout South Carolina and contributes to discourse surrounding erasure in landscape history. Recognizing that memory creation and reproduction shape remembrance of African American burial grounds, this project will incorporate the clientage model, FAIR & CARE, and best practices from the Society for American Archaeology, Society for Black Archaeologists, and the American Association of Biological Anthropology in Phase II. Next steps include partnering with descendant communities, community organizations, and city governments, emphasizing collaborative efforts.

The Worked Bone Assemblage from USC's Historic Horseshoe

Ryan Gomez - University of South Carolina Public Heritage Lab

Excavations at USC's Historic Horseshoe, specifically at the suspected location of an outbuilding associated with the former President's House site, have produced a notable assemblage of worked bone artifacts and other small personal items. As a participant in the USC Archaeological Field School and subsequent volunteer work at the site, this research examines these artifacts to better understand everyday behaviors and personal practices of past occupants. This poster focuses on the worked bone assemblage, including suspected brush and toothbrush fragments, buttons, a domino piece, and other worked bone artifacts, to explore patterns of manufacture, use, and deposition. Through artifact classification and contextual analysis, this research highlights how small objects can provide insight into the lived experiences and everyday practices of the various occupants and communities associated with USC's Historic Horseshoe, including those who were enslaved and other historical occupants of the site.

South Carolina DNR Statewide Cemetery Project

Karen Smith, Brian Long, Jodi Barnes, and Sam McDorman - South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program

In 2021, we created an ESRI GIS database and Survey123 reporting form to capture cemetery locations across the state. Our goals were simple. We wanted a reporting form that was easy to use and a process that did not require sophisticated equipment, anticipating that most submitters would be members of the public, not preservation professionals. We also wanted to capture cemetery boundaries as polygons instead of points. In this way, our database differs from other cemetery databases in the state. We reasoned that polygons created from surface observations would more accurately represent the visual extent of these resources, which would increase our chances of relocating them in the future. After extensive testing and input from select user groups, the Survey123 form was launched publicly in 2025, and submissions increased exponentially. In this poster, we provide an update on our efforts.