



Newsletter

ARCHAEOLOGY

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Skull Creek Chronicles

Stepping into the Past at Green's Shell Enclosure Heritage Preserve

Situated along the shore of Skull Creek on Hilton Head Island, Green's Shell Enclosure Heritage Preserve encompasses three acres. This is one of the smallest of the 80 Heritage Preserves the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) owns and manages. Nevertheless, this remarkable cultural site represents the fascinating and diverse layers of South Carolina's past. A large shell mound, four feet high in places, tells of the Indigenous peoples who inhabited this

landscape and utilized the resources of the area centuries before European contact. Less visible, but verified by years of archaeological and historical investigations, are the remnants of 19th century Fairfield Plantation. Upon the ground at Green's Shell Enclosure once stood the enslaved quarters for this Sea Island cotton plantation, one of many on Hilton Head and the surrounding Sea Islands where Gullah culture thrived in times of war, peace, enslavement, freedom, and change from outside.

Read the full story map [here](#).

Image courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History.



Focus on Heritage

Bear Branch Heritage Preserve

Bear Branch Heritage Preserve is a 173-acre tract of land in northern Aiken County and located west of the Bear Branch, a small water source connected to the larger Little Horse Creek. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program acquired this property in 1997 to protect and preserve the remnants of several cultural sites related to pottery manufacturing conducted here in the 1800s.

In the mid-1800s, Benjamin Franklin Landrum established his pottery business near the Bear Branch. While closeness to a water source is essential for making pottery, the area was also known for its rich source of clay. His pottery business included kilns and several outbuildings, some of which were used for housing his workforce which included enslaved people.

Landrum's pottery was known for its alkaline glaze stoneware vessels and jugs. Wide-mouthed vessels were used for storing such food items as meats, grain, and lard. Jugs were used to store whiskey, water and other liquids. The pottery also made butter churns. Landrum's pottery is thought to have been in operation up into the early 1900s. The kiln and buildings were bulldozed sometime in the 1960s. Landrum's business was one of many potteries active throughout the counties of Edgefield and Aiken.

Visitation to this site is by pre-arranged tour or by permit only. To learn more about Bear Branch Heritage Preserve and other preserves, visit the SCDNR's [Heritage Trust website](#). The story map, [The Dragons of Old Edgefield: Stoneware Kilns in the Old Edgefield District of South Carolina](#), offers more history about the manufacturing of Edgefield pottery. To view three-dimensional (3D)

imagery of Edgefield pottery from the Heritage Trust collection, visit the [Edgefield Pottery Collection](#).

Image features a 3D model of a cream riser from the Edgefield Pottery Collection, [Edgefield Pottery Collection 85](#). This 3D model was produced by Charles Scarborough, SCDNR.



50th Anniversary Poster Contest

South Carolina Heritage Trust Program

Calling all artists and art students to help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program! We are looking for artists of all ages to create posters (maximum size: 11" x 17", horizontal or vertical) celebrating your favorite South Carolina [heritage preserves](#).

There are two categories for the poster competition: Kids (K-12) and Adults (18+). You can use any medium you like to create your poster: digital, pastels, oils, paints, colored pencils, or crayons. Once you finish your artwork, please complete the [poster competition application](#) and upload a high resolution (300 dpi or greater) scan or photo of your artwork as part of the application [here](#).

The poster competition will close on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at 11:59pm EST. Judges for the competition are made up of South Carolina Heritage Trust Program staff. Three posters from each category (kids and adults) will be selected to receive a prize package. Winning posters will be published in [South Carolina Wildlife magazine](#). Prize winners will be contacted on or before Monday, March 3, 2025.

Image features an artist painting at [Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve / Wildlife Management Area](#). Image courtesy of Meg Gaillard, SCDNR.



Spring 2025 Archaeology Internship Applications Now Open

Applications for the Spring 2025 SCDNR Archaeology internship program are now available [here](#). Applications close at 5 p.m. EST on Thursday, October 31, 2024. This 15-week, in-person internship will begin on Monday, January 6, 2025 and end on Friday, April 18, 2025. Up to two interns will be selected for this term. Interns are paid \$12 per hour, and may work up to 20 hours per week at Parker Annex Archaeology Center (2025 Barnwell St., Columbia, SC 29201). Interns will assist the SCDNR Archaeology team with preparing and providing community engagement programs, including programs that take place on Saturdays. Applicants must be enrolled at the time of the internship as an undergraduate (B.A./B.S. and Associates) or graduate (M.A./M.S. and Ph.D.) student seeking a degree in anthropology, archaeology, history, or a closely related field. Housing is not provided. Please email SCDNR archaeologist Meg Gaillard with any questions or concerns (GaillardM@dnr.sc.gov).



Visit the SCDNR Archaeology team during the 39th annual Science Education Enrichment Day (SEED) Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus (471 University Pkwy, Aiken, SC 29801). This is a free, family-themed festival celebrating science, technology, engineering and math. More information about this event can be found [here](#).



Visit the SCDNR Archaeology team during the annual Fall Fission Festival on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Savannah River Site Museum (224 Laurens St. SW, Aiken, SC 29801). This is a free, family-friendly festival that helps foster kids' curiosity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). More information about the Savannah River Site Museum can be found [here](https://www.srsheritagemuseum.org).



Historic Columbia Trunk or Treat

Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 — it's time for [Trunk or Treat](#) at the Robert Mills House! This free event is perfect for kids of all ages. Dive into an evening filled with crafts, activities, and tons of treats from the SCDNR Archaeology team and other Historic Columbia community partners. Join us for a hauntingly good time and celebrate Halloween with Historic Columbia.



South Carolina Archaeology Month

Events Around the State

The theme for the 2024 South Carolina Archaeology Month is [Preserving African American Spaces](#). Across South Carolina, archaeologists and community groups are working together to identify and preserve archaeological sites, cemeteries, buildings, and stories created by African Americans. Through these spaces, the difficult histories and contributions of enslaved Africans, enslaved African Americans, and their descendants are recognized. Places lost to the past are often rediscovered by archaeologists during systematic investigations, or many times revealed by community members with recollections of the past. Learn more about archaeological projects from across the state which are connecting African American communities to archaeological sites and historic places [here](#).

Kick off South Carolina Archaeology Month on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024 from 9 to 10 a.m. by joining the [Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site](#) park archaeologist on a guided walk that will highlight important 17th century resources. Learn more about the guided walk [here](#).

From Oct. 5 - Nov. 30, 2024, visit Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site and step inside the shelter at the Structure 2 excavation to discover what archaeologists have unearthed. Talk with a park educator about the intriguing finds that have been made here over the past decade and what the evidence tells us about the people who lived and worked on the property in the 1670s. Learn more about this event series [here](#).

Educators, give your students an unforgettable hands-on experience by signing up for Jasper County 250's Jr. Archaeologist Program. From Oct. 7 - 26, 2024, your students can step back in time and help uncover the secrets of the Thomas Heyward, Jr./Old House Plantation (located just outside the Town of Ridgeland, SC) alongside real archaeologists from the [LAMAR Institute](#). More information about this event and how to register can be found on the Unearth History flyer [here](#).

From Oct. 14 - 20, 2024, you can watch films in the [free virtual edition](#) of the 12th annual Arkhaios Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival. Arkhaios is an educational event to showcase the discovery of past cultures gained from ethnological or archaeological research, and illustrated by documentary films. For more information about Arkhaios, please visit their website [here](#).

On Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., dig into history with “Piecing Together the Past with Archaeology” for a firsthand look at Charles Towne Landing’s archaeological resources and discover the history revealed below the surface. Learn more about this event [here](#).

Join the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 12,000 Year History Park (1120 Fort Congaree Trail, Cayce, SC 29033) for their annual Fall Field Day. Please visit the ASSC [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for more information about this event.

Questions about archaeology events and programs? Please visit the [Heritage Trust website](#), or email ArchaeologyOutreach@dnr.sc.gov.