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First Colony Foundation Summer 2018 Update



John Whitehurst of Windsor and Madison Phillips of Edenton enjoy a Coastal Land Trust event at Site X

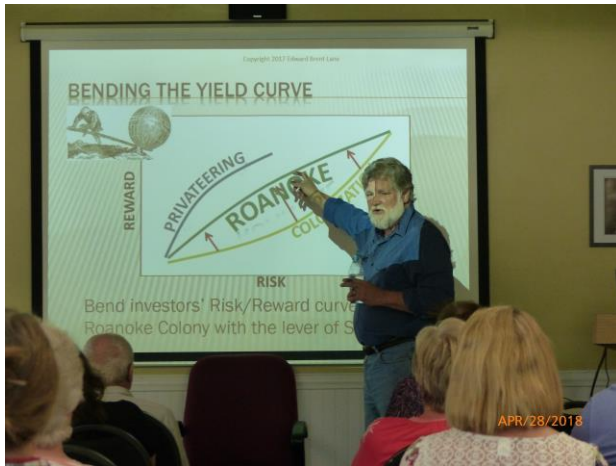
Ownership of Site X: The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust has purchased the entire property on which the First Colony Foundation excavations are located. The new owners have opened the site for several events to celebrate this significant acquisition, which will be deeded to the state soon. Beyond our specific site, with its concentration of Elizabethan artifacts, the purchase includes the location of the native village of Mettaquem and the foundations for Bal Gra, the early Colonial home of North Carolina Governor Thomas Pollock.

Salmon Creek Survey: Board member and underwater archaeologist Gordon Watts has submitted a plan for the study of the navigable length of Salmon Creek, which is immediately adjacent to Site X and Mettaquem, and the shore area immediately outside the mouth of the creek. The on-site portion of the study should be accomplished this fall.

Plans for additional Excavations in Bertie County: Beginning in September we will be excavating a portion of the native village site adjacent to Site X as well as certain “hot spots” visible on a prior ground-penetrating radar survey near the Elizabethan items. FCF’s excavation will be the first on-site investigation of the Late Woodland portion of Mettaquem. We are grateful to the Town of Windsor and Bertie County for providing us with financial and logistical resources for this research.

Having reached the occupation layer, Tony Smith trims edges while Nick Lucchetti photographs features at Site X

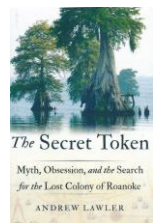




The Lost Colony Festival: In April, the town of Windsor sponsored its third annual festival at the Roanoke Cashie River Center. FCF provided an exhibit of appropriate pre-historic and historic artifacts. All three of the program's lectures were presented by FCF scholars, Clay Swindell, Brent Lane and FCF President Phil Evans.

Brent Lane discusses the economics of colonization as part of the Lost Colony Festival

Roanoke Colonies in the News: Many media articles have focused on the Roanoke settlements in the early months of 2018. The June issue of National Geographic Magazine includes an overview of the current status of research, and Andrew Lawler has authored *The Secret Token, Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island*. The book has been reviewed by the New York Time, PBS News Hour, and many newspapers in Virginia and North Carolina. Even more recently, notes accumulated by the late Donald Paul Upchurch have been edited and published as *In Pursuit of Dorothea, The Lost Colony Ship*, which explores the mysteries of early ships and settlements along the Inner and Outer Banks.



Fort Raleigh Research: In May and October of 2017 board member Eric Deetz managed FCF staff and students from University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in re-excavations of prior digs in the vicinity of Lane's Fort. The project will conclude in September 2018, providing new data to update the interpretation of this significant spot. Additionally, we will be working with National Park Service personnel in their efforts to stabilize the vulnerable shoreline, and we will conduct a survey of a lightly-examined area west of the Elizabethan Gardens, perhaps exposing a portion of the native village of Roanoac.



Ugly, huh? Current shoreline erosion has exposed the plastic liner from FCF 2006 excavations

Past and Future Conferences: In the aftermath of last fall's symposium, skillfully choreographed by board member lebame houston, FCF Vice-President Eric Klingelhofer is organizing a more modest conference on Sir Walter Raleigh in the four hundredth year after his death. Four scholars from an immediately preceding event in Chapel Hill will present papers on the man who spearheaded the settlement efforts. The Fort Raleigh Visitors Center will be the venue for these lectures on the weekend of September 8, and an archaeological excavation will be in progress.

The First Colony Foundation, a North Carolina 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2004, is dedicated to conducting archaeological and historical research, combined with public education and interpretation, relating to the story of North Carolina and America's beginnings with the attempts by Sir Walter Raleigh to establish English colonies at Roanoke Island in the 1580s under his charter from Queen Elizabeth I.