

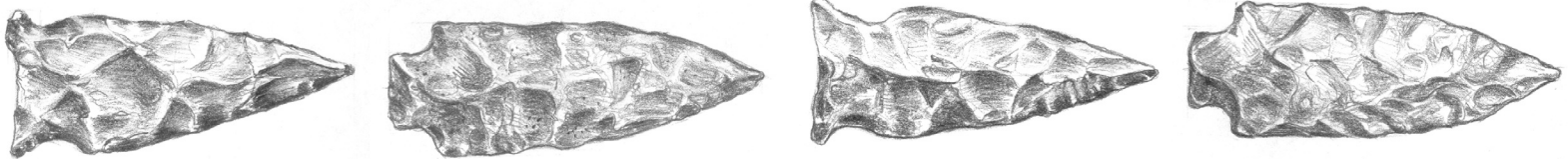
2003 at the Kolb Site

This will be our sixth season of digging at the Kolb site. During that period we have excavated over 230 50cm test units (one every five meters - about 16 feet) and another 49 two meter squares. A preliminary count shows that we have recovered over 170,000 quantified artifacts. Other artifacts like bone, charcoal, shell, brick and mortar are weighed rather than counted, and aren't included in this total.

The Kolb Site is exciting in that it is like a sampler of all the interesting topics in South Carolina Archaeology. Excavations thusfar have given us evidence of occupations ranging in age from the Paleoindian Period (about 13,000 years ago) to the 20th Century. Future archaeologists will, no doubt, examine our crude 21st century excavation methods with amusement.

Historic Period research at the Kolb site could be directed toward learning more about it's late 19th to early 20th century logging operation, its 18th and 19th Century plantation occupations, Johannes Kolb's pioneer settlement, or the Native Americans here in the 17th 18th and 19th Centuries.

The Prehistoric Period covers a much longer time span, at least another 13,000 years, and it appears that the site has been occupied over and over the whole time. Of particular interest are the Early Archaic Period (about 8,000 to 10,000 years ago) and Early Woodland (about 4,500 to 2,500 years ago). But then there are also Middle and Late Archaic components to study as well. They are less common than usual so we must wonder why. And the Middle and Late Woodland Periods are also well represented. These periods are so poorly understood in South Carolina that not addressing them seems like a tragedy... Then there are the bookends of the Native American occupation, with Paleoindian



Woodland Points from the Kolb Site
drawings by Brent Gould

hunter gatherers on one side of the divide, and 19th Century Catawba potters on the other. With so many topics to choose from you'll have to excuse us if we seem to have an attention deficit problem. We could easily put 20 people to work on different projects if funding and interested researchers were available.

We are excavating the site by taking a carefully measured sample - our eventual goal is to excavate 17% of the site at large. This will leave more than 80% intact for future researchers. An important aspect of this approach is that it will result in a truly representative sample of the site instead of one biased by the researcher's personal interest. For instance, some might concentrate on the Paleoindian or Early Archaic at the expense of everything else. We carefully excavate the evidence from all of the time periods, and make slow progress on many fronts all at once.

This doesn't mean that we don't focus on some occupations a little more than others. For instance, in 2000 and 2001 we sampled the area of Johannes Kolb's house extensively to tie down its location. This year we will focus our excavations in areas producing some of the earliest pottery in North America. Recent research has shown that the Kolb site is one of the furthest north and inland sites yielding these Stallings and Thoms Creek wares. Thus over 2000 years before Johannes Kolb joined the first of the European pioneers in the area, Native Americans came into a little occupied region as well.

For more information on the Kolb Site and South Carolina Archaeology see the March-April issue of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine. Contact Chris Judge, (SC Department of Natural Resources) at 803-734-3753 or chrisj@scdnr.state.sc.us or Carl Steen at 803-929-0294 or diacarl@aol.com

The Johannes Kolb Site

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Excavation Plan and Surface Contour Map

