

Archaeologist gives Berry Site report



Archaeologist Dr. David Moore and the Archaeology Field School students work at the Berry Site.

Staff reports

Published: March 27, 2009

MORGANTON - Archaeologist Dr. David Moore will give a presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Leviton Auditorium on the Western Piedmont Community College campus entitled "Excavating Fort San Juan."

In his presentation, Moore will describe archaeological evidence excavated at the Berry Site located on the outskirts of Morganton. This large Mississippian site is believed to represent an ancestral Catawba Indian town dating to the 16th century.

For the past six summers, Moore and the Warren Wilson/Western Piedmont Community College Archaeology Field School excavated the Berry Site and investigated four burned buildings thought to be the remains of a Spanish compound, Fort San Juan.

Spanish explorer Juan Pardo built this fort in 1567 after he left the Spanish town of St. Elena on the South Carolina coast in search of an overland route to Mexico.

Snow forced Pardo and his men to stop their westward trek so they constructed a fort near a Catawba village. For years scholars have debated Pardo's route and the location of the fort.

Moore believes the Berry site holds the answers to this historical and archaeological puzzle.

This summer, Moore and the Archaeology Field School will continue study of the site. Students, teachers and others interested may participate in the field school by enrolling through Western Piedmont Community College. Registration starts April 6.

Teachers may receive five CEUs of teacher renewal credit. The field school meets from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 15 through 26.

Contact Mark Pellatt at 448-3543 or e-mail mpellatt@wpcc.edu.

A reception will follow Tuesday's presentation in the lobby of Hildebrand Hall. Western

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<http://www2.morganton.com/content/2009/mar/27/archaeologist-gives-berry-site-report/>