

# Festival celebrates pottery, new and old

By [Julie n. Chang](#)

Published: May 20, 2010



Credit: File | Jennifer Frew | The News Herald

Courtney Long, Coordinator of Professional Crafts at Western Piedmont Community College, demonstrates the ancient art of pottery making during the Berry archeology site open house on June 27, 2009. The Berry site, on Henderson

Mill Road, is believed to be the location of the American Indian town, Joara, and holds the remains of the Spanish compound, Fort San Juan. The Exploring Joara Foundation will hold the first annual Joara Pottery Festival on Saturday at the Burke County Fairgrounds.

MORGANTON -- Get a history lesson and watch pottery demonstrations Saturday as the [Exploring Joara Foundation](#) hosts its first Joara Pottery Festival, which is expected to be an annual event.

The festival, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Burke County Fairgrounds on Bost Road, brings together local and regional potters along with talks from archaeologists and musical performances from the Haw Creek Band, [Ed Phifer](#) and [Burton Berry](#). The entrance fee is [\\$4](#) for adults and children younger than 12-years-old get in for free.

Festival co-organizer [Courtney Long](#) said her demonstration last year during the Berry site's annual field day generated a lot of interest from the public, which then led to the pottery festival.

Archaeologists have uncovered Native American and European pottery and shards at the Berry site in the northern part of [Burke County](#). Archaeologists believe the site is Joara, a Native American town that a [UNC-TV](#) documentary dubbed, "The First, Lost Colony."

Joara was a major Native American town that [Hernando de Soto](#) and [Juan Pardo](#) visited. [Pardo](#) built Fort [San Juan](#), the oldest European settlement in the interior of the [US](#), in 1567 nearby. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence at the Berry site that indicates the remains are from Joara and Fort [San Juan](#).

Long said the funds raised from ticket sales will benefit the [Exploring Joara Foundation](#), which provides support for archaeological research in the upper Catawba and [Yadkin River valleys](#).

Potters will demonstrate how to throw pots, [Long](#) said, as well as sell their wares.

"We all work in so many techniques," Long said. "That's the beautiful thing about today."

Long said she is particularly interested in majolica, a Spanish pottery glaze. Some of the pottery shards discovered at the Berry site were Blue Spanish Majolica.

These shards, along with other pottery discoveries from the site, will be on display at the pottery festival, [Long](#) said. Archaeologists will be on hand to talk about the history of the site.

<http://www2.morganton.com/news/2010/may/20/festival-celebrates-pottery-new-and-old-ar-207931/>