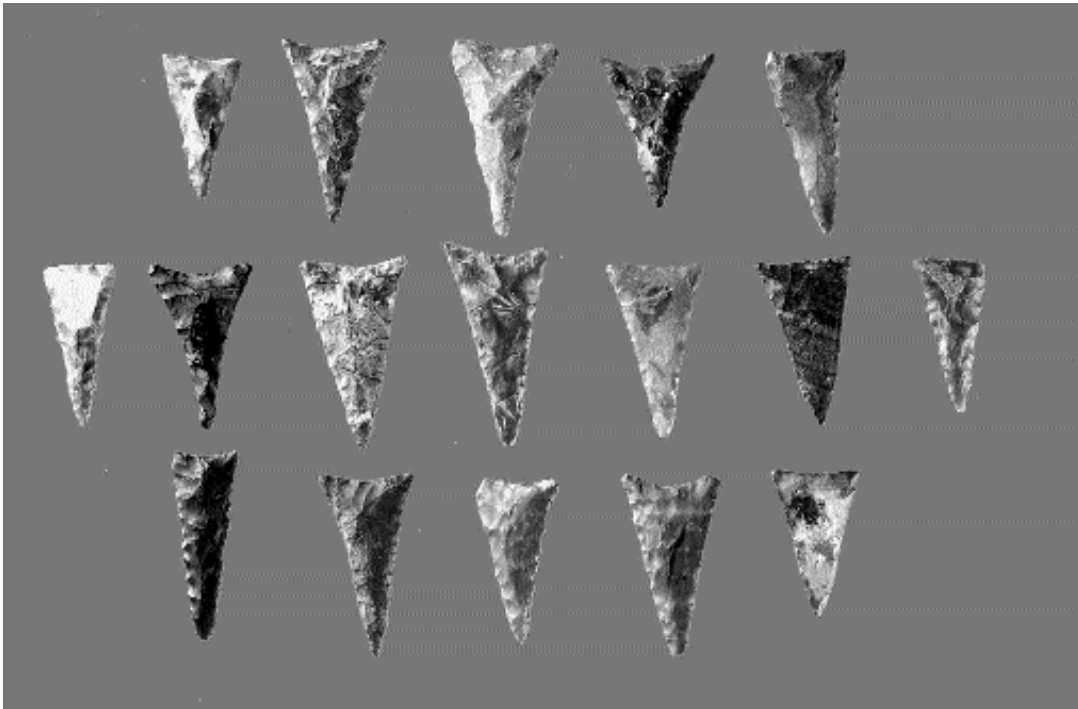


Object Lessons

From *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 45:1 (fall 2005).

The N.C. Office of State Archaeology Research Center maintains a collection of more than five million specimens, the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC-Chapel Hill have more than seven million, and some three million more are in other collections across the state. Where did all of these archaeological artifacts come from?



These triangular projectile points dating from the Middle Woodland period were recovered from a Yadkin County archaeological site. Image from the collections of the N.C. Office of State Archaeology Research Center.

They came from the work of many archaeologists, such as the late Joffre L. Coe (1916–2000), who did much at sites involving American Indian artifacts. Coe is known as one of the fathers of modern archaeology. In 1948, for example, at the site of a planned parking lot at Morrow Mountain State Park in Stanly County, Coe discovered a large number of artifacts ranging over thousands of years of history. Morrow Mountain was a popular place to get rhyolite, a type of granite that early Indians used for spear points and other tools. Coe also made major, far-ranging discoveries at what is known as the Doerschuk site on the floodplain of the Yadkin River in Montgomery County. There, he found an

unusual site with the records of human life preserved in many levels of soil several feet deep—resembling a layer cake.

Coe's landmark 1964 book *The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont*, with information from sites including Doerschuk, will be reprinted for the seventh time in 2006 by the North Carolina Office of Archives and History and the nonprofit Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research Inc. The book was groundbreaking in discussing clear evidence of a continuous cultural sequence spanning up to 12,000 years.

The Office of State Archaeology has information on more than 40,000 archaeological sites in North Carolina. An artifact inventory and digital database project is under way.

Laws govern Indian artifacts and archaeological sites. What should you do if you find an arrowhead or other artifact? Be a responsible collector. Look for the amateur reporting form at www.arch.dcr.state.nc.us/.

This material has been adapted from an article written by Stephen R. Claggett, state archaeologist, and from information provided by the N.C. Office of State Archaeology Research Center. The latter includes portions of *Timescope: The North Carolina Archaeology Discovery Kit*, which the office developed in conjunction with the Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research Inc.