UNEARTH THE FORGOTTEN PAST

What happened in the western North Carolina foothills during the 1500s shaped the course of American history, and it altered the course of world history.

“The Berry site is one of the most important colonial period sites in the Eastern U.S. Its discovery confirms the exploration routes of sixteenth-century Spaniards, Hernando de Soto and Juan Pardo.”

– Dr. Chester DePratter, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina-Columbia
Dear Friends,

Did you know that nearly 20 years before the English landed on Roanoke Island, establishing the famous “Lost Colony,” the Spaniard Juan Pardo had built a series of six forts from the coast of South Carolina into the mountains of east Tennessee. Less than two years later all six forts were destroyed along with Spanish dreams for the conquest of North America.

Today hundreds of students and volunteers work side-by-side with professional archaeologists to recover this forgotten past at the Berry site near Morganton, North Carolina, the location of the Native American settlement of Joara where Pardo built Fort San Juan in 1567.

You can learn more about this exciting project at our website, www.ExploringJoara.org and in magazines like American Archaeology (2008), Archaeology Magazine (2009), and Smithsonian Magazine (2006).

Better yet, you can join in the exploration yourself - become a Charter Member of the Exploring Joara Foundation. Can you imagine such an opportunity...the thrill that might be yours as you discover evidence of these long-forgotten Spanish colonists and the Native Americans among whom they lived? Whether you are troweling the soil at the Berry site or closely watching our progress on the internet, you can marvel at each new discovery. Your membership is critically important to our success.

One of our principle goals of 2010 is to hire an Executive Archaeologist to lead the daily operations of the Wall Center for Archaeological Research and the activities of the Foundation. Your Charter Membership can help make a difference.

Become a Charter Member of the Exploring Joara Foundation to help bring this incredible story to the public. Please clip the response form from this letter and mail your 2010 Charter Membership today. Join us as we unearth the forgotten past.

Sincerely,

Ron Martin
Chair, Board of Directors
Exploring Joara Foundation

David Moore, PhD
Senior Archaeologist
Exploring Joara Foundation

Annual open houses at the Berry site include artifact displays and tours of ongoing excavations
“It is a story of great scholarship, archaeology at its best, hot dirty physical work and luck.”
-Producer, Tom Earnhardt, Exploring North Carolina Series, UNC-TV, in “The First, Lost Colony”

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

The Exploring Joara Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to a comprehensive regional public archaeology program in western North Carolina’s Catawba and Yadkin River valleys. The Exploring Joara Foundation offers lectures, workshops, field trips, and opportunities for students, teachers, and the general public, to work with professional archaeologists and to contribute directly to the important archaeological work in this region.

Unfortunately, each year significant archaeological sites that hold the key to understanding the past are lost forever. Since 1998, more than 10 sites near the Berry site (location of Joara and Fort San Juan) have been destroyed.

Archaeologists believe there may be more than 100 endangered archaeological sites associated with Joara yet to be identified.

These sites are national treasures and cannot be replaced. Join the Exploring Joara Foundation to help discover and study these sites.

OUR PROGRESS IN 2009

Wall Center for Archaeological Research, Morganton, North Carolina

In 2009, the Exploring Joara Foundation took a gigantic stride towards our goal of creating one of the nation’s best public archaeology programs. We opened the Carl and Linda Wall Center for Archaeological Research in Morganton, North Carolina to provide a permanent base for archaeology operations including artifact displays, laboratories, students, and dormitory space for volunteers.

CHARTER MEMBER BENEFITS

• Membership certificate suitable for framing
• Your name on a permanent plaque in the Wall Center for Archaeological Research
• Newsletter
• Special events
• Opportunities for laboratory and excavation experiences
• Membership card

Save the Date
1st ANNUAL JOARA POTTERY FESTIVAL
Exploring 500 Years of Pottery
May 22, 2010
Burke County Fairgrounds
See website for more info.

Fort San Juan and the Berry site are now recognized by a new North Carolina Highway Historical Marker located at the intersection of Hwy 181 and Bost Road in Morganton, NC
**Joara**

**EXPLORING JOARA FOUNDATION**

**CHARTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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Street: __________________________________________
City: _______________ PO Box __________ State: ________ Zip: _________
E-Mail: __________________________________________
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Please make checks payable to the Exploring Joara Foundation, Inc. and return along with this form in the enclosed envelope.

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I would like more information about volunteering for the Exploring Joara Foundation.

I would like information on having a guest speaker in my hometown.

**PO Box 296, Morganton, NC 28680-0296**
ExploringJoara.org

Exploring Joara Foundation is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization.

- Joara is the name of the Native American town visited by Spanish expeditions led by Hernando de Soto (1540) and Juan Pardo (1566-1568). Pardo built Fort San Juan at Joara in 1567.

- In 1566, Captain Juan Pardo and his army departed Santa Elena (now modern-day Parris Island, South Carolina) to claim the interior of southeastern North America for Spain.

- Generally following the Wateree and Catawba rivers, Pardo arrived at Joara, the most important Native American town in the western Piedmont, near modern-day Morganton, North Carolina.

- In January 1567, Pardo built Fort San Juan at Joara – the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States.

- Fort San Juan predates Roanoke (the Lost Colony) by nearly 20 years and Jamestown by 40 years.

- The Native American settlements visited by de Soto and Pardo and the forts built by Pardo are national and international treasures. They are witnesses to American history, and to world history, and they cannot be replaced.

![Professional archaeologists work with students and volunteers to excavate the burned structures at the Berry site](image-url)