

National Forests in North Carolina

Passport In Time

Appletree Campground and Wayehutta Excavations

May 22- July 21, 2000

From May 22 – July 21, 2000, the National Forests in North Carolina hosted Passport – In – Time (PIT) archeological projects on the Nantahala National Forest. These included excavations at the Appletree Group Campground on the Wayah Ranger District and Wayehutta OHV Area on the Highlands Ranger District. Volunteers donated 2,920 hours (365 person days) at Appletree and 1,800 hours (225 person days) at Wayehutta.



Forty-five PIT volunteers, including 11 archeology students (3 graduate) with the Western Carolina University fieldschool, worked at Appletree. Two students were Cherokee Indian and one was Choctaw. The volunteers came from SC, GA, NC, IL, TN, PA, OH, MA, CA and AZ. More than 100 people applied to participate in the project in 2000.



In addition to registered volunteers, 5 middle school classes from western North Carolina visited and participated in the excavations. Other visitors included campers staying in the campground which is open during the project for interpretive purposes. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts toured the archeological site. Two Boy Scouts participated to earn Archeology Merit Badges. Hikers on the adjacent Bartram Trail also visited. University and National Park Service archeologists, historians, geologists and geographers (from NC & TN) visited the site to learn and help interpret data.



Federally recognized tribes were kept abreast of the projects and invited to visit and participate. Several members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee (NC) and the Cherokee Nation (OK) visited or took part in Appletree.



The prehistoric and historic Appletree site is of interest to many people. Volunteers and visitors had European and American Indian ancestral ties to the site. Part of the project included flintknapping demonstrations and blacksmithing by Forest Service archeologists. Research includes locating the reported historic blacksmith shop.



***Forest Service Archeologist Mike Harmon Demonstrates Blacksmithing
For PIT Volunteers at Appletree***

Researchers had keen interests in learning more about the preservation condition and site formation processes in the uplands of the southern Appalachians. The Forest Service used and tested Ground Penetrating Radar on the site.

At the Wayhutta archeological site, located within an existing OHV area parking lot, 15 NC Summer Ventures students volunteered through a program hosted by Western Carolina University. These volunteers were high school honor seniors from across the State. They donated 1,800 hours at the site. OHV riders visited the excavations throughout the project. Other visitors included local residents and teachers taking summer courses at WCU.



PIT 2000 at Appletree and Wayhutta was invaluable for sharing information and interpretation about the prehistory and history of the National Forests as well as the past and present management of the Forest. Forest Service multiple-use management and interdisciplinary approaches as well as new technology to understand the past in order to manage for the future were delivered and shared with many publics in a most positive and beneficial way.

For more information on volunteering for future Passport In Time excavations, visit the Passport in Time website: www.passportintime.com. Here you can find a list of upcoming projects across the country and a form to use to submit your volunteer application.

For more detailed information about the National Forests in North Carolina Passport in Time program, contact forest archeologist Rodney Snedeker at:

U.S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 2750
Asheville, NC 28802
828-257-4255
Email rsnedeker@fs.fed.us