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Warren Wilson professor wins DAR medal

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NEWTON — Dr. David Moore, of Warren Wilson College, was recently presented the DAR National History Medal during the 110th state conference of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution held in Winston-Salem.

Marcia Copper, of Hickory, state recording secretary, recognized Moore for his 24 years of onsite work to prove the location of Ft. San Juan at the Indian settlement of Joara along Upper Creek in what is now Burke County.

Copper worked to honor Moore after learning of his archaeological digs in Burke County to determine the location of the settlement by the legendary Spanish explorer Juan Pardo. The thriving Indian village became a Spanish outpost (1567-1568) in the interior of North America. This was 40 years before the British settlement at Jamestown and nearly 20 years before their Lost Colony on Roanoke Island.

Moore, along with Dr. Robin Beck of the University of Michigan and Dr. Christopher Rodning of Tulane University, has been uncovering artifacts at the site near Morganton since 1986.

Established about AD 1000, Joara was thriving when the Spanish soldiers arrived in January 1567 under Pardo's leadership. There they established a winter base and built Ft. San Juan. After 18 months, the natives killed the soldiers at the fort and burned the structures. That same year they killed all but one of the 120 men Pardo had stationed at a total of six forts in the Southeast interior, and destroyed all the

forts. As a result, the Spanish ended their colonizing effort in the region.

The archaeological site is open to the public once each June for public tours.



David Moore

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