

# Joara hosts second artifacts event at History Museum

**BY ROBERT BOYER | Posted: Sunday, January 26, 2014 6:04 pm**

John Krebs, a staff archaeologist at the Exploring Joara Foundation, knows there is no better way to get children and adults excited about archaeology than through a hands-on approach. On Saturday, residents got to do just that as well as bring in their own artifacts for expert appraisals.

“This is the second year of hosting the event here,” Krebs said. “It’s a collaborative partnership between a number of organizations, Warren Wilson College, the Schiele Museum of Gastonia, the History Museum of Burke County and the Exploring Joara Foundation.” Krebs said.

Krebs said the purpose of the event is to provide a learning experience on the rich history of the area.

“The point of it is to do educational outreach related to archaeology and history of the region, to get a bunch of different groups together to bring in the public to educate the public on what happened here,” Krebs said. “Our mission is educational outreach which is to do hands-on learning, experiential learning — where students get a chance to not only see the past by touching artifacts, but also (learn) how those things were made.

Krebs and his colleagues did exactly that Saturday, as children and adults were given the opportunity to revel in local history stretching back hundreds and thousands of years. Folks brought in grinding stones, arrowheads and other objects to the experts.

“We’ve got teachers here that are educating students on Native American pottery-making , we’ve got archaeologists here that are talking with the public about artifacts and what type of things that they study when they look at artifacts and how to analyze them.

David Moore, of Warren Wilson College, and an executive archaeologist with the Exploring Joara Foundation, gave his expert opinions to a number of items, as did Alan May, of the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia.

Children also enjoyed making pottery making and engaging in a “cookie excavation,” where they broke up a cookie and searched for clues to the past to learn about archaeological techniques.