

CCCRA invites WCU Professors to speak at The Beal Center

Guest writer – Victoria Ewing Ware

Western North Carolina's human history traces back thousands of years. Ancestral Cherokee built communities in the region, including Watauga Mound in Macon County and Quanassee/Spikebuck Mound in Clay County. Why did they pick those and similar sites? What was the attraction?

Research led by Western Carolina University's Department of Anthropology and Sociology is responsible for much of what we know about these early settlements. Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) will welcome Dr. Brett Riggs and Dr. Jane Eastman from WCU to the Historic Courthouse/Beal Center on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:30pm.

These renowned professors will talk about their findings using traditional as well as non-invasive remote sensing and gradiometry techniques at these ancient sites. They'll share the key role astronomical observation played in community planning at Watauga, and talk about the studies underway at Quanassee/Spikebuck.

A vital element of CCCRA's mission is to "...preserve the heritage of Clay County NC". CCCRA, a proud sponsor of Dr. Eastman's work for several seasons at Quanassee, is pleased to host Dr. Riggs and Dr. Eastman. All are welcome and admission is free.



Dr. Jane Eastman (center) and Dr. Brett Riggs (right) supervise the work of WCU students at Watauga Mound in Macon County.