



# New York Archaeological Council

## NYAC Newsletter 2017

### *From the President*

The New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) held its spring 2017 meeting on Friday April 21 in conjunction with the 101<sup>st</sup> New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) Annual Meeting at the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center in Lake George, New York. The April 22-23 weekend NYSAA conference was hosted by the Adirondack Chapter and was well attended and well received.



*Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center, 48 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845*

**NYAC Board and General Meetings** resulted in slight changes to the board and membership following our most recent election with ballots received by April 7<sup>th</sup>. Greetings to our newest Officer - Vice President Tim Lloyd, filling the void left by Sissie Pipes who has finished her term as VP and been elected as a Board Member. Also, welcome our newest Board Member Carol Weed. Ann Morton will continue as Treasurer and Joan Geismar has been re-elected to another Board term. Please welcome Elizabeth D. Meade, M.A., RPA, an archaeologist from the New York City area, as our newest full NYAC member. Thanks again to David Staley for serving on the elections committee. Thanks also to Linda Stone for all her years on the Board and for staying active on committees. Finally, thanks to Laurie Miroff for her continued work on this excellent newsletter. A decision has been made to issue the NYAC Newsletter once per year around June 1<sup>st</sup> and we appreciate her effort and that of the contributors.

Other issues discussed at the Board and General Membership meeting that continue to require action include: revisions to NYAC by-laws and elections procedures, the development of committee guidelines, re-creation and updating of the membership mailing list, Collections Culling issues, the adoption of a NYAC Conflict of Interest Policy, the soils and geo-archaeology doodle poll results and planning a future *Soils, Sediments, and Stratigraphy Workshop*, the creation of a NYAC Facebook page, and a forthcoming video competition.

The latest DRAFT Standards for the Collection, Management, and Culling of Archaeological Collections document will be posted on the NYAC Web Page as a follow-up to David Staley's experimental use of the document to cull a collection. The Board and membership will be asked to experiment with the document and a range of collections and report back with the results.

**NYAC Awards** Committee Chair Bill Engelbrecht presented the NYAC Founder's Award to a pleasantly surprised Ed Curtin for his lifetime of service to NYAC and the archaeological community of the Empire State. A new Founder's Award tab is being created for the NYAC web page that will celebrate our awardees and the founding of the New York Archaeological Council by Marian E. White, Bert Salwen, and Charles W. Merritt in 1974.

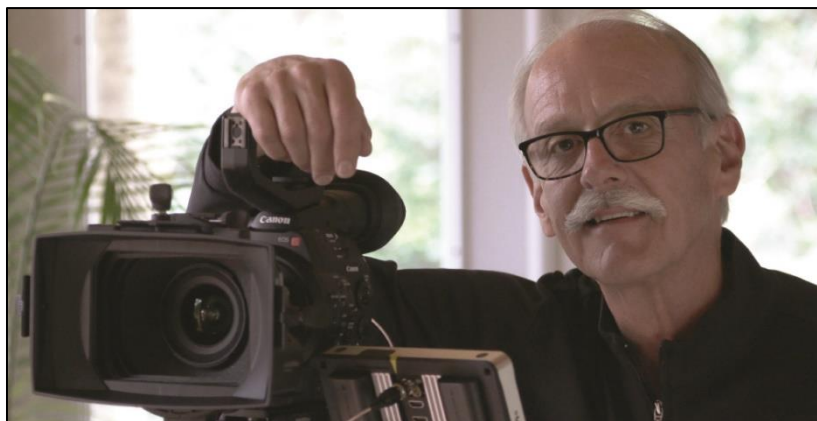
NYSDEC representative David Witt, Ph. D. again updated NYAC at our general membership meeting regarding proposed revisions to DEC Commissioner's Policy (CP) 42 "Contact, Cooperation and Consultation with Indian Nations" the official DEC policy on government-to-government relations between the agency and Indian Nations across New York.

This 2017 **Archaeology Season Poster** titled *Prehistoric Bedrock Quarries in New York State* and produced by Center for the Investigation of Native and Ancient Quarries (CINAQ), including Phillip C. LaPorta, Scott A. Minchak, and Margaret C. Brewer-LaPorta, is a great success and we thank CINAQ for producing it. Please help us distribute the poster widely. Thanks to the 2017 poster sponsors: CINAQ, NYAC, and Birchwood Archaeological Services.

## NYAC Afternoon Program Summary

### *From Screen to Screen: Growing Your Archaeological Community with Video: A Workshop on Video Production and Distribution for Archaeologists*

Jamie Koelker is a veteran producer, director, and cinematographer who has spent his career in public television, educational publishing, and documentary work since graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1978. A multiple award winner, Koelker has spent the last decade telling little-known stories of America's past for regional and national distribution with his wife and scriptwriter, Christi. Jamie provided his expertise and perspective on the production of videos for enhancing the interpretation and public access and outreach potential of archaeological research and excavations. This detailed presentation included good information and a wonderful introduction to common problems and the potential for archaeologists to produce their own videos.



## Fall Meeting

Note that the *NYAC fall meeting* date and location are yet undetermined, but the suggestion was made to hold the meeting in Ithaca, New York with the program consisting of a NYS OPRHP/SHPO Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) training session.

Submitted by: Doug Perrelli

## THE MEMBERSHIP HAS SPOKEN

Polling has recently closed regarding a proposed NYAC Soils, Sediments, or Geoarchaeology Workshop to be conducted Spring 2018. The poll included 15 potential topics focusing on subjects pertaining to the fields of geoarchaeology, geomorphology and archaeology. The ranked subjects or topics will be used to craft the educational sessions of the workshop. The membership expressed its greatest desire to learn about the interpretation of sediments and depositional environments as well as the topics of soil interpretation, archaeological contexts, and finally the description and interpretation of stratigraphy. Notably, poll participants expressed a lack of interest the use and interpretation of soil maps and having an introduction to sediments. The inclusion of a field component in the workshop was important to many of the members. Thanks to all who participated in the poll. Contact board members Beth Selig or David Staley if you are interested in poll result details.

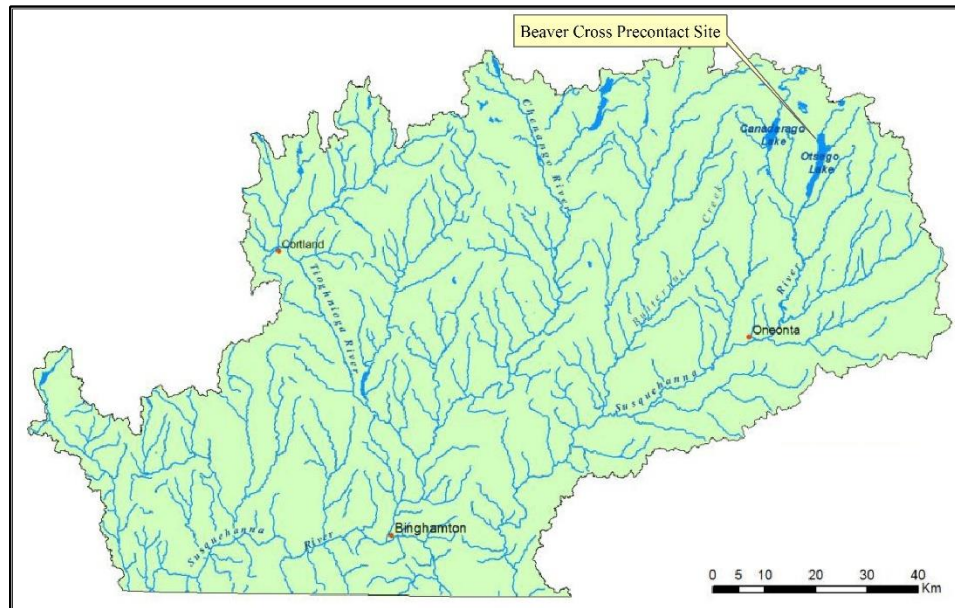
Organizers will be soliciting and selecting an authoritative workshop instructor. Watch for specific workshop descriptions, location(s), fees, and registration information via NYAC e-mails and website!

Submitted by: Doug Perrelli

## NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

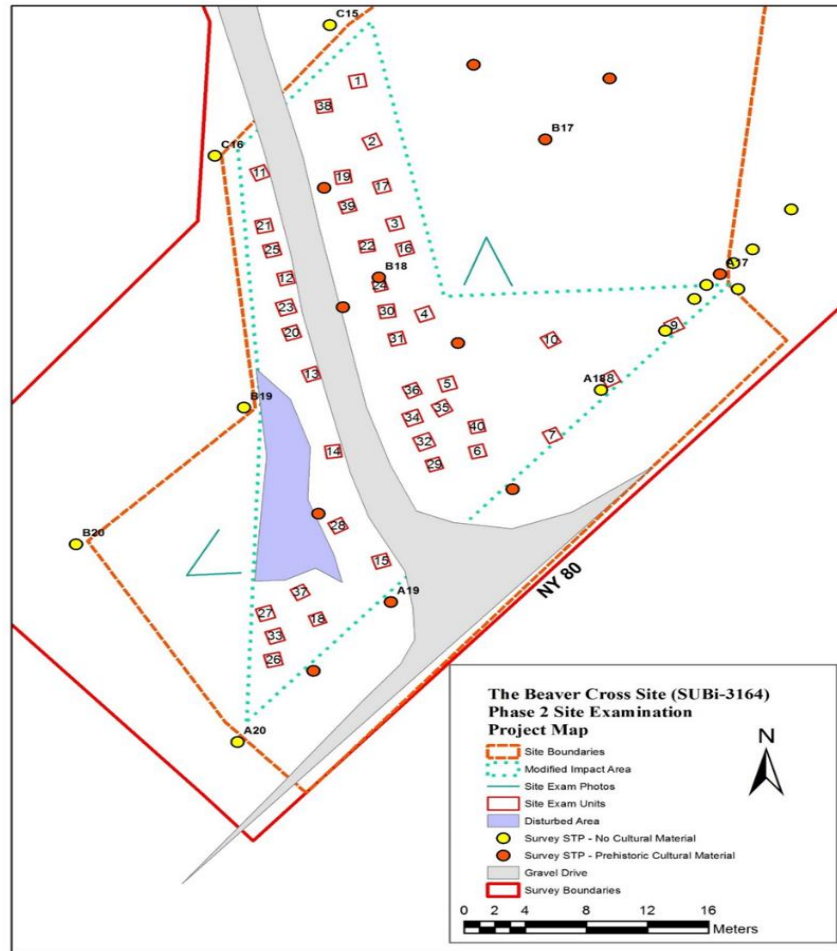
### *The Beaver Cross Precontact Site (SUBi-3164), Town of Springfield, Otsego County, New York*

In May 2016, crews from the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) under the direction of Dr. Kevin Sheridan, completed a Phase 1 archaeological survey of a proposed development located at the north end of Otsego Lake in the Town of Springfield. Testing identified the Precontact Beaver Cross site (SUBi-3164, 07721.000661), which contained three spatial clusters (Loci 1, 2, and 3) within the original acreage (Sheridan 2016). As design plans advanced, the client revised the impact area in order to avoid two of the three loci. The Phase 1 produced an abundance of lithic debitage and a few diagnostics, all of which indicated that the site was potentially eligible for the National Register. We recommended a Phase 2 site examination to refine the National Register eligibility of the site.



*Location of the Beaver Cross site.*

PAF received authorization to conduct a Phase 2 site examination within the reduced impact area. Archaeologists completed 40 units, which produced 2,459 prehistoric lithic artifacts and six faunal remains (Sheridan 2017). No features were discovered in the site examination unit excavations, although a small amount (8 pieces) of fire-cracked rock (FCR), as well as some heat-treated lithics, suggest that a thermal feature is present outside of the modified impact area.



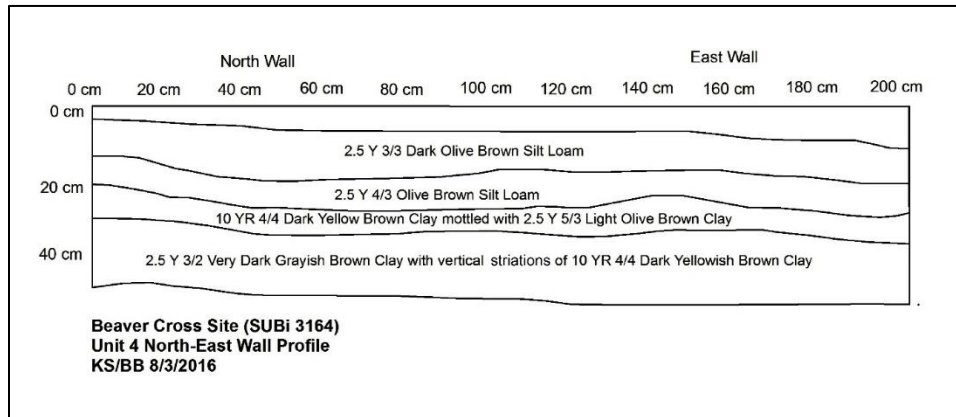
*Site Map for Locus 1 of the Beaver Cross Site (SUBi-3164).*

### Beaver Cross Site Artifacts by Horizon

Total Counts by Horizon				
Artifact Type	A1	A2	B	Total
Debitage (flakes, cores, chunks, shatter)	119	2142	167	2428
Projectile Point - Complete	1	7	-	8
Projectile Point - Broken	-	1	-	1
Projectile Point - Base	-	2	-	2
Stage 1 Biface	1	3	-	4
Stage 2 Biface	-	5	-	5
Unifacial	-	1	-	1
Scrapers	1	1	-	2
Fire Cracked Rock	-	8	-	8
Faunal	-	6	-	6
<i>Total:</i>	122 (%)	2176 (%)	167 (7%)	2465 (100%)



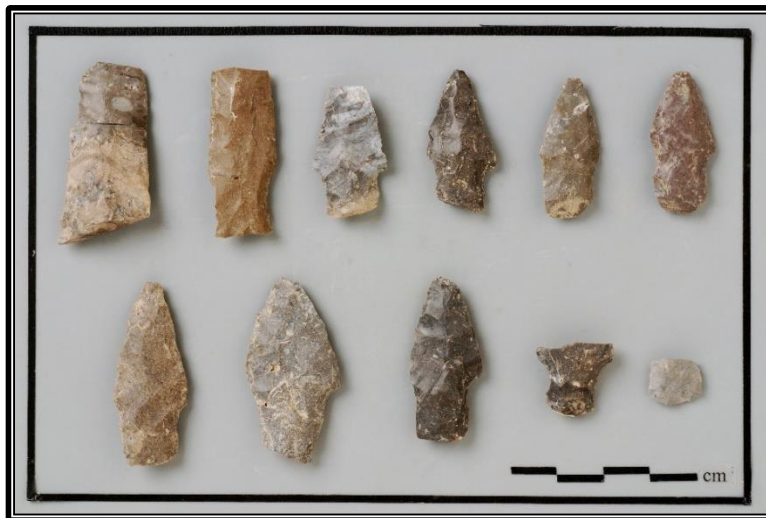
The typical stratigraphic sequence for the site is A1, A2, B, and C horizons; there is no evidence of plowing. The A1 horizon is a dark brown slightly gravelly (pea-sized) silt loam horizon that extends from the surface to approximately 5-10 cm (2-3.9 in), averaging 11.6 cm (4.6 in) in depth. This horizon likely represents 20<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping, possibly associated with creation of the Beaver Cross summer camp. This was followed by the A2 horizon, which consisted of olive brown clay loam that extended to approximately 15-20 cm (5.9-7.9 in) in depth. This horizon produced most prehistoric cultural material. A thin B horizon followed, extending between 20 to 30 cm (7.9-11.8 in) in depth. This soil consisted of light olive brown or yellow brown clay with redox staining. Trace amounts of prehistoric material were found within this horizon. The B horizon terminated on a C horizon, which consisted of very dark grayish brown clay with striations of dark yellowish brown clay. Excavation of an STP in Unit 4 determined that this stratum extended to at least 1 m (3.3 ft) in depth below the surface, and was sterile soil. Subsequent units terminated when encountering this C horizon soil.



*Unit 4 North-East Wall Profile.*

The Phase 2 site examination of the Beaver Cross site produced a variety of data that contributes significant information to our understanding of the prehistory of the eastern Finger Lakes region of New York, and demonstrates that the site is eligible for the National Register. These results are summarized below.

**Chronology.** Excavations produced 11 projectile points, ten of which are classified as Lamoka, which shows clear association with the Late Archaic Lamoka Phase (2600-1900 B.C.). The Susquehanna Valley in general lacks similar single component Lamoka sites. However, the western Finger Lakes tend to have concentrations of Lamoka occupations. No single component Lamoka sites are known for the eastern Finger Lakes in New York. Therefore, this is a rare site and there is a high potential that Beaver Cross will make a significant contribution to our knowledge of this time period in this region. Although no features were found, seven flotation samples were collected from the intact A2 horizon soils. If soil flotation produces carbon from these samples, they could be submitted for more specific radiometric dating.



*Projectile Points from the Beaver Cross Site.*

*Top row, left to right: one mid-section of a projectile point; five Lamoka points.  
Bottom row, left to right: three Lamoka points; one Lamoka point base; one unidentified point base.*

**Lithic Technology.** Beaver Cross produced over 2,400 lithic artifacts from the 40 units. These consist mostly of debitage and bifaces. The assemblage includes 23 formal tools. In addition to projectile points, the site contained Stage 1 and 2 bifaces suggesting that hunting tools were being manufactured on site in this locus. Also, a retouched tool and two scrapers (spokeshaves) indicate the potential for other hunting-related activities. Microwear analysis is planned to provide more definitive evidence of their function. The entire assemblage offers the potential for more in-depth analysis of lithic attributes along with microwear analysis to obtain fine-grained data on site function. Beaver Cross exists in a regional context that places it relatively close to lithic outcrops of the Onondaga Formation. There is also a large amount of chert outwash from an adjacent creek that was probably used on site as a raw material. In fact, the cortex is still present on some of the bifaces.



*Scrapers and possible scrapers.*

*Top left: Stage 1 whole biface, possible scraper; top right: Retouched uniface, possible concave scraper.*

*Bottom left: End scraper; bottom right: Concave scraper.*

PAF has proposed mitigation of adverse impacts to the site through Phase 3 data recovery. The following topics will be addressed.

**Subsistence/Seasonality.** The absence of features within the reduced area of Locus 1 limits interpretations of seasonality. However, microwear analysis of tools has the potential to contribute to interpretations of subsistence. In addition, any carbon recovered from the A2 flotation samples could be submitted for archaeobotanical analysis. While not a strong data potential, there is some potential to retrieve this information from the site.

**Site Type and Function.** Insights gained from analysis of the lithic assemblage in combination with microwear and spatial analyses will be key to understanding site type. We are expecting, based on the lithic assemblage, that this is mostly a hunting/butchering station that includes lithic tool production to support these activities. More detailed analysis and the integration of these results will provide the data to formulate these interpretations. The Phase 2 data provided preliminary spatial patterning that can be refined after the functional analysis.



*Bifaces. Top row, left to right: Stage 1 broken biface; two stage 2 broken bifaces.*

*Middle row, left to right: Stage 2 broken biface; Stage 1 broken biface.*

*Bottom row, left to right: Stage 2 broken biface; Stage 1 broken biface and Stage 2 broken biface.*

**Regional Landuse Model.** The Beaver Cross site data has the potential to contribute to regional land use models for the eastern Finger Lakes, particularly in relation to the Lamoka Phase of the Late Archaic. Currently, no known single component Lamoka sites have been professionally investigated in this region, but there are nearby sites associated with the Late Archaic in general. Beaver Cross will make a significant contribution to interpretations of how people used this landscape thousands of years ago.

These future analyses focusing on a detailed examination of the lithic attributes at both the macroscopic and microscopic scale, will be linked to a spatial analysis of the activities people conducted in specific places within the site area examined. The site will then be examined within a regional context that includes a detailed environmental analysis of the landscape using a Geographic Information System (GIS) approach to model landscape variables. This approach has been used by PAF on other data recovery projects, and the results have greatly enhanced our interpretations of why people selected certain landscapes for specific functions. Finally, we will present our results in a technical report for agency review as well as in formats that can be shared with the public.

#### References Cited

Sheridan, Kevin E.

2016 *Phase 1A/1B Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey, Springfield Development Project, Town of Springfield (MCD 07721), Otsego County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

2017 *Phase 2 Archaeological Site Examination Report, the Beaver Cross (SUBi-3164), Town of Springfield (MCD 07721), Otsego County, New York.* Report prepared by the Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University for C&S Engineers, Syracuse.

Submitted by: Nina Versaggi



## NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

I am honored to have been awarded the NYAC Founders Award at the Spring Meeting in Lake George, April 21, 2017. Whatever good I did to deserve this, I shared these experiences with a great many other people from Curtin Archaeological, the Funk Foundation, NYAC, PAF, SUNY Binghamton, the State Museum, PCI, the DEC, Skidmore College, Bagdon Environmental, Greene County IDA, SUNY at Albany, Siena College, and the NYSAA who I am mindful and appreciative of whenever I think about this achievement. Thank you to NYAC, my friends, co-workers, and colleagues.

On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I presented a paper titled “Revisiting the Archaic Period in New York State.” It was a synopsis of the beginning, environmental change section of the still-in-progress chapter on the Archaic period for Lisa Marie Anselmi’s and Susan Maguire’s forthcoming edited book (working title, “The Archaeology of New York State Revisited”). To me, my paper seemed to dovetail nicely with Tom Weinman’s presentation on the Weinman site and Lake George archaeology, and Ellie McDowell-Loudan’s paper integrating archaeology and environmental science.



Since Fall 2016, Curtin Archaeological has performed a considerable amount of winter and spring fieldwork. One of these projects involved a survey undertaken to assist the development of Pitney Meadows Community Farm, a farming-oriented educational center and planned farmer’s market in Saratoga Springs. Based upon a combination of oral history and documentary research of the archaeological collection, the survey found a spatial pattern of historic artifacts and faunal remains related to importing kitchen and dining room waste from Saratoga Springs hotels and restaurants to use to feed pigs on the Pitney farm during the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Winter fieldwork at Pitney Farm, January 2017.*

A ceramic ware made for commercial use (i.e., hotelware) referred to as Blue Onion Pattern White Granite was helpful in documenting the oral account and in connecting concentrated and dispersed refuse patterns. In addition, the isolated find of a Lamoka type projectile point added to the record of low intensity land use of the sand plain stretching away from Geyser Creek.



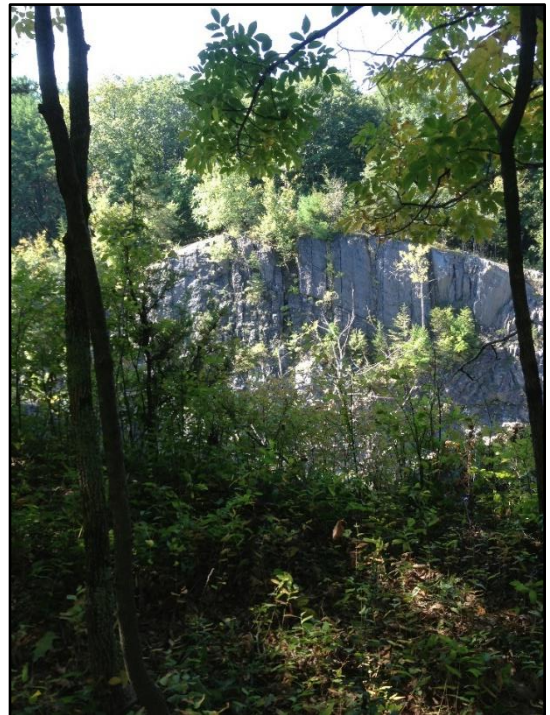
*Pitney Farm: Blue Onion Pattern White Granite.*



*Pitney Farm: Heat damaged Lamoka point.*

Several surveys in the Towns of Ballston and Stillwater have led to the refinement of archaeological site boundaries and the development of archaeological site protection plans. Ongoing investigations include additional Phase 2 site examination in an upland area in the Town of Catskill, Greene County, and at an early 19<sup>th</sup> century, low artifact density site in the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County. The results of work at the Bethlehem site are very preliminary, but it is noted that early American-made stoneware is prominent within the ceramic assemblage.

I have reported previously on the investigation in Catskill. Many of the sites involved in this work were associated with creating expedient lithic technologies from Onondaga chert nodules extracted from glacial erratics or, in the case of at least one site, Helderberg chert extracted from a bedrock source outcropping at the top of a ridge. Recent results indicate that the Helderberg chert site was also involved with the production of refined bifaces. As with the other recent investigations, serious considerations are underway to avoid impacts to these sites. However, I expect to make a considerably longer report on this project in the future.



*Devonian stratigraphy turned on its side in an upthrust ridge, Catskill, NY.*

Curtin Archaeology's blog is at [www.curtinarch.com/blog](http://www.curtinarch.com/blog).

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## NEWS FROM PANAMERICAN CONSULTANTS, INC.

### *Phase 1 Cultural Resources Investigation of a 40-Acre Area at Constitution Island, United States Army Garrison, West Point, Putnam County, New York*

Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (Panamerican under contract to the New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]) conducted a Phase 1 cultural resources investigation of a 40.5-acre area on Constitution Island at the United States Army Garrison (USAG), West Point, Putnam County, New York. The investigation area is part of the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) National Historic Landmark District. The study is a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 110 inventory investigation.

The island contains extensive ruins of Revolutionary War fortifications associated with Fortress West Point, as well as nineteenth- and early twentieth-century domestic buildings and features related to a period of residency by the Warner family. It also has archaeological sites dating from the pre-Contact period through the nineteenth century. Some of its structures, features, and sites have been subjected to focused investigations. The purpose of this investigation was to provide a more comprehensive view of cultural resources in the study area. Panamerican also reviewed existing information to provide a historic context for known and potential sites located in the project area.

A high density of above-ground and archaeological resources was found throughout the study area, including previously documented ruins, sites, and features, as well as newly identified resources. In some instances, previously undocumented elements of known resources were identified. Above-ground resources are predominantly features related to the Revolutionary War fortification of Constitution Island, and include:

- a “parade ground;”
- ruins of Romans’ magazine and battery;
- ruins of Romans’ blockhouse, along with a 1930s (or older) monument that includes a probable Revolutionary War cannon;
- remains of the Marine Battery;
- ruins of Romans’ unfinished redoubt;
- three soldiers’ hut chimney bases located northwest of the unfinished redoubt;
- ruins of the Hill Cliff Battery, which probably include a pair of newly-identified stone fences on the steep slope to the Hudson River south of the fortification’s parapet;
- ruins of the Gravel Hill Battery;
- remains of a circular building;
- ruins of Redoubt 5;
- a network of stone fences;
- the island’s roads and trails, portions of which include remains of a stone pavement and other ancillary structures, such as the pair of low retaining walls identified in the northwest portion of the study area;
- a possible drainage feature identified during the survey east of Building 1188 (the recreational pavilion); and
- a possible hearth or chimney base found 300 feet northeast of Redoubt 5 (which might also be a structure related to outer defensive works around the redoubt).





*Portion of the south face of the Hill Cliff Battery's parapet, facing northeast; scale bar is 50cm (Panamerican 2016).*

Seventeen archaeological sites were found; eight of which were previously documented -- Constitution Island Prehistoric Locus PCI-1; Constitution Island Historic Locus PCI-1; Romans' Barracks; Sterling's Barracks; the Warner House; and sites associated with the above-ground ruins of the Gravel Hill Battery, the Marine Battery, and Romans' magazine and battery. The results of the shovel testing also provided information concerning the assemblages and configurations of these sites.

Nine potential new sites were found; four are pre-Contact period -- Constitution Island Pre-Contact Locus 3, located near the three soldiers' hut chimney bases northwest of the unfinished redoubt; Constitution Island Pre-Contact Locus PCI-4, the site east of Redoubt 6; Constitution Island Pre-Contact Locus PCI-5, which is near Sterling's Barracks; and Constitution Island Pre-Contact Locus PCI-6, the find on the ridgetop west of the Gravel Hill Battery. The remaining five new sites are historic: Constitution Island Historic Locus PCI-3, which includes archaeological deposits associated with the three soldiers' hut chimney bases; Constitution Island Historic Locus PCI-4, the potential site with the yellowware east of Redoubt 5; Constitution Island Historic Locus PCI-5, which includes deposits near the circular building ruins north of the Gravel Hill Battery; possible archaeological materials associated with the Hill Cliff Battery; and deposits related to Redoubt 5. All nine of the newly identified sites are represented by small numbers of artifacts; further investigations at each would address whether they are isolated finds or parts of archaeological sites.

The sites identified during the survey cover a total of 15.9 acres (9.3 acres of which are in the Study Area) and in the cases of some of the previously documented loci, their boundaries have grown as a result of the current investigation to be adjacent to one another (most notably in the southwest part of the study area). As an alternative to considering the sites and ruins as discrete resources, Panamerican recommended consolidating them into a single Constitution Island archaeological district, which will facilitate some aspects of the future management of the island's resources. Details of the district will be addressed in a subsequent investigation.

In addition to sites and ruins, the investigation also identified a 4.5-acre disturbed area in the southeast corner of the island that was probably used for gravel and/or soil mining.





*The western portion of the Marine Battery, facing northwest; the stone work in the foreground is the revetment (stone face) for the battery's parapet base / rampart; the line of stones to its right is the cannon platform base (Panamerican 2016).*



*The northern portion of the west Redoubt 5 rampart, showing its stone revetment, facing north (Panamerican 2016).*



## **NEWS FROM THE ROBERT E. FUNK MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGY FOUNDATION, INC.**

The Funk Foundation is anticipating the completion of grant reports this spring by:

- Ammie Mitchell on the implications of petrographic analysis of Early Woodland ceramics;
- Albert Fulton on radiocarbon dating of a paleo-environmental research project with implications for prehistoric land use in the Genesee valley; and
- Joshua Kwoka for an analysis of lithic debitage related to communities of practice at the Late Woodland period Simmons site in the Town of Elma. Joshua presented a paper on this at the recent NYSAA annual conference in Lake George.

The Funk Foundation is reviewing a report on radiocarbon dating of the Behnke Farm site (upper Susquehanna valley) by Richard Wakeman, who has been assisted by David Moyer. The Funk Foundation is also reviewing proposals for funding 2017 grants. Five grant proposals were received in April. Up to two proposals will be awarded grants. Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This year, after many years, the upper limit has been increased from \$2,000.00.

The Funk Foundation has been repaid in full by Jeremy Wilson, who, after several years and numerous inquiries from the Funk Foundation, did not complete his grant research on projectile point classification.

The Foundation's Web site will be redesigned and photos are needed of Bob Funk at conferences, in the office or lab, doing fieldwork, etc. Also, photos are needed from grantees to illustrate their projects. Please send any photos to [ecurtin12003@yahoo.com](mailto:ecurtin12003@yahoo.com).

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## **NEWS FROM SHPO**

### **CRIS Workshop**

At the Spring 2017 meeting of NYAC, Tim Lloyd suggested an advanced workshop focused on NY SHPO's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), and this was met with positive reaction from the members. The intention is to hold the workshop in conjunction with the fall NYAC meeting. CRIS users are encouraged to submit their issues and questions so that they can be considered as potential topics for the workshop. The workshop is not intended to focus solely on archaeological matters, but may also cover topics such as the project submission process, architectural research, and the architectural survey submission process. Issues and questions should be submitted no later than July 31, 2017 to Tim Lloyd (Timothy.Lloyd@parks.ny.gov). Details of the workshop (topics, date, time, location) will be provided by September 1, 2017.

### **Updates to the CRIS Library**

The CRIS Library has been updated to include several new archaeology record sets. You may access the CRIS library by going to the Search page, clicking on the Criteria Tab, and clicking on the Library Tab. These new record sets include the following documents:

- Scans of the old paper county highway maps on which survey coverage was recorded and labeled with the SHPO report number. To date, all the paper reports in the SHPO's report library have been scanned and are in digital form. However, only about one third of these reports are available in CRIS. Until all the reports are available in CRIS, consultants can contact the pertinent archaeological reviewer for assistance acquiring prior survey reports that are within or immediately adjacent to their project area. We hope to have all scanned reports available either in CRIS proper or the CRIS library within the next year. The county highway maps are organized by county.
- Scans of the Bibliography Forms (aka Bib Forms) that SHPO reviewers prepared to record submitted survey reports pre CRIS. These documents are arranged by county.
- An Excel spreadsheet containing the New York State Museum (NYSM) archaeological site file data. You can find this file by typing museum in the Name field and clicking the Search button at the bottom left corner. We hope to eventually incorporate the NYSM site file data into the CRIS database so that it is searchable and viewable like the archaeological site USNs.

### **Mechanical Augers**

In recent months, SHPO has received several Phase I archaeological survey reports detailing the use of mechanical augers as a substitute for Phase I shovel tests. SHPO has also been contacted by a couple of consultants asking if mechanical augers can be used as a substitute for shovel tests. While mechanical augers may have a use in the search for archaeological deposits, it is SHPO's opinion that mechanical augers are not an appropriate substitute for shovel tests. SHPO encourages the consideration of non-traditional field methods, but suggests that consultants contact SHPO ahead of time to discuss the appropriateness of alternative methods.

### **Burial Identification**

Numerous reports have been submitted to SHPO detailing the exclusive use of shovel tests for the identification of burials. While shovel tests may be used as part of burial identification, the failure to identify burials through the exclusive use of shovel tests should not be considered sufficient negative evidence to preclude the presence of burials. Burial identification, including cemetery boundary delineation, should include methods such as mechanical topsoil stripping and geo-prospection (e.g., ground-penetrating radar).

**Radial Shovel Tests**

SHPO reviewers occasionally review Phase I archaeological survey reports that show that the consultant did more work than was necessary. In particular, archaeological field crews sometimes excavate radial shovel tests that aren't necessary. The primary purpose of radial shovel tests is to determine if a lone artifact recovered from an isolated positive shovel test does or does not represent an archaeological site. If the radials are negative, then the lone artifact is an isolated find and does not need to be recorded as an archaeological site. If there are multiple Phase I positive shovel tests in an area, clearly indicating the presence of an archaeological site, radials are not necessary, even if some of the positive shovel tests are isolated (i.e., no contiguous positive shovel tests).

Submitted by: Timothy Lloyd

**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) recently initiated its maiden archaeological investigation in association with FEMA at the Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn, NY. The 14-building apartment complex is scheduled for new utilities to repair infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The 1A research addressed the complexity of coordinating the site's development history, which proved to begin with construction of tenanted dwellings in about 1840 as well as the buildings now standing on the 7-acre site, with the impacts of the current plans (excavation will not be deeper than 5 feet bgs in the identified areas of concern and most less than that). Research indicated the pre-development site was wetlands and 1940s construction-related soil boring record that fill depths throughout the APE then ranged from 8 to 20 feet. Therefore, significant Native American resources were not an issue. Instead, the focus became the backyard features of early to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century houses documented in the APE and apparently erected on fill. Eight sites where new utilities will cross the former backyards of these 19<sup>th</sup>-century structures were tested, and, despite the upheaval caused by construction of the Gowanus Houses, three features were uncovered: a dry-laid stone, bell-shaped drain that still held water, a potential dry-laid stone privy, and a very solid stone foundation that once supported a 6-foot high brick wall. While the latter was probably not related to the site's 19<sup>th</sup>-century occupation (it is documented on a 1940s map), the drain and possible privy undoubtedly are. Because the new lines will be shifted to avoid impact to these discoveries, no data recovery was required. However, the takeaway, which might be the most significant aspect of the investigation, is that despite intensive modern-era construction, remnants of the past "yet again" proved tenacious.

Submitted by: Joan H. Geismar

## **COUNCIL OF COUNCILS MEETING, SAA MEETINGS, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, MARCH 30, 2017**

The British Columbia Archaeological Association sponsored the 2017 Council of Council's meeting. The Council of Councils is a group of state professional archaeological association representatives that meet each year during the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference to facilitate state-to-state updates on best practices, challenges to the profession, and other information. Over 70 organizations are members of the Council.

The Council of Councils web site is <https://archaeology.uiowa.edu/council-councils>.

The British Columbia (BC) Archaeological Association members gave an overview of their association. Briefly, the association was founded in 1990 with five members. Today the membership is over 200. Professional membership is restricted to archaeological professionals, but you do not have to be a member to practice archaeology (if you meet the requirements). They have six membership levels, including associate members, qualifying members, and internships. Why join? For networking and professional collaboration, professional standards, workshops, etc. Some corporate clients require membership to bid on archaeological projects. They give out two scholarships and conduct week-long archaeological methods courses which can be taken by professionals, government workers, students, forestry workers, and First Nations (Native American tribal members), among others. There are over 200 First Nations in British Columbia.

Archaeological investigators cannot conduct in BC without a permit. Individuals can be fined up to \$50,000 and corporations fined up to \$100,000 for permit violations.

There are 30 curation facilities in BC. Some of these repositories are operated by First Nations.

One important focus of the association is public outreach. The following is a list of various public outreach activities they employ to advance historic preservation and cultural resource awareness:

- Public education
- Press releases
- Publications
- Site visits
- Articles in various newspapers
- I-Books with free downloads
- Tweets
- Cultural tourism
- Community based excavation and training experience
- Heritage education

### **Associated Issue**

Interior has published the formal notice requesting comments on monument designations. The deadlines are: May 26 for Bear's Ears comments; July 10 for the others listed.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/11/2017-09490/review-of-certain-national-monuments-established-since-1996-notice-of-opportunity-for-public-comment>

Relatively soon, there will be a portal through the SAA homepage (the "Take Action" portion) to make it easy to respond with comments; that is in the works.

#### **Summary:**

The U.S. Department of the Interior is conducting a review of certain National Monuments designated or expanded since 1996 under the Antiquities Act of 1906 in order to implement Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017. The Secretary of the Interior will use the review to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy stated in the Executive Order and to formulate recommendations for Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other appropriate actions to carry out that policy. This Notice identifies 27 National Monuments under review and invites comments to inform the review.

#### **Dates:**

To ensure consideration, written comments relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted before May 26, 2017. Written comments relating to all other National Monuments must be submitted before July 10, 2017.

#### **Addresses:**

You may submit written comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering "DOI-2017-0002" in the Search bar and clicking "Search," or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

#### **For Further Information Contact:**

Randal Bowman, 202-208-1906, [RR\\_Bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:RR_Bowman@ios.doi.gov).

The National Monuments being initially reviewed are listed in the following tables.

#### **National Monuments Being Initially Reviewed Pursuant to Criteria in Executive Order 13792**

<b>Monument</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Basin and Range	Nevada	2015	703,585
Bears Ears	Utah	2016	1,353,000
Berryessa Snow Mountain	California	2015	330,780
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	2000	175,160
Carrizo Plain	California	2001	204,107
Cascade Siskiyou	Oregon	2000/2017	100,000
Craters of the Moon	Idaho	1924/2000	737,525
Giant Sequoia	California	2000	327,760
Gold Butte	Nevada	2016	296,937
Grand Canyon-Parashant	Arizona	2000	1,014,000
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	1996	1,700,000
Hanford Reach	Washington	2000	194,450.93
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	2000	128,917



### National Monuments Being Initially Reviewed Pursuant to Criteria in Executive Order 13792

Monument	Location	Year(s)	Acreage
Mojave Trails	California	2016	1,600,000
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	2014	496,330
Rio Grande del Norte	New Mexico	2013	242,555
Sand to Snow	California	2016	154,000
San Gabriel Mountains	California	2014	346,177
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	2001	486,149
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	2001	377,346
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	2000	279,568

### National Monuments Being Reviewed to Determine Whether the Designation or Expansion Was Made Without Adequate Public Outreach and Coordination with Relevant Stakeholders

Katahdin Woods and Waters	Maine	2016	87,563
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The Department of the Interior seeks public comments related to: (1) Whether national monuments in addition to those listed above should be reviewed because they were designated or expanded after January 1, 1996 “without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders;” and (2) the application of factors (i) through (vii) to the listed national monuments or to other Presidential designations or expansions of designations meeting the criteria of the Executive Order. With respect to factor (vii), comments should address other factors the Secretary might consider for this review.

In a separate but related process, certain Marine National Monuments will also be reviewed. As directed by Section 4 of Executive Order 13795 of April 28, 2017, “Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy” (82 FR 20815, May 3, 2017), the Department of Commerce will lead the review of the Marine National Monuments in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior. To assist in that consultation, the Secretary will accept comments related to the application of factors (i) through (vii) in Executive Order 13792 as set forth above to the following Marine National Monuments:

### Marine National Monuments Being Reviewed Pursuant to Executive Orders 13795 and 13792

Marianas Trench	CNMI/Pacific Ocean	2009	60,938,240
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts	Atlantic Ocean	2016	3,114,320
Pacific Remote Islands	Pacific Ocean	2009	55,608,320
Papahānaumokuākea	Hawaii	2006/2016	89,600,000
Rose Atoll	American Samoa	2009	8,609,045

Before including your name, address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Submitted by Michael A. Cinquino, NYAC representative.

## ANTACIDS FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOUL: A PRE-ACCESSIONING CULLING EXPERIMENT

Despite recognizing the overall necessity to reduce the burden of CRM collections on curatorial facilities, many professionals hold reservations regarding the institution of guidelines for culling archaeological collections. We have witnessed or heard tales of thoughtless intentional or accidental collection disposals or benign neglect of stored samples. My personal example of the latter, involving individuals significant in the history of Alaskan Archaeology and American Geoarchaeology, was my 1984 discovery of crushed and deteriorating cardboard boxes of unprocessed 25-year old Onion Portage soil samples with shipping labels from J. Louis Giddings to Roald Fryxell in a W.S.U. storage warehouse. Both investigators had been deceased for 20 and 10 years, respectively, notes and correspondences scattered into the unknown.

Several NYAC meetings and workshops have been devoted to the curation crisis, resulting in a working draft, *Standards for the Collection, Management, and Culling of Archaeological Collections in the Field, Lab, and Curation Facility* (New York Archaeological Council 2016). As a step toward testing and gaining overall confidence in these guidelines, the draft document was used by the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program (CRSP) to develop and undertake a site-specific pre-accessioning culling effort for PIN 2004.11.101, a Phase I survey of the N.Y.S. Route 51 bridge over the Erie Canal. That survey resulted in the discovery of the North Ilion Crossing site (Staley 2016, 2017a). The late 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century assemblages had been significantly impacted by post-depositional impacts that destroyed much of the site's integrity and research potential. Therefore, the collections were well suited for a culling exercise. The experiment was to contribute to the refinement of CRSP and NYAC standards and protocols, gain a measure of budgetary impacts, and increase the level of professional, institutional, and personal comfort with the procedure.



*Assortment of artifacts culled after lab analysis and pre-accessioning.*

The effort successfully reduced artifact numbers, weight, and volume of this collection (Staley 2017b). Sampling preserved representative samples for future comparative and technological analysis. The original 5,577 items in the project collection were reduced to 836 items. From the 1,269 non-site artifacts (recovered from project area STPs, but not within identified site boundaries), normally culled in the existing pre-accessioning process after being temporarily retained in CRSP lab facilities, two objects were retained. The items, a whole bottle and a chert flake, were retained for their educational and comparative value. The 4,308 artifacts from the project's single site were reduced to 834 items. Four hundred and sixty-seven of these were derived from a single STP selected for its representation of the complete stratigraphic record and as the only example of deep, undisturbed cultural deposits on the site. In addition to the artifacts, 39 plastic and 115 paper collection bags were discarded. Fifty-four pounds of the collection were culled, 34 pounds from the site and another 20 pounds of non-site project artifacts (which would have been culled eventually). In total, the process reduced four archive boxes of site assemblage and two of non-site collections to a box and a half. The preparation of the assemblage for final accessioning will include the required segregation of artifacts by materials and types that will likely increase the final volume of the accessioned lot.

The culling process takes time and, for now, it is strongly suggested that a senior staff member (report author, Principal Investigator, or Project Director) closely familiar with the project and artifact assemblage should take the lead in drafting a site/context specific plan and physically processing the collection. Formulating and compiling a project specific culling plan based on the existing drafts of the NYAC culling plan took two hours. Fifteen person hours covered the physical sampling, culling, and documentation of that process. Another six hours were spent completing database entry, checking, and editing the file. As protocols are refined, the task of physical sampling and culling could be delegated to a conscientious individual with a full grasp of diagnostic attributes of a wide range of artifact types and possessing a high attention to detail. The accessioned collection included paper records of the specific culling plan, the pre-culling artifact catalog, the post-culling catalog, and a synopsis of the culling effort describing the results and any practical procedural lessons learned.

It was discovered that expectations of effortlessly reaching sampling quotas for specific artifact categories with artifacts possessing additional diagnostic characteristics were incorrect. As the process progressed through the collection, requirements were relaxed to simply meet target counts. For example, body fragments of a particular color of bottle glass were sampled late in the process as specimens with manufacturing or content data were found to be extremely rare. It is recommended that future efforts thoroughly evaluate the assemblage while developing project/site specific culling protocol. Additional practical procedural issues were identified during culling and this author would gladly share those lessons. It is hoped that other researchers testing in-field, post-lab, pre-accessioning culling efforts would also share the results of their trials.

The culling of archaeologically derived samples in the field, lab, or curation facility must involve an explicit plan that thoughtfully considers all aspects of the site and its intra-site, local, and regional contexts as well as the research potential for specific artifact categories. Going through the process significantly reduced the volume of artifacts to be curated while retaining adequate samples of artifact types and refined procedures and protocols. The experiment provided a measure of the time and effort involved, useful for future budgeting. Culling operations afforded an opportunity to handle and look at the entire collection. The experience confirmed and supported the original observations and interpretations of the site and formation processes. Lastly, this exercise in culling certainly increased my personal comfort with the culling process. Future applications to other sites from varied contexts and the sharing of those results will improve the process and decrease our collective heartburn and anxiety.

## References Cited

New York Archaeological Council

- 2016 *Standards for the Collection, Management and Culling of Archaeological Collections in the Field, Lab and Curation Facility.* Working Draft Manuscript.  
[http://nysarchaeology.org/download/nyac/Standards\\_for\\_Collecting\\_Sampling\\_and\\_Culling\\_of\\_Archaeological\\_Collections\\_v4\\_draft\\_2016.pdf](http://nysarchaeology.org/download/nyac/Standards_for_Collecting_Sampling_and_Culling_of_Archaeological_Collections_v4_draft_2016.pdf)

Staley, David P.

- 2016 *Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey Report of PIN 2004.11.101, NYS Route 51 Bridge over Erie Canal/CSX/NYS Route 5, (BINS 4051180, 405118A, and 405118B), Village of Ilion (MCD 04340) and Town of Herkimer (MCD 04306), Herkimer County, New York, Archaeology, 16PR02859 (Program Year 2016-17).* Prepared for the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. New York State Museum-Cultural Resource Survey Program. Albany, NY.
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- 2017b *Post-Culling Synopsis for PIN 2004.11.101, NYS Route 51 Bridge over Erie Canal/CSX/NYS Route 5, (BINS 4051180, 405118A, and 405118B), Village of Ilion (MCD 04340) and Town of Herkimer (MCD 04306), Herkimer County, New York.* New York State Museum-Cultural Resource Survey Program. Albany, NY.

Submitted by: David P. Staley

## NYAC ANNUAL AWARDS

### *Edward Curtin, Founder's Award*

Edward Curtin received the NYAC Founder's Award at the Spring 2017 NYAC meetings in Lake George. Bill Engelbrecht and Nina Versaggi wrote his nomination letter (included below).



*Ed Curtin, left, receiving award from Bill Engelbrecht.*

### **Nomination Letter**

It is a pleasure to recognize Edward Curtin's long and distinguished career in New York State archaeology. Dr. Curtin has an incredible knowledge of Northeastern prehistory, from the hands-on identification of artifacts, to interpreting patterns on sites, to linking interpretations to theory, and to the enhancement of current models of Native American land use. His depth and recall when it comes to the prehistory of New York is amazing. He is a walking bibliography of both published works and information on sites and time periods. He learned much of this from his association with Dr. Robert Funk, the late New York State Archaeologist, during his time working at the New York State Museum. Ed is a valuable resource when one is stumped about a point type or needs information on sites of a certain time period or type.



Edward Curtin has been actively involved in the archaeology of New York State since his undergraduate days at Binghamton University in the early 1970's. As a graduate student at the same institution, he was involved in teaching both field methods and lab methods. Dr. Curtin is one of only a few experts in the Archaic period in New York State. This has been his research passion since the 1970s and was the focus of both his Master's thesis and doctoral dissertation. The Archaic continues to provide him with new data for current research. He has a rare expertise on the Early and Middle Archaic, along with a thorough grounding in the Late Archaic. His knowledge of ancient landscapes and how people used them has contributed significant new information to Northeastern archaeology.

His research interests include not only the Archaic, but also the Late Woodland, the human role in shaping Hudson Valley environments during the precontact period, and the technological strategies affecting the selection of different types and sources of lithic materials in the Hudson and Mohawk River regions. These interests are reflected in numerous publications and conference papers. Dr. Curtin is an active presenter of professional papers at national and regional conferences. His papers are thoroughly researched, offer new insights, and are positively received by his peers. Working in the field of cultural resource management it is difficult it is to find the time to turn papers into publications. Yet, he has been successful in this endeavor. He writes with relative ease and creates memorable articles that are used by colleagues in Northeastern archaeology. In between articles published traditionally, he frequently offers excellent writings about his current excavations and interpretive insights on his blog.

Ed currently serves as head of Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. Before that he served in senior CRM positions for Skidmore College, Bagdon Environmental Associates, Inc., the New York State Museum, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Public Archaeology Facility, SUNY at Binghamton. As a result of this long career in Public Archaeology, he has produced an impressive volume of archaeological data recovery reports, many of them of book length. He also has had extensive museum experience, serving as a consultant to the New York State Museum, Skidmore College, and the Roberson Center for the Arts and Sciences in Binghamton.

Ed's leadership role in New York archaeology is reflected in his long term involvement in the New York Archaeological Council, in which he served several times on the Board of Directors and as past secretary of the association. He was also chair of NYAC's Steering Committee on New York State's Cultural Resource Plan. Since 2010, he has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Robert E. Funk Memorial Archaeology Foundation. The Funk Foundation provides small grants for New York State archaeological research.

It is a pleasure to present Edward V. Curtin with the New York Archaeological Council's Founder's Award.

#### NYAC NEWSLETTER

*Please note, the NYAC Board voted to have one annual newsletter.  
For the 2018 newsletter, please submit by **May 15**.*

*Submit news in either Word or WordPerfect to Laurie Miroff by email at [lmiroff@binghamton.edu](mailto:lmiroff@binghamton.edu).  
Note: please submit photos as .jpg files.*

**NOTE:** *If you change your email address or would like the newsletter sent to another email address, please forward the address to me.*