



NYAC Newsletter

2019

From the President, Doug Perrelli

THE NEW YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL SPRING MEETING 2019

The New York Archaeological Council held its spring 2019 meeting on Friday, April 26th in conjunction with the 103rd New York State Archaeological Association Annual Meeting at Holiday Inn, Johnstown, New York. The April 27-28th weekend NYSAA conference was hosted by the Van-Epps Hartley Chapter and was well attended and well received.

NYAC Board and General Meetings resulted in one change to the board following our most recent election based on 23 ballots received, down from 29 ballots in the previous election, and one new member. Greetings to our newest Board member Matt Sanger of Binghamton University, SUNY. Matt replaces Mike Cinquino who served multiple board terms and deserves thanks for his dedication to NYAC. Join me in welcoming Dan Mazeau as our newest NYAC member. Thanks to Carol Weed for serving on the elections committee.

Other issues discussed at the Board and General Membership meeting that continued to require action included: final preparations for the 2nd *Soils, Sediments, and Stratigraphy Workshop*, to be held at the Tram Site in Geneseo, New York. The workshop will be presented by John S. Wah of Matapeake Soil and Environmental Consultants. John did a fantastic job during the first event and we hope people will sign up for this training. Revisions to NYAC by-laws and elections procedure are ready to be reviewed by the Board and then the Membership. NYAC Officers and Board members are reminded to submit their NYAC Conflict of Interest Policy form annually.

The latest DRAFT Standards for the Collection, Management, and Culling of Archaeological Collections document has been finalized by the committee established by Vivian James of SUNY Albany who deserves our thanks for her willingness to form a large and diverse committee and continue work on this important document. Revisions will be posted on the NYAC web page. The Board and membership will be asked to experiment with the revised document using a range of collections and report back with the results.

NYAC Awards Committee Chair Bill Engelbrecht presented the NYAC Founder's Award to Sherene Baugher for her lifetime of service to NYAC and the archaeological community of the Empire State during the NYAC General Meeting. The Founder's Award tab will soon appear on the NYAC web page in celebration of all awardees and the founding of the New York Archaeological Council.

Special thanks to David Moyer and Birchwood Archaeological Services for producing the 2019 Archaeology Season poster for New York State. Note that we are alternating between Archaeology Season posters on odd years and Archaeology Video Festivals at the annual spring meeting on even years. NYAC has a need for sponsorship and a concept for the 2020 Archaeology Video Session.

NYAC Afternoon Program Summary by Marie Lorraine Pipes: Tribal Consultation Part I

The spring meeting afternoon program was well-attended and generated a lot of discussion about archaeological oversight and the limits of responsibilities on the part of SHPO, DEC, and CRM firms. Presenters included Dirk Marcucci (Landmark Archaeology, Inc.), Patrick Heaton (EDR- Environmental Design and Research), Nina Versaggi (PAF- Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University, SUNY), David Witt (DEC), and Nancy Herter (SHPO). Several key issues of concern emerged.

First, it is evident that there is a great need for the CRM community to better understand the legal boundaries of discussing projects with tribal representatives. The permitting agency has the legal authority to determine how a project unfolds. Because some tribal groups are sovereign Nations unto themselves, consultation on projects must go through officials of the US government, such as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). A second issue involves the sometimes-misunderstood role of the State Historic Preservation Office. The SHPO can only act in an advisory capacity. They review state projects as well as other projects - when they are asked to do so. Third, it was emphasized by all presenters that establishing and maintaining good relationships with tribal representatives based on trust and communication is important. Delays and other issues will often arise on projects and having good communication between parties avoids negative tensions. It is also important for the tribal representatives to be copied on all correspondence between CRM firms and the permitting and oversight agencies.

While CRM firms do not have the authority to consult or negotiate project outcomes, when the permitting agency representative is confident in the Principle Investigator's abilities, there may be less formal agreements made between clients, consulting parties, Nations, and agencies. On occasion there are projects that do not have any consultation involving the CRM firm and the tribes. It is rare for a CRM firm to be left out of discussions, but when that happens it may be because the tribe involved has no confidence in the firm.

The program ended with thoughts on the fall program. The program will happen September 28th at Utica College. Unlike past programs, this event will be a full day and include a luncheon. There will be a fee for attending this event to cover the cost of lunch. We plan to invite tribal representatives, permitting agencies, and the SHPO's office to speak in the morning about issues and concerns. In the afternoon there will be break-out session/workshops on specific issues. The exact program has yet to be finalized. If you have thoughts about the kinds of issues you would like addressed please email Sissie Pipes at pipes@geneseo.edu.

NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

Since 2017 I have presented four papers offering current perspectives of the Archaic period in New York State. These include presentations to the annual meetings of the New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) and the Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF). Some of these are co-authored with Kerry L. Nelson, and some were expanded and repeated for presentation to NYSAA chapters, including the William Beauchamp, Auringer-Seelye, and Van Epps-Hartley Chapters.

The first of these presentations was concerned with early-mid Holocene environmental change and took a moment to honor the March for Science which was occurring on the same day (in 2017) as the presentation at the NYSAA annual meeting. This paper raised the issue of the effects upon human populations of rising sea and lake levels during the Early and Middle Archaic periods. An April presentation in 2018 was to NYSAA and explored the likely possibility that some large, Late Archaic sites represent villages. The data examined included evidence for year-round occupation, circular village-plaza plans, and inequality between village segments. A November 2018 presentation to ESAF examined the possible relationship between ancient creation myths and mortuary variation at Frontenac Island. The April 2019 presentation to NYSAA reviewed the Laurentian Archaic concept and, harking back to the 2017 presentation on environmental change, related developing interaction and alliance patterns to the population movement and increasing density implications of rising sea and lake levels. A fifth paper considering Archaic period chronology in coastal New York is contemplated.

Archaeological fieldwork conducted by Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. May 2018-May 2019 included surveys in Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Clinton, Greene, Dutchess, and Albany Counties. It has resulted so far in several avoidance plans prepared to protect and preserve precontact period archaeological sites.

The recent article in our company blog, *Fieldnotes* (4/14/19), commemorates the career of the late Ralph Solecki and emphasizes his work in New York State. You can read it at www.curtinarch.com/blog.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

Archaeology at 7 Hawley Street in Binghamton, New York

The Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) at Binghamton University recently completed data recovery excavations on a portion of a block in downtown Binghamton, NY. The data recovery was conducted for the 7 Hawley Street development project sponsored by Binghamton Urban Renewal. The site area was acquired by the City of Binghamton during urban renewal and was proposed for re-development in 1989. At this time, PAF conducted a Phase 1 survey that identified historic yard deposits and fieldstone foundations. The site was declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but development plans did not proceed. Nearly 30 years later, we were able to return to this archaeologically rich area for data recovery excavations when the 7 Hawley Street project was proposed.



Ceramic vessels from a hotel privy in downtown Binghamton.

The archaeological deposits associated with the 7 Hawley Street project area are considered part of the larger Binghamton Mall site, which covers several blocks within this city's urban core. The 7 Hawley Street block is bounded on one side by Binghamton's main commercial street. Historic development in the project area rapidly shifted from scattered houses in the early 19th century to concentrated, commercial development. Row structures housed hotels, restaurants, beer gardens, saloons, tin shops, and a bowling alley at street level with residential apartments in the upper stories. Excavations identified two relatively intact fieldstone privies associated with a hotel and restaurant/lodging house, intact rear yard sheet midden deposits, and several fieldstone and brick foundations related to the row structures and shops. Preliminary field observations indicated that sheet midden within yard areas is probably related to earlier 19th-century residential occupation. Analysis of materials is on-going, but we are beginning to get a better picture of life on this block. Numerous pieces of sheet mica testify to the stove manufacturer that was once located here while vessels from the hotel privy (see photo above) include at least four different blue transfer print patterns. These archaeological deposits will expand our current knowledge of the urban core, which is primarily based on historic domestic sites, and provide new understanding of 19th- century commercial and industrial enterprises in a small urban area.

Submitted by: Maria O'Donovan

NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

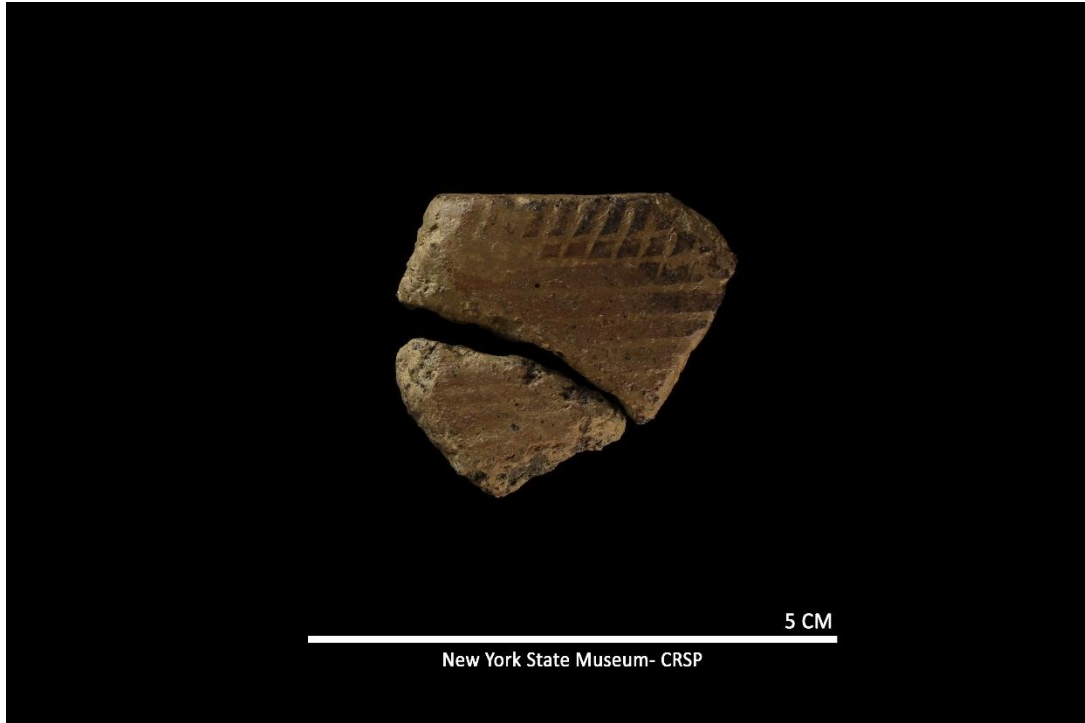
Site Examination at the Coeymans-Bronck House Multicomponent Site, Town of Coeymans, Albany County

Fieldwork for the Phase II site examination at the Coeymans-Bronck House multicomponent site (SHPO 00103.000334) was conducted this spring by a team from the Cultural Resource Survey Program (CRSP) led by Steve Moragne, Project Director. The site is located adjacent to Hannacrois Creek, a Hudson River tributary. The work was undertaken in advance of bridge replacement, and the survey and site examination together entailed the excavation of 115 shovel test pits and 18 square meters. The Area of Potential Effect was significantly reduced through project redesign in the time between the two phases of archaeological work, and much of the site will be avoided. The site examination focused on a relatively small area but yielded a relatively dense assemblage of precontact artifacts.

Cleaning and cataloging artifacts is ongoing, but as of early May more than 2,200 precontact artifacts have been identified, mostly lithic debitage and fire-cracked rock. In addition, there are a number of stone tools, including a Brewerton side-notched projectile point, a narrow straight-stemmed point, a triangular point, nine other bifacial tools, several utilized flakes, and a hammerstone. Precontact pottery sherds were also found. These artifacts suggest the site was repeatedly occupied, probably over the course of several millennia from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods. Preliminary identification of the lithic raw materials suggests a mix of locally-available cherts with other materials (chalcedony, jasper) that may have been brought to the Coeymans site from distant sources. Analysis of the Coeymans-Bronck House site will include comparison of the lithic and pottery artifacts with those recovered from the nearby Barren Island and Fish Club Cave sites reported by Robert Funk in *Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory* (1976). Modern excavation techniques used during the CRSP investigations at the Coeymans-Bronck House site (screening through hardware cloth, flotation of soil samples) resulted in the recovery of small finds that are absent from the earlier reported sites, which should further our understanding of precontact activities in this part of the Hudson Valley.



Projectile points and other lithic bifacial tools recovered during the site examination of the Coeymans-Bronck House multicomponent site.



Decorated pottery sherds from the Coeymans-Bronck House multicomponent site.

Submitted by: Daria Merwin

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

The Funk Foundation has opened a grant proposal submittal and review cycle for 2019. The deadline for grant proposal submittals is being extended due to a lack of proposals meeting the previously advertised deadline of May 10, 2019. The anticipated new proposal deadline will be in August or September 2019, with up to two grant awards anticipated during the fall of 2019.

The report of the grant work must be completed within one year of the award date. At the time of the award 80% of the grant amount will be paid to assist the research. The final 20% will be paid upon the Funk Foundation's review and acceptance the report. Grant amounts are up to \$2,500.00. Usually two grants are awarded per grant cycle. In the past, the Funk Foundation has awarded grants for work such as radiocarbon dating, stable isotope analysis, debitage analysis, projectile point analysis, microwear analysis, thin-sectioning and petrographic analysis, ceramic analysis, phytolith analysis, faunal analysis, and remote sensing. The types of activities that are not eligible for Funk Foundation grants include conventional pedestrian survey, excavation fieldwork, field equipment purchases, and artifact cataloging. For more information please visit the Funk Foundation website at www.funkfoundation.org, email Ed Curtin at ecurtin12003@yahoo.com, or call Ed at (518) 928-8813. Updated information on the proposal and grant award deadlines will be posted on the Funk Foundation, New York Archaeological Council, and New York State Archaeological Association websites.

The Funk Foundation has completed reviews of grants to Tim Abel for radiocarbon dating (St. Lawrence Iroquois), Richard Wakeman for radiocarbon dating (Behnke Farm site/Snook Kill component), and Joshua Kwoka for lithic analysis (Simmons site/Niagara Frontier Iroquois). We are nearing completion of reviews of grant reports from Tim Abel for additional radiocarbon dating (St. Lawrence Iroquois), Jessica Vavrsek for stable isotope analysis (St. Lawrence Iroquois), Amy Fox for projectile point morphometric analysis (Late Archaic/Transitional Period), and Ammie Mitchell for petrographic analysis of ceramics (Vnette 1 and Vnette 2). We anticipate receiving a report soon from Suzanne Pilaar Birch on stable isotope analysis involving passenger pigeons from the Lamoka Lake and Cole Gravel Pit sites.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

WORK ON THE CULLING GUIDELINES CONTINUES

The *Standards for the Collection, Management, and Disposition of Archaeological Collections in the Field, Laboratory, and Repository* (also known as the “culling guidelines”) document continues to progress.

History of the Project. The project began in 2016 with New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) members discussing best practices for handling artifacts of various materials (e.g., glass, brick, etc.) in focus groups. Those best practices and related comments were compiled into a “working draft” by Marie-Lorraine (“Sissie”) Pipes. The document was reviewed and commented on by at least two unknown¹ NYAC members and edited by Vivian James in 2017.

Committee Formed. During the 2018 Spring Meeting, Douglas Perrelli, current President of NYAC, appointed Vivian James to chair a committee tasked with producing the final draft document. NYAC members representing all three types of professional archaeology (academia/workforce development, consultation/cultural resource management, and museums/other repositories) from around the state agreed to sit on the committee. The committee members are (in alphabetical order):

- Louisa Basa from SUNY²-Schenectady County Community College
- Diana Carter from SUNY-Schenectady County Community College
- Joseph Diamond from SUNY-New Paltz
- Matthew Kirk from Hartgen Archaeological Associates
- Tim Lloyd from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Michael Lucas from the New York State Museum (NYSM) - Historical Archaeology
- David Moyer from Birchwood Archaeological Services
- Christina Rieth, State Archaeologist and Co-Director of the New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program

Oversight for the committee has been provided by Douglas Perrelli from the University at Buffalo and Sissie Pipes, who is an archaeological consultant and adjunct lecturer at SUNY-Geneseo, extending the geographical representation to include the western part of the state.

Literature Review. The committee members have been hard at work, reviewing more than a thousand pages of documents related to the project, including *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City* published last year by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Earlier NYAC documents as well as federal and state historic preservation laws were also reviewed. The literature review was undertaken to ensure the standards and guidelines are in agreement with existing statutes and NYAC policies as well as to determine best practices.

Two New Sections. While the material-specific guidelines are still in progress, two new sections have been drafted and submitted to the NYAC Executive Board for review. When the Executive Board completes their review and input from Board members has been addressed, the new sections will be made available to the membership for comments. The first new section is a brief description of the history of the curation crisis in New York. The second new section is the standards.

The Standards. The committee approved nine standards that outline the process of determining what artifacts to collect and maintain as well as when alternatives to preservation may be more appropriate. Importantly, while providing best practices that standardize archaeological practice, the standards are flexible and can be applied to unique archaeological situations.

Your Expertise Appreciated. Do you have expertise in any specific archaeological material(s)? Are you willing to contribute just a few moments of your time by sharing your knowledge? If so, please email³ your contact information and area of expertise to me at vsjames@tds.net. I have a brief email questionnaire about preserving artifacts of specific material types that will only take about ten or fifteen minutes to complete but will help the committee immensely. Also, if you are aware of any documents related to the curation of archaeological artifacts, could you email me an electronic copy or at least the citation? Any assistance you can provide will be appreciated.

Submitted by: Vivian James

Notes

¹ If you know who reviewed and commented on the initial working draft, please email their name(s) to Vivian James (vsjames@tds.net) so they can be given credit for their contribution.

² State University of New York

³ For NYAC members without email access, we can discuss your expertise over the phone. Call me at (770) 548-1384.

NYAC ANNUAL AWARDS

New York Archaeological Council – 2019 Founders Award

Sherene Baugher

Nominated by Meta Fayden Janowitz and Diana diZerega Wall



Left to right: Bill Engelbrecht, Sherene Baugher, and NYAC President, Doug Perrelli

We are writing to nominate Sherene Baugher for the New York Archaeological Council's 2019 Founders Award. Sherene's career and accomplishments are firmly rooted in the archaeology of New York State. She earned her B.A. and first M.A. in cultural anthropology from Hunter College, part of the City University of New York, and another M.A. and her Ph.D. from SUNY at Stony Brook in archaeology. By 1980, when she was chosen to be the first New York City Archaeologist and Director of the City Archaeology Program, she was well-established in NYC archaeology through teaching and field projects, in particular her dissertation work at Historic Richmond Town on Staten Island, the borough of her birth. The position of City Archaeologist, which she held until 1990, called for both archaeological expertise and negotiating skills to oversee the many large projects that took place during that decade of booming growth in Lower Manhattan. As City Archaeologist she helped to design the standards for CRM archaeology under the city's environmental review process (CEQR) and established the City Archaeology Program.

From 1991 to the present, Sherene has been associated with Cornell University, first as an Assistant and Associate Professor, and then, since 2012, as a Full Professor. At Cornell she has had a long history of working with

descendant communities as part of her archaeology projects and has been one of the first archaeologists to incorporate community partnerships and outreach work into her academic courses. Sherene and her students have collaborated with many people who have connections to her excavations, including the Tutelo and Cayuga Indians and the European American descendants of residents of an abandoned hamlet in Robert H. Treman State Park in Ithaca. Together with her students and community partners, she has made information about their archaeological excavations and documentary research available to a wide audience through excavation tours, exhibits, and public lectures. For professional audiences, she has presented over 70 papers at conferences, often in collaboration with her peers and students, on topics ranging from cemeteries to gendered landscapes to the determination of significance of sites. She has also written and co-edited a number of books and journal articles, including most recently the edited volumes *Urban Archaeology, Municipal Government and Local Planning: Preserving Heritage within the Commonwealth of Nations and the United States* (2017), and *The Archaeology of American Cemeteries and Gravemarkers* (2014). The publication *Encyclopedia of Historical Archaeology* (2002) has three entries by Sherene: "New York City Archaeology," "Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology," and, with Terry Klein, "Farmsteads."

In addition to teaching and publishing, Sherene has furthered the cause of archaeology in New York and the Northeast by serving on the board of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), where she was the chairman from 1983-1985, and as the president of the New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) from 2010-2018.

All in all, in light of her enormous contributions to the archaeology of the State of New York, we are herewith nominating Sherene Baugher for the NYAC Founders' Award for 2019.

Submitted by: Bill Engelbrecht

NYAC NEWSLETTER

*Please note, the NYAC Board voted to have one annual newsletter.
For the 2020 newsletter, please submit by **May 15**.*

*Submit news in either Word to Laurie Miroff by email at 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.*