

# NYSAA Newsletter

## Summer 2006



### About This Newsletter

This newsletter is an experiment. Initially, I thought I might mail out a traditional hard copy newsletter. However, after contacting NYSAA chapter presidents and secretaries many responded suggesting that electronic distribution would be the simplest and most economical way to go. This newsletter is therefore being e-mailed to chapter secretaries or their designee who will then forward it to chapter members. Someone in each chapter will make copies for chapter members without e-mail. This first newsletter is being limited to 6 pages (3 sheets of paper) to keep down postal costs. I am e-mailing and sending copies to at-large members. If you receive this as a mailed hard copy but have e-mail, please give your e-mail address to the person sending you this newsletter. This will make future distribution easier and more cost effective as well as allowing more content. Hugh Jarvis is putting a copy of this newsletter on our web site (<http://nysaaweb.bfn.org/>) and Ann Morton and Doug Mackey are putting it on the NYSAA electronic distribution list ([NYSAA-list-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NYSAA-list-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)).

Newsletter content will feature both NYSAA related items and items related to New York Archaeology. NYSAA related items could include photos and news from individual chapters that would be of interest to all NYSAA members including upcoming events, items for sale, and death notices of individuals active in the state organization. Items relating to New York State archaeology could include notice of new publications and brief reports on selected Stage III excavations being conducted in the state. The Pennsylvania Archaeologist frequently features a picture and description of an artifact, something that we might do as well in the newsletter.

I hope to put out a short newsletter four times a year, provided members supply me with sufficient items. My address is on the last page of this newsletter. Please send me information for the next newsletter by Oct. 15.

Bill Engelbrecht  
President, NYSAA

### Recent Annual Meeting

The Incorporated Orange County Chapter hosted the 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association April 28-30<sup>th</sup> in Kerhonkson, NY. The venue was the palatial Hudson Valley Resort and Spa, surrounded by the majestic Shawangunk Mountains. One hundred and eleven individuals registered. Thanks go to the many individuals who worked hard to put on an excellent program.

## Annual Meeting (continued)



Hudson Valley Resort and Spa  
(photo courtesy of C. Beregowitz)



Banquet Speaker Col. James M. Johnson, U.S. Army, Retired  
(Photo courtesy of Bob Gorall)

## Awards

### Achievement Award

Edward Kaeser, a Fellow of the NYSAA and one of the founding members of the Metropolitan Chapter received this award. He conducted extensive excavations on Woodland sites in coastal New York and published his findings in the NYSAA Bulletin as well as in publications of the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania societies and The Chesopean. In addition, he found homes in suitable repositories for his collections so that others may study them. He has argued for the existence of a Middle Woodland “Abbott Complex,” and his work has contributed to discussions of sedentism, mortuary practice and ideology in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic. The photo on the right of Edward Kaeser was taken in 1968 at the Archery Range Ossuary site, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York.



## Fellow Award

Gordon De Angelo, a founding member of the Beauchamp Chapter and former NYSAA president received the Fellow Award. Over the years, Gordon has volunteered on numerous archaeological projects and is widely respected for his skills in mapping and artifact identification. He has also written a series of articles dealing with New York State archaeology. To date, he is the sole recipient for the Theodore Whitney Award, conferred by the association for a lifetime of dedication and service to New York State Archaeology. In the photo, Gordon De Angelo (right) accepts the Fellow Award from Prof. Peter Pratt.

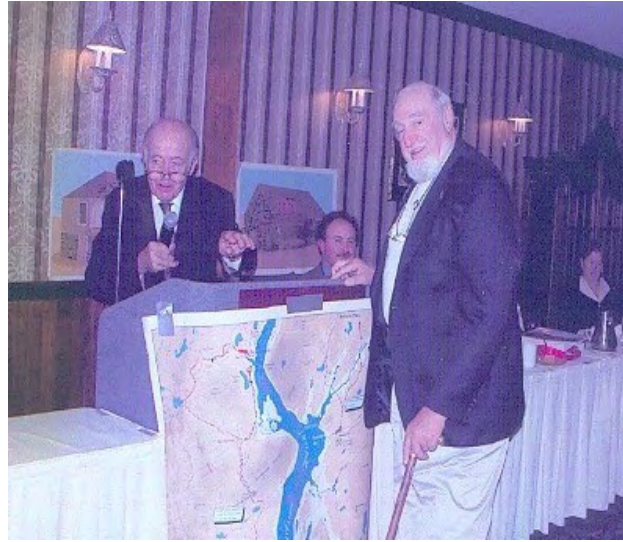


Photo courtesy of Barbara De Angelo

## Certificate of Merit

### 1. William Scott

William Scott has been a member of the Orange County Chapter since 1965. Over the years he actively participated in the excavation of a number of sites including the Dutchess Quarry site, the Aborio Mastodon site, and the Sugar Loaf Mastodon site. He laid out the grid and maintained site records for numerous of sites. He co-authored a paper with Robert Funk and George Walters and was the sole author of two articles, one of which appeared in the 2003 NYSAA Bulletin.

### 2. Charles Thomas

Charles Thomas has been active in the Orange County Chapter and has served as program chair for two annual meetings of the NYSAA. He has taken an active role in chapter digs and led the excavation at Fort Decker. He also was instrumental in having the Dutchess Quarry Caves placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 3. Beulah and William Rice

The Van Epps-Hartley Chapter nominated Beulah and her late husband William (Herbie) Rice, members of the Auringer Seeley Chapter for this award. In the 1950's the Rice family excavated the Snook Kill site in Saratoga County. In 2000 they donated the material and field notes to the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter. This important collection formed the basis for William Ritchie's Transitional Snook Kill Phase of the Archaic.

## **Awards (cont.)**

### Meritorious Service

Adele De Rosa, Douglas Pippin, and Jennifer Teremy, all Morgan Chapter members, received Meritorious Service Awards for outstanding contributions to their chapter.

## **NYAC – NYSAA Cooperation**

On behalf of our membership, the New York Archaeological Council Board would like to congratulate Bill Engelbrecht on his election as President of NYSAA, and extend our thanks to Louise Basa for her many years of service. We look forward to continuing joint initiatives started during the last five years (for example, ASPI), and starting new collaborative projects that would benefit both of our constituencies.

The Board has been discussing several of these initiatives, one of which has begun to gain broader interest and momentum. This proposed project has emerged from a growing misconception about the legal reach of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Just the mention of NAGPRA evokes reactions of fear and anger from many archaeologists (avocational and professionals, alike). The intent of the law and its correct application have morphed into widespread beliefs that NAGPRA gives Native Americans the right to take private collections. Many of us have seen first-hand how this misconception has started to drive avocational and amateur archaeologists "underground," resulting in a reluctance to share information about sites and collections, as well as record these sites for future protection from development. Further, we have all heard of individuals who have human remains from activities conducted many years ago, but do not want them and would like to return them to Native Americans. However, they worry that they will lose their collections or be convicted of a crime if they admit to having these skeletal remains. These misconceptions (and that is what they are) have done more harm than good, and benefit no one.

Bill and I have discussed a collaborative educational project about NAGPRA that would start with an informational pamphlet on the law, what it covers (and does not cover), and what this law means to individuals and institutions. We think this is a good place to start discussions about human remains, open a dialogue, and possibly assist people who want to return human remains to Native Americans for reburial. We welcome offers of assistance in creating this pamphlet, as well as submissions of questions we should address. The NYAC Board has asked our Education Committee and Human Remains Committee to help draft text for this project. We look forward to working with NYSAA members and committees on what I hope will be an informative collaboration.

Nina Versaggi ([nversagg@binghamton.edu](mailto:nversagg@binghamton.edu))  
President, New York Archaeological Council



## Archaeology at Robert H. Treman State Park

Enfield Falls was a hamlet within Tompkins County in Central New York. Unlike other rural 19<sup>th</sup> century communities, it was a tourist destination. With its beautiful waterfalls and gorges, it attracted visitors as early as the 1830s. In addition to its gristmill, sawmills and homes, the hamlet also had a hotel. In the 1920s and 1930s, most of the buildings in Enfield Falls were destroyed in order to create Upper Robert H. Treman State Park. Since 1998, Cornell University students have been involved in a multi-year archaeological project on Enfield Falls. They have taken part in archaeological excavations and laboratory work; worked with community members on oral history projects; created archaeological exhibits at the mill museum in the park; and are now working on permanent outdoor archaeological exhibits in the park.

Open house days will be held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, from 1:00pm until 4:00pm. During this time, archaeologist Daniel Costura will be giving tours of the archaeological site and members of The Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park will be leading tours of the Historic Mill. Exhibits in the Historic Mill include information about the workings of the mill, the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the construction of NYS Parks, as well as exhibits about the archaeology in Robert H. Treman State Park.

Sherene Baugher and Daniel Costura  
Archaeology Program, Cornell and Finger Lakes Chapter, NYSAA



Old Mill



Tour

## Papers Needed

Charles Hayes, editor of The Bulletin, needs papers for the next issue.

## 2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting will be hosted by the Adirondack Chapter and will be held April 20-22 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs. Details to follow in future newsletters.

## Other Meetings

September: The Vermont Archaeological Society will host a day long session, "Three Decades of Discoveries: A Retrospective of Vermont Archaeology Honoring the Legacy of James B. Petersen." Details to appear on their web site.

October 28, Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium, Lamplighter Inn, London, Ontario. Contact Dr. Chris Ellis [cjellis@uwo.ca](mailto:cjellis@uwo.ca)

November 8-12, ESAF Annual Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Fitchburg, MA. For registration contact Donald Winkley at [dwinkley@att.net](mailto:dwinkley@att.net)

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