

Winter 2009

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SRAC Co-Founders: Ted Keir, Deb Twigg, and Dick Cowles

The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (SRAC)

by
Deb Twigg, Co-Founder and
Executive Director

In October 2008, SRAC celebrated their 5th annual event held at their Center at 345 Broad St., Waverly, NY. Five years before, we were all just a bunch of like-minded souls bent on one purpose - to save our local prehistory and archaeology and it would be another year before we actually incorporated as SRAC, and established the 501(c)3.

I can only tell this story from my own perspective; that is that a site called Spanish Hill got me interested in our local archaeology. I had spent years digging up reams of documentation concerning this site which eventually led to my article getting published in the [Pennsylvania Archaeologist](#) in 2005. The article was not only an effort to clarify some misconceptions about Spanish Hill, but also to make a plea for better preservation of our local archaeological assets such as this site and the artifacts that were found there. This cause was magnified when as part of my research I visited the house of Mr. Richard Cowles, son of the late Ellsworth Cowles. Ellsworth had discovered an ancient village site at the foot of Spanish Hill in 1933. During that visit to the Cowles home, I was invited to view three rooms in the Cowles' cellar that were jam-packed with a huge collection of site artifacts. The Cowles family told me that this collection had already been deemed too large for any local museum to house and that they were desperately in search of a place that would keep the collection together. It was just a short time thereafter that I met Mr. Ted Keir, who followed Ellsworth Cowles as the local amateur archaeologist and collector who had also amassed a huge "museum" in his own cellar. In the end, the three of us teamed together in order to preserve the immense Cowles collection as well as the other collections in the future, under a new non-profit we created for this purpose named "The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (SRAC.)"

Our Mission

SRAC is dedicated to education, research and preservation of the region's Native American archaeological, cultural and historical assets for the communities within the Twin Tier Region of Southeastern NY and Northeastern PA. We do this by working with professionals and amateur archaeologists as well as collectors in our region. As a result, we have educated many about the importance of provenance and have received 7 local collections to date that would not have been preserved for educational or research purposes otherwise. We also

The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (SRAC) (continued)

make it clear that no pricing, buying or selling will be tolerated on our premises.

Who We Are

We are led by three lifetime trustees, Mr. Richard Cowles, Mr. Ted Keir, and me, Deb Twigg, with a total Board consisting of 7 hard working and active leaders. We are just as proud to have an incredibly active professional advisory committee lead by world-renowned anthropologist, Dr. Marshall Becker from the Univ. of Pennsylvania, whom I stay in constant contact with concerning many aspects of SRAC. In the meantime, we also have a close relationship with most of the collectors in the region and a membership of around 150. Additionally we are members of both the Andaste Chapter of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Society and Triple Cities Chapter of the NYSAA and facilitate joint/border meetings throughout the year.

Our Center

Incorporated and headquartered in PA, we also bought a building in downtown Waverly, NY, which supports our mission of including the Twin Tier Region of Southeastern NY and Northeastern PA. The building has three floors and enough room to house a huge gift shop, exhibit hall, and lecture hall on the just the main floor with room to grow. Our Exhibit Hall will constantly change and at any given time will display thousands of local artifacts as important evidence of our prehistoric past. The Exhibit Hall also displays a picture as a tribute to each of the collectors for donating their collections. These will always be referred to with their name. During warmer months our lecture hall hosts several historical and archaeological presentations and meetings each month, and is rented out by the community as well. Our gift shop is loaded with hard to find historical books, children's learning toys, and even cultural artwork by local bead workers and artists. Lastly, we are in search of a university or large museum that may want to build a relationship with us in order to help us continue the research arm of our mission, and although we have had several conversations, to date we are still open to inquiries.

It is our hope that the next 5 years will see SRAC continue to grow and build even more strong relationships along the way. We have come to realize that with a little financial support and a lot of inspiration, anything is possible.

SRAC is located at 345 Broad St., Waverly, NY and is open 1-5 Tuesdays through Fridays and 11-4pm Saturdays. Anyone who is interested in joining or learning more about SRAC can visit our website at www.SRACenter.org, email Info@SRACenter.org, or call 607-727-3111.



SRAC Exhibit Hall

The Metropolitan Chapter

By Diana diZerega Wall and Anne-Marie Cantwell

The Metropolitan Chapter, which had been moribund for several years, is getting back on track thanks to the encouragement of Bill Engelbrecht and former president Leonard Cohan. The new officers are Diana Wall (president), Anne-Marie Cantwell (vice-president), Meredith Linn (secretary) and Shelly Spritzer (treasurer). A newsletter for Chapter members is in the works. It will be edited by Leonard Cohan.

We have had a successful membership drive and the two events we've held since November were well-attended. At one, Meta Janowitz, the ceramic historian and public archaeologist, talked about the kinds of artifacts likely to be found on 17th century sites in the metropolitan area. She showed images of artifacts excavated at Manhattan and Maryland sites and compared them to contemporary Dutch paintings and engravings. At the other, Matt Sanger of the American Museum of Natural History gave a tour of the Museum's Native American artifacts that were found in the metropolitan area. Our spring program will be kicked off by Allan Gilbert speaking on the turtle petroglyph in the New York Botanical Gardens, and will be followed by a walking tour of Washington Square Park which will be led by Joan Geismar, who has just finished a long term archaeological project there.

Please contact Meredith for a copy of our chapter flyer with membership information, etc. Her e-mail is mbl2002@Columbia.edu; be sure to specify if you would prefer an electronic or a paper copy.

NYSAA Electronic Mailing List

NYSAA has an electronic discussion list, NYSAA-list@yahoogroups.com. You can find it by first typing "yahoo groups" into a search engine like Google, then at the prompt type "NYSAA-list." It is then necessary to sign up to receive postings.

If you encounter difficulty signing up, contact our moderators, Dr. Ann Morton at amorton@rochester.rr.com or Doug Mackey at douglas.mackey@oprhp.state.ny.us. Archaeological questions are sometimes posed on the list as are pictures of mystery artifacts. Both types of inquiry have received helpful responses in the past. The list is also a useful way of disseminating information including announcements of chapter programs. This is a good way to keep the NYSAA membership informed of the many interesting things that are going on within our organization. If you have not yet signed up, please consider doing so.



**The Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter
New York State Archaeological Association
93rd Annual Meeting
New York State Archaeological Association**



April 17, 18 and 19, 2009
FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS
DEADLINE: March 15th, 2009

The Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter, NYSAA, is pleased to announce the Final Call for Papers and Posters for the 93rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association. All presenters must be registered for the conference. The meeting will be held at the gracious Woodcliff Resort and Spa, located high up in the hills near Victor. Program chair is Douglas Pippin. Abstracts in MS Word are preferred and should be emailed to pippin@oswego.edu. Alternatively, a hard copy may be mailed to: Douglas Pippin, Department of Anthropology, 310 Mahar Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126. Deadline for submissions is **March 15th**, 2009. Please include your email address and your Chapter or At-Large Affiliation with your abstract, and any AV equipment that you will need for your presentation. If you would like to display a poster, please note that a table will be made available. You will have to provide all other display needs for your poster.

This year's annual conference will be held at the Woodcliff Resort and Spa, 199 Woodcliff Drive, Rochester, NY 14450. Please go to www.woodcliffhotelspa.com for more information about this luxurious hotel. We are most fortunate in having Dr. Dean Snow as our speaker for the Saturday night banquet. Also, we are planning a special Friday afternoon guided tour of Ganondagan State Historic Site. The following packages have been arranged with Woodcliff. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel (585-381-4000) (800-365-3065). **Deadline for hotel reservations at the special conference prices is March 20, 2009.** All other reservations for registration, banquet and commuter meals must be mailed to us (see below). Friday Night Dinners will be available at the hotel restaurant or bar at special discount prices. Many other restaurants are also located in the immediate area (Info in your packet).

Two Night Option- Includes Friday and Saturday night's lodging, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and Saturday lunch buffet (all service charges and sales taxes are included).

Single: \$332 per person Double: \$195 per person Triple: \$150 per person Quad: \$130 per person

One Night Option- Includes Saturday night's lodging, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch buffet and Sunday breakfast (all service charges and sales taxes are included).

Single: \$195 per person Double: \$127 per person Triple: \$105 per person Quad: \$94 per person

Shuttle service available (7AM- 10:30PM) from airport, bus, train (there may be a small fee) (Please arrange ahead of time directly with the hotel).

NYSAA Annual Conference Registration

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 CHAPTER _____

		Number	Amount
Pre-registration (before March 20, 2009)	\$30.00	_____	_____
(Registration at the door- \$35.00)			
Banquet	\$32.00	_____	_____
__ Sirloin of Beef/Cabernet Demi-glace			
__ Orange Miso Glazed Salmon			
__ Woodcliff Signature Vegetarian			
Commuter meals- for those not staying at the hotel (reservations needed by 3/20/09)			
Saturday Lunch	\$24.00 (all inclusive)	_____	_____
Sat or Sun. Breakfast	\$16.00 (all inclusive)	_____	_____
	Total	_____	_____

Please make checks payable to Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter, NYSAA. Mail completed registration form and check to Jennifer Teremy PO Box 77172 Rochester NY 14617.

Fall ESAF Meeting

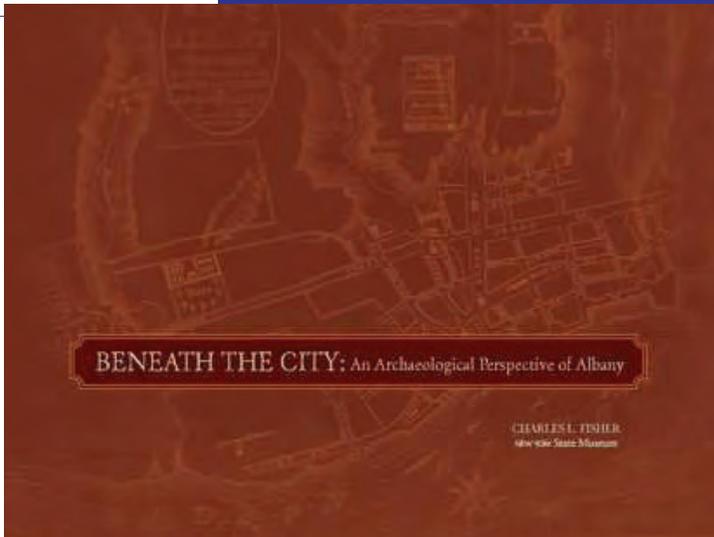
The Frederick Houghton Chapter of the NYSAA was host to the seventy-fifth annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation meetings in Lockport, NY, Nov. 6-9. Bill Engelbrecht was in charge of local arrangements, Lisa Marie Anselmi – Program, Kathy Leacock – Registration, Don Smith – Book Room, and Sue Maguire – Corporate Sponsorship. A total of 177 individuals registered, with 88 of those from New York and 21 from Canada. Fifty-nine papers were presented including those in an all day lithics session on Saturday honoring Jack Holland. Dr. Richard Laub of the Buffalo Museum of Science spoke on the Hiscock site at the Saturday evening banquet. Activity in the Book Room was brisk. Five copies of the The Bulletin C.D. were sold as were fifteen back issues of The Bulletin at \$10 a piece. The conference received \$2100 in corporate sponsorship plus various goods and services.

Membership Question

At the Oct. 11 Executive Committee Meeting in Syracuse, the possibility of adding an additional membership category (affiliate?) was raised. The cost would be \$10 and the member would not receive The Bulletin. This would be a way for individuals to support the NYSAA who are not interested in receiving The Bulletin and who do not want to pay the standard membership fee. Those arguing for this new category felt that it could bring in more money and stimulate more interest in the organization. Those arguing against it feared that some regular members might drop down to this category, thus decreasing total revenue. Also, the more Bulletins we print, the cheaper the cost of producing an individual copy. If our print run were to drop significantly, the cost of an individual copy will increase.

Adding a new membership category would require an addition to our by-laws. Our by-laws state: “A chapter shall have no classes of membership other than those of the association.” Currently Junior Membership costs \$5. Junior members do not receive The Bulletin. Associate memberships are free, but these individuals are members of another chapter, the associate membership being in a second chapter.

A committee was formed to look into this consisting of Bill Engelbrecht, Chair, engelbwe@buffalostate.edu, Sissie Pipes, pipesml@aol.com, Tim Abel, tabel@twcnny.rr.com, and Sherene Baugher, sbb8@cornell.edu. The committee would appreciate input from individuals and chapters on this issue. Would the membership fee be evenly split between a chapter and the association? The committee will report at the annual meeting.



The Fisher Fund, By John Hart

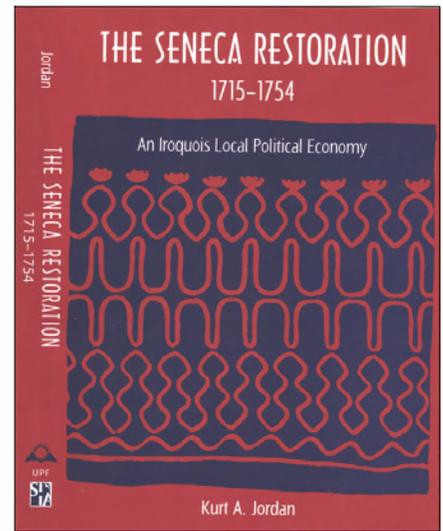
The Charles L. Fisher Fund was established in memory of Chuck Fisher (1949-2007), the New York State Museum's first Curator of Historical Archaeology. The goal of the fund is to support Museum activities related to the historical archaeology in New York State. It is administered by the New York State Museum Institute, a private 501 3c.

The first project to be funded by donations to the Fisher Fund is a four-color catalog of the *Beneath the City: An Archaeological Perspective of Albany* exhibition. This exhibition opened at the New York State Museum on June 11, 2007. It was conceived and planned by Chuck and is dedicated to his memory. The exhibition reflects Chuck's many years of research, in collaboration with numerous colleagues, on the historical archaeology of Albany and New York State. His exhibit text is the basis for the catalog, which is designed and ready to be published as soon as enough funding is obtained to underwrite printing costs.

Color printing is very expensive; underwriting is needed to keep the volume affordable. A generous, anonymous donor has agreed to match up to \$5,000 in new donations to the Fisher Fund for this publication. Checks should be made payable to The New York State Museum Institute and mailed to: The Charles L. Fisher Fund, c/o The New York State Museum Institute, 3099 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.



The Hauptman-Woodward Institute of Buffalo recently named Jack Holland a "Pioneer of Science" in recognition of his contribution to lithic studies. Jack's extensive comparative lithic collection is housed in the Buffalo Museum of Science. As a Buffalo Pioneer of Science, Jack's photo now hangs in the Buffalo International Airport. Jack is the only remaining founder of the Houghton Chapter and remains active in the chapter.



The Seneca Restoration, 1715-1754: An Iroquois Local Political Economy,

by Kurt A. Jordan, 448 pp, 37 figs, 16 tables, University Press of Florida, 2008, \$69.95.

The Iroquois Confederacy, one of the most influential Native American polities encountered by early European settlers, is commonly perceived as having plunged into steep decline in the late seventeenth century due to colonial encroachment into the Great Lakes region. Kurt Jordan challenges long-standing interpretations that depict the Iroquois as defeated, colonized peoples by demonstrating that an important nation of that confederacy, the Senecas, maintained an impressive political and economic autonomy and resisted colonialism with a high degree of success.



Dr. Scott Stull, Finger Lakes Chapter President, with young chapter member at last year's annual meeting in Syracuse. Photo courtesy of Dr. Greg Sohrweide.