

PAC Newsletter

Fall 2015

Vol. 28

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by: Beverly Chiarulli, President

Pennsylvania Archaeological Council

This is the first of our new Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC) newsletter. We plan to send out digital copies in summer and winter. While topics are still in the planning stage, we anticipate that the winter issue will contain updates from CRM firms, universities, PennDOT, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), a list of field school opportunities, abstracts for the PAC symposium, and an additional call for contributions for the poster. The summer issue will contain information archaeology month and other items possibly profiles of members or projects. If you have suggestions or content please contact me (bev@chiarulli.net) or one of the other new officers and board members: Seth Mitchell (Vice President, Seth.Mitchell@nv5.com), Lisa Dugas (Secretary/Treasurer, secretary.treasurer@pennarchcouncil.org), and Bernard Means (Means bkmeans@juno.com) and Cathy Spohn (CSPOHN@pa.gov), Board Members.

Archaeology Month Poster

I want to thank all the PAC members and firms or organizations who contributed to the poster either at the \$300 level for recognition on the poster or as individual contributors. Contributors to the 2015 poster are Skelly and Loy, Inc. Heberling Associates, Inc., Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc., Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, Navarro and Wright Consulting Engineers, Inc., and A.D. Marble and Company.

I know that the PAC members don't always received mailed copies of the poster. They are generally distributed through the local Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) Chapters. This year, Gary will send each member a poster in a tube so it will not be creased. If you are planning an archaeology month program and need additional posters, Amanda Valko has offered to make some available from the supply she receives from the SPA. If you want additional posters, please contact her.

As a reminder, although the SPA will design the poster for 2016, we still conduct most of the fund raising, so if you want to discuss a contribution with your firm, now is the time to begin. All contributions are welcome (and all are considered charitable contributions).

PAC Website and Facebook Page

One initiative we have been working on has been a transition for our PAC website. For many years, it was housed at IUP and managed by Pat Miller who did a great job. However, it was time to move the site to a new server and Roger Moeller has taken over the role as webmaster. The new site has the same address as the old one, <http://pennarchcouncil.org/index.htm>, so take a look. We also have a Facebook page, managed by Jonathan Burns, at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaArchaeologicalCouncil.

Fall Meeting

The Fall PAC meeting will be on November 13 in Harrisburg at the State Museum in a room to be determined. That is the day before the State Museum workshops, so I encourage you to consider attending those as well. As usual, the meeting will be from 10AM to 12 noon.

Following the meeting, Janet Johnson will conduct a tour of the State Museum Curation facility in the basement of the in the Commonwealth Keystone Building from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. If you haven't seen it, you should take this opportunity. It is a great facility.

Membership Information

One major focus of PAC will be to increase our membership. One way to do this is to encourage new archaeologists to join. Another is for members who have let their membership lapse to rejoin. If you have colleagues who have been members in the past please encourage them to renew their membership.

The fee for membership in the PAC is \$35.00 per year. To apply for membership, please forward a current resume or curriculum vita to Seth Mitchell, PAC Membership Chair and Ethics Committee, at seth.mitchell@nv5.com.

As a reminder, here are the current membership requirements from the 2009 constitution revision. We currently have about 55 members. I would hope that we could grow to well over 100 members in the next couple of years.

Any person shall be considered for membership in the Council who satisfies the following requirements:

- A. A graduate degree in anthropology, archaeology, or a closely related field; or a Bachelor's degree in anthropology, archaeology, or a closely-related field, and two years of professional experience in a research, supervisory, educational, or administrative capacity.

- B. A professional interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. This interest must be documented by the applicant and should clearly demonstrate how the applicant's professional activity has contributed, or may contribute, to the advancement of Pennsylvania's prehistoric or historical archaeology. This documentation may include:

1. Authorship of professional archaeological publications.
2. Authorship of archaeological papers presented at professional or professional/avocational meetings.
3. Authorship of archaeological contract or grant reports.
4. Development or implementation of archaeological educational or interpretative programs.
5. Administration or supervision of archaeological programs or projects.

C. Applicants shall be admitted to membership upon the positive recommendation of the Membership and Ethics Committee and a positive vote of a majority of the Executive Board. The Membership and Ethics Committee shall establish a schedule for the membership application process such that candidates are admitted in a timely manner after their applications are received.

D. All members of the PAC must also be members of the SPA.

News from the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Section of Archaeology

*Submitted by: Kurt Carr, Senior Curator of Archaeology
State Museum of Pennsylvania*

The following is a summary of the activities of the Section of Archaeology at the State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Collections Management and Gallery Updates

Our primary focus is managing the archaeological collections of the Commonwealth and especially the processing of in-coming collections so that they are properly preserved, documented and easily accessible to the public and professional community. This responsibility is becoming more critical since our collections area will be full within 3 to 5 years. There are some short term measures that can be taken such as moving collections from shelves (which are limited) to drawers where we currently have an excess. We have support from our management so we are optimistic that alternative space will be available within the State Museum/Archives complex. In the meantime, we are working on getting our backlog of incoming collections audited and accessioned. As part of this effort, we are also working on merging the databases that document these collections. Our goal is to develop a searchable database for all of the artifact inventories covering all of the collections, especially those generated since the requirement to submit electronic inventories began in 1999.

A second priority this summer was to develop a detailed proposal for the upgrade of the main

gallery on the second floor of the museum. The mannequins in the Delaware Village are dated, some were brought over from the old museum and many scare our younger visitors. The goal is to replace these with life-cast mannequins. In addition, currently, the story line in the Delaware village focuses on the life of a pre-contact Delaware male. Delaware culture is a matrilineal society, and thus we are proposing to change this exhibit to focus on a female.

The introduction to the gallery focuses on excavations and is another section of the gallery that needs updating. We are working on a learning rail and touchable artifacts for the public to aid in the interpretation of this area. As we progress with these efforts, we will be seeking input from the PAC on how best to develop exhibits that will both excite and inspire the public on the archaeology and history of changing Native American lifeway's in Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, these updates are being interrupted by a failure in our existing lighting system in the Delaware Village area. Although the system is not very old, it is failing, and the broken components cannot be replaced. In addition, the current lighting design does not really enhance the exhibit, it simply provides light. We are recommending that a professional lighting survey be conducted for the entire galley and a new system be purchased that highlights important artifacts and exhibit cases. This will require considerable time and funding and likely impact the scheduling of other updates.

Fort Hunter Excavations

This September, we returned to Fort Hunter. Although our focus has been on the French and Indian War occupation, last year we encountered several features around the icehouse that required investigation. One is a circular foundation approximately 12 feet in diameter. It is an interesting feature, possibly dating to the 18th century but probably post fort in age. Over the past several months, a considerable amount of document research has been conducted to gain a better picture of the fortifications. Other than vague references to a surrounding ditch and stockade, we have gained little new information on the fort but we have learned more about the late 18th and early 19th century McAllister occupation. Although there was little historic documentation, excavations from this September recovered trade beads that indicated Mr. Hunter was trading with Native Americans in the Early 18th century.

Publications

The Section has been working on two major publications; one a popular book titled *First Pennsylvanians: The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania*. This book was published in July and is currently available for purchase from the University of Penn State Press or the State Museum Gift Shop. The second book is a more technical treatment of Native American archaeology divided into 18 chapters involving 20 authors. Currently we are responding to the comments from an outside reviewer and hope to have this completed by the end of November.

Annual Workshops in Archaeology

Our annual Workshops in Archaeology program will be held on Saturday, November 14th. This year's title is *Weed Seeds to Garden Seeds: The Archaeology of Plant Foods and Farming in*

the Keystone State. Presentations by specialists in their respective fields of research will include archaeology, paleoethnobotany and plant genetics. The subjects will include the domestication of plant foods beginning with the Eastern Agricultural Complex through to the evolution and dissemination of the “Three Sisters Crops” - corn, beans and squash and the social and economic roles each played in subsistence patterns of the region. Prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites in the Ohio, Susquehanna, Delaware and Potomac drainages will be highlighted to illustrate these changes with emphasis placed on the Late Woodland/Late Prehistoric periods followed by a general perspective on modern farming and future food production into the 21st century. Featured speakers include Dee Ann Wymer, Mark McConaughy, Christina Rieth, R. Michael Stewart, Justine McKnight, and Ken Basalik.

Student Internship Program

Finally, the Section of Archaeology has an active student intern program and we usually have at least one student from a local college per semester. In the past, they have frequently helped process collections donated by amateur archaeologists. These projects served as a learning experience, exposing them to the gambit of curatorial responsibilities. Over the past year, the intern projects have focused on our “old collections” of generally un-provenienced (not site specific) artifacts such as projectile points and bannerstones. During the spring and summer semesters of 2015, Tam Eichelberger and Naomi Ulmer have conducted a metric analysis of our grooved axe collection. Needless to say, now that we have all 786 specimens laid out on shelves, we are impressed with the incredible variety of sizes and shapes of full grooved, $\frac{3}{4}$ grooved and diagonal grooved axes. This project will document the variation in axes and we should be able to develop a general model for their manufacture and life history. We are especially intrigued with the diagonal grooved axes and there is some interest in making our own and conducting some experiments to investigate the advantages of the diagonal groove as opposed to the perpendicular groove for hafting.

If you have students that are interested in curation or artifact focused research, please contact State Museum of Pennsylvania, Section of Archaeology concerning an internship or research opportunities.

2015 PAC Symposium on Industrial Archaeology – An Update

Submitted by: Gary Coppock, Archaeologist/Principal Investigator Skelly and Loy, Inc.

Versions of the papers presented at last April’s PAC symposium on industrial archaeology will be published in as a Pennsylvania-themed, double issue of “IA, The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology” that is anticipated in the summer of 2016. The issue will include seven papers from the symposium, and possibly one or two others that had previously been submitted to the journal editor.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

2015 James W. Hatch Scholarships

The PAC, in cooperation with the SPA, will again award scholarships to enable students of archaeology to attend the joint annual SPA/PAC meeting, April 10-12, 2015, in Fogelsville (Allentown), Pennsylvania. We anticipate that at least two such awards of \$100 apiece will be made. We encourage all current college or high school students with a demonstrated interest in Pennsylvania archaeology and the activities of the SPA to apply, although preference will be given to students planning to present papers at the meeting. Applications, in the form of a brief letter of interest explaining the student's background and qualifications for the award, should be sent by mail or e-mail by **March 31, 2016** to **Paul Raber** at:

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PO Box 376
Alexandria, PA, 16611
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PAC HOUSEKEEPING

Please make sure the PAC has your current e-mail address and telephone number so that we may distribute information as quickly as possible. Please send updates to Membership@pennarchcouncil.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE

*Submitted by: Lisa M. Dugas, Newsletter Editor
PAC Secretary/Treasurer*

The PAC Newsletter excited to bring the newsletter back to your inboxes! We are currently pulling together information for the upcoming winter 2016 edition of the PAC newsletter, and we would like you help!

Please feel free to submit updates from PennDOT, PHMC, US Army Corps of Engineers, the MAP project, PA Department of Environmental Protection, etc. Additionally, if you, your university or your firm would like to share a short update about on-going research or future, please send it along. Feel free to include photographs and illustrations with your submittal for use in the newsletter.

Please send your updates to Lisa Dugas at secretary.treasurer@pennarchcouncil.org. Future topics for the newsletter include:

- Messages from the President/Board
- Government Affairs
- Industry
- Education
- Research
- Public Events
- Membership
- Call For Submittals/Papers

My heartfelt thanks to all of the PAC members who contributed to this newsletter. I greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and taking the time out of your schedules to update us on the many interesting things happening in the Pennsylvania archaeology community.

Many thanks,

Lisa Dugas, Editor

