

PAC Newsletter

Spring 2025

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PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PAC members,

(My apologies for not talking about all of the different orders and initiatives from the current Administration that give me heartburn, such as climate policy, environmental policy, foreign policy, domestic policy, tax policy, Ukraine, USAID, Israel, DOJ, LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, human rights, DOGE, general chaos, etc., etc. I need to focus. Written March 12, 2025)

Let me open this post as clearly as I can. There is no Republican science. There is no Democratic science. There is no Republican history. There is no Democratic history. There is science. There is history.* Science and history have been weighing on my mind lately for two reasons. First, archaeology could be framed as history told through scientific methods and techniques. We rely on both. Secondly, the current Administration appears to be waging war on both science and history. In the national scheme of things, we are a flyspeck, an afterthought, a trifle. But I find it inescapable that the current Administration is waging war on us, whether they know it or not.

**Now this may be easily misconstrued. History is after all written by the victors and there is history of Republicans and history of Democrats. Still, one history doesn't blot out another one. And any single history from a single perspective simply fails to tell the full story.*

The anti-scientific position of the current Administration is documented in who they are selecting to lead the important national scientific and educational institutions (Kennedy, Jr. for HHS, McMahon for Education, etc.), severe and arbitrary cuts in indirect cost reimbursements for research, staffing cuts at Federal scientific agencies (with a particular vengeance toward climate science), and even word censorship that permeates national policy. The anti-history position is commensurate. And by anti-history, I mean anti any history other than white (usually male) protestant history, something more in favor a century ago. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has been gutted. One anecdote summarizes DOGE's Ministry of Truth's approach toward history. In the Pentagon's purge of DEI-related materials from its memory banks,

[photos of military firsts for women, Blacks, and Hispanics were scrubbed](#). And of course, the LGBTQ icon of WWII, the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the “Enola Gay.”



Under the guise of pushing back on DEI, I believe the current Administration’s goal is to erase the past, at least the past not in synch with its politics. Erase it to be able rewrite it to suit their needs and advance a particular political agenda. Our job is to tell the past and expand on the telling, not erase it.

I could go on, but we don’t have time. Think for a moment on what the archaeological economy is built: academia, museums, and CRM. Universities are already under attack for supposedly allowing antisemitic activities and DEI on campus. Columbia is just the first and most prominent. Understand that none of this has to do with actual antisemitism or diversity, equity, or inclusion policies or activities, and everything to with forcing universities to bow to the Administration’s power and Project 2025 goals. What does that have to do with us? Check down some of the [terms that are being scrubbed from national databases](#): anti-racism, cultural competence, cultural differences, cultural heritage, cultural sensitivity, culturally appropriate, historically, identity, indigenous community, intersectionality, multi-cultural, native American, race and ethnicity, sociocultural, socioeconomic, tribal, etc.

Will our professional communication amongst each other be reduced to grunts and hand signals? And as universities feel the pinch from dried-up federal funding and pressure to give fealty to the current Administration, Departments like Anthropology will be even more at risk than they were a year ago. The same holds for Museums.

CRM has proven to be the backstop of archaeological employment for nearly 50 years. Many good archaeologists, some who I know personally, have been fired from Federal government agencies for no cause other than being probationary. At the current pace, many others will be on the chopping block. The bigger threat will be the gutting of NEPA and Section 106, which governmentally can be done in ways other than Federal staffing reductions and changes to the law. CEQ regulations, which used to regulate NEPA are now just guidance. Large parts of 36CFR800 are not spelled out specifically in the National Historic Preservation Act, but have evolved and been adopted over the last 40 years. That and \$3.50 will now get you a cup of coffee. Two years ago, Terry Klein and Jeff Altschul declared an impending staffing shortfall in CRM. Two years later, I guess we can thank the President for solving that problem, not by adding trained archaeologists, but eliminating jobs.

What do we do? In full confession, there have been days in the last 4 months where I just want to doomscroll, or curl up with a good scotch and binge-watch Ken Burns documentaries (Huey Long is still the gold standard and still relevant). That is not very helpful. So let me propose a few things:

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1. **Stay informed.** As painful as it may be, the political and economic environment is rapidly changing, almost day to day. At the very least, be informed of changes to the Advisory Council, NEPA, Section 106, and any Federal Agency that you may work with. Lately, I have found that Linked-In has more information, especially through Allyson Brooks; Marion Werkheiser, Ellen Chapman and Cultural Heritage Partners PLLC; the SAA newsletters and e-mails. Find reliable news sources that covers science and culture and follow them.
 2. **Stay engaged.** Whatever level of action you might have undertaken, please continue. If protesting in the streets is your thing, great. If letter writing is more to your tastes, write. But there are two things we all could and should be doing. First, find out who your congressional representatives are in the House. Your Pennsylvania senators are John Fetterman and David McCormick. Let them all know how you feel on specific executive orders that may be illegal under Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, and proposed legislation. Tell them the importance of both science and history and by extension, archaeology. Secondly, talk to your friends and acquaintances, especially the ones that aren't archaeologists. Make the case for why what you do is important and then ask them to write their representatives and tell their friends.
 3. **Stay defiant and stay positive.** The current Administration wants you to submit to the new status quo as quickly as possible. You can choose to not submit, but to do so you need hope and a vision for a better future (another definition of hope). Don't give up. Perhaps the best perspective from Elie Wiesel, "The greatest evil in the world is not anger or hatred, but indifference."

This is my last post as president. I can assure you I would never have guessed it would be this one when I started six years ago. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served PAC in this capacity. To be clear, my reason for stepping down had nothing to do with the work or the organization. Actually, it had everything to do with the organization. I believe strongly that no leadership can stay and be effective indefinitely. It hurts the organization in the long run. Fresh eyeballs, fresh thinking is what keeps an organization like PAC moving forward. So I hope you all give Jonathan your full help and support. And I will continue to support PAC in any way I can.

Ira Beckerman

PAC UPDATES

Consulting Party Committee

Lisa Dugas, Big Pine Consultants LLC

The PAC Consulting Party Committee (PCPC) has four (4) members. Current members include Ira Beckerman, PhD, RPA; Lisa Dugas, MA, RPA; Chris Kula, MA, RPA; and Mark Durante, RPA. If you have questions about the committee or want to volunteer, please contact Ira Beckerman or Lisa Dugas.

PAC participates as a consulting party in the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1969, as amended. The CPC collaborates with state and federal agencies including Pennsylvania (PA) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA). PAC also works together with cultural resource management firms, Native American Tribes, and other consulting parties to develop agreement documents such as Memorandums of Agreement (MOA), Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), and Programmatic Agreements (PA).

Lemoyne Connection Track Project, Michael Baker International (MBI): Following the project's mitigation agreement, the PAC has provided comments supporting the design of the public interpretation kiosk inspired by the historical railroad signal tower at Lemoyne Junction. The themes and content for the panels are yet to be finalized. Once established, MBI will create the relevant text and graphics. The panels will be made from a durable material, intended to be semi-permanent.

SR 0228 Sec 270 Balls Bend Project, James Harbison site (36BT0505), Heberling Associates, Inc. (HAI): PAC is a consulting party for the PennDOT SR 0228 Sec 270 Balls Bend project in Butler County. We reviewed and commented on the draft StoryMap, Archaeology at the James Harbison Farmstead Site, designed by HAI. HAI created an engaging and informative interactive experience, highlighting the site's rich history and extensive archaeological work. Once the StoryMap is finished, a link will be posted on the PennDOT CRM [Stories and Highlights](#) page.

Membership

Jonathan Libbon, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Welcome to Our New Members!

The PAC is thrilled to welcome **Emily Briggs** and **Katherine Thorwart** as our newest members! Their expertise and passion for archaeology will undoubtedly enrich our community and contribute to the important work we do to preserve and promote Pennsylvania's archaeological heritage.

PAC thrives on the collective knowledge, collaboration, and shared enthusiasm of its members. That's why we encourage you to reach out to your coworkers, colleagues, and fellow archaeologists to join our

growing membership. By expanding our network, we can amplify our impact, foster new opportunities for collaboration, and continue advocating for archaeology across the state. Membership in PAC offers access to a vibrant community of professionals, opportunities for professional growth, and the chance to contribute to meaningful initiatives that protect Pennsylvania's cultural resources. If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage them to visit our website or reach out to us directly for more information about joining PAC. Together, we can continue to build a strong community dedicated to advancing archaeology in Pennsylvania.

Welcome again to Emily and Katherine—we're excited to have you on board!

AGENCY UPDATES

PHMC – PA SHPO

Justin McKeel

A lot of change in 2025 and we're not even 3 months in.

Staff Updates: Casey Hanson left the PA SHPO in January and Taylor Napoleon's last day was March 20. It is hard to see them both go, but we're really grateful for the impact they had here at the PA SHPO. Good luck out there, Casey and Taylor!

I was promoted to Environmental Review Archaeology Supervisor earlier this month. With that, we are looking forward to being able to backfill my reviewer position and the PASS Coordinator position. Keep an eye out for these positions to be posted soon.

Some other staff updates for the Environmental Review Division: Babara Frederick was promoted to ER Division Manager last year and Liz Williams was hired as an above ground reviewer. Liz comes to PA SHPO with a ton of experience from various CRM firms, which also gives her a good understanding of archaeology too.

PA-SHARE Updates: We continue to roll out PA-SHARE 2.0 and Sara did a better job summarizing the changes than I ever could. You can read that here: <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/another-round-share-2-0-updates/>

PASS Updates: PA SHPO recently published the [annual PASS report](#) detailing site recording and survey efforts undertaken by the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) program in 2024. In total, 260 new archaeological sites were added to the PASS files, bringing the statewide total to 27,269 recorded sites.

Most new sites were recorded through environmental review projects; however, there was an increase in site recording from SPA members too.

Legislative Updates: Last year PA SHPO and the Department of General Services signed a MOU for consultation under the State History Code. We also recently finalized a policy document for consultation within our own agency for projects on PHMC sites that fall under the SHC. We continue to work with DEP on revising policy for DEP-permitted projects that fall under the SHC for review.

On the federal level, we provided our comments to the ACHP on a number of proposed program alternatives in 2024. In December we also provided our comments to the Department of the Interior on the proposed Emergency Procedures for Orphaned Well Undertakings. The Department of the Interior has delegated Section 106 responsibilities to the DEP for these projects.

The proposed emergency procedures for orphaned wells are separate from the January 20, 2025 Executive Order [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#). We have started having conversations related to this executive order with some federal agencies. ACHP has also answered some questions on their website, which you can read at this link: https://www.achp.gov/Section_106_and_Energy_Emergency.

Lots of other stuff happening at SHPO – feel free to reach out to me anytime or catch up with us at the SPA meeting this spring.

PHMC – State Museum

Kimberly Sebestyen

Archaeology Month at the State Museum of Pennsylvania

In 2024, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Section of Archaeology held virtual *Learn at Lunchtime* presentations on each of the four Fridays in October. We hope that you were able to log in and watch one or more of these presentations. Speakers included Ron Fuchs II, editor of *Ceramics in America*; Dr. Jonathan Burns, Director of the Cultural Resource Institute at Juniata College; State Museum of Pennsylvania curator Melanie Mayhew; and Paul Nasca, Historic Site Manager at Lorenzo State Historic Site in Cazenovia, New York.



On October 4, Ron Fuchs delighted our audiences with “*The Nation’s Guest and Our Country’s Glory*”: *Lafayette on Ceramics from Philadelphia*. Mr. Fuchs’s presentation examined ceramic pieces excavated from archaeological sites in Philadelphia that depicted aspects of the 1824 tour of the United States by the Marquis de Lafayette. Many

of the pieces examined by Mr. Fuchs are housed at the State Museum of Pennsylvania.

On October 11, Dr. Jonathan Burns joined us for a review of the preservation program at Juniata College. In his presentation, *Training the Next Generation of Preservationists by Processing Colonial Artifact Collections*, Dr. Burns described how the collections recovered from archaeological sites excavated by students at Juniata College field schools are used as instructional tools. Students gain proficiency in identifying and classifying artifacts, creating and maintaining databases, and conducting comparative analyses of sites, gaining skills that will prepare them for future work in the preservation field.

On October 18, State Museum curator Melanie Mayhew presented *Where There’s a Weir, There’s a Way: Stone Fish Weirs in Pennsylvania’s Waterways*. In her presentation, Ms. Mayhew described some of the over 350 stone fishing weirs that have been identified in Pennsylvania’s waterways and explained the role they played in the fishing industry prior to 20th century hydroelectric dam construction. Additionally, she shared her ongoing efforts to identify these weirs using remote imagery and historic documentation.

Our final speaker on October 25 was former Senior Curator of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Paul Nasca. In his presentation, *Keystone Collections: Curating Pennsylvania’s Ceramic Past*, Mr. Nasca utilized the collections of the State Museum to showcase outstanding examples of ceramics recovered from archaeological sites throughout Pennsylvania and to discuss the potential for ceramic research, study, and multi-disciplinary



collaboration.

If you missed any of these presentations, you can view them on [YouTube](#). Stay tuned for information on the 2025 *Learn at Lunch* program and other activities at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in the coming year.

NAGPRA Inventory

The Section of Archaeology at the State Museum of Pennsylvania is actively working to comply with revised regulations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Under NAGPRA, facilities such as the State Museum are required to identify and report Native American remains, funerary objects, and other cultural items in their care. The Section of Archaeology is currently completing the first phase of this process and will continue to consult with Native American Tribes and Nations in 2025 to ensure compliance.

Given the sensitivity and priority of this work, the Section of Archeology will be unable to accommodate research requests involving collections that contain Native American objects for the foreseeable future. This measure ensures the respectful handling of cultural items in alignment with the spirit of NAGPRA. We ask for your patience and understanding in this matter.

State Museum Curator Presents at Meadowcroft Rockshelter Archaeology Workshops

State Museum of Pennsylvania curator David Burke presented at the Eighth Annual Workshop in Archaeology held on October 19, 2024, at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. Dave, who has worked as a curator in the Section of Archaeology since 2012, joined a panel of historic preservation specialists and museum curators to discuss best practices for curating collections. In his presentation, Dave discussed guidelines and tips for *Curating Archaeological Collections at the State Museum of Pennsylvania*.

PHAST

Susanne Haney

The Pennsylvania Highway Archaeological Survey Team (PHAST) has been tying up loose ends from this summer's projects, as well as preparing artifact collections for curation from previous PHAST projects. Three STI PennDOT intern candidates have been chosen to make up the 2025 crew, and they are currently undergoing background checks. Onboarding of the crew is expected to take place in mid-to-late May. Elena Vories' stint as field director will officially be coming to an end, but she will stay on part time this summer to finalize work needed for submitting collections for curation. I'm currently in the process of identifying the next field director who will be leading the crew for the 2025 and 2026 seasons.

To follow up on a project that was reported on in the fall newsletter, additional studies took place at the SR 2005 Sec 154 Pyra Road Bridge project in Armstrong County. The bridge is situated at or near the former location of a circa 1861 grist mill and sawmill built by James Edward Graham. Archaeological evidence of the sawmill was expected to be long gone or vague at best. Although the 1861 map showed both a grist mill and sawmill, the 1876 map only mapped and called out a grist mill. Of the two structures, the grist mill was expected to have survived longer. PHAST conducted Phase I survey for the project in June 2024, but subsequent to the survey the APE was revised, triggering the need for additional assessment. A geophysical study consisting of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey, conductivity survey, and magnetometer survey was completed this past fall by Dr. Frank Vento. The survey identified limits of cuts to modify Cherry Run's location in 1938, some subsurface utilities, a 1960s garage footprint, the mill footprint, as well as other potential features associated with the mill including a brick chimney and boiler.

The 1938 *Pennsylvania Department of Highway* plans for construction of the current bridge showed that the original road/bridge alignment was immediately downstream from the current bridge. A one-story frame mill measuring approximately 7 m² (25 ft²) was in the bridge's southeast quadrant. Approximately 3.3 m (11 ft) northwest of the mill was a stand-alone 2 m² (7 ft²) brick chimney. A mill pond was shown on the 1861 and 1876 maps, but it was obvious that at some point the mill(s) had been converted from waterpower to steam power. A standalone brick chimney of that size suggests the boiler was quite large and had powered more than just a sawmill. The obituary of James Patton Graham (1856-1942), who was James Edward's son, noted that he had farmed and operated the Graham grist mill for many years (The Indiana Democrat, 1942; Find a Grave, 2010). In fact, the headstone for James

Patton and his wife, Mary, is the mill stone. Based in this information, the assumption was that that the frame structure mapped on the *Department of Highways* plan was probably a small grist mill.

During the Phase I survey, I had asked Diann (Graham) O'Masta, the current landowner and resident of the brick house that her great, great grandfather James Edward built, if she had any old photographs of structures on the property. She said she was not aware of any but would check into it. When we returned for the geophysical survey, Diann provided two photographs of what she referred to as the "grist mill," one taken around 1939, and one taken around 1945. What we saw in the photographs changed our assumptions and initial Phase I interpretations. The 1939 photograph was taken from the current bridge during or shortly after the bridge's construction (Figure 1). Cuts to move and straighten Cherry Run as part of the bridge project are clearly visible in the lower right and center. The brick chimney is separated from the mill building by several feet as mapped on the *Department of Highways* plan. The one-story frame mill had vertical plank siding and was built on stone piers rather than on a full foundation. The southern elevation, which was on the upslope side of the hill and faced the residence, was level with the ground. The northern elevation, which was downslope and faced the stream, was approximately seven to eight feet above the ground surface. There were two windows on the northern gable end, which are offset to the east side of the structure. The mid-to-late 1940s photo is of a Graham family function taken from near an early 20th century two-story frame residence on the opposite side of the road. The mill and brick chimney appear in the background (Figure 2). The east side of the frame structure had two windows, the southern gable end had



Figure 1. A circa 1939 photograph of the mill as seen from the then recently constructed bridge facing south-southeast. Note the stone pier foundation for the mill, substantial brick chimney, and cuts along the stream bank to re-channel Cherry Run. The Graham residence appears in the background and is still standing today.



Figure 2. A circa 1945-49 photograph showing the mill and brick chimney in the background. This was taken from near the early 20th century house across the road. Note the small chimney in the center of the mill.

two large openings and a small window or opening near the roof. In the center of the structure was a small brick chimney. Based on this new information, concluded that the structure that had stood into the early-to-mid 1950s was more likely the sawmill. Additionally, a sandstone feature identified during the Phase I survey in STP B2, which had initially been interpreted to be a partially intact section of the mill foundation, was almost certainly a corner pier and likely *in situ* (Figure 3).

The historic photos and combined results of geophysical and Phase I studies aided in reconstructing what took place historically in and near the APE, and successfully identify and avoid areas of archaeological concern. Intact portions of the site within the revised APE that could contribute to its overall eligibility are almost exclusively confined to Temporary Construction Easements. Soils in these areas will be left intact and protected during construction using geotextile and fill. Temporary construction fencing will be placed along the revised APE boundary to protect intact portions of the site that extend beyond the APE. Consequently, impacts to the site will occur in previously disturbed locations. The PHAST crew was delighted to have the opportunity to work on this interesting project.

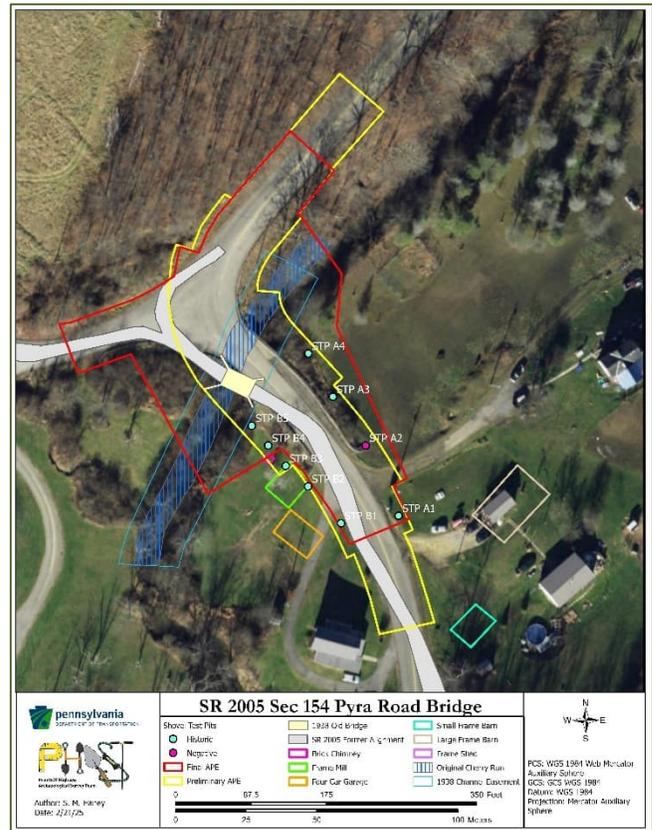


Figure 3. Compilation of structures present in and near the preliminary and revised APE as well as STP locations as shown on the 2018 PEMA imagery. Note STP B2 is at the corner of the former mill. The structure in the center right margin of the map is the 20th century residence referenced in Figure 2.

References:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Highways
1938 *Drawings for Condemnation of Right of Way, Route No. 03058 Section --- in Armstrong County.*

Find a Grave

2011 Database and images memorial page for James Patton Graham (25 August 1856-3 June 1942). Find a Grave Memorial ID 49828033. Available online at:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49828033/james_patton-graham

The Indiana Democrat

1942 *James P. Graham Obituary.* Thursday June 4, 1942. Available online at Newspapers.com: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/994675830/>

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference - Student Scholarship Fund

The MAAC Executive Board has established the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference Student Scholarship Fund whose purpose is to raise and invest monies to support a consistent number of student attendees each year. Since the original resolution the scope has been expanded to include other student activities such as career building, student research and educational opportunities such as field schools.

MAAC has a very long history of encouraging student attendance and participation at the annual meeting. From the beginning, archaeology faculty and principal investigators who regularly attended MAAC encouraged their students and workers to attend. When these people rose through the ranks and had their own students and employees, they followed the same example.

Mere verbal encouragement is nice, but these relationships gradually expanded into personal mentoring in preparing presentations and financial support for attending meetings. Attendees become presenters who then assumed positions on the MAAC board to perpetuate the traditions.

For at least a decade, the Executive Board has provided financial support for students through the Annual Student Paper competition, named in honor of Dr. Michael Klein, by soliciting funds from MAAC members, contracting firms, and archaeological societies. In most years, we have been able to pay the registration and membership fees not only for all students in the competition, but for all student presenters. However, there have only been funds to support students in the current year, with little left over for the following year.

The MAAC Student Scholarship Fund will fill this gap by providing a regular funding stream.

Dr. Kurt Carr chairs the committee that oversees the fund. Please donate in any amount to continue the MAAC tradition of supporting student attendance.

Make checks payable to MAAC Student Scholarship Fund and send to:

Dr. Kurt W. Carr
503 Third Street
New Cumberland, Pa. 17070

PAC CRM Expo

Mark your calendars! The **CRM Expo** is happening on **Friday, April 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM** at the **SPA Meeting in DuBois, Pennsylvania**. This exciting event is **free to attend** and offers a fantastic opportunity to network, connect with fellow professionals, and engage with member companies about hiring opportunities.

Whether you're a seasoned professional, a new graduate, or a student exploring career paths in professional archaeology, this event is for you! Meet representatives from leading CRM firms, learn about current industry trends, and discover potential job opportunities—all in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We especially encourage **new professionals and students** to attend. This is your chance to make valuable connections, gain insights into the field, and take the next step in your career.

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your network and explore the many possibilities within professional archaeology in Pennsylvania. We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Compiled by Gary Coppock, Skelly and Loy, Inc., A Terracon Company

Organization	Location	Date	Web Address
PAC Spring Business Meeting	DuBois, PA	April 11, 2025	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
PAC Symposium – Roundtable on the Development of a PAC/SPA Archaeological Training Program	DuBois, PA	April 11, 2025	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
Society for American Archaeology (SAA)	Denver, CO	April 23–27, 2025	http://www.saa.org/
New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA)	Niagara Falls, NY	May 2-4, 2025	https://nysarchaeology.org
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA)	DuBois, PA	May 11-13, 2025	https://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com
Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA)	Buffalo, NY	May 29-31, 2024	https://www.sia-web.org/
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) Field Trip: A Taste of Ancestral Puebloan Archaeology	Albuquerque, NM (arrival & departure)	July 6-14, 2025	https://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com sraahneusius@gmail.com
Workshop in Archaeology @ Meadowcroft Rockshelter	Avella, PA	TBA	https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/event/archaeology-day/
Pennsylvania Historical Association (PHA)	Johnstown, PA	Oct. 9-11, 2025	https://pa-history.org/meeting/2025-annual-meeting/
PAC Fall Business Meeting	TBA	TBA	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
PAC Fall Program – TBA	TBA	TBA	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
PHMC Fall Workshop in Archaeology – <i>Topic TBA</i>	State Museum, Harrisburg	TBA	https://statemuseumpa.org/workshopsinarchaeology/
37 th Annual Jumonville French & Indian War Seminar	455 Jumonville Road, Hopwood PA	TBA	http://braddockroadpa.org/
Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF)	TBA	TBA	http://esaf-archeology.org/
Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA)	Conshohocken, PA	Nov. 6-, 202	https://cneha.org/
Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)	Detroit, MI	Jan 7-10, 2026	https://sha.org/

RESEARCH UPDATES

The Archaeology of Tourism at the Delaware Water Gap

Gary Coppock, Skelly and Loy, Inc., A Terracon Company

The SR 0611 Emergency Rock-Slope Mitigation Project is located within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), along the west bank of the Delaware River within Delaware Water Gap Borough, Monroe County, and Upper Mt. Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania (Figure 1). The goal of the project was to reopen a ca. 1.2-mi section of SR 0611 that has been closed to traffic for nearly two years due to rock fall from the adjacent steep rock face of Mt. Minsi (i.e., the northern end of Kittatinny Mountain). The signaled, one-lane portion of this highway established during this project will eventually be replaced with a permanent two-lane highway to be established on an as yet to be identified alignment during the upcoming SR 0611 Corridor Improvement Study. Three archaeological monitors were present during all earthmoving activities: a Secretary of the Interior-(SOI) qualified Terracon archaeologist, an National Park Service archaeologist, and a representative of the Delaware Tribe of Indians (DTI). The monitors examined all excavations for the presence of potentially intact soils and cultural features within the 3.5-km (2.2-mi) long Area of Potential Effects (APE) (Coppock et al. 2025).

Research determined that the Delaware Water Gap vicinity has been continuously occupied for approximately 12,000 years. By the late nineteenth century the Water Gap had become a popular tourist destination, the popularity of which increased in the early twentieth century with the advent of trolleys, automobiles, and improved roadways. The PA-SHARE database maintained by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) revealed that three previously recorded historic period archaeological sites occur adjacent to the APE (Childs Arbor [36MR0333], Cold Air Cave [36NM0395], and the DL&W Quarry and Rock Crusher [36MR0322]). Further research determined that a number of other tourist attractions and support facilities (hotels, gas stations, restaurants, etc.) existed along this section of SR 0611 prior to their removal during the establishment of the DEWA in 1965. In addition to these resources, the project APE is adjacent to one NRHP-eligible historic structure (a retaining wall [1996RE00228]), and occurs within or near four NRHP-eligible historic districts (the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad [DL&W; 2010RE02609]; the DL&W Line from Scranton to Slatford Junction [1991RE00780]; the Appalachian Trail [2008RE00385]; and the Delaware Water Gap Borough [1984RE01258]).

Two of the known archaeological sites, Childs Arbor (36MR0323) and Cold Air Cave (36NM0395), are former tourist attractions. Childs Arbor (36MR0323)

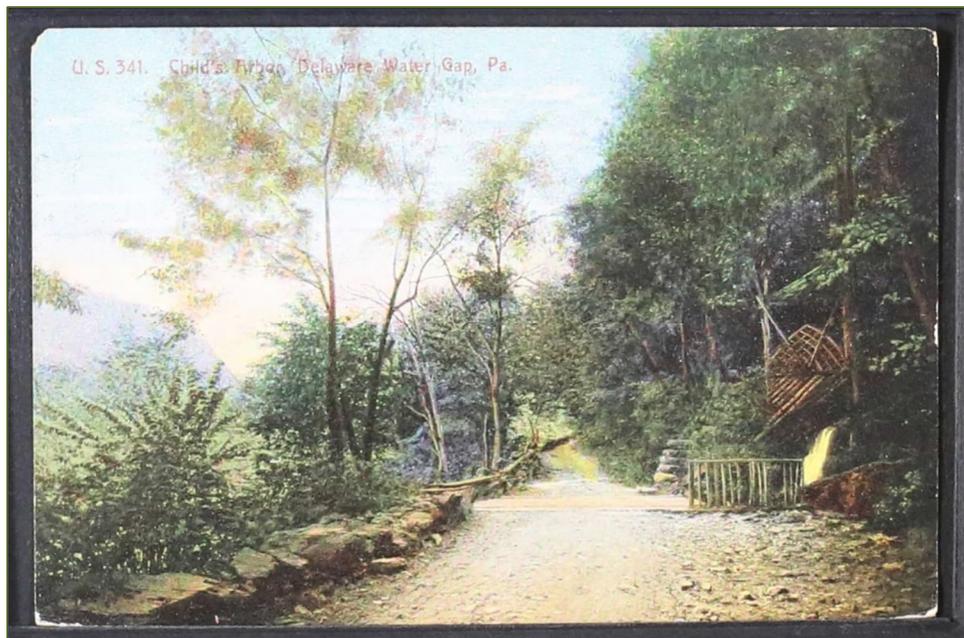


Figure 1. Childs Arbor in the late nineteenth century (Powerlibrary.org 2024).



Figure 2. Childs Arbor in the late nineteenth-century (HipPostcard.com 2024).



Figure 3. Childs Arbor in the 1920s. Note trolley and automobile (Mary L. Martin Vintage Postcards 2024).

formerly consisted of a network of trails, infrastructure, overlooks, and buildings that were constructed and modified from the mid-1800s until the early 1900s (Figures 1 and 2). About this location Joel Cook, in 1882, wrote: “Behind the railway is the prettiest rustic arbor in all this romantic region, that which Mr. Childs has put at the entrance to the Eureka Glen” (Cook 1882). By the 1930s the site had grown to include a restaurant called “Art’s Hot Dogs” (Figure 3). Cold Air Cave was also established as a tourist destination in the late nineteenth century, and by the 1930s included a restaurant and gas pumps (Figures 4 and 5). Ruins associated with both of these former tourist attractions were documented along the hillslope, a

short distance outside of the current APE.

As the previous figures illustrate, present-day SR 611 was modified through time. In the early twentieth century the earthen roadway was widened to the west to accommodate construction of the Mountain View Trolley, which operated from 1907-1928 (Figure 6). Postcards reveal that the decorative stone masonry visible along the extant retaining wall to the east of SR 611 had been applied to a previously existing concrete wall during the construction of the “Million Dollar Highway” in 1930, a 5.6 mi-long concrete highway built to facilitate tourism between Portland and Delaware Water Gap Borough (Figure 7).

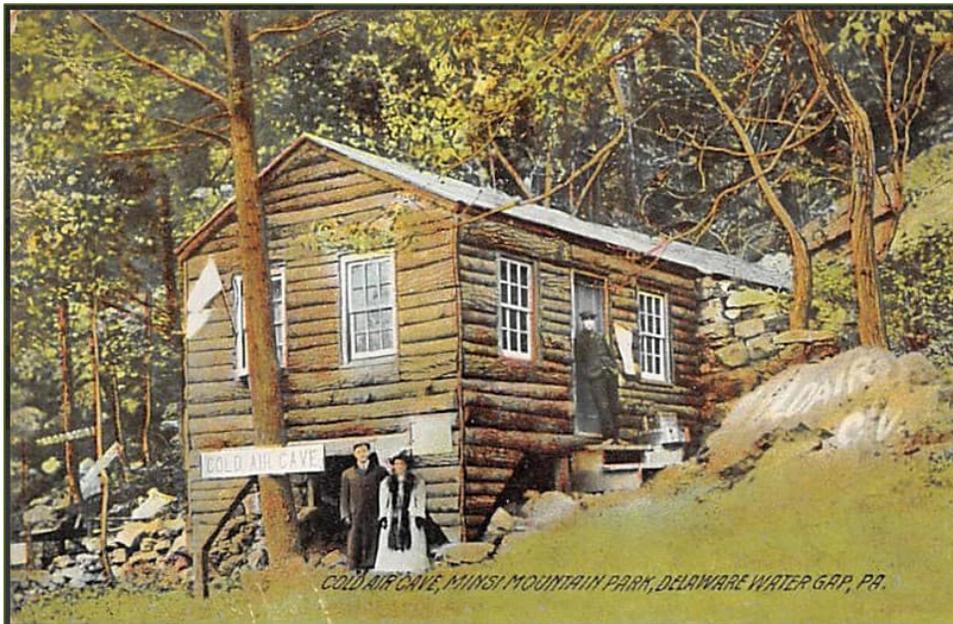


Figure 4. Cold Air Cave in late nineteenth century (Cowcard.com 2024).



Figure 5. Cold Air Cave in the 1920s (Koppenhaver 2024).

Although no archaeological sites were identified within the current APE, the research and nearby ruins provided interesting and unusual insights into archaeological resources related to tourism and industry that will require further evaluation if they occur within the APE for future work on the SR 0611 Corridor Improvement Study.

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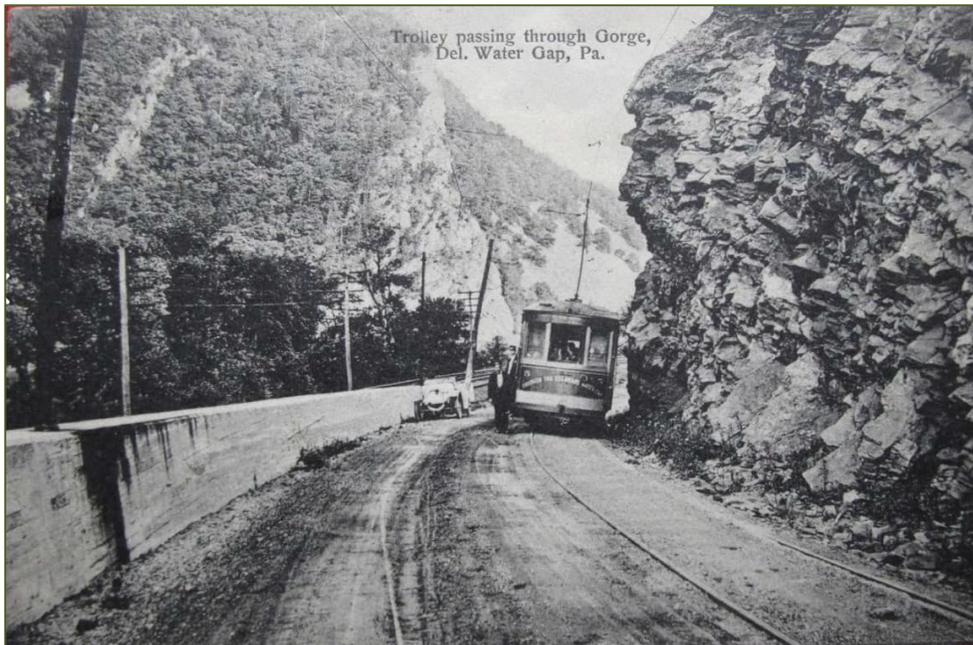


Figure 6. Mountain View Trolley 1903-1928 (PhillyTrolley.org)

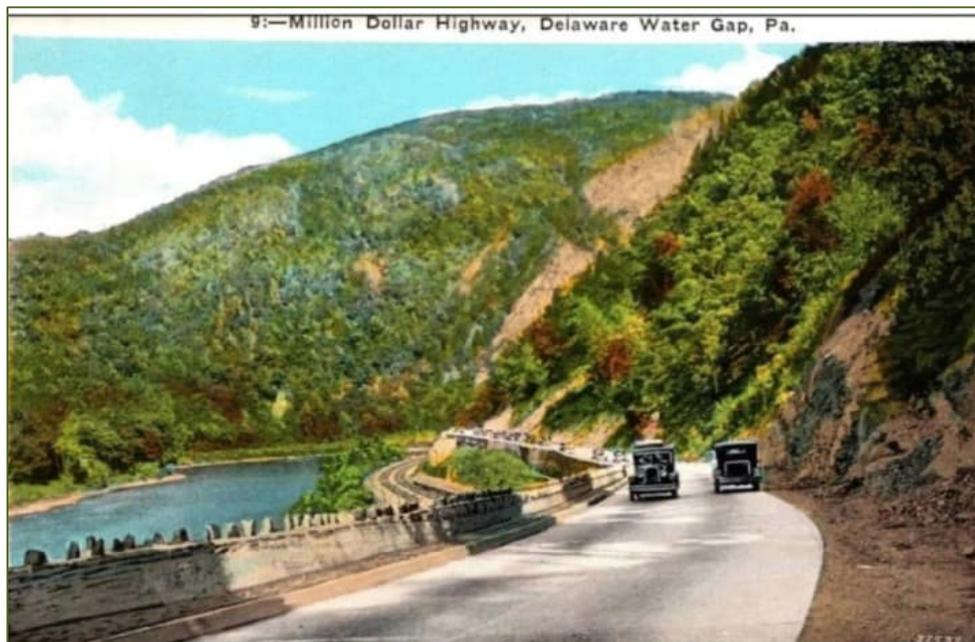


Figure 7. The Million Dollar Highway ca. 1930s (HipPostcard.com).

THE BACK PAGE

What'z It?

Kimberly Sebestyen, PHMC



This large ceramic vessel was recovered from an archaeological site on Arch Street in Philadelphia in the foundation of a brick structure believed to be a residence. If you guessed it is a toilet, you are correct!

Archaeologists discovered a maker's mark on the base of the toilet that allowed them to research its age and origin. This very ornate toilet was manufactured by the Trenton Potteries Company of Trenton, New Jersey, in 1902. This model is identified as a front washout style bowl design that would have likely used a pull chain attached to a wall-mounted water tank to flush. This type of toilet was normally reserved for the upper class at the turn of the century; however, the building it was recovered from was used as a boarding house in 1902.

To learn more about the excavations at Arch Street or about this type of toilet, please visit: <https://twipa.blogspot.com/2011/02/flushing-out-arch-street.html>.

PAC Newsletter, Spring 2025, Volume 37, No. 1

Compiled by: Gary Coppock, Skelly and Loy, Inc., A Terracon Company (gcoppock@skellyloy.com)

Design/Formatting by: Hannah Harvey, PennDOT

The PAC Newsletter is published twice a year to update members on PAC happenings, agency updates, announcements from firms and universities, and current research from around Pennsylvania.



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PAC Membership Requirements

Any person shall be considered for membership to the Council who satisfies the following requirements. Member categories and annual dues are described below:

Professional —

- 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.
- A professional interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. 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:
 - a. Authorship of professional or archaeological publications.
 - b. Authorship of archaeological papers presented at professional or professional/avocational meetings.
 - c. Authorship of archaeological contract or grant reports.
 - d. Development or implementation of archaeological educational or interpretive programs.
 - e. Administration or supervision of archaeological programs or projects.

Student —

- Enrollment in a graduate or undergraduate degree program in anthropology, archaeology or closely-related field.
- The applicant should have an interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. The applicant will submit a curriculum vita and proof of enrollment in a degree program. Student members will be voting members.
- Student dues are \$15/year.

Sustaining — Any active member may opt to become a sustaining member by paying \$50/year in dues.

Please Note: All members of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council must also be members of the [Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology](#).

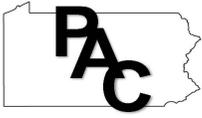
How to Apply

To apply for membership, please send a completed membership form and a CV or resume documenting that you meet PAC's membership requirements, as outlined in the constitution, to the Vice President:

Jonathan Libbon
SWCA Environmental Consultants
80 Emerson Lane, Suite 1306
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017
email: jlibbon@swca.com

The Membership and Ethics Committee will review new applications as they are received. Once your application has been approved by the Board, you will be contacted by the Secretary/Treasurer with a welcome message, including an invoice for dues—which must be paid in order to finalize your membership. New members will be announced at the PAC business meetings.

Payments received by July 1 will be applied to that calendar year. Payments received after July 1 will be applied to the next calendar year.



PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Member Information Form

- New Member
 Updating Information

Member Type:

- Professional (\$35)
 Student (\$15)
 Sustaining (\$50)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Preferred E-mail: _____

I am currently a member of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

- Yes
 No

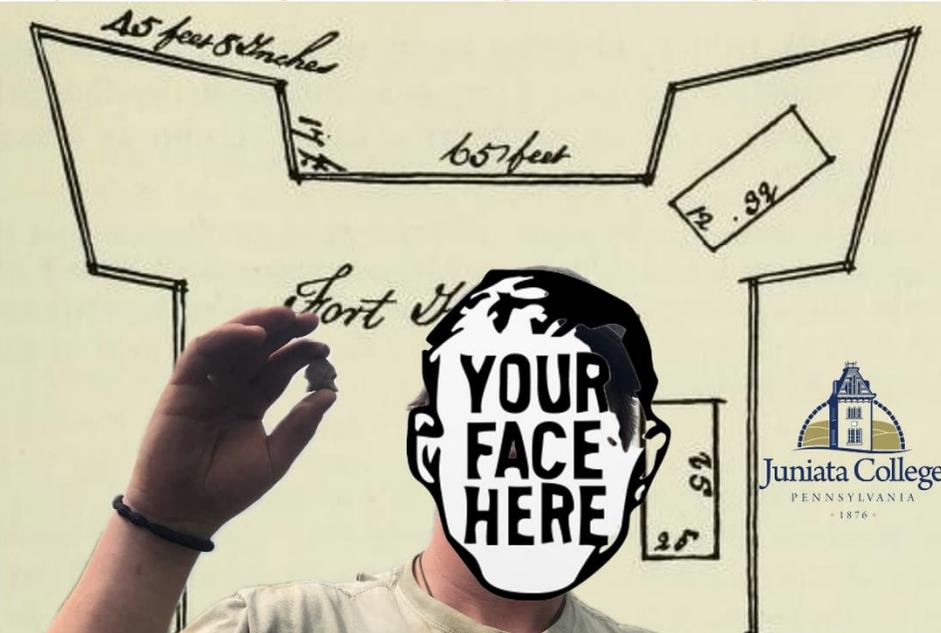
Please send dues via PayPal or send a check made out to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council to:

Pennsylvania Archaeological Council
c/o Amanda Zuckerman
PO Box 834
Jonestown, PA 17038

Reach out to PACSecretaryTreasurer@gmail.com with any questions.

Online Visiting Student Registration:

<https://services2.juniata.edu/registrar/forms/reg-form.html>



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**Apply Now!
Seats will fill
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**Juniata College Archaeology Field School
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Fort Halifax Park, Halifax, PA

May 27 - June 5, 2025





Announcing the 2025 SPA Field Trip: A Taste of Ancestral Puebloan Archaeology July 6-14, 2025

Details are not yet final, but this trip is taking shape. Registration forms, hotel information, and more details will be available on the SPA website as well as through SPA Chapters before April 1 and then at Annual Meeting. The SPA fee for this trip is \$425 for members and first guest (\$450 for nonmembers who are first guests). The SPA fee will take care of van rentals, lunches, and one dinner as well as any entrance, tour, and speaker fees. If you have NPS passes we request that you bring them to help reduce fees. Estimated hotel costs in the group blocks we have reserved for double occupancy for 8 nights is \$526.41(\$1052.82 for singles). You will need to make your own plane reservations to Albuquerque, New Mexico as well. You must be in Albuquerque for our 7 PM Orientation meeting on 7/6. We are working on visits to Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, Salmon Ruin, the Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center, Lowry Ruin, Castle Rock Pueblo, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, the Edge of the Cedars Museum and Park, Mesa Verde National Park, and Aztec Ruin in New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Currently we are hopeful that federal employee cuts will not affect our plans. We will strictly limit participation to 20 people. Please note that you do need to be in reasonable health to make this trip due to heat and other conditions on the sites we will be visiting.

Deadlines for signing up will be May 15. If you would like to be part of this field trip, please mark your calendars and request detailed information directly as it becomes available by emailing Sarah Neusius at sraahneusius@gmail.com .