

**The Society for Pennsylvania
Archaeology, Inc.
Spring 2008**

The 79th Annual Meeting is April 4-6, 2008. Please make your reservations with the enclosed form as soon as possible. This is your opportunity to take part in the business and decisions of the Society. The sessions are informative and thought provoking. The Awards banquet is the highlight of the event along with a great dinner speaker and the infamous auction benefiting the Elmer Erb Permanent Fund. The chance to visit with our long distance friends and colleagues is the most enjoyable aspect of the weekend, renewing friendships and engaging in spirited discussions. Please join us in Clarion.

Look for this display at Annual Meeting CRGIS

Once again, we will have a live link to the Cultural Resources GIS website in the exhibit area of the Annual Meeting. This is the online tool that lets you research information about archaeological sites in Pennsylvania. Please stop by for a demonstration and information about site recording. Check out the SPA website for the latest site recording report. See you in Clarion! - Noel Strattan

Election of Elmer Erb Trustees-six year terms to 2014 will be held at Annual Meeting. Only Members in good standing are eligible to vote.

Nominations:

Dr. Kurt Carr

Dr. Roger Moeller

Auction at Annual Meeting benefits the Elmer Erb Permanent Fund. The host North Fork Chapter #29 has made a special request of all chapters to send items to Annual Meeting in Support of the Permanent Fund. All donations are welcome.

Jacob Grimm C-14 Award SPA members who wish to submit 2007 Jacob Grimm C-14 Annual Award applications should send them to:

James Herbstritt, Chairperson
Jacob Grimm Radiocarbon Award
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North St, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0093

Future Meeting Venues:

2009 will be hosted by the BHP in Harrisburg

2009 is the Society's 80th Anniversary

2010 will be hosted by Westmoreland Chapter #23 near Greensburg

The Society thanks the chapters that have committed to host.

Volunteers to host Annual Meeting for 2011 should contact Mary Alice Graetzer



Archaeology at the Pennsylvania Farm Show

The Pennsylvania Farm Show archaeology exhibit has been a cooperative project of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc., the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for many years. The 2008 Farm Show attracted over 600,000 visitors during an eight-day period from 1/5/08 to 1/12/08 and it is a great opportunity to showcase Pennsylvania Archaeology. The theme is always “Save the Past for the Future” – and our goal is to encourage the public to be aware of the significance of Pennsylvania’s archaeological resources and support their protection and preservation.

Each year we focus on one type of archaeological resource. This year, we focused on the Native American petroglyphs of Pennsylvania. These are rock carvings or rock art and it is generally believed that they served as a mechanism for communication with the supernatural. They consist of lines, dots, circles, animal, human or supernatural figures and astronomical designs carved into rock. They are usually in prominent locations but not always. There are less than 40 sites in Pennsylvania. Each site contains from one to hundreds of images. The highest concentration of images and sites in Pennsylvania, and in fact, the Northeastern United States, is in the Lower Susquehanna River Valley. There are ten sites within 23 miles that extend from just below the Mason-Dixon Line to Washington Boro in Pennsylvania that include more than 1000 images.

The Farm Show exhibit featured a life sized presentation, measuring 20 feet by 8 feet, of the Little Indian Rock petroglyph from the Susquehanna River. This site is

located on a small island a few hundred meters below the Safe Harbor Dam and contains over 150 images. These include images of animals and humans, animal and human footprints, supernatural beings, thunderbirds, and serpents. Our SPA president, Paul Nevin, has studied these extensively and he argues that the serpents are pointing in the direction of the summer solstice and the spring equinox. This is to say that when the summer solstice and spring equinox are present, the serpents align with them. Little Indian Rock, along with several others, was investigated in the 1930s by Donald Cadzow of the Historical and Museum Commission. His book has been reprinted several times and is available at the State Bookstore.

Western Pennsylvania also has a number of petroglyph sites and a life-sized cast of the so called "water panther" from the Parkers Landing petroglyph in Clarion County was included in the exhibit. This cast was prepared and graciously donated by Ken Burkett. Dugout canoes were a common means of transportation to petroglyphs and the exhibit contained our twenty foot long wooden replica of a Native American dugout. Children are encouraged to sit in the dugout and imagine life on the river thousands of years ago. Bob Winters, a Native American lithic technologist, was on hand to make stone tools and illustrate other crafts. Finally, a brochure summarizing petroglyph research in Pennsylvania was developed and distributed to the public.

Petroglyphs are sacred places to Native Americans. We will never know their exact meaning but they represent a unique window into the minds of Native Americans and their view of their world. We hope this exhibit illustrated the complexity of Native American culture that is not usually portrayed to the public. Further, we are optimistic that this exhibit will inspire additional research and documentation of the petroglyphs of Pennsylvania so that there will be an improved understanding to the general public of these very significant images.

Over the past 27 years, the Farm Show archaeology exhibit has been mainly organized by the PHMC. Every year we have had significant volunteer assistance from the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council and Penn DOT. For example, the actual rubbing and the cast were donations by Paul Nevin and Ken Burkett respectively. In addition, this year, substantial monetary donations were also received from SPA, PAC, Safe Harbor Dam and Pennsylvania Power and Light. But the project would not be as successful if it were not for the volunteers who work at the exhibit. They work in six hour shifts, spending the entire time discussing all aspects of Pennsylvania archaeology with the public. It is their knowledge and excitement that makes this exhibit a success and we can not thank them enough.

The layout of the exhibit and the new location worked very well and attendance was higher than previous years. We distributed thousands of brochures on Pennsylvania archaeology and spoke to tens of thousands of visitors. Pennsylvania has an outstanding wealth of archaeological resources that I believe can enhance the lives of everyone. This exhibit and the information we distributed was one step in getting this heritage out to the people of Pennsylvania. As you all know, the archaeology of Pennsylvania is being destroyed at an ever-increasing rate. We need help in slowing this destruction. I feel the Farm Show exhibit represents a significant vehicle for the dissemination of information and for

increasing the public's awareness of the threats to their archaeological resources. Brian Fritz took a sample visitor count and calculated between 50,000 and 80,000 people that actually stopped and looked at the exhibit. These numbers are a testimony to the quality of the exhibit, the enthusiasm of our volunteers in engaging the public and the public interest in archaeology.

Submitted by: Kurt W. Carr, Senior Curator of Archaeology, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Update National Register Project

The "Shade Furnace Archaeological District" was listed on the National Register on Jan. 10. Thanks to the SPA for supporting this nomination and for being very patient. It took over three years to get this nomination through the system, partly due to my inexperience, and because it is a tough process to crack.

I hope that we will continue the SPA National Register Project. If more members were to participate in the site selection and nominating process, it should be possible to submit at least one nomination per year. I believe this is an achievable and worthy goal.—Brian Fritz

Proposed Federal Rule Threatens Two Decades of Established Law Department of Interior Proposes Upending 17 year policy

Washington, D.C. Dec. 3, 2007 – The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) has condemned a proposed rule by the U.S. Department of Interior that would put in jeopardy the highly productive compromise that was reached when the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed in 1990.

On October 16, 2007, the Department of the Interior published draft regulations that would destroy the use of cultural affiliation as the principle for repatriation decisions, which is at the core of NAGPRA and supported by seventeen years of hard work and effort by tribes, archaeologists, and museum personnel, and replace it with an undefined notion of "cultural relationship."

“The Department’s proposed regulations have no basis in law or science and reflect an attempt to impermissibly legislate in a manner not prescribed by Congress. The adoption of the regulations as they stand would force the NAGPRA process back to square one,” said Dean Snow, president of SAA. “This ill-advised rule would irreparably diminish the archaeological record of the entire U.S. “The damage to some of our most cherished institutions and the cost to science and the public is incalculable.”

The Department’s proposed rules alter the 1990 compromise between archeologists, museums, scientists, federal agencies and representatives of federally-recognized Native American tribes that resulted in passage of NAGPRA.

“The act represents a careful balance of multiple perspectives regarding human remains and objects,” said Snow. “Over the last 17 years, tribes, museums, and federal agencies have developed relationships of trust and mutual understanding of the law.

The proposed rule effectively dismisses those hard-earned accomplishments.”

NAGPRA requires federally-funded museums, universities, governmental agencies and similar institutions to transfer control of human remains, sacred or funerary objects, and other culturally important artifacts to federally-recognized Native American tribes that demonstrate cultural affiliation.

NAGPRA represents a carefully-crafted compromise that has served to repatriate, protect, and preserve human remains for almost two decades, and forms a basis by which all entities involved in American archaeology abide. Since NAGPRA was passed in 1990, thousands of human remains have already been repatriated to culturally affiliated tribes and more are in the process of repatriation.

The Department of Interior’s proposed rule extends to the disposition of human remains that are culturally unidentified. Snow pointed out that the proposed rules would put museums in the uncomfortable and inappropriate position of determining “Indianness” of claimants who are not federally-recognized and of weighing competing claims among federally-related, non-federally related, and non-Native American claimants.

The Department’s proposed rule would apply to most of the nation’s museums, universities, federal agencies, and could extend to medical specimens or forensic evidence collections whether they have Native American human remains or not.

Reprinted from the Society for American Archaeology News release

Andaste chapter 5 News Report

In July 1983 a workman was loading a pile of debris that had been removed from an outlet of Spring Lake in Asylum Township owned by Walter and Jane Newton when he noticed what appeared to be an odd shaped piece of wood on a pile. He investigated and found the mandible of what he thought might be the partial remains of a horse. The 30 pound jaw contained two large grinding molars unlike any farm animal he had ever seen. Mr. Newton took photographs of the find and sent them to the Museum of Natural History in New York City where the photo was identified as a Jefferson Woolly Mammoth that preceded the elephant.

Andaste Chapter #5, Tri City Chapter, Carnegie Museum representatives and many volunteers worked tirelessly for four weeks to recover about 90 pieces of bone which were carefully wrapped and taken to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh where they continue to reside in drawers. Andaste recalled the event at the 2006 meeting and with the monetary assistance of a \$2500.00 grant from the New York Pierce Foundation in 2007, had a bronze street sign and a 5X& foot wood painted sign installed on the side of the Newton Pavilion to memorialize the discovery of the remains of a Woolly Mammoth found in Bradford County.—Sylvia Wilson

Editors Note: Each newsletter will feature an article on our chapters beginning with Chapter #1. The purpose is to become acquainted or reacquainted with our membership. Chapter submissions are always welcome.

ESAF NEWS
Volunteers Needed

The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology has agreed to host the 2009 ESAF Meeting. We will need volunteers for all aspects of the meeting including: Arrangements, Papers, Book Room and Exhibits and Publicity. This is an important undertaking for the SPA and many hands are needed to make this a successful meeting. If you are willing to volunteer your time and talents to hosting this meeting, please contact the Secretary at 724-836-0895 or email at jmduritsa@comcast.net or Brian Fritz at brian@quemahoning.com .

Eastern States Archaeological Federation Membership: ESAF will donate 20% of the membership fee to the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. if dues are paid through the SPA. Membership includes Archaeology of Eastern North America (AENA), and informational announcements throughout the year.

Fees are: \$30.00 Individual membership and \$40.00 Institutional. For postage to foreign countries add \$5.00. Please make checks payable to Treasurer, SPA. Foreign Checks must be in US funds or drawn on a US bank. Send to: Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc., P.O. Box 10287, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-

Call for Papers
Eastern State Archaeological Federation

**The 75th Annual Meeting Hosted by the New York State Archaeological Association
Nov. 6-9, 2008 Holiday Inn Lockport, New York, 515 S. Transit Street Lockport,
NY 14094**

ESAF Rate: \$79.00 a night For Reservations, Please Call 1-716-434-6151

Special Events will include a Thursday Tour of Fort Niagara

Meeting Contact Information

Please send suggestions for individual papers and/or sessions to:

Lisa Marie Anselmi – Program Chair, e-mail: anselmlm@buffalostate.edu, Phone: 1-716-878-6520, Department of Anthropology, Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222

Book Room and Exhibits Chair

Don Smith, dsmith@panamconsultants.com, 1-716-821-1650, Panamerican Consultants, Inc. 2390 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY 14227

Arrangements Chair

Bill Engelbrecht, engelbwe@buffalostate.edu, 1-716-884-6094, 16 Atlantic Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222

For more information, go to: esaf-archaeology.org

Contributions to the Society

The Society wishes to thank Dr. Hope E. Luhman for her annual contribution to sustain the James Luhman Memorial Fund. The fund will provide for educational support to Archaeology Month in Pennsylvania.

Thanks also to Tom Vallana, Westmoreland chapter #23 for his contribution in support of the poster session for students held at the Society's Annual Meeting.

The Society extends its thanks to W. Thomas Waters for his generous contribution to the Society's General Fund.

There are many opportunities to support the Society's work. Each chapter is asked to donate items to the Annual Auction in support of the Elmer Erb Permanent Fund. This fund insures the continued financial stability of the Society and protects the benefits of the Life Members.

Jobs

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. View positions of interest at the Federal USA Jobs website: www.usajobs.opm.gov

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL
**ANTIQUE FIREARMS &
INDIAN ARTIFACTS SHOW**

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, AUGUST 16TH, 2008

A JOINT VENTURE OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE
NORTH FORTH CHAPTER #29 SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY



THE SHOW WILL FEATURE ALL TYPES OF ANTIQUE FIREARMS THROUGH 1898.
A RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE HELD FOR A REPRODUCTION MUZZLELOADER.

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBIT WILL FEATURE BOTH PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC
ARTIFACT DISPLAYS, FLINT KNAPPING, ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION, AND AN OPEN
ATLATL COMPETITION.

THE SHOW WILL RUN FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M., AND ADMISSION WILL BE
\$5.00 PER PERSON AGE 16 AND OLDER. CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE.
QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE JCHS AT 814.849.0077