



The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. Newsletter Winter 2009-2010

President's Message

As the first snows blanket Pennsylvania another field season comes to an end. No doubt a few contract archaeology projects will try to press on through the cold winter months, but even the hardest of archaeologists slow their pace as their fingers succumb to the sting of cold wet soil that stubbornly refuses to pass through the screen. Although the onset of cold weather may bring excavations and surface collecting to a halt, responsible archaeology, nevertheless, continues through the dark winter months. This is the time of the year when archaeology shifts from an outdoor activity to an indoor activity.

The winter months provide an opportunity to turn good finds into good archaeology. Surface collected artifacts are interesting relics of the past. But when these artifacts are cataloged, labeled, and noted on a map they become much more valuable. With good documentation mere relics are transformed into important archaeological collections. Now is the time to find a warm place where we can spread out our latest finds, give them a good scrubbing, and write down where they were found.

SPA chapters that sponsor chapter digs often organize lab sessions during the winter. These lab sessions are excellent volunteer opportunities. Participants become part of the fascinating process of identifying and interpreting diverse assemblages of artifacts. The archaeology lab is akin to the forensic lab where scant clues are organized, examined, and assembled into a story about the people who left them. In addition to lab sessions sponsored by SPA chapters, many local museums and historical societies have archaeological collections that are in need of attention. They welcome serious volunteers who can bring to their organizations much needed archaeological knowledge and skills.

For the few who have been fortunate enough to make archaeology their profession, the winter months are a good time to reflect upon that long passed excavation that was never written up, or that unprocessed collection that has languished for untold years in some dark storage location. It is my belief that there is not an archaeologist among us that doesn't suffer from the hidden guilt of some incomplete project, myself included. So, my New Years challenge to all of you is to turn off that television, make a nice cup of cocoa, find a comfortable workspace, and dedicate some time to an indoor archaeological task that returns value to our understanding of the past. -----Brian Fritz, President

2009 ESAF Meeting

The SPA hosted the 2009 Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting in November in Johnstown, PA. Attendees enjoyed the papers, the food, the tours and the location according to comments and reports following the meeting. The SPA would like to thank the committee for their hard work: Jason Espino, Brian Fritz, Meli Diamanti, Roger Moeller, Judy Duritsa, Mary Alice Graetzer, Mark McConaughy, Jim Richardson, Paula Zitzler and the bookroom staff, Mary Jane Shaw, Bob Oshnock, Tom Vallana and their crew from Westmoreland Chapter #23. Dr. Dennis Stanford from the Smithsonian Institute gave a thought provoking banquet address. ESAF 2010 will be held in Williamsburg, VA.

Archaeology Exhibit at the Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show

The theme of this year's Farm Show exhibit is "Archaeology through the Pennsylvania Trails of History". The exhibit will feature the results of significant archaeological investigations at sites maintained by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), and it will use these sites to illustrate the value of archaeology to our own society. At a time when some in the public are questioning the benefits of archaeology, we think this exhibit will provide some answers.

Archaeology benefits society in four ways:

- 1) Archaeology identifies long term patterns on how and why cultures change so that we can better plan for our own future.
- 2) Archaeology provides a heritage for those who do not have a written language. It is our only record of the past prior to writing.
- 3) Archaeology provides a more balanced description of the past compared to the biased written record.
- 4) Archaeology descriptively paints a picture of how people once lived and provides tangible remains of our past.

The Pennsylvania Trails of History is a visitor's guide to the historic sites operated by the PHMC. This exhibit will feature some of the highlights of archaeological research at these properties. The exhibit will consist of a large map depicting the Trails of History and featuring significant PHMC sites where archaeology has been conducted. Artifacts from these sites will be on exhibit. The featured sites are Graeme Park, Drake Well, Eckley Miner's Village, Old Economy and Ephrata Cloister. Each will be used to demonstrate how archaeology benefits our society. The accompanying brochure details the significant findings at these sites and the value of archaeology. This brochure should be a great addition to the PHMC series.

As in years past, the dugout canoe will be there for the children to sit in and imagine paddling down the rivers of prehistoric Pennsylvania. While the children are enjoying themselves, we talk to the parents about the protection and enhancement of archaeological resources. To be sure, our mission is to make the public more aware of the rich archaeological heritage preserved in Pennsylvania and that this heritage is threatened by modern development and urban sprawl.

Robert Winters, a Native American re-enactor will provide demonstrations on stone tool manufacture and display skillfully replicated Native American ornaments and tools. It is a wonderful opportunity to get up close and personal with Native American technology. Bob has been a favorite at the Farm Show for many years.

The exhibit is a cooperative endeavor by the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. (SPA), the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

Considering the devastating budget cuts to the State Museum and the elimination of grants to non-profit organizations such as PAC and the SPA, public outreach is particularly important this year. Every effort should be made to make the public aware of these cuts and what they mean to Pennsylvania's archaeological and historical heritage. For one thing, public education is going to be increasingly difficult without grant programs.

The exhibit will be located in the northeast corner of the main exhibit hall, the same location as in previous years. It is a spectacular cultural event, so please come, participate and enjoy the great food. It's a fun experience for the entire family! Submitted by Kurt Carr.

Don't forget the 2010 SPA Annual Meeting Call for Papers!

Information can be found at www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com

National Park Service's 2010 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2010 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century will be held May 24-28, 2010, at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site near Stanton, North Dakota. Lodging will be in the in the communities of Beulah, Hazen, and Riverdale, North Dakota. The field exercises will take place at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. The park preserves the historic and archeological remnants of the culture and agricultural lifestyle of the Northern Plains Indians during the 18th and 19th centuries. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. This will be the twentieth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Applications are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873: tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: steve_de_vore@nps.gov. The workshop is open to all archeologists and students, as well as those folks interested in forensic and cemetery investigations. Please pass this information on to your students, faculty, and/or staff.

**The Pennsylvania Archaeological Council
and
The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.**

Announce the

2010 James W. Hatch Scholarships

The Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC) and Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) will provide up to five \$100 scholarships to enable students to attend the SPA annual meeting. The meeting will be held April 9-11, 2010 at the Four Points Sheraton in Greensburg, PA. The meeting includes a PAC symposium on Friday afternoon, April 9, and general sessions on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11. Current undergraduate or graduate students at Pennsylvania colleges and universities and Pennsylvania high school students are eligible.

The scholarships honor the memory of Pennsylvania archaeologist and scholar, Dr. James W. Hatch.

Please contact Paul Raber to apply (praber@heberlingassociates.com; 717-935-2204; mail: c/o Heberling Associates, Inc., PO Box 376, Alexandria, PA, 16611). Applicants should provide a brief statement summarizing their interest in attending the annual meeting, their educational background and the name and contact information of a faculty reference. Preference will be given to students planning to present a paper at the annual meeting. **Applications are due by March 12, 2010.**

Call for Nominations for the Annual SPA Awards
Deadline for submitting: FEB. 27, 2010

Any individual SPA member, or SPA Chapter as a whole, may submit nominations in writing to the Awards Chairman of an **SPA MEMBER**, of any chapter, or an SPA member who is unaffiliated with any chapter, who is deemed worthy of an SPA award in the categories listed below:

ARCHEY Award:

Nominee must be a member of SPA, not just a chapter. This award is presented to a non-professional who has given significant contributions, over an appreciable period of time, toward the unselfish furtherance of archaeology.

The number of separate nominations and the significance of the reasons for the nomination are weighed in making the selection for this award.

The individual's contributions toward archaeology may be offices held; numbers and kinds of speaking engagements; published articles or reports; number and kinds of sites recorded and/or excavated; work with young people to acquaint them with archaeology, etc.

J. ALDEN MASON Award: This award is presented to an SPA member who is a professional archaeologist and is based on his or her contribution to education and encouragement of SPA members in the proper pursuit of archaeology.

A professional in a related science, which similarly assists SPA members, may also be considered for this award. The nominee need not reside in Pennsylvania.

JOHN WITTHOFT Award: This award is presented to the chapter of the SPA that recruited the most new SPA members or reinstated the highest number of delinquent SPA members since the previous SPA Annual Meeting.

SHRADER/GEORGE Award: Nominee must be an SPA member under 18 years of age and be an example of the SPA's ideal youth, whose character, accomplishments, and unselfish effort have furthered the cause of Pennsylvania archaeology.

Sites upon which the nominee has participated should be recorded and have a designated State site number and the nominee should have experience in recording such sites and properly cataloging artifacts from the sites.

Please provide adequate background and information on nominees as inadequate information or failure to meet the award criteria could result in disqualification.

FRANCES DORRANCE AWARD: This is an award that will be given to the Chapter of the SPA that has recorded the most new sites with the Pennsylvania Archaeology Site Survey at the State Museum, Harrisburg, PA, **FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2009.**

Note: Members recording sites should fill in the Chapter area on the PASS site reporting form. Noel Strattan will tally the sites from these reports.

GUIDELINES FOR SPA'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Person nominated should have at least 25 years of outstanding service to archaeology in Pennsylvania and/or SPA.

- Person nominated should have been a member of SPA for the same amount of time and be an exemplary proponent of the purpose and objectives of SPA.
- Person can be nominated by a Chapter or an individual member in good standing of SPA. Request for nominations will be sent to Chapter Presidents with request for nominations for the other awards.
- Nominees can be either a professional archaeologist (or a professional in a closely related science), or an avocational archaeologist with an outstanding record of contributions to the field of archaeology and to SPA.
- The person or Chapter making the nomination must include a detailed biography of the nominee, including information on the nominee's educational background, positions held in SPA and other organizations, bibliography, awards received, public outreach, sites worked and research conducted. For a professional archaeologist, the person or Chapter making the nomination should include a list of the nominee's professional achievements, positions, awards and research.
- The nominee must demonstrate a passionate dedication to archaeology in Pennsylvania and to SPA and work assiduously to promote archaeology and/or historic preservation in the Commonwealth through public outreach activities.
- The nominee should have inspired others to become involved in SPA and in Pennsylvania archaeology over the course of their career, as non-professional volunteers, or has served as mentor for students interested in a career in archaeology or a related field.
- A special award will be given to the recipient at the banquet held during the annual meeting.

**Nomination forms for all categories can be found on the SPA website:
www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com.**

Mail all nominations to: SPA Secretary
 301 North Drive
 Jeannette, PA 15644
 Email: jmduritsa@comcast.net

**The Society is without an awards committee at this time.
 To volunteer to chair or serve on this committee, please contact the Secretary or
 President Brian Fritz,**

Jacob L. Grimm IV Matching C14 Award

Submissions for the 2010
 Jacob Grimm C-14 Annual Award
 should send them to:
 James Herbstritt, Chairperson
 Jacob Grimm Radiocarbon Award
 Commonwealth Keystone Building
 400 North St, 2nd Floor
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0093

Annual Chapter Reporting Requirements

Annual Chapter report forms have been mailed or emailed to the individual chapters. This report details chapter activities for the previous year (2009). This report is a chapter obligation under the SPA constitution. Forms are available to download from the SPA website. If you have questions, please contact the Secretary.

All SPA chapters are required to report **chapter officers** to the Secretary **annually**. This report is necessary for maintaining current contact information for all chapters. Please report officers even if there has not been an election or change of positions in your chapter. Please include addresses, phone numbers and email addresses if possible.

Dues Reminder: 2010 annual membership dues are now payable. The membership form can be found in the Fall SPA Newsletter or on line at www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com

Only members in good standing may vote at Annual Meeting, hold office or present papers. Membership includes your subscription to the Pennsylvania Archaeologist, the SPA Newsletter and other informational mailings.

Site Recording Award Deadline

The Frances Dorrance Award is given each year to the Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology that has recorded the most new sites with the Pennsylvania Archaeology Site Survey (PASS) within the last calendar year (January 1 to December 31). This award, presented at the Annual State Meeting, recognizes the tremendous contribution of local collectors to our knowledge about Pennsylvania archaeology. The majority of the sites in the PASS file are the results of your efforts. So, as you wind down another field season, take the time to send us your information so we can add it to the growing picture of Pennsylvania's Past. Forms and guidance for recording sites can be found on the SPA website at <http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com/sites.html> and in the Archaeology Section of the PHMC website www.phmc.state.pa.us. For additional information, contact the Cultural Resources GIS Section at re-crgis@state.pa.us.

2009 Annual Awards presented at the 80th Annual Meeting The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA

Lifetime Achievement Award presented jointly to: Dr. Verna and Paul Cowin

Dr. Verna L. Cowin chose Archaeology as a profession. That choice was a blessing for the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. and for all aspects of the field of Archaeology from research, to education, publication and preservation. A fortunate partnership with Paul Cowin has also been a fortunate partnership for Pennsylvania archaeology. Paul's support of Verna during her years of education, employment and professional organizations such as the SPA, ESAF, PAC and others; as well as their life as a family, enabled Verna the freedom to accomplish all the things that we celebrate here. In his own right, Paul has donated thousands of volunteer hours to the Carnegie, the SPA and formally as the Society's very capable Treasurer. Paul was awarded the Archey Award in 2000.

The Cowins have served the Society in nearly every capacity, side by side for many years. Verna, a life member, was President of the SPA in 1993-1994, served as interim editor of The Pennsylvania Archaeologist

in an emergency period when we were without an editor and in danger of non-publication. She continues on the editorial staff. She was awarded the J. Alden Mason award for professional archaeologist in 1985. She and Paul undertook the huge mailing task for Archaeology Month in Pennsylvania doing a large part of the work themselves. Maintaining the membership and financial records of the Society is a huge time consuming job, which they do willingly in service to the SPA.

Since the work of the Society is done completely by volunteers, it would be easy to understand stepping down from a position in the face of physical disabilities, illness or employment demands but the Cowins have never done that. The “inconvenient” times were never mentioned and the work was completed. So much of what they have accomplished has been out of the limelight. Now is the time to shine that light on them and say, “Thank You for a job well done” --taken from the awards nomination

- Shrader/George Youth Award was presented to Will Jacob, Chapter 21 John Shrader
- John Witthoft Award for new members went to Conejohela Chapter #28
- Frances Dorrance Award for new sites recorded went to North Fork Chapter #29
- Jacob L. Grimm IV C-14 Award to Westmoreland Chapter #23 for the Consol Site

No nominations were received for the J. Alden Mason or Archey Awards.

Chapter Profile: John Shrader Chapter #21

Chapter 21 of the SPA was established by John Shrader and John Neidley in 1975 with the support and encouragement of Elmer Erb, Barry Kent, Kurt Carr and other members of the state organization. Originally known as the Schuylkill Valley Chapter, the Chapter's purpose was to foster an understanding of Native American cultures and archaeology in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania, which had not been represented in the state organization until this time. Both John Shrader and John Neidley were teachers, which is reflected in Chapter 21's emphasis on educating young people on the purpose and methods of archaeology. Since John Neidley taught at the Hill School in Pottstown, this was our center of operations for many years, until 2002. Both John Shrader and John Neidley were also avid collectors, and were meticulous in the way they collected and catalogued their artifacts. They also trained several generations of Chapter members on the proper way to collect artifacts so that vital information is not lost. Both were also influential in persuading interested members of the public to join the Chapter and SPA, such as Marjorie Johnson, Charles Jacob, Bill Scheffey, Tom Waters and many others. In 1997, the Society honored John Shrader along with Dick George for their many contributions and dedication to archaeology by establishing the Shrader/George Youth Award, for outstanding individuals 18 years old or younger for their efforts in promoting Pennsylvania archaeology. He served as Chapter President, Treasurer, and on the Board of Directors up until the time of his death in November 2001. The Chapter recognized John's outstanding contributions to the Chapter by renaming Chapter 21 “the John Shrader Chapter” in 2001.

Chapter members have engaged in archaeological research and excavations at a number of sites over the years. One of the Chapter's projects involved exploring the jasper sources in the Macungie region of the Lehigh Valley, in the Reading Prong. Chapter members collected and studied a number of chunks, cores and artifacts from the Pondelac site.

Since the 1980s, the Chapter has been very involved in the archaeology and restoration of Joanna Furnace in southern Berks County. Chapter member Charles Jacob is largely responsible for this, since he was also a member of Hay Creek Valley Historical Association, the nonprofit organization that owns the furnace site. Chapter members have participated in the excavation of the Blacksmith Shop, the Moore House, the Casting

House, the Office-Store, the Charcoal Barn, the Bridge House, a tenant house, the Hot Blast area, and the Wheelwright Shop over the years. Chapter members have assisted in running a week-long archaeology field school for gifted middle school and high school students from two local school districts, as well as home-schooled students for about 10 years now. The Chapter has held its monthly meetings at Joanna Furnace since 2002. Over the years the Chapter has developed a wonderful relationship with Hay Creek, which has benefited both organizations - www.haycreek.org .



Hot blast area at Joanna Furnace on 23 Aug. 2009 SPA, Chapter 21



Site Crew Joanna Furnace

Chapter membership has increased in recent years, enabling us to participate in other research projects besides Joanna Furnace. Chapter members have worked on an excavation for several years at the supposed house of Blackbeard the Pirate's mistress in Marcus Hook in Delaware County. Other projects include Pine Forge in Berks County and a house and inn near Coventryville, Chester County.

The chapter looks forward to hosting the state convention in 2011. Gene Delaplane, President, Chapter 21

Editor's note: chapter profiles are intended to acquaint the society with our member chapters. Chapter submissions are always welcome in the SPA Newsletter.

Job Opening: Historic Preservation Specialist (0600-09-0165)

The PA Historical and Museum Commission is recruiting for a Historical Preservation Specialist. The position will be in the Bureau for Historic Preservation. The position is non-civil service limited term full time with benefits. Position is for one year with the possibility of an extension. The salary range is \$42,250 to \$64,215 annually. The position will be located in the Fort Pitt Museum in Pittsburgh (Allegheny County), 101 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. WORK HOURS: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday (75 hours biweekly)

DUTIES: General responsibilities of this position relate to the protection of historic and archaeological resources in the development of state and federal projects. Knowledge of state and federal historic preservation programs, regulations and legislation, including the Secretary of the Interiors Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

ELIGIBILITY: To be considered, candidates must meet the minimum experience and training requirements:

Two or more years of experience working on an architectural survey, an architectural restoration and preservation project or program, and a Bachelor's degree in Architectural history, American history, Art history or course work in Pennsylvania history; **OR** Any equivalent combination of experience and training.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest, Bureau of State Employment (BSE) application (Personal Data Sheet), and a resume to PA Historical and Museum Commission, State Museum Building, Room 513, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, Attention: Margaret Collins, Human Resource Analyst, by **5:00 p.m. on January 18, 2010.**

The Bureau of State Employment (BSE) application and resume instructions, STD-300 Personal Data Sheet-PDS, may be obtained on the BSE website at: www.hrm.state.pa.us/pds.

SAA Annual Meeting

The Society for American Archaeology will hold its 75th Anniversary Meeting, April 14-18, 2010, St. Louis, MO. Volunteers are needed to help at the meeting. Registration, hotel information and volunteer applications can be found at www.saa.org. The 2010 CRM EXPO will also be featured at the meeting. The Expo is sponsored by the SAA Consulting Archaeology Committee and the American Cultural Resources Association showcasing the work done in the Cultural and Heritage Resource Management fields.

The SPA is an SAA member organization in the Coalition of Archaeological Societies. We support the activities of the SAA and request our members to volunteer at the meeting if possible.

MAAC 2010 Annual Meeting

The middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference will be held at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842 March 18 - 21, 2010. For Call for Papers, Registration, and Membership information go to <http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/>

Welcome back Mon-Yough Chapter #3—The Mon-Yough chapter has reorganized and meets at California University of Pennsylvania. The inactive chapter petitioned for re-activation and was approved by the SPA Board at the October Meeting. We look forward to meeting our newest members.