

NYSAA Annual

Meeting

The 92nd annual meeting of the NYSAA will be held April 18-20 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 6701 Buckley Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212, (315) 457-4000. There will be a Business Meeting Friday evening, with papers presented during the day on Saturday and Sunday morning. If you have not yet registered, you may do so on arrival for \$35 or \$20 for students with I.D. See our web site for additional details, <http://nysaaweb.bfn.org/>.

NYSAA Newsletter

Spring 2008



President's Annual Report, 2007

Appointments

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology Liaison: Fred Assmus
Associate Newsletter Editor: Marie Lorraine Pipes

Council of Affiliated Societies (SAA)

Following a positive vote at the Oct. 20th Executive Meeting in Syracuse, the NYSAA has joined the Council of Affiliated Societies of the Society for American Archaeology for one year on a trial basis. Annual dues are \$30. As a member, the NYSAA may display membership information and publications for sale at the Council's booth at the annual SAA meeting. In addition to providing a tie with the SAA, the Council provides a forum for state societies to network with one another through meetings and a newsletter. Other members include the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, and the Suffolk County (NY) Archaeological Association.

Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
New Chapter Presidents	2
Volunteer Digging Opportunities in New York	3
The Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF)	3
Archaeological Practice and Review in New York State	4
New Publication	6
Hansen Rockshelter	6

Publications

1. The Bulletin

Thanks go to Charles F. Hayes III (editor) and Martha Sempowski (associate editor) for their work on our journal. The editors and I have agreed on a policy of "peer review upon request." A brief statement acknowledging peer review will appear following such articles. Peer reviewed articles are generally given more weight by committees evaluating individuals for hiring, academic reappointment, promotion, and tenure. It is hoped that this policy will make submission of articles to The Bulletin more attractive for professionals. However, peer review is not required for an article to appear in The Bulletin. Also, please ask your local library to subscribe to The Bulletin. We should have more Institutional Members.

2. C.D. of Bulletins 1-118

We continue to sell copies of our C.D. By my reckoning we have sold an all time total of 149. This puts us well over the 100 or so we needed to sell to break even.

3. Newsletter

Associate Editor Marie Lorraine Pipes is responsible for the more professional look of our newsletter recently. I continue to solicit material for the newsletter and would appreciate more submissions, especially chapter news. I distribute electronic copies of the newsletter to a representative of each chapter who then distributes it to chapter members. I also distribute copies of the newsletter to each At-Large Member, either by e-mail or the postal service.

President's Report continued

4. Researches and Transactions

Funds for reviving this series were voted on at the October Executive Meeting. See the editor's report for details.

5. Web Site, <http://nysaaweb.bfn.org/>

I want to thank our volunteer Web Master, Dr. Hugh Jarvis, for his efficient updating of our web site. Contact either Hugh or me for additions or corrections to our web site.

Membership Efforts

1000 copies of our membership brochure were distributed to volunteers at the 2007 annual meeting. Volunteers were asked to hand them out or to strategically place them in local museums and historical societies. I later had an additional 1000 copies run off. Some of these were sent to individuals directing field schools who were listed in our Spring 2007 Newsletter. I asked these field school directors to distribute the brochures to interested students and visitors. In all, 2000 membership brochures were distributed throughout the state during 2007. The 2008 brochure is available in digital form should you wish to print your own. Chapters are encouraged to create their own membership brochures.

I have also been in contact with members of the Metropolitan Chapter in an effort to revitalize that chapter. Thanks go to past Met. Chapter presidents Mike Cohn and Chris Ricciardi for their efforts and to Prof. Leonard Cohan, current Met. Chapter president.

Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF)

Last year, Tim Abel, NYSAA liaison to ESAF, asked me to help host the Nov. 2008 ESAF meeting. ESAF's 75th annual meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn in Lockport, NY., Nov. 6-9th. NYSAA is the official host of the meeting. Houghton Chapter members will be in charge of the program, book room, tours, and registration, but will be looking for any NYSAA members to assist. Volunteers will have their registration fee waived. Contact me for more information if you are interested in volunteering.

Daniel H. Weiskotten Scholarship Fund

I would like to publicly acknowledge the work of Barbara De Angelo and her committee for raising funds, soliciting applicants and selecting the recipient. This scholarship is something of which all NYSAA members can be proud.

Bill Engelbrecht
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engelbwe@buffalostate.edu

Meetings

May 18 Symposium on the Archaeology of New York City, sponsored by the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and the Museum of the City of New York. 1:00 P.M. at the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103rd St. The theme will be South Ferry Terminal Archaeology (see our Winter Newsletter).

New Chapter Presidents

Don Windsor replaces Gail Marian as president of the Chenango Chapter. Dr. Lisa Marie Anselmi (Buffalo State College) took over from Dr. Don Smith (PanAmerican Consultants) as president of the Houghton Chapter. Dr. Scott Stull (Hartgen Associates) assumed the presidency of the Finger Lakes Chapter from Dr. Sherene Baugher (Cornell), their first president. Leonard Cohan replaces Chris Ricciardi (Army Corps of Engineers) as interim president of the Metropolitan Chapter. Wayne Lenig became the president of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter after years of service by Gary Bernhardt. Congratulations to the new presidents and a big thanks to the recently retired presidents for their work on behalf of the NYSAA.

Volunteer Digging Opportunities in New York

The following listing does not constitute an NYSAA endorsement. The field schools listed accept volunteers.

Western

Hull House, Lancaster, Historic. Dates to be announced. Contact Doug Perrelli, SUNY/Buffalo Archaeological Survey, perrelli@buffalo.edu.

McKendry Site, Irving, Prehistoric. Dates to be announced. Contact Kate Whalen, SUNY/Buffalo Archaeological Survey, kwhalen2@buffalo.edu.

Mills Mansion, Mount Morris, Historic. Six Saturdays and six Sundays, July 12-Aug. 17. Contact Justin Tubiolo, St. John Fisher College, jtubiolo@sjfc.edu.

Hiscock Site, Byron, Paleontological/Paleo. July-August. Contact Dr. Richard Laub, Buffalo Museum of Science, rlaub@sciencebuff.org.

Bittner Farm, Rochester, Historic, June 11-26, Mon.-Thurs. 9-12, Monroe Community College, contact Ann Morton, amorton@rochester.rr.com.

Blacksmith Shop, Canandaigua, Historic, July 28-Aug.12, Mon.-Thurs. 9-12, Finger Lakes Community College, contact Ann Morton, amorton@rochester.rr.com.

Central

Cortland Co., Prehistoric, May 21-June 25. Contact Ellie McDowell-Loudan, SUNY Cortland, loudane@cortland.edu.

Harriet Tubman House, Auburn, Historic, Sat. June 7 with Doug Armstrong. Contact Greg Sohrweide, GregSohr@aol.com.

SUNY Binghamton's Community Archaeology Program, Prehistoric, July 14-18. See <http://cap.binghamton.edu/>.

Eastern

Schoharie Creek, Prehistoric, Saturdays from mid-May until late October. Contact Fred Stevens, Archaeology Department of the Iroquois Indian Museum, chemical456@nycap.rr.com or (518) 383-3107.

West Point Foundry, West Point, Historic, May 19-June 27. Michigan Technological Univ. Contact pemartin@mtu.edu.
Northern

Storrs Harbor, Historic, dates to be announced. Contact Tim Abel, director@jeffersoncountyhistory.org.

Fort Edward, Historic (French and Indian War). July 7-Aug.15, Adirondack Community College, contact David Starbuck, dstarbuck@frontiernet.net.

Long Island

Joseph Lloyd Manor, Lloyd, Historic, June 2-July 18, Contact Christopher Matthews, Hofstra Univ., Christopher.N.Matthews@hofstra.edu.

Blydenburgh Co. Park, Eastern Suffolk BOCES children's field school, July 21-24, 28-31, 8 A.M.-noon. Adult volunteers accepted. Contact Gaynell Stone, gaystone@optonline.net.

The Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF)

ESAF is an organization of state archaeological societies located in the Northeast. Both the NYSAA and the Ontario Archaeological Society are members. Individuals who belong to ESAF receive the journal, [Archaeology of Eastern North America](#). To present a paper at the annual ESAF meeting, an individual must be a member of the organization. For more information, see the ESAF web site.

The 2007 annual meeting of ESAF was hosted by the Vermont Archaeological Society in Burlington. A total of 192 people from 20 provinces and states attended the November event. The 2008 meeting is hosted by the NYSAA and will be in Western New York at the Holiday Inn (\$79 per night) in Lockport, Nov. 6-9, (716) 434-6151. Highlights of the meeting include a tour of Fort Niagara and a lithic session honoring Jack Holland. The banquet speaker is Dr. Richard Laub of the Buffalo Museum of Science who will talk on the Hiscock site. The site is rich in Ice Age fauna and contains a Paleoindian presence. To present a paper, contact Dr. Lisa Marie Anselmi, anselmim@buffalostate.edu. For registration information, contact Kathy Leacock, leacockh@buffalostate.edu.

Archaeological Practice and Review in New York State

Christina B. Rieth (New York State Museum) and

Douglas Mackey (New York State Historic Preservation Office, NYSOPRHP)

The 2007 Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation featured a panel presentation organized by Elizabeth Chilton (UMass Amherst) and Brian Jones (PAST, Inc.) entitled "Standards in Archaeological Practice and Review in New England: Current Status and Future Prospects". The focus of the presentation was to review the current status of archaeological standards and practice in New England. State Historic Preservation Officers and State Archaeologists from Connecticut, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island participated.

Each of the participants was asked to prepare a statement concerning their duties and their role as historic preservation professionals within their state so that a more productive dialogue about regional standards across state boundaries could ensue. The following article provides a summary of the presented information concerning the duties of the State Historic Preservation Office at the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the State Archaeologist at the New York State Museum.

State Historic Preservation Office - Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

In New York the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation archaeologists fulfill a number of roles. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) indicated that a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) would be assigned for each state, and assigned particular tasks to the individual or their designees. In New York, the Commissioner of OPRHP has been identified as the officer, and many of the day to day duties are fulfilled by the Field Service Bureau (FSB) of OPRHP. In addition to fulfilling the role of SHPO for federal projects, the FSB serves a similar role for state agencies under the State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (SHPA), and provides support and advice to local lead agencies such as towns, counties, and local authorities under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Finally, the OPRHP Bureau of Historic Sites (BHS) employs a number of archaeologists as well. Their role is to provide a full range of archaeological services to the State Historic Sites, including survey, inventory, full excavation as needed and documentation of the resources at each site.

As you may expect from the variety of laws which the FSB archaeologists need to work under, their roles are varied and extensive. The NHPA specifically identifies the roles of the SHPO for projects with federal involvement (for the full law and implementing regulations go to <http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf> and <http://www.achp.gov/regs-rev04.pdf>). These include:

- Support and maintain statewide survey and inventory of historic properties;
- Identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register
- Prepare and Implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan;
- Administer the State program of Federal assistance for historic preservation:
- Advise and assist Federal and State agencies and local governments;
- Work with the Secretary of the Interior, the ACHP, other agencies, governments, organizations and individuals to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development;
- Provide public information, education, and training, and technical assistance;
- Cooperate with local governments in developing of local preservation programs;
- Consult with Federal agencies on undertakings that may affect historic properties and plans developed to protect, manage, or reduce or mitigate harm to such properties;
- Advise and assist in the evaluation of proposals for rehabilitation projects;

To carry out these responsibilities OPRHP has (when all positions are filled) a staff of thirty nine, including Archaeologists, National Register Reviewers, Technical Review staff, CLG contacts, Outreach staff and Support staff. Of these there are currently five archaeologists, four that focus on project review and one that maintains the site files, conducts initial sensitivity assessments and works on the development of GIS systems. In reporting year 2006-2007, OPRHP reviewed nearly 7000 development projects, from which 923 reports were reviewed and 527 new sites were identified.

OPRHP archaeologists also work closely with Native American Nations, through the consultation process whenever they have concerns regarding sites that may be impacted by state or federal projects. Some of these nations have gone through the process to be recognized as Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) as identified in the National Historic Preservation

Act, and can assume the full role of the SHPO on tribal land, while other nations have not gone through that process, but do have individuals that work closely with our office on archaeological and historic preservation issues.

Currently, there are nine resident Native American Nations within the boundaries of New York including the federally recognized Iroquoian Nations and two State recognized Algonquian nations on Long Island. In addition to these nations with reservations in New York, there are a number of non-resident nations that still maintain ties to New York; including the Federally recognized THPOs of the Stockbridge Munsee Band of the Mohican (located in Wisconsin) and the Delaware Nation (located in Oklahoma).

While OPRHP archaeologists do not typically have the opportunity to conduct field work, they are involved in most of the CRM archaeology carried out in the state. Typically their role is to review work conducted, insure that standards are met and that the involved agencies are addressing archaeological concerns in accordance with the regulations. They also respond to community concerns and provide guidance to both the public and to agency officials with regard to Historic Preservation Legislation and the involved processes. In cases where sites are identified, they help to evaluate the significance of the sites and then to assess the impacts of a proposed project on sites deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. When such sites will be impacted, OPRHP archaeologists work with project applicants to develop mitigation measures to address the resource in ways that are able to preserve as much of the site as possible and insure that sufficient data collection, analysis, and dissemination is carried out.

State Archaeologist, New York State Museum, State Education Department

The State Archaeologist is a staff member of the Division of Research and Collections of the New York State Museum. As such, the responsibilities of the State Archaeologist reflect the mission and goals of the State Education Department (SED). At the State Museum, the role of the State Archaeologist is to record, investigate, interpret, protect and disseminate information on New York's archaeological heritage through research, education, and service to the public.

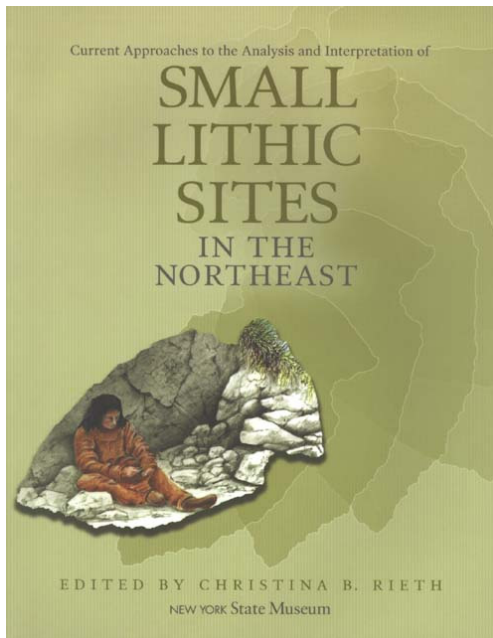
The State Archaeologist is actively involved in research on the prehistory and history of New York. While this research is often collections based, the State Archaeologist actively engages in field research by co-directing an archaeological field school and through archaeological excavations completed with other archaeologists.

The State Archaeologist is involved in public programming about the state's archaeological heritage and the need to "preserve the past" through (1) public presentations (2) peer-review articles and lay texts and (3) exhibits. The State Archaeologist also responds to general inquiries from the public regarding archaeological finds and the archaeological heritage of New York. Participation in teacher workshops and the supervision of interns represent other public outreach tasks.

Protection of archaeological resources on state lands is another task completed by the State Archaeologist. Through Education Law 233, SED is responsible for issuing permits for the excavation of archaeological resources found on terrestrial and underwater lands owned by the state and caring for the artifacts that are generated as a result of these excavations. The State Archaeologist oversees the museum's permit program and insures that collections derived from these excavations are curated according to procedures mandated by state education law.

The State Archaeologist serves as a link between the museum and the general public by participating in the activities of the NYS Archaeological Association and the New York Archaeological Council, responding to requests for information from the public and larger archaeological community, reviewing journal articles, serving on local and regional archaeological committees, and organizing colloquia on the archaeology of New York. Finally, as a member of the National Association of State Archaeologists, the State Archaeologist disseminates information about New York's archaeological heritage to a wider national audience and works with State Archaeologists in other states on issues involving the preservation of our nation's archaeological heritage.

Douglas Mackey is an archaeologist at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation/Field Services Bureau (OPRHP) and is currently Vice President of the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) and is the Legislative Committee Chair for the NYSAA. Additional archaeological review staff at OPRHP include Cynthia Blakemore, Philip Perazio (both at large member of NYSAA), Nancy Herter (Houghton Chapter), and Michael Schifferli. Contact information and territory assignments for ORPH staff can be found on line at <http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/state/map.htm>. Christina Rieth is a member of the Van Epps Hartley Chapter of NYSAA and currently serves as the State Archaeologist at the New York State Museum. Contact information and information on archaeological research and collections at the New York State Museum can be found on line at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/>.



New Publication

This volume edited by Christina Rieth reflects the continuing interest and important contributions being made by archaeologists to the study of small lithic sites in the Northeast. The articles in this volume challenge existing notions that these small sites do not produce meaningful data about the past by highlighting the ways in which prehistoric populations exploited the local landscape for settlement purposes. This work has been enhanced by the use of modern analytical, recovery, and archaeometric techniques, which not only have allowed for the reanalysis of older data sets but also have added new information to an already large regional data set.

The articles in this volume are grouped around three general themes: Defining and Assessing the Research Potential of Small Lithic Sites, Small Lithic Sites and their Contributions to Local and Regional Settlement Systems, and Managing and Evaluating the National Register Significance of Small Lithic Sites. Small lithic sites dating from the Archaic Period (c. 10,000 B.P.) to European Contact (c. 500 B.P.) are discussed within the volume's chapters.

New York State Museum Bulletin 508, 210 p., 91 figs., 45 tpls., \$39.95, 2008. Order from Publications Sales, NYSM, Albany, NY 12230 or nysmpub@mail.nysed.gov.

HANSEN ROCK SHELTER

William D. Sandy, RPA, Incorporated Orange County Chapter-NYSAA

The Hansen Rock Shelter is located on the west side of the huge "Black Dirt" wetlands in the Town of Minisink, Orange County, New York. In 1982, the Incorporated Orange County Chapter (IOCC) of the New York State Archeological Society partially excavated the shelter and talus slope. The slope proved rich in artifacts and faunal remains. The IOCC unearthed a variety of stone tools, Native American ceramics, and the bones of 28 species of animals. These excavations demonstrated that the site contains information on 5,000 years of life on the Black Dirt. It is arguably the most important prehistoric resource in the Town of Minisink. It is also the one place where a student can put his or her hand in the same place as a Native American did thousands of years ago.

Now the Hansen Rock Shelter lies within a proposed housing development. Its fate will be decided in 2008; either it will remain intact between new homes, or it could become the Town's first Archeology Preserve. The owner has expressed a willingness to sell the property to the town. William Sandy, Town Historian, has submitted a plan for the proposed "Minisink Archeological Preserve." If the town takes no action, the homeowner's association will likely keep the site private and it probably will be unavailable to residents of the town, school children, and the general public. It is hoped that the town will work with the Archaeological Conservancy and other interested parties to create an archaeological preserve encompassing the site, in the process enhancing the area's park system and cultural attractions.



Left. State Archaeologist Dr. Robert Funk with long-time NYSAA-IOCC member Bill Ehlers at Hansen Rockshelter 1982.

Right. Avocational archaeologists Larry Hansen and Alfred Selmes investigate the area below Hansen's Rockshelter.

