Change to NAGPRA Definition of 'Native American' occurred during a July 28 Senate hearing on the McCain amendment to NAGPRA. The Dept. of the Interior now supports the Bonnichsen decision of the 9th Circuit Court that "such remains not significantly related to any existing tribe, people, or culture...should be available for appropriate scientific analysis," which the DOI now feels set precedent. This stems from the Kennewick Man controversy. McCain and Native American groups are expected to continue to push for their change in NAGPRA language, which would make early skeletons available only to them and not for scientific study. The full hearing testimony is available http://indian.senate.gov/2005hrqs/072805hrg/072805witlist.htm.

The Archaeology Channel Spotlights

UK Archaeology

Archaeology has become a popular topic among television audiences around the world, especially in the UK. Issues surrounding the portrayal of archaeology on television are laid out in *Ephemera: Archaeology on Television*, the newest video addition to TAC nonprofit streaming-media website (http://www.archaeologychannel.org).

Produced by Sean Caveille (S.C.A.A.'s documentary film photographer in Holland), the film uses a digital projector to display the filmed interviews of three key archaeology and media figures, who discuss archaeology's portrayal on UK television, onto the surface of the West Kennet long barrow, part of the ancient Avebury complex in Wiltshire, UK. Archaeology has become so popular on UK television that it prompts questions about the proper relationship between the profession and the medium.

The U.S. History Channel now has one program based on archaeology, "Digging for the Truth," but it is more treasure hunting and myth-chasing than real archaeology, and is usually in exotic places far from here. Closest to here recently have been episodes on Cahokia and the Mound Builder societies of the Mississippi Valley and Norseman Eric the Red's recreated home in Iceland and voyages to "Vinland" and settlement in Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, excavated and interpreted by Parks Canada. PBS Ch. 21 has had the UK "Two Men in a Trench" on at 10:30 PM Tuesdays, almost entirely examining famous English battle sites, with a bit of re-enacting with military gear and armament of the period, and unintelligible English by one of the archaeologists. They make extensive use of payloaders to remove topsoil quickly to get to the artifact and feature layers, and use groups of metal-detecting volunteers to quickly pinpoint metal artifacts, as well as visits to experts to identify found objects. Virtual reality maps are used to re-enact the battle scenes from the archaeological evidence and to make the flow of battle more understandable.

Because of the popularity of archaeology on British TV — 4 channels competing to show films about this field — and the trend toward "popularizing' it, there is currently much discussion about how archaeology should be presented. SCAA anticipates that their documentary film, *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island*, will appear on UK television when completed.

Nootka (Nuuchahnulth) Dictionary, the first ever publication of one of the world’s most complex group of languages, gives new hope to saving Native American languages. They are so complicated that an entire sentence can be expressed in a single word. It can be used to teach current Native people the language of their ancestors, since only 200-300 now speak it and are over 60 years of age. Since there are few written records, it could die out in one generation.

The book was compiled by Canadian John Stonham, of the UK’s U. of Newcastle upon Tyne, who used 20 years of his research, the fieldwork of linguist Edward Sapir, and a computer program to analyze Sapir’s notes for a database of 150,000 words of the language group, which incorporates around 15 distinct languages. A dictionary often provides the single greatest step for a language to progress to fully literate status, achieved by only a third of the world’s languages to date. (Carl Masthay)

More on Native Languages...

A recent movie, *The New World*, had the Native actors speaking a recreated Virginia Algonquian language. It was developed by Blair Rudes, a linguist at the U. of North Carolina-Charlotte. He used two vocabularies of about 650 words which had been compiled phonetically by Capt. John Smith and William Strachey, Englishmen whose pronunciation differs a lot from modern English. So that difference had to be factored into the
transliteration. If you see the film, you won't understand anything they are saying (there are sub-titles). When the movie’s DVD is released, the language CDs will be turned over to the Virginia tribes who are descended from the Powhatan.

Rudes has also been working on the Wampano (also known as Quiripi, Naugatuck, Unquachog languages of central Long Island and western Connecticut —see SCAA Newsletter Vol. 23, No.3, 1997), and has organized what is known of the Pequot language for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Pequot researchers have told SCAA that Vol. IV, Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians, of our series, Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory, was their “Bible” in doing the research, as it contained all regional Algonquian vocabularies known in 1980, when it was published. There are a few copies of it left; if interested, contact SCAA at 631-929-8725.

The Pocahontas/John Smith romance which underpins this New World film, as well as the animated version several years ago, is pure fiction. She was 12 years old and was sent by her father, as well as other young Native boys, to Jamestown to learn “the English ways” and language. John Smith wrote his version of the “romance” 20 years later, but he also put the “being saved by a princess” theme in several other stories he wrote.

Important players in the authenticity of the film were the three 17th century replica ships which brought the settlers to Jamestown. One of them was the Half Moon of the New Netherland Museum at Albany, Chip Reynolds, captain. The female crew members had to be disguised as men for the shoot.


Regional Historic Preservation

Under the Federal Preserve America initiative, ten N.Y. State municipalities have been recognized, including Great Neck Plaza in Nassau County. Recent National Register listings for Nassau are St. Mary’s Chapel in Carle Place, the Pauline Felix House in Long Beach, and the Schenck-Mann House in Syosset. Suffolk County listings are the Nathaniel Rogers House in Bridgehampton; the Henry Prince Building and Town Doctors’ House Site in Southold (which has had archaeological investigation), the Thomas Strong House in Wainscott, and the Port Jefferson Village Historic District.

National Landmark Status for Meadowcroft

The rockshelter is now recognized as one of the oldest archaeological sites (19,000 - 13,000 years ago) in the New World, and it has yielded the largest collection of plant and animal remains at a single site in America, the earliest corn in the region and some of the oldest evidence of squash and ceramics. Dr. James Adovasio began excavation in 1973, unearthing thousands of stone tools, over 300 fire pits, and almost a million animal remains in the 16 ft. deep pits. A $250,000 grant from Save America’s Treasures will fund a protective structure for the entrance.

The site was the first to challenge the belief that Clovis was the first culture in America at 11,500 years ago and created a firestorm in this debate. Recent discovery of other earlier than Clovis deposits at the Cactus Hill, VA site, the Topper, SC site, and the Gault, TX site (as well as several sites in South America) supports the evidence at Meadowcroft and has led to new interpretations of the peopling of America. New theories are possibly coming by boat from Europe as well as the long-accepted Asian route, and coming by boat along the west coast then across the isthmus of Panama and up the east coast, as well as walking across Beringia into the northwest U.S.

New Interpretation of Corn in the Northeast

Recent research, using phytolith analysis of maize encrustation in ceramic pots retrieved from 11 archaeological sites in Iroquoia, reveals that maize was present almost 2000 years ago, much earlier than previously thought. This also indicates that maize was being used in New York for almost 1000 years before the emergence of large multi-family villages, and that squash and beans were not introduced in tandem with corn, but have separate histories. This information further removes the ‘migration theory’ as the source for the emergence of maize. The encrusted samples had been archived in the N.Y. State Museum for many years (the value of museum collections!); this study should lead to a larger phytolith analysis of more sites. (Thompson, Hart, Brumbach, Lusinck in Northeast Anthropology, No. 68, Fall 2004).

AASLH Award to Historical Perspectives

The American Association for State & Local History gave a 2005 Certificate of Commendation to Historical Perspectives, Inc. for the creation of an engaging series of 5 educational booklets for the Archaeological State Preserve program, which nominates, preserves, and celebrates Connecticut’s archaeological heritage. The program is administered through the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The 17 Preserve
Sites range from Revolutionary War encampments to engine houses to shipwrecks. The booklets have been transferred electronically to the Office of State Archaeology, where it is posted - available to teachers, students, and the public interested in archaeology. Information: dave.poirier@po.state.ct.us.

RECENT SUFFOLK COUNTY RESEARCH

J. W. Randall House Site, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

Daniel Mazeau completed archaeological excavations at the J. W. Randall House site in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County. The site, consisting of a pre-1797 farmhouse, several barns, and sheet refuse, appears to be largely intact following the purchase and preservation of the property by the State of New York in 1917. The site is currently part of the DEC’s Ridge Environmental Center.

Archaeological excavations at the site produced pearlware, whiteware, and redware containers, bottle glass, and clamshell, as well as architectural debris (machine cut nails, window glass, machine and hand made brick fragments) related to the construction and eventual repair of the extant residence.

The research potential of the J. W. Randall House site lies in its ability to provide information about 18th- and 19th-century domestic activities among families residing in Suffolk County. This research focus can be further examined within the technological, economic, and demographic development of rural and agricultural communities in central and eastern Long Island.

Grangebel Park Improvements, Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York

Michael Lenardi and Mark LoRusso completed an archaeological and architectural study of Grangebel Park in the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County for NYSDOT. Historic documentary evidence indicates that two major episodes of earthmoving occurred within the park. The first occurred in the early 19th century, which included the dredging of Grangebel Park and the creation of a mill dam, first shown as a “mill pond and flume” on the 1808 “Liberties of Riverhead” map. Several local industries soon developed around the mill dam. The next major episode of dredging occurred some ninety years later, in the late 19th century, when a mill race was dredged and dikes constructed to provide water to power the nearby Tower Mill.

Archaeological and architectural testing within the park produced evidence of several of these early structures including the C. M. Blydenburgh Carriage Shop, the Old Tower Mill, and the Tower Mill pump house. Early creamware and pearlware ceramics, bottle fragments, smoking pipe fragments, and architectural debris are included in the site collection. The importance of the location throughout prehistory is also documented by the recovery of quartz flakes and expedient tools from the site.

News from Stony Brook University

Over the last two years the Institute for Long Island Archaeology (ILIA at Stony Brook University) conducted approximately 70 Stage 1 archaeological surveys and five site evaluations. All of the reports generated by this work, along with hundreds of others treating the archaeology of Nassau and Suffolk counties, are available in the library maintained by ILIA in the Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University. Archaeologists working on Long Island are encouraged to send copies of their CRM reports to ILIA where they will be made available to other consultants and researchers.

Hudson River Archaeology

Daria Merwin of ILIA and the Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University has continued her work with the team investigating submerged cultural resources in the Hudson River. The Hudson River presents many challenges to finding and investigating submerged archaeological sites due to strong currents, near zero visibility, and variable sedimentation rates. However, understanding of the archaeological record of the river has been significantly improved in the last five years as a result of a comprehensive benthic mapping program supported by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), and undertaken by the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and Stony Brook University’s Marine Sciences Research Center (SBU MSRC).

This program has used multibeam echo sounding and side-scan sonar to map the Hudson River bed for more than 180 miles between New York City and Troy. Initial interpretation of these data revealed as many as 300 features likely to be submerged cultural resources, mostly shipwrecks. In 2004 and 2005 a team of researchers led by Daria Merwin and Roger Flood (SBU MSRC) continued to explore underwater archaeological sites in the Hudson River thanks to support from NYS DEC, the National Park Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Ocean Exploration. Ultra-high resolution sonar and magnetometer surveys were conducted on several shipwrecks in the Tappan Zee and Hudson Highlands areas, followed by inspection of six sites by divers from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Preliminary results hint at the wealth of archaeological resources hidden beneath the Hudson’s surface. The shipwrecks studied so far - 19th-century canal boats and sailed craft - are very well preserved, and likely include vessel types previously known solely through the documentary record. Efforts to identify each of the sonar targets and to assess the archaeological and historical significance of each site are ongoing, and include another round of ultra-high resolution sonar work slated for November 2005.

Historical Archaeology at Brookhaven National Laboratory

The Institute for Long Island Archaeology conducted archaeological evaluations at two historic period sites on the grounds of Brookhaven National Laboratory in central Suffolk County. The work was directed by Daria Merwin and Allison Manfra.

The W. J. Weeks site is a mid- to late 19th-century rural domestic site with above- and below-ground features, including a foundation wall and a sheet midden. Based on documents and the artifacts recovered, the house was built between 1830 and 1840 and probably abandoned by 1880.
During most of this period, the house (called the "Yellow House" by owner William J. Weeks) was occupied by tenant farmer and laborer Edmund Ackerly and his family. Results of the archaeological study suggest that the site's inhabitants were of very modest means and were engaged in cordwood harvesting. Archaeology at the W. J. Weeks site may address research topics that reach beyond local interest. During the middle of the 19th century, agriculture in New York and elsewhere in the Northeast largely shifted from subsistence household farming to surplus production and participation in a market economy. The Weeks families and their tenant laborers were engaged in both subsistence and market production, the latter of which was made possible by the coming of the railroad in 1844, opening the New York City market to Long Island farmers as well as spurring the cordwood industry. The extent to which the Ackerly family participated in the market economy can be examined using ceramics, food remains, and other classes of artifacts.

The early history of the nearby Weeks Campbell site is similar; it was also a small, rural house occupied by tenant woodcutters. The house belonged to James H. Weeks during the mid-19th century, although cultural material dating to this period is relatively scarce, suggesting that it may have been occupied only intermittently. By 1873, the house belonged to independent farmer E. V. Campbell, his family, and boarders. By 1910, the property changed hands again, and the Campbell family was replaced by the Valentine Dittmeier family, who were also farmers. Most of the artifacts recovered during the site evaluation date from the late 19th through early 20th centuries, and there are several above-and below-ground features at the site including a foundation cellar hole, brick walkway, and a refuse dump.

African American Archaeology in the Town of Brookhaven

Allison Manfra of ILIA and Syracuse University is writing her M.A. thesis on a Free Black community that resided in Rocky Point in the Town of Brookhaven from the late 18th through the 19th centuries. The project draws on the archaeological collection from the Betsey Prince site (excavated by the New York State Museum), along with documentary and oral history resources, in its examination of a Free Black community in rural 19th-century Long Island.

Bayberry Land: Rest and Refuge in Southampton

Michele Morrisson, Cynthia Carrington Carter, Daria Merwin, and David Bernstein carried out extensive historical and architectural research at the Bayberry Land Estate on Sebonac Neck on the South Fork of Long Island. Two years of research culminated last spring in public outreach programs (exhibit, brochure, public talk, web site (www.town.southampton.ny.us/specialmain.html?id=2751)) in the Town of Southampton designed and coordinated by Michele Morrisson of ILIA. Bayberry Land was originally the 314 acre country home of Charles Sabin and Pauline Morton Sabin.

The manor house and outbuildings were designed in the early 20th century by the New York firm of Cross & Cross and the grounds were designed by the prominent landscape architect Marian Cruger Coffin. After serving as a country retreat for over two decades, Bayberry Land was purchased by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local- No.3 who used the property as a convalescent home and educational center for workers, and as a summer camp for the children of union members.

Prehistoric Lithic Technology on Long Island

David Bernstein of ILIA, Michael Lenardi of the New York State Museum, and Jaclyn Nadeau of the Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University continued their research on prehistoric lithic technology on Long Island. Bernstein and Lenardi have been analyzing numerous quartz and quartzite assemblages excavated by Stony Brook University over the last fifteen years. Their research focuses on variation in the use of locally abundant lithic resources and how settlement patterns may have been influenced by the distribution of quartz and quartzite cobbles. In contrast, Nadeau's work concentrates on the origin and use of non-quartz materials, often referred to as "exotics." The results of this research will appear over the next year in a series of publications by Bernstein and Lenardi and in Nadeau's M.A. thesis.

Administration for Native American Grant to Shinnecock Nation

The Shinnecock Museum & Cultural Center received an ANA grant to begin on September 30, 2005 to design an Eastern Woodlands Native village across the street from the Museum building. The Museum will use Plimoth Plantation and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum as consultants. The Shinnecock elders will contribute their knowledge and the youth will be enrolled in the development of the village, which will consist of a long house, several wigwams, fire pits, a root cellar and traditional gardens. A nature walk will lead to Shinnecock Bay, where canoe tours will be offered.

A second part of the grant is to ensure the preservation of the Museum's collections through accessioning all items for a library archive and storing and conserving them appropriately.

Resources

National Park Service: The Archaeology Program has added more case studies to the Public Benefits of Archaeology web pages, where there are more highlights for educators, ecologists, and community activists - a resource for how archaeological science can benefit them: www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/benefits/index.htm

The "Online Exhibits" web page guides the visitor to the extraordinary world of virtual exhibits within the NPS and beyond, for information: barbarajittle@nps.gov www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/exhibits.htm

Recent reports from SHPO to public archive at Uconn:
#1416 - Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Ceramic Analysis, N. Stonington, McNeil, 2005 (MA thesis)
#1417 - Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Lifeways, N. Stonington, Cipolla, 2005 (MA thesis)

Coastal Heritage, a quarterly publication free from the S.C Sea Grant Consortium, 287 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401. "Ancient Tools? Searching for
the First Americans," Vol. 19, No.4, Spring 2005 has an extensive current overview of early sites, early boats, early tools, a migration map of early Homo sapiens, and extensive reading and web resources.

A major Clovis in the Southeast conference and exhibition was held October 26-29, 2005 in Columbia, SC, with all the leading scientists in the field participating. It included a visit to the Topper site. To volunteer to work at the Topper site, no experience is needed; it requires a $416. donation per week, $350. of which is tax deductible. This includes all meals except breakfast, free camping, and evening programs. There are 20 slots available; registration begins January 1 and is usually filled up by March 1. Both Clovis and pre-Clovis levels will be excavated. To register, call 803-777-8170 or register online at www.allendale-expedition.net/.

New Website on Archaeology in New York - the N.Y. Archaeological Council is sponsoring a website on archaeology and archaeological issues in the state: http://nyarchaeology.org. For comments or additions to the site, contact the compiler, Douglas Mackey at dmack89@nycap.it.com.

Student Research Awards, by the N.Y.S. Archives may be by individuals or groups. Deadline - June 1, 2006. Information: www.archives.nysed.gov, click on Education.


Indian Island County Park Skeletal Remains

Indian Island Park Supervisor Jim Richeson discovered bones and artifacts washing out of an East-facing bank of the park in late October, 2005, due to the torrential rains and heavy seas. The Park Police were called, who called the County Medical Examiner, who sent a staffer who hastily dug out the remains ahead of a rising tide. The Shinnecock were notified of the find shortly after. SCAA's Vice-President David Thompson viewed and photographed the site shortly after discovery.

There appear to be the bones of two to three individuals in small pieces, burned; pieces of a clay (almost whole) pot, grit-tempered and cord-marked; a phallic-shaped stone object (a hammer?); a stone tool, possibly a scraper?; and a most unusual ceramic pipe, highly decorated and very rare for Long Island. Dr. Lucianne Lavin has found similar objects in Connecticut and feels they occur with individuals of high stature.

Dr. Vincent Stefan, a professor at Lehman College in the Bronx and a forensic archaeologist for the County Medical Examiner, said the bones are so fragmented that no determination can be made as to race, sex, or age of the bones. Mr. Richeson said, that when found, the larger skeleton appeared to be in a flexed position and the pottery was buried next to the smaller skeleton.

He said the water level there has risen several feet, inundating a nearby hollowed out tree trunk, an "Indian well," for fresh water, indicating a stream was once there. A number of these wells have been found on the Island at Amagansett, Three Mile Harbor, Ft. Corchaug, etc.

Cremation burial was practiced by the Transitional Period people of the Island - the Orient Burial Cult - 3500 to 3000 years ago. Pottery was developed by the Woodland Period people, after 3000 years ago. These artifacts and practices would indicate that the burial was Native American, of the local Yennecock or Shinnecock tribes. The remains were reburied by the County Parks Department in an undisclosed spot with a Shinnecock ceremony.

Meetings


Society for American Archaeology, 71st annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 26-30.

N.Y. State Archaeological Assn., 90th annual meeting, Kerhonkson, NY, April 28-30.


Society for Industrial Archaeology 35th annual conference, St. Louis, MO, June 1-4. Siaevents@aol.com.


Publications

Touring Gotham's Archaeological Past, 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours through New York City. Diana diZerega Wall and Anne-Marie Cantwell. "A lot of fun while..."


Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640 - 1830, John R. Stevens. Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture, P.O. Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491. $65. hard cover, $50. soft cover + 8% sales tax + $8. shipping.

The Polychrome Pearlware Pattern Book, Marie-Lorraine Pipes, compiler. 90 patterns recorded from several sites in lower Manhattan, usually tea ware. $20. + $3. shipping to Artifact Research Center, 262 Spring St., Newton, NJ 07860. 973-579-2761.


Exhibits

National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center, New York City:


Passings

Gladys Tantaquidgeon, Mohegan medicine woman, at 106 yrs.;
Dr. Richard Doremus, innovative Shoreham-Wading River school superintendent, 80 yrs.;
Vine Deloria, American Indian activist, author, 72 yrs.;
Veronica (Ronnie) Wacker, North Fork activist, author, 83 yrs.

Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory
All volumes are $40. + $5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is $75. + $8. Shipping, both plus 8.50% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print; a few copies of Vol. IV remain.

I Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology
II The Coastal Archaeology Reader
III History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.
IV Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
V The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
VI The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History
VII The Historical Archaeology of L.I.: Part 1 - The Sites
VIII The Native Forts of L.I. Sound (in press).

Student Series (Including shipping)
Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans 8.
Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39”-3 colors) 14.
Map: Native Long Island (26x39”-3 colors) 14.

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Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Tel: 631-929-8725

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