Gone But Not Forgotten: Buried Legacies of Long Island’s African Diaspora is a Spring and Summer program of the Eastville Community Historical Society. April was a panel of local speakers on the History, Art, and Heritage Preservation on the East End. May included Spring cleaning of the St. David AME Zion Cemetery, and a symposium – A Multi-cultural Exploration of Homegoing Celebrations of Life; Art and Archaeology of Death in the African Diaspora at the Southampton Historical Museum.

June 1 is a Tour of East End Cemeteries and June 22 is Hands-On Action: Cemetery Preservation Workshop, presented by the N.Y.S. Historic Cemetery Association. Info: 631-725-4711. Eastvillechs@gmail.com.

Website Exploring America’s Dutch Heritage

The New Netherland Institute and New Netherland Research Center has launched a new website for America’s Dutch heritage at www.netherlandinstitute.org.

In History & Heritage, explore Dutch America through documents, artifacts, people and places, and exhibits. In Research, discover original documents through which scholars study the New Netherland era and its ongoing legacy. In Education, find tools for teachers and fun ways for students to explore on their own. It now includes lesson plans from the 2012 Summer Institute for teachers held in Albany on “The Fur Trade: Contact and Commerce between Indians and Dutch Settlers.” In the new Shop, explore, educate or have fun with a basket of products related to New Netherland.

New Netherland In a Nutshell: A Concise History of the Dutch Colony in North America, by Firth Fabend, is surprising in how she deftly interweaves a surprising amount of social and material history into the more standard political narrative.

N.Y.’s libraries, and the New Netherland Institute sent a copy of the book to each public and academic library in N.Y. State.

The N.Y. State Library, Available through the NNI website, www.newnetherlandinstitute.org, Amazon.com, and Barnes and Noble.

The 36th Annual New Netherland Seminar will be held Saturday, October 5, 2013 at the New-York Historical Society, New York City. It will focus on the Flemish role in the war against Spain and the development of New Netherland.

Shinnecock Wikun Village


ShinnecockMuseum.com
The Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference, held 14 years after the first one in 1999, will be held in Santa Fe, NM October 17-19, 2013. Leading archaeologists, geochronologists, and earth scientists from Russia, Japan, Canada, Denmark, England, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, France, and US will deliver 37 special 30 minute presentations.

There will be extensive exhibits, including the Cinmar biface dredged up from the Atlantic Ocean, a key piece of evidence supporting the Atlantic Solutrean hypothesis of the peopling of America. The banquet talk will be by Peter Hiscock about global migrations and the colonization of Australia. For information: www.paleo-americanodyssey.com.

Small quadcopter used for low-level photography at Marj Rabba, Israel

New Technique for Recording Archaeological Sites
Austin (Chad) Hill has experimented with a quadcopter and a radio-controlled plane purchased from a hobby shop, both of which had sufficient power to carry a Canon point-and-shoot running CHDK or a GoPro hero camera to record his excavations at Marj Rabba, Israel. The quadcopter was used at lower heights so as not to lose control and produced many blurry images due to the vibration.

The r/c plane could photograph a more complete coverage of the total site area, providing thousands of photographs of the site at all phases of excavation, useful for final publication of the excavation, as well as helping excavators evaluate the presence of features that were hard to discern at ground level.

Yorke Rowan, director of the Galilee PreHistory Project, successfully hand launching the radio-control plane.
SAA Archaeological Record, January 2013, 25-29.

Mass Extinction of Megamammals: A Prehistoric Who-Done-It by Eline D. Lorenzen of U-C-Berkeley and Eske Willerslev of the U. Of Copenhagen entered the intense debate (man, or climate, or disease?) over what caused the extinction – 36 % of Eurasian and 72 % of north American megafauna species – beginning 50,000 years ago.

They selected 6 Ice Age herbivores that coexisted in the same geographical scene of the crime. Their data consisted of 846 radiocarbon-dated mitochondrial DNA control region sequences, 1,439 directly dated megafaunal remains, and 6,291 radiocarbon determinations associated with Upper Paleolithic human occupations in Eurasia.

Special distribution models and paleoclimatic data were examined to assess the influence of climate on the species. They tracked the estimated range size at milestone dates of 42. 30, 21, and 6 kYBP. If climate had a significant impact on the size of a species population, there would be a positive correlation between the scope of its geographic range and the size of the population. The woolly mammoth and rhino were both extinct by 6kYBP and therefore lack data. For the other four species the results were congruent, implying that climate change indeed affected both geographic range and population size.

To gauge the impact of humans on population size, the team calculated the geographic range overlap between each species and humans at the four dates mentioned above, determined from the Eurasian Paleolithic archaeological record and the North American record. The results were complicated and dynamic, the effects unique to each species.

The reindeer, still with us, were the most successful, although their habitat shrank 84%. The musk ox is near extinction due to climate change, as the woolly rhinoceros is now completely extinct possibly due to climate change. The ancient horse and bison appear to have been victims of man and climate. The woolly mammoth demise has many different interpretations, so the case is still open.

New York SHPO Closes from December 2012 until hopefully reopening in Spring 2013. This is to allow the SHPO to finish digitizing all maps, site reports, forms, etc. and posting them online for researchers to use remotely. Archaeologists with PDF digital copies of completed site reports (2003) to the present, or earlier, are asked to consider burning the report(s) to a DVD/CD and sending them to the SHPO, so that limited State resources may be spent digitizing the pre-2003 reports.

Dr. Phil Weigand Honored by Jalisco State, Mexico

Dr. Weigand, former Chair of the Anthropology Department of Stony Brook University, is being honored by the Jalisco State Library with a floor devoted to his contributions to archaeology in Western Mexico. His extensive library, map collection, etc., along with his wife, Acelia García A. Weigand’s, collection of Huichol artifacts will be on display for researchers.

Jalisco State Library, Guadalajaro, Mexico

A Personal Homenaje to Phil Weigand, by Robert B. Pickering and Christopher S. Beekman details the contributions Dr. Weigand made to their lives and careers, both in the US and in Mexico. In Ancient Mesoamerica, 17 (2006), 235-237, Cambridge University Press.

Resources

Fordham University has introduced the Burial Database Project of Enslaved Americans, a Web portal that invites visitors to input information about the whereabouts and residents of slave graveyards across the country. It was suggested by Sandra Arnold, a history student at the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Fordham.

Lonely Islands: Culture, Community, and Poverty in Archaeological Perspective, by Christopher N. Matthews, co-editor (with Suzanne M. Spencer-Wood) of Archaeologies of Poverty, a monograph, Historical Archaeology, Vol. 45, No. 3, 2011. It is based on his archaeological and community work with the Higher Ground Project in Setauket.

Conferences

The 19th Annual Omohundro Institute Conference, will be held June 13-15 at Baltimore, MD., with a wide range of papers on 17th and 18th century America. Info: http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/19th annual.

13th Mohican/Algonquian Peoples Seminar, September 28, New York State Museum, Albany. Info: wbroder2@nycap.rr.com.

Encountering ‘Others’ in the Atlantic World: Perspectives from the Material World,” New Sweden 375th Anniversary Conference and Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, 8 - 10 November, University of Delaware and Lund University. Info: craig.lukezic@state.de.us.


“A Long Time Coming”: Community Based Historical Archaeology in Setauket, N.Y. Summer 2013 Field School Montclair State University, in collaboration with Higher Ground Intercultural and Heritage Association, Inc. is offering a field school in community-based historical archaeology. Participants will contribute to three ongoing research projects. – excavations at the highly regarded Jacob and Hannah Hart family late 19th century home site, and excavations at the prominent Thompson family 18th century homestead.

The fieldwork seeks to collect data on the early history and development of Setauket’s Native and African American community in the contexts of both slavery and freedom. The third project is a community-based historical study of Setauket’s Bethel AME Church, which was founded by community members in 1845 and remains a vital community institution. Participants will learn the fundamentals of archaeological excavation, site interpretation, and oral and archival research methods.

The project is 4 academic credits and is limited to 12 students. Contact Dr. Christopher N. Matthews – matthewsc@mail.montclair.edu – for information on registration and program costs. The application deadline is May 31st.

Thompson House, Setauket, NY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (18) $15
Individual $25
Family 35
Contributing 100
Sustaining 50
Patron 100
Life Member 400

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Willing to volunteer? .................................................................
Occupation: ............................................................................... 

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PUBLICATIONS

