Montauk Archaeology Fest, October 5, 2013
10 AM - 5 PM at the Second House Museum, Montauk Highway.

Experience flint knapping, pottery making, wampum making, fire making, ancient cooking techniques, pottery firing, bow making.

Crafts people will display items of their craft, some of which will be for sale. Food available for sale
Supported by the N.Y. Council for the Humanities.

Connecticut’s Archaeology Fair
October 19 - 10 AM to 3 PM
Keeney Memorial Center
200 Main St., Wethersfield, CT

Hands-on archaeology activities for children
Exhibits from local archaeological societies
Learn about ongoing archaeological field studies in Connecticut papers presented from 11:00 Am to 2 PM
Sponsored by the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology & the Archaeological Society of Connecticut.

PaleoAmerican Odyssey Conference 2013
Santa Fe, NM, October 17-19, 2013

The successor to the 1999 “Clovis and Beyond” conference, this international meeting, sponsored by the Center for the Study of the First Americans and the Smithsonian Institution, brings scientists from throughout the world, presenting 37 papers on early human evidence.

There will be an extensive display of artifacts from many early sites, including the Cinmar beface dredged up from the Atlantic Ocean, a key piece of evidence supporting the Solutrean hypothesis (that pre-Clovis cultures came from the Basque area of Spain rather than Siberia).

Key note banquet speaker will Peter Hiscock on the peopling of Australia and the role of humans in megafaunal extinctions – there giant kangaroos instead of mammoths and mastodons.

A Ground breaking new book – the 10,000 plus year history and culture of Connecticut’s Indigenous Peoples, by Lucieanna Lavin, Ph.D., Yale University Press, 2013, $45. Since there was much interaction between the Native people of Long Island and Connecticut, this book will be of interest to Long Islanders.
Dr. Paul Huey, retired from the Historic Sites Bureau, OPRHP, now volunteers there to help reduce the backlog of archaeological site material that needs to be cataloged, digitized, and made available to all scholars and archaeologists eventually through the New York State Library. Below is a brief listing of the annotated bibliography he has compiled.

Sadly, N.Y. State archaeology is probably the least supported of any state in the US. The former seven staff, plus several field crew each summer, have retired or left, and there has been no replacement of them. There is only one archaeologist, Michael Roets, left and his position has not been upgraded as other staff have been.

Lloyd Neck was an incredibly valuable property for the first Europeans arriving here. The blizzard of deeds of the first land speculators, including their interaction with the Native people, illustrates that. Easily reached by water in Long Island Sound, the Neck also had a sheltered harbor between it and the Huntington mainland, also the source of oyster beds and other maritime resources. It was a very productive environment for both Natives and European settlers.

Originally only accessible by land at low tide made it like an island which could support animal husbandry with little fear of predators. Extensive stands of first growth trees were valuable for Native life, the British army during the Revolutionary War, and as a cash crop for the Lloyds, who also planted extensive fruit tree orchards, mostly apples.

The Lloyds were involved in 17th century global trade as were the other six manors of Long Island. SCAA has received 2013 film completion grants from the S. C. Film Commission and the Nassau County TV & Film Foundation for the up-coming film, The Manors of Long Island.

1764 Map of Lloyd Neck

2010 Huey, Paul  

2010 Anonymous, Albany, NY  
Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve.

Contact Paul Huey at Paul.Huey@parks.ny.gov for the findings of these reports.

Filmmaker Matt Grzam filming Dr. Chris Matthews about his excavation at the Joseph Lloyd house.

Mammoth Remains on Plum Island?

The environmentalists and other citizens trying to save Plum Island from auction by the U.S. government and potential development, were surprised this past summer to read the Island’s Environmental Impact statement, which included a cryptic statement about mammoth remains found near the lighthouse. Since the report also cited SCAA’s book, The History & Archaeology of the Montauk, in relation to regional Native people, reporters called SCAA for opinion and more information. The person writing the General Services Administration archaeology report did not cite the source of certain statements specifically, unfortunately.

The reporters were referred to SCAA’s volume II, The Coastal Archaeology Reader, which reprints the reports of scientists at Woods Hole Institute (MA) on reported mammoth remains found off the south shore of Long Island. It did seem possible that mammoth remains could have been ‘snagged’ by Plum Island as they washed down the Hudson Trench across the now submerged coastal plain, but usually the remains were single pieces, not a whole skeleton, as reported in The Long Islander in 1879.

The question was solved by Geoff Fleming, Director of the Southold Historical Museum, who is now working on a book about Plum Island. He notes that there is no lighthouse on the South Shore Island, but there is a Plum Island in Long Island Sound, which does have a lighthouse. Presumably, the mystery is solved. We wonder who will explore that island to see if any mammoth remains are still there.

Neither the American Museum of Natural History nor the N.Y. State Museum had any records of such mammoth bones being found. There is a cautionary account from Baisley Pond Park in Queens in the 19th century.

New Dates for the Past

At least two new dating techniques for archaeology have been developed in the last 10 years. One is cosmogenic nuclide dating, which depends on the decay of isotopes of aluminum and beryllium in sediments. Like many radioactive isotopes, these decay at a regular rate. Since radiation from sunlight forms the two isotopes, the sediments need to have been deeply buried since the period of interest in order to measure the decay since the time of burial. Another new technique involves using uranium-series decay methods to date the thin calcite layers that sometimes form over cave paintings. In the first publication on its use, the authors derived average dates of ca. 40,000 years ago for paintings in 11 caves in Spain, raising the possibility that Neanderthals might have made them rather than modern humans. (That turns the thesis of Homo Sapiens artistic superiority upside down!) Allison Brooks, The Future of the Past, Anthronotes, Vol. 33, No. 2, Fall, 2012.

Anthronotes, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, has gone digital. For your copy go to – http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/anthronotesForm/anSignupForm.cfm.
National Museum of Natural History newsletter to learn about scientific discoveries, web resources, museum activities, and new exhibits, go to – http://tinyurl.com/nmnh-news.

Chert and Other Lithic Raw Materials Used by Native Americans in New York State, October 12. A workshop focused on the geology and archaeology of lithic resources of Native people will be held from 9 AM to 5 PM at the New York State Museum in the morning, and in field locations in Otsego County in the afternoon. The workshop is limited to 35 participants. If interested contact State Archaeologist Christina Rieth – CRIETH@mail.nysed.gov by Sept. 30.

17th Century Warfare, Diplomacy & Society in the American Northeast – an Academic Conference, October 18, 19 at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket/Ledyard, CT. For information, contact Ashley Bissonnette (860-396-6803 or abissonnette@mptn.org.

A Tour of New Netherland by Russell Shorto, author of Island at the Center of the World (Manhattan), through the lost world of New Netherland, spanning five present-day states from the House of Good on the Fresh River, today’s Connecticut, to Fort Casimir on the South River, known today as the Delaware. Digital exhibition at www.newnetherlandinstitute.org.

October 5, 6 - The 36th Annual New Netherland Seminar will be held at the New-York Historical Society. It will focus on “The Dutch Revolt and New Netherland,” the 80 year period when the Low Countries fought the Habsburg Empire for political and religious freedom – a time of great displacement of people, a disruption in normal commercial activity, and exploration for new routes and markets – such as New Netherland. Information – nyslfn@mail.nysed.gov; 518-474-1195.

October 8 - 10 - The 13th Annual New Sweden History Conference and Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology on “Encountering ‘Others’ in the Atlantic World.” Scholars at Lund University in Sweden will also participate via real time video. Cost is approximately $50/person for two days. SCAA’s film, The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island, will be played during Book Room hours.

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 8.625% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I, Vol. IV, & VI are out of print.

I Early Paper 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
DVD - The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island - 2 hrs. $50. + $4.31 tax + $6. Shipping = $60.31

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.

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

Date:______________________________________________________________

Name:________________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip:__________________________________________

Phone No. ____________________________

Willing to volunteer? __________________________

Occupation: ___________________________________________________________

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,
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