

# North Fork Chapter 29 Newsletter

## Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

Spring 2023

Volume 19, Issue 1

### Chapter 29 Officers

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**Secretary/Treasurer,**

**Cheryl Burkett**

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### North Fork Chapter 29

*Meets at 7 pm on the 3rd  
Friday of each month  
except December, June  
and July at the  
Presbyterian Church  
Education Building,  
Corner of Main and  
White Street  
Brookville, PA 15825*

**Everyone Welcome**

**The Chapter Newsletter  
is published in  
January and July**

Submissions should be  
directed to Ken Burkett at  
kenburkett@comcast.net

### Chapter 29 News

With the new year on the horizon it seems that the chapter is still going strong with a lot of exciting events and activities along with great programs and hopefully new projects in our future.

The first Chapter newsletter was published in December of 2005, just after receiving our charter which now makes the Chapter 18 years old. We have a great group and although a number of good memorable friends were lost along the way, it is great to know that interest in our local history and archaeology remains strong among you all.

A chapter is only as good as its membership so please if you have ideas for projects, speakers, events or anything to help keep the activity and interest level up, please bring it up. Everyone is busy but a collective group is always the best. Don't be afraid to volunteer.

Times change as well as people. On a personal note, in 2023 I am slowly backing out as the Executive Director of the Jefferson County History Center and will be continuing there on a part time basis until our new Archives Facility is complete in mid 2023. I will then serve as needed as an advisor./volunteer.

I was in my 20's when I met Stan Lantz and was always mesmerized by his office at the collections archives in Pittsburgh where he worked among all those amazing archaeological finds. I once told him that someday I was going to do the same. He advised me to "Get a good job and do archaeology as a hobby so you can do your own research instead of someone else's". Good advice, however I was still able to eventually able to follow my dream of working in a museum. .

All in all this has been a fantastic journey and I fully appreciate everyone who has helped me along the way. I now look forward to having more time to pursue my interest in archaeology, catch up on writing and reports and travel. The Western Pennsylvania Petroglyph project is a 2 year project with hopefully a new book at the end. I am sure there is more excavation in my future and hopefully you will be interested in participating.

Ken Burkett



## Chapter and Regional Events Schedule

Chapter Meeting  
Friday, January 20

**SHOW AND TELL PARTY**  
Bring your favorite artifact  
and story to share  
"SNACKS FOR EVERYONE"

Chapter Meeting  
Friday, February 17

**Ashley Nagel**  
Archaeology at Modoc City, an  
oil boom town in Butler County

Chapter Meeting  
Friday, March 17

**Amy Covell**  
The Care, Curation, and Repatriation  
of the Sacred and Sensitive at  
the Carnegie Museum

SPA Annual Meeting  
April 14, 15 and 16  
Dubois PA

**NO Chapter Meeting**  
In April

Chapter Meeting  
Friday, May 19

**Chuck Williams**  
Man with Crooked Mouth

**NO CHAPTER MEETING**  
June and July

**ELK Expo**  
July 29/30  
Elk Country Visitors Center

**French Creek Artifact Show**  
July 29, 2023  
Linesville, PA

**North Fork 29 Artifact Show**  
Saturday, September 2  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

## Program Abstracts

### Show and Tell Party

**Bring an artifact or something of interest to the group to share. This is an important planning meeting for the chapter this year.**  
**\*\*Snacks and drink provided\*\***

### Ashley Nagle Indiana University of PA, MA, applied archaeology

Ashley's thesis looks at Modoc City, an oil boom town in Butler County, PA, where She did test excavations in what turned out to be a row of hotels with some interesting results.

### Amy L. Covell-Murthy - Archaeology Collection Manager/Head of the Section of Anthropology

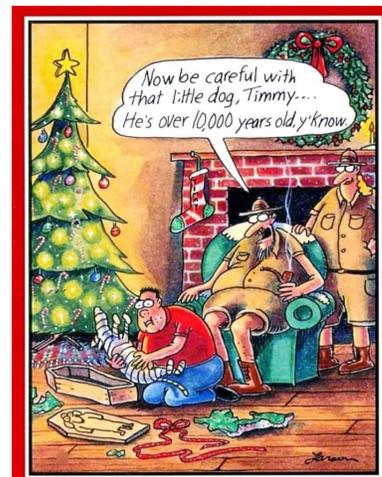
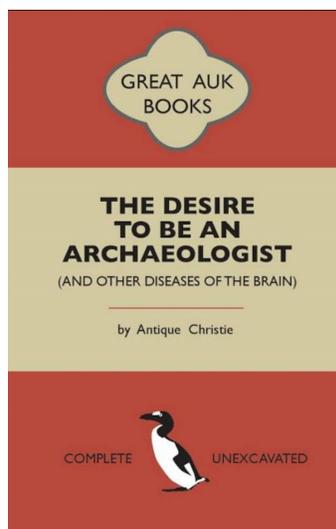
**"The Care, Curation, and Repatriation of the Sacred and Sensitive at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History"**

Learn about the size, scope, and history of the anthropology collection at CMNH with a focus on how we care for sacred and sensitive material. Covell-Murthy specializes in NAGPRA compliance, human remains policy, and object storage solutions.

### Chuck Williams, Ph.D., Williams Ecological, LLC

**"Man with the Crooked Mouth": Archaeology, history, and past environments of Pymatuning Swamp**

Pymatuning Swamp in northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania was a glacial wetland covering over 10,000 acres. In 1933, the swamp was dammed, creating the largest human-made lake in the state. Ecological communities and archaeology of Pymatuning Swamp were largely lost to reservoir construction and flooding, but historic surveys and maps allow a glimpse into the region's past. This presentation will focus on the history, archaeology, and past environments of Pymatuning Swamp, with an emphasis on the rich historical landscape that once was.



"At least, Timmy thought, this was slightly better than the Mayan ceremonial death mask he got the year before."

# Western Pennsylvania Native American Rock Art Survey

By Ken Burkett and Brian Fritz

Only a few special places still exist in Pennsylvania where the prehistoric inhabitants left evidence of their activities on the undisturbed natural landscape. Carved into the exposed faces of boulders, rock ledges, and caves are images representing humans, animals, mythological creatures, and abstract geometric forms. Known as petroglyphs and pictographs, these inscribed symbols provide us with a glimpse into the minds of Pennsylvania's earliest inhabitants. Petroglyph sites allow us to look beyond their ordinary stone and bone artifacts and examine the less-tangible aspects of their spiritual and religious worldviews.

On August 3, 1749, Captain Pierre Joseph Celoron de Blainville wrote in his journal he buried a lead plate signifying the French claim to the Ohio Country under "an immense stone upon which certain figures are rudely enough carved." This boulder is today known as the Indian God Rock petroglyphs site located along the bank of the Allegheny River 8.5 miles downstream from Franklin. Chaplain of the Celeron expedition, Father Joseph Pierre de Bonnecamps, described the rock in more detail; "We buried a 2<sup>nd</sup> plate of lead under a great rock, upon which were to be seen several figures roughly graven. These were the figures of men and women, and the footprints of goats, turkeys, bears, etc., inscribed upon the rock."

Beginning in 1958, Carnegie Museum archaeologist, James L. Swauger conducted a decade long survey of Native American rock art in the upper Ohio River watershed covering portions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland. His work culminated in the publication of his book titled "Rock Art of the Upper Ohio Valley" in 1974. Swauger's book is an inventory of the known petroglyph sites, most of which he personally visited. The book provides a description of the petroglyphs found at each site, a description of the site's location, and a background history of the site's discovery, visitation history, and present condition. In addition to his book, Swauger's extensive records, notes, and photographs were archived at the Carnegie Museum Annex. However, this extensive collection of Native American rock art information was never transmitted and recorded into the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey records maintained by the State Museum of Pennsylvania.

The Western Pennsylvania Native American Rock Art Survey was launched in November of this year. The goal of this new initiative is to revisit the known rock art sites, update Swauger's documentation of each site, and record the information into the State Museum's archaeological site database. The project also seeks to develop a set of standards for evaluating the eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The project is directed by Ken Burkett and Brian Fritz. Funding for the project is provided through a PHMC Keystone grant and a donation needed to meet the 50% grant match. The grant will be administered through the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.



The first outing took place on November 14, 2022. Ken Burkett, Brian Fritz, and Tom Rabbit visited the Traister Petroglyphs site (36CL103) located near Rimersburg, Clarion County. Ken Burkett documented this very site 41 years ago. Ken noted how difficult it was to see the figures after four decades of weathering. The purpose of this site visit was to experiment with different photographic techniques and to devise a strategy and equipment list for recording the figures engraved into the rocks. In the past, it was a common method to chalk the figures making them visible to the camera. This method is now disfavored within the rock art community, reasoning that chalking is a form defacement and has the potential for degrading a fragile resource. Photographing the figures without chalk is a real challenge, a problem that we hope to solve with portable lighting and some high-tech computer software. We will keep SPA members updated as the project progresses.

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## George Miller Atlatl Throw



North Fork Chapter 29  
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

[Northfork29.org](http://Northfork29.org)

## Chapter 29 at the 2022 Elk Expo

This year the North Fork Chapter returned to the Elk Expo (August 21-22) which was held at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, PA.

The interested crowd was huge as always with a lot of interest in the Atlatl and our introduction to Pennsylvania archaeology.

**THANK YOU** to all chapter members who helped make this a wonderful event.





# **The 92nd Annual Meeting of The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology**

**April 14 -16, 2023**

**Hosted by the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology**

**Meeting Venue: Dubois Country Club, 10 Lakeside Avenue, Dubois, PA 15801**

**Accommodations: Comfort Suites Dubois, 8 Lakeside Avenue Dubois, PA 15801**

**Reservations at (814) 375-6028**

**Identify yourself as being with the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology**

**Single King rate is \$109.00, 2 Queen Beds - \$119.00**

**Early reservations are recommended.**

## **Call for papers**

**Program Chair: Amanda Valko**

**Presentation at the SPA annual meeting is open to any member of the society in good standing. Papers are limited to 20 minutes and must relate to some aspect of Pennsylvania Archaeology. Individuals are invited to submit an abstract of 150 words or less to Amanda at: [amanda@quemahoning.com](mailto:amanda@quemahoning.com) NO later than March 18, 2023.**

**The Program Committee will evaluate each submission and will notify by email of acceptance, recommended changes based on the nature of the material, or rejection for ethical issues or sensitivities.**

**Poster Session Chair: Angela S. Jaillet-Wentling,**

**Students wishing to present posters should email their title and abstract NO later than March 18, 2023 to [angela.jaillet@yahoo.com](mailto:angela.jaillet@yahoo.com). Please include a copy of our student identification card when submitting .**

**PAC Meeting: Friday morning and Session Papers in the afternoon**

**Other inquiries: Ken Burkett - [kenburkett@comcast.net](mailto:kenburkett@comcast.net)**

**MORE info and registration soon at [pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com](http://pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com)**

## NEWS from the SPA

### SPA 2023 Field Trip

The SPA field trip this summer will visit Civil War battlefields. We expect to gather for an orientation on Thursday night June 8, and visit sites and visitor's centers on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We plan to include Antietam, Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg, and other sites. As we meet archaeologists, historians, interpreters and curators, we will explore the history of various battlefields, and recent archaeological work at these sites as well as learn about military archaeology, collections and artifact conservation. Like past SPA field trips it promises to be a fun and informative long weekend. If you are interested in Civil War archaeology, mark your calendars for June 8-11 and watch for more details this Spring through the newsletter, the website and your chapters as well as at the Annual Meeting. Don't miss this great opportunity for learning and fun!

### Graybill Specialized Research Fund

This grant was developed in memory of Jeff Graybill. His family has donated funds to honor him and his career in archaeology. As a former student of W. Fred Kinsey, this donation supports the fundamental ideals of both Jeff and Fred towards research, specialized analysis, and publication. Award of funds is dependent on a research proposal which identifies the project, analysis method and its relevance to our understanding of Pennsylvania archaeology. The Application Form is available on the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology website. Review of proposals will be conducted by a three-person committee as approved by the fund administrator.

#### SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

##### 2023 Membership Fees

Memberships other than Life or Benefactor are for one calendar year

Active .....	\$30.00
Institutional.....	\$40.00
Family .....	\$35.00
Student .....	\$22.00
Sustaining .....	\$40.00
Life .....	\$450.00
Benefactor .....	\$500.00

An additional \$15.00 must be added to all foreign memberships for postage. Canadian postal money orders will be accepted. Checks must be in US Funds and drawn on a US bank. Make checks payable to Treasurer, SPA and mailed to:

**Treasurer, SPA, P.O. Box 213, New Bethlehem, PA 16242**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of SPA Chapter Name and No. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Benefits: Biannual *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* and announcements of the Annual SPA Meeting. Newsletters and all other informational mailings are made only to those on the mailing list as of the mailing date. Memberships for the current year must be received prior to October 1. Membership dues received after that date will be credited to the next calendar year.

Your 2023  
chapter dues are  
now payable

Please also  
consider  
becoming a  
member or  
renewing your  
SPA annual  
Membership

# North Fork Chapter 29 Wearables Order Form

<u>Style</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
T-shirt	_____	_____	\$ 15.00	_____
Men's Golf Shirt	_____	_____	\$ 25.00	_____
Women's Golf Shirt	_____	_____	\$ 25.00	_____

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tele:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Silk Screened T Shirt**  
Charcoal Gray with  
Black/Cream Silk Screen



**Make Checks payable to:**  
North Fork Chapter 29

**Mail To:**  
Cheryl Burkett  
2717 Brookville Street  
Fairmount City, 16224



**Embroidered Golf Shirt**  
Dark Gray with Cream Embroidery

The North Fork Chapter 29 is a recognized 501(c)3 organization formed in 2006. The chapter is a member organization of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology which was organized in 1929 to: Promotes the study of the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources of Pennsylvania and neighboring states; Encourages scientific research and discourage exploration which is unscientific or irresponsible in intent or practice; Promotes the conservation of archaeological sites, artifacts, and information; Promotes the dissemination of archaeological knowledge by means of publications and forums; Foster the exchange of information between the professional and the avocational archaeologists.

## Application for 2020 - North Fork Chapter 29 Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

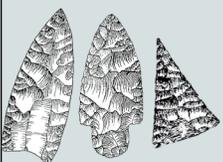
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are You a member of the SPA ? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ DUES: Individual: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Life: \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Cheryl Burkett  
2717 Brookville Street  
Fairmount City, PA 16224

**Chapter Membership**  
Does NOT include membership in the State  
Society For Pennsylvania Archaeology



**North Fork Chapter 29  
of the Society for  
Pennsylvania  
Archaeology**

**Cheryl Burkett  
2717 Brookville Street  
Fairmount City, PA  
16224**

PROBLEMS  
WITH YOUR  
NEWSLETTER  
MAILING!  
LET US KNOW  
AND WE'LL  
MAKE IT RIGHT