

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

*P. O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, NY 11790*

# NEWSLETTER

REPRESENTING NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES

Volume 14, Number 1  
Editor: Don Thomas Crane

Winter 1988

## HISTORICAL AGENCIES ADDRESS NEED FOR REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT SUNY STONY

During the 1970s when the contexts of many cultural resources were destroyed by the construction boom on Long Island, Dr. Phil C. Weigand, former Department Chairperson of the Anthropology Department at SUNY Stony Brook and co-founder of SCAA, foresaw the need for a regional archaeologist. Not until 1980 and the hiring of Dr. Kent G. Lightfoot, however, was such a position available in the SUNY Stony Brook Anthropology Department. Unfortunately, Dr. Lightfoot, who conducted quality archaeological research in this area for five years, recently left SUNY Stony Brook for a position at the University of California at Berkeley. The position he vacated was assigned to hiring a physical anthropologist.

In November of 1987, Lance Mallamo (Suffolk County Office of Historical Services), Dr. Robert MacKay (Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities), Beverly Tyler (Three Village Historical Society), and Drs. John Strong and Gaynell Stone (Suffolk County Archaeological Association) - all leaders of their respective historical agencies, met with Provost Jerry Schubel and Drs. Denny Gilmore, Elizabeth Stone, and Randall Donahue of SUNY Stony Brook to express concern over this development.

The historical agencies pointed to the wealth of cultural resources in the area, the resurging economy that again threatens those same resources, the lack of archaeological services to combat the impact, and the need for trained archaeologists to be contracted by developers and government. The group felt that the University should provide leadership and stressed that a market for archaeological services does exist.

Provost Schubel discussed the prospects of creating an Institute for Regional Archaeology within the Anthropology Department. Under this plan, an experienced director would be hired as University faculty but would return a portion of salary through contract grants. Dr. Donahue has drafted such a model program, which is now being considered by the Faculty Senate. A decision is expected soon.



## THE NEWS FROM HOYT FARM PARK

### NYSCA Grant Used to Publish Curriculum Materials:

A portion of the 1987-88 Arts-In-Education grant from the New York State Council on the Arts will be used to publish the Native Life and Archaeology curriculum packet. The materials have been drafted, tested, and revised over the course of two seasons. Publication is expected in late spring.

### Indian and Archaeology Program:

The Indian and Archaeology program was fully booked during the Fall season and was actually extended into December 1 as a result of the mild weather. New activities are created and introduced regularly to serve the needs of individual groups. Particularly popular this past year was face painting with authentic materials and designs, and Native cooking.

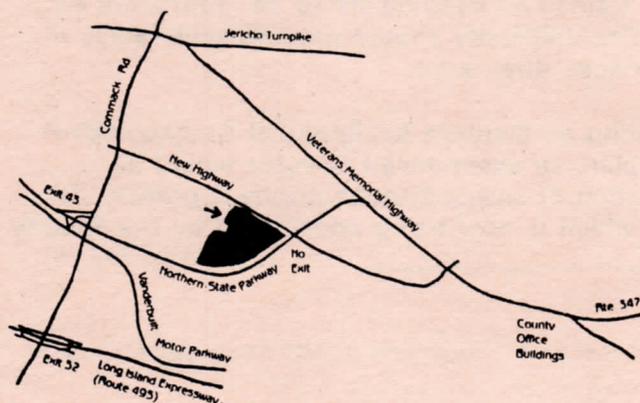
Penny Schmitt, a program staff member, taught an after-school enrichment program on "Long Island Indians" in the Smithtown Accomsett elementary school this past winter.

Lab and Museum Director Gaynell Stone has been talking to the Great Neck School District regarding the development of a satellite program that would be held on school district acreage in Lake Success.

### Colonial Life and Technology Program:

The new Colonial Life and Technology program will be piloted in May with 4th grade students from the Shoreham-Wading River School District, and G&T students from Commack Junior High School. The Shoreham-Wading River teachers have participated in Staff Development workshops for each proposed activity and have collaborated with Museum staff in developing the curriculum materials.

Activities slated for students and teachers include historical archaeology of the Wicks family tenure (early 1700s to early 1900s); blacksmithing; cultural geography, including surveying and mapping; and weaving, quilting, and cooking. All activities are related to their underlying scientific principles and technology, and are multi-disciplinary in approach. Post-visit materials are provided for the classroom.



### SCAA MONTHLY MEETINGS:

The next SCAA meetings, held at Hoyt Farm Park in Commack (see map at left), are scheduled for April 14th, May 12th, and June 9th. Speakers on Long Island archaeology will be featured at the April and June meetings.

Donna Ottusch-Kianka, President of SCAA, will hold a book sale at the April 14 meeting.

The general election of SCAA officers will take place at the June 9 meeting, which also features an ethnobotany hike on the Hoyt Farm grounds and a Native American pot luck feast.



CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY  
PREHISTORIC HUNTER-GATHERERS OF SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE MASHOMACK PRESERVE

By

Kent G. Lightfoot, Robert Kalin and James Moore

With Contributions By

Robert Cerrato, Margaret Conover, and Stephanie Rippel-Erikson

Reviewed by Mike Bonasera

This volume is the culmination of two seasons (1983 and 1984) of archaeological fieldwork at Mashomack Preserve, Shelter Island, New York. The authors state that "... the study of Mashomack would provide an ideal opportunity to evaluate several issues of coastal adaptation in a small island environment." These issues include some of the fundamental questions that have challenged several generations of Long Island archaeologists. Did the aborigines of Shelter Island live in sedentary villages or did they practice a seasonal round? Was agriculture practiced? What were the adaptations to diachronic coastal change? To evaluate these and other questions, the issues of site function, site size, site seasonality, and site subsistence were identified as crucial.

The first phase of the research design at Mashomack Preserve involved shovel testing in transect surveys and block surveys. The authors noted that many more artifacts, and a greater diversity of them, were recovered in the coastal transects than in the upland areas. Nearly all of the cultural material from the coast was identified as coming from the Middle to Late Woodland period.

Limited excavation was undertaken in selected areas, chosen after more than 5500 shovel tests. A diversity index, used to predict site function by tabulating artifact classes, was employed. Artifact classes used in calculating the index included chipped stone tools; ground stone, bone, and ceramic tools; and chipped stone debitage and hammerstones. The combination of the diversity index number and the types of artifacts, including other factors, facilitates an accurate prediction of site function.

Seven high- and low-density scatters were excavated. Analysis of such factors as artifact diversity and density, faunal and floral remains, the presence of specific features, etc., resulted in the designation of five site types. These included lithic workshops (represented by three sites), a shellfish bulk procurement location, a plant procurement location, a field camp, and a residential base (2N3E 1-10, the Sungic Midden Site).

In addition to the Sungic Midden site, two other bases were suggested from fieldwork at other tidal creek or former tidal creek locations on the preserve. "The residential bases were situated in optimal places for exploiting a variety of coastal and terrestrial resources," the authors report. Groups from the residential bases could obtain and process lithic materials, shellfish and anadromous fish, and plant materials in the near hinterland (within a 200 meter radius of the base). Beyond this radius in the upland hinterland game was hunted, plant foods and wood could be gathered. These activities, with the possible exception of anadromous fish procurement, are represented in the archaeological record at Mashomack.

The authors believe that "people did not aggregate into large communities at Mashomack, but rather practiced a dispersed homestead settlement system." Archaic settlement systems may have differed from Middle/Late Woodland adaptations due to increased land area exposed by lower sea level. Field camps may have been needed due to greater distances to upland resources from residential bases.



The Mashomack natives of the Middle/Late Woodland periods appear to have practiced a settlement pattern that combined aspects of both forager and collector strategies. The excavation of the residential base, the Sungic Midden Site, suggests an occupation from at least the spring to early winter, perhaps all year. No evidence of agriculture was detected at Mashomack. Due to the productivity of the environment and the efficient procurement strategies of the aborigines, this is not surprising.

This project differed from the majority of other archaeological investigations of Long Island and its associated islands in several respects. Phase 1 of the investigation is perhaps the most extensive survey effort in our region. The use of Mercenaria mercenaria (hard clam) valves to reinforce seasonality estimates for sites, as was applied at Mashomack, certainly needs to be attempted more often on Long Island. The research team provided expertise not only in archaeology, but also in geology, marine biology, paleobotany, and vertebrate zoology. Perhaps most significant was the survey and excavation plan itself. While most Long Island projects have excavated only one type of site at a time (i.e., shell middens), this investigation was designed to sample all existing habitats at Mashomack and identify a full range of site manifestations. This approach eliminates a great deal of excavation bias and presents a more accurate picture of subsistence patterns and site spatial relationships.

The relative paucity of artifactual remains from this extensive investigation is somewhat puzzling. Perhaps a reduced tool assemblage was all that the Middle to Late Woodland inhabitants at Mashomack required. As pointed out by the authors, some foraging activities – such as gathering acorns, nuts, or other plant foods – leave little or no traces in the archaeological record. Few artifacts predating the Middle Woodland were recovered because coastal areas from that time period are now underwater.

## PROFILES: SUSAN GRZYBOWSKI

By Mike Bonasera

Susan Grzybowski, a doctoral candidate in archaeology at SUNY Stony Brook and SCAA member, is a Cultural Resource Analyst for the Division of Environmental Protection in Brookhaven Town. Ms. Grzybowski has reviewed every construction proposal in the town for the past seven months. In compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, she must "identify, assess, and where pertinent, mitigate the impact of development on our cultural resources."

According to Ms. Grzybowski, each project evaluation begins with a preliminary assessment, which includes Stage 1A – archival research, and Stage 1B – subsurface testing. Cultural significance of the area is considered; factors such as proximity to known sites and pre-existence of historic structures are explored during the archival research. Qualified archaeologists and contract firms may then be employed for shovel testing. "At least every one or two weeks a lithic scatter, or a midden that has been previously undocumented is discovered by subsurface testing," she reports. Three major prehistoric sites have been identified in this manner over the past seven months. Stage 2A – more detailed investigation, is enacted where necessary. Ms. Grzybowski counsels the historic district advisory committee, who then updates the town planning board about developments within the historic districts.

The extensive knowledge of Long Island archaeology and ecology that Susan Grzybowski brings to this job is sure to manifest itself in preserving Brookhaven's cultural resources to the fullest extent possible. She hopes to compile a town cultural resource site map as an offshoot of her work, which would include the undocumented sites that have been identified through her efforts and the work of her fellow archaeologists at Brookhaven's Division of Environmental Protection.



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The "Museum Education Services Aid" bill, which would provide reimbursement to museums for educational programs offered to public and private schools, is presently under consideration in the New York State Legislature. We ask our members to support this bill by writing to the New York State Association of Museums, Governor Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Miller, and your state legislators.

The New York State Archives has announced the availability of Research Residency Awards. "Any topic or area that can draw on the holdings of the archive is eligible for consideration. Preference will be given to proposals that have application to current policy issues... to projects which have high probability of publication... to research in the holdings that have been underutilized or recently made available." Application deadlines are the first of each new year. Call William Evans at (518) 474-8955 for additional information.

The Nation Archives in Washington, D.C. is offering a workshop for teachers on the use of primary sources in the classroom. The workshop will be held between June 22 and July 1. Write to the Education Branch, Office of Public Programs, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408 for additional information.

The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House (5816 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, New York) has been opened as a museum. The Wyckoff House, built around 1652, is the oldest building in the City of New York and became the City's first designated landmark. (A report on excavation at the Wyckoff House was published in the Coastal Archaeology Reader, volume 2 in SCAA's Readings in Long Island Archaeology and Ethnohistory series). The museum will offer guided public tours, special group visits by appointment, lectures, craft workshops, and children's reading hours. Call Alan J. Lipsky at (718) 629-5400 for additional information.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

**April 5-9, 1988:** The 54th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

**April 30, 1988:** The National Association for Gifted Children Developmental Council and Gifted Children Advocacy Association is sponsoring "An Educational Survival Meeting for Parents of Gifted Children" in Tarrytown, New York. If interested in attending, write to the Gifted Children Advocacy Association, P.O. Box 115, Sewell, New Jersey 08080.

**May 4-5, 1988:** "17th Century Dutch Art and Life" will be held at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. Contact Terry L. Baker, Associate Dean, School of Education, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550 for additional information.

**May 19-21, 1988:** The Society for Industrial Archaeology will hold their annual meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia. Write to Emory Kemp, History of Science and Technology Program, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506 for details.

**June 3-7, 1988:** The 83rd American Association of Museums Annual Meeting is to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Write to the American Association of Museums, 1225 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 (or call 202-289-1818) for additional information. Reservations must be received by May 1, 1988 to assure confirmation.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL:

The University of Maryland will offer a "Field School in Urban Archaeology" between May 31 and July 8. Enrollment will be limited to 20 students. Applications should be received by May 1, 1988. For application forms, write to Summer Programs, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY  
YOUR SCAA MEMBERSHIP DUES**



# PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## READINGS IN LONG ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOHISTORY:

	Non-Members	Members
Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology	\$10.00	\$ 8.00
The Coastal Archaeology Reader	\$20.00	\$16.00
The History and Archaeology of the Montauk	\$20.00	\$16.00
Languages and Lore of the Long Island Indians	\$20.00	\$16.00
The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader	\$22.50	\$18.00
The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History	\$30.00	\$24.00
The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part I - The Sites	\$34.00	\$27.20

## STUDENT SERIES; THE INDIANS OF LONG ISLAND:

Booklet #1: A Way Of Life: Indians of Prehistoric Long Island	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.20
Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans	\$ 6.00	\$ 4.80
Wall Chart: Native Technology (26 x 39, 3-color poster)	\$13.00	\$10.40

SCAA NEWSLETTER Volumes 1 - 12 (Back Issues)	\$ 5.00/vol	\$ 4.00/vol
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All publications may be purchased from SCAA at the prices indicated. SCAA prices include postage paid for handling and delivery. Publications may also be purchased from local museums.

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SCAA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT HOYT FARM PARK (located on New Highway in Commack, Board meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and are followed by public meetings and programs. The next meeting is slated for April 14. Subsequent meetings are on May 12 and June 9.

## ----- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION -----

Membership in SCAA includes three Newsletters per year and a 20% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax-deductible.

STUDENT (up to age 18) \$5                      INDIVIDUAL \$10                      FAMILY \$15

SUSTAINING \$25                      CONTRIBUTING \$50                      PATRON \$100                      LIFE \$200

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check and application to:

**Suffolk County Archaeological Association**  
**P.O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, New York 11790.**