



# New York Archaeological Council

## NYAC Newsletter 2023

### News from the President, Carol Weed

The first half of the year has been busy. The Spring NYAC/NYSAA meeting in Suffern, Rockland County, was the scene of several brisk discussions during the Board and General Membership meetings and in various venues in-between. Ones of particular note are briefly summarized below.

We welcomed new and newly re-elected Board members (Lisa Anderson, Daria Merwin, Doug Perrelli). Two members also were accepted (Joselyn Ferguson and Phillip Shnaidar). Nina Versaggi announced Charles Vandrei and Lisa Anderson as this year's Founders Award recipients. And, Jon Lothrop will be the new Funk Foundation lead. Ed Curtin will continue his involvement with the Foundation.

Kate Whalen called on members to join her in implementing the Fall Professional Development Program. On a similar note, a call has gone out to all members to consider NYAC Committee and Working Group participation. At the same time, we asked that all Committee and Working Group chairs and committee/group members update their statuses.

Vivian James and her Collections/Curation group updated all on the current status of the culling guidelines. Vivian called for others to step forward and commit to creating material specification sheets (MSSs). If you have not already told her that you will work on one or two of these material documents, please do so. They are going to be part of a much larger guidance document that already has proven value.

Beth Selig reiterated to all that the Nomenclature Guidelines document posted on the NYAC webpage is the First Edition and she will continue to accept comments. She also noted that she and her committee anticipate that periodic updates of the document could occur. Finally, and most importantly, try using the words and phrases recommended in the guidelines in your reports and other documents. This exercise is not for the faint of heart but it is well worth the effort.

The NYAC job posting site is open and operating really well. If you have open positions, consider posting those on the job site.

NYAC had book-sale tables at last Fall's CNEHA meeting and NYAC/NYSAA Spring Meeting as well. Both were successful and monies were earned to help advance various NYAC initiatives. This said, the Board voted to end the book tables because staffing the table was taking members away from meeting sessions and doing the table accounts was one more task for Ann Morton's already extensive list of to dos.

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## President's Message continued: Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act

Now, onto the issue that is still ongoing and that will be of pressing concern in the near term: **Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act**. Once a Bill, and now an Act, its multiple irreconcilable parts are still unresolved. By the time you read this, NYAC's general comment letter will have been reviewed by you for subsequent submission to the Governor's Office; the Senate and Assembly committee chairs, co-sponsors, and committee members; the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (who is sending a similar letter); the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission; and the New York State Archaeological Association. I am asking you to let me know if you know of others (e.g., descendent/family organizations) that should be informed of the Act and who might wish to contact their representatives and the Governor's Office as well. If you do, let me and Dan Mazaue know who they are and their contact information.

One element of the Act is the creation of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act Burial Site Review Committee which, according to the Act, will include a representative of the nine recognized tribes in the State, the State Archaeologist, a New York State Museum designated forensic anthropologist or bioarchaeologist, an NYOPRHP appointed historic preservation specialist, and a NYAC representative. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, I received the email below from the Honorable Lizbeth Gonzalez (Associate Justice, Appellate Division First Department, New York State Supreme Court) informing NYAC that the implementation of the Burial Site Review was underway. My response to her is included below.

***Hon. Lizbeth Gonzalez Mon, May 15, 2023 at 7:51 PM***

To: Hon. Mark A. Montour, President Rick Armstrong, Tonawanda Seneca Nation (tonseneca@aol.com), Chief Harry Wallace, Alex Page , Carol Weed , Christina.Rieth@nysed.gov, Dale White, Erik Kulleseid, Jenna Macaulay, Joe Heath, Joe Stahlman, Lee M. Redeye, Lisa Anderson, Mark Schaming, Meghan Beakman, Tela Troge

Aquay / Greetings. I have added two appointees and two appointing authorities to this email. I will continue to add contact information and provide updates until an interim coordinator is selected and the Burial Site Review Committee is fully formed, whichever comes first. At this juncture, all appointing authorities have been contacted directly or through their representative or counsel.

By way of introduction, the two appointees are Christina Reith, the New York State Archaeologist, and Lisa Anderson, the NYS Museum Curator of Bioarchaeology. The two appointing authorities are Carol Weed, the president of the NY Archaeological Council, and Eric Culleseid, the commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In keeping with the newly enacted legislation, each will either serve on the burial review committee or name an appointee. The initial email sent on 5/11/2023 is listed below.

This is a great start. We look forward to receiving contact information for all appointees.

## **05/11/23 Email to the 9 Nation Members**

Aquay nitôpak / Greetings, friends.

Nya:wëh sgë:nö' Our sustained collaboration resulted in the recent enactment of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act on May 3, 2023. Together, we made history! The burial protection act takes effect on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, ninety days after signing, so there is much work to do in the interim.

First and foremost is the creation of the 13-member Native American Burial Site Review Committee. We recommend that all appointments be made by June 1st.

Each nation will appoint a representative to the committee (9).

The state archaeologist, whose position is now officially codified, is automatically part of the committee (1).

The director of the New York State Museum will appoint either a forensic anthropologist or bioarchaeologist to the committee (1).

The commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will appoint a member with expertise in the field of historic preservation (1).

The New York Archaeological Council will appoint either the chair of its human remains committee or other designee (1).

Next is the selection of a Committee chairperson by the 13-member group at its first meeting. Three-fifths of the 13 members constitutes a quorum. That number is 7.8, which means that 8 members constitute a quorum. A majority vote of all persons who have been appointed or who are serving ex-officio is necessary for action. If all 13 members are appointed, 7 votes constitute a majority.

This means that at least 8 members have to be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum, and 7 votes will be sufficient to select the Committee chairperson or take other action.

The Committee will decide its own rules or by-laws. The Committee will determine, for example, whether to


- authorize proxy voting
- name a corresponding secretary to keep minutes
- create a model plan of action in anticipation of the discovery of an unmarked burial site
- draft model letters for notification to lineal descendants and property owners
- authorize the state archaeologist and a record keeper to keep track of each burial site
- create a list of potential mediators who can assist in resolving an impasse.

It would be helpful to select an interim communications coordinator to tally the appointment of committee members, obtain their contact information, schedule the time and date of the initial meeting, and circulate information as needed.

Recently, Native News Online incorrectly stated that “The new law only allows the state archaeologist—at the expense of the property owner — to remove human remains.” As we explained at our last meeting, public servants cannot be hired to carry out public responsibilities. According to the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act, the property owner pays for the removal of the ancestral remains only if the timeframe and extensions set forth in the statute have been exceeded and it wishes to complete the respectful removal, pursuant to the plan of action, by engaging a professional archaeologist or registered professional archaeologist at its own expense. The state archaeologist otherwise continues and concludes the removal without cost.

Hope this is helpful. Mus kunáwurumuw. Hon. Lizbeth González Associate Justice Appellate Division, First Department New York State Supreme Court 27 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10010 Tel: 212-340-0557 (w) 347-387-5535 (c)

**END of 5/11/23 Message**



**NYAC Response to the 5/18/23 Email**

Carol Weed Tue, May 16, 2023 at 9:09 AM 5/19/23, 7:51 AM

Gmail - RE: Unmarked Burials: Proposed Blueprint

To: Hon. Lizbeth Gonzalez, Cc: Hon. Mark A. Montour, President Rick Armstrong, Tonawanda Seneca Nation (tonseneca@aol.com), Chief Harry Wallace, Alex Page, Christina.Rieth@nysed.gov, Dale White, Erik Kulleseid, Jenna Macaulay, Joe Heath, Joe Stahlman, Lee M. Redeye, Lisa Anderson, Mark Schaming Meghan Beakman, Tela Troge

Good Morning Judge Gonzalez: I have received your blueprint message. NYAC appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the burial site committee and, in general, the effective implementation of the tenets of the Act. We will appoint our representative before the end of this month.

With kind regards, Carol

Carol S. Weed, MA (RPA) Independent Consultant (Cultural Resources and Environmental Permitting) President, New York Archaeological Council (NYAC), 2022-2025 41 Ridge Road, Katonah, NY 10536 C: 646.276.2460 Email: csw13108@gmail.com; CSWeed7523@gmail.com

So, cutting to the chase, I am asking you to look at the Act and then the two emails that Justice Gonzalez wrote. In the Act, consider the roles that have been designated for the burial site committee members and provide me your insights on what the draft guidelines Justice Gonzalez noted should contain. Also, please consider how you would approach determining the lineal descendants of an unmarked burial particularly if that person is NOT accompanied by Indigenous Nation markers. Please get back to me and Dan with your responses by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

I will serve as the NYAC representative on the burial site committee until the Spring 2024 board meeting. By that time, we may have an idea of the time commitment that will be needed for the person serving and also the expertise our representative needs to provide to the burial site committee. At the Fall meeting I will provide a summary of what is occurring and I think interim messages might also occur.

Thanks all. Have GREAT Summer and Fall Seasons!

Carol



## The New York Archaeological Council Committees

The New York Archaeological Council is committed to its mission of advancing archaeological research, archaeological site preservation and engagement with the archaeological community. To achieve this goal, NYAC is seeking members to serve on active committees. Many of these committees have ongoing projects that are of particular importance to archaeologists in New York State. The outcome of these projects will provide valuable resources to both professional and avocational archaeologists.

If you are interested in becoming a committee chair or member, please contact Beth Selig (bethaselig@gmail.com) or the listed committee chair (cc: CSWeed7523@gmail.com or dmazeau1@gmail.com). You **do not** have to be a NYAC officer or board member to chair or be a committee member.

If you have a project and you would like to create an ad hoc committee or working group, please do not hesitate to contact Beth and Carol (cc: Dan).

### 2023 NYAC Committees

**1) Advocacy Committee:** Ongoing support of efforts for preserving archaeological sites, collections, and historic preservation initiatives within New York State. The member(s) serve as liaison with the American Archaeology Council of Councils.

*Currently seeking a committee chair & members.*

**2) NYAC Archives:** Maintains and curates NYAC Records as well as material culture collections associated with NYAC archaeological investigations. This committee oversees the proveniencing and cataloging of the NYAC records.

Committee Chair: Dan Mazeau (dmazeau1@gmail.com),

Members: Laurie Miroff

**3) Archaeology Season:** This annual event includes posters and video competitions that promote archaeology in New York State. The participants in this committee change annually. The archaeology poster will alternate with the video or electronic productions at the discretion of the NYAC Board.

*Currently seeking a committee chair & members.*

**4) Awards Committee:** The Awards Committee reviews submissions for the Student Awards (Paper & Poster Competitions), and reviews nominations for the Founders Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Committee Chair: Nina Versaggi (nversagg@binghamton.edu).

Members: Christina Rieth, Sissie Pipes, Lois Huey, Paul Huey, Ed Curtin

**5) Collections Committee:** Oversees and provides guidance for collections held at repositories throughout the state. The ad hoc committees for the culling documents, and the curation facilities working group have been combined with Collections.

Committee chair: Vivian James (vsjames@tds.net)

Members: Matt Kirk, Dave Moyer, Carol Weed, Joe Diamond

**6) Communications Committee:** Works to communicate pertinent NYAC information to the membership and subscriber list via the NYAC website and email list. In addition, the members of this committee are working to enhance NYAC's presence within social media platforms.

Committee Chair: Daria Merwin (Daria.Merwin@nysed.gov)

**7) Funk Foundation and Student Grants:** The Funk Foundation grants support archaeological research conducted in New York State or on archaeological collections from New York State.

Committee Chair: Jon Lothrop (Jonathan.lothrop@nysed.gov)

Members: Ed Curtin

**8) Professional Development and Continuing Education:** Promotes continuing archaeology training and education at all levels through educational workshops, seminars, and in-field practicums. Educational workshops and topics are proposed on an annual basis.

Committee Co-Chairs: Kate Whalen (kwhalen2@buffalo.edu), Beth Selig (bethaselig@gmail.com)

Members: *Currently seeking members*

**9) Human Remains and Unmarked Burial Sites:** The purpose of this committee is to ensure compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, for all Indigenous human remains and burials. In addition, the committee provides guidance with regard to disposition of non-Indigenous human remains and burials. This committee is currently reviewing and engaging with the New York State Legislature on the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.

Committee Co-Chairs: Lisa Anderson (Lisa.Anderson@nysed.gov), David Witt (David.witt@buffalo.edu)

Members: Doug Perrelli, Allison McGovern, Chuck Vandrei, Carol Weed, Stephen Oberon

**10) Indigenous Nation Consultation Committee:** The Consultation Committee works with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to improve working relationships between Tribal Members and Practicing Archaeologists. This committee also works to bring awareness to outdated practices regarding Indigenous sacred sites and material culture assemblages.

Committee Chair: Doug Perrelli (dperrelli@buffalo.edu)

Members: Pat Heaton, Nina Versaggi, David Witt

**11) Newsletter Committee:** The annual newsletter includes submissions and dissemination of information pertaining to new events in New York State archaeology.

Committee Chair: Laurie Miroff (lmiroff@binghamton.edu).

Members: *Currently seeking members*

**12) Standards Committee:** This committee reviews the standards and best practices for archaeological investigation within New York State. The tasks are subdivided to include members devoted to Urban Standards and Geomorphology.

Committee Chair: Currently seeking a chair

Members: Linda Stone (Urban Standards), Nina Versaggi

**NYAC Job Board Manager:** Daria Merwin

**NYAC Website Liaison:** Sissie Pipes

## **Ad Hoc Working Groups**

Ad hoc groups are initiated by a NYAC member and are usually considered short duration.

**(A) 2021-2023 Working Group (Ad Hoc), Indigenous Nomenclature Guidance:** The committee met regularly through 2021-2022. Seeking input from THPOs, SHPOs, and others, the committee, under Beth Selig's leadership, produced a guidance document. The first edition of that document is posted to the NYAC website for reference. At the 2023 Spring NYAC meeting, Beth noted that the guidance document is subject to update and if persons have specific comments about existing or new content, they should reach out to her. Beth will work to have this distributed to SHPOs and THPOs outside of New York State.

Committee Chair: Beth Selig (bethselig@gmail.com)

Members: Allison McGovern, Linda Stone, Kate Whalen, Carol Weed, Dave Witt

**(B) 2021-2023 Working Group (ad hoc), FHWA/PA:** The committee is following the process of this agreement and attended information sessions. The new draft will be circulated by FHWA and NYAC will review and comment.

Committee Chair: Kristy Primeau (keprimeau@gmail.com)

Members: Doug Perrelli, and Laurie Miroff

## News from Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.

Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc has welcomed Jenna Hendrick as an Assistant Archaeologist. Jenna received a BA in Anthropological Perspectives and English from Binghamton University and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Victoria.

### Presentations and Public Outreach

The collaborative work on the Malta, New York, Hemphill site analysis between Ed Curtin, Kerry Nelson, Kirsten Dymond, and Sissie Pipes has resulted in several presentations on the African American earthfast house, animal sacrifices, and artifact assemblage discovered there. This includes presentations to NYAC in October 2022, the Conference on Northeast Historical Archaeology in November 2022, and the Beauchamp Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association in May 2023. This research will be published in the New York State Archaeological Association Bulletin thematic issue on African American sites archaeology.

The knapped glass technology is one aspect of this work that has attracted a lot of interest. Bottle glass was accumulated at the Hemphill Site and transformed into tools at the hearthside of the earthfast house. Shown here are a well-crafted end scraper as well as the group of refits that illustrate the compelling story of knapped glass reduction and tool manufacture by the hearthside.



From the Hemphill Site: the working edge of a knapped glass end scraper.



Several of the pieces of knapped glass found near the interior hearth at the Hemphill Site.



An alternative view of knapped glass showing the refitted pieces from the hearthside assemblage (plus three flakes).

### The Green Island Precontact Site

Phase 1 and 2 archaeological surveys from October 2022 through January 2023 identified a large, precontact period archaeological site on Green Island on the south side of the Mohawk-Hudson River confluence. Recovered material culture includes a roughed out Levanna point, bifaces, pottery similar to Black Rock Trained and other Middle Woodland pottery, and flakes of Pennsylvania jasper as well as Onondaga, Helderberg, Normanskill, and possibly Snake Hill chert. Snake Hill chert occurs in Snake Hill shale, an Ordovician rock with a geographically limited distribution from Saratoga Lake to Green Island. The Green Island Precontact Site will be avoided during construction and protected afterward.



The decorated interior of a sherd from the Green Island Precontact Site.



The exterior of the same

### The Hill Road Site

At this writing, we are conducting a Phase 3 data recovery excavation at the Hill Road Site, which is a precontact period site on a hill overlooking Saratoga Lake from the east. Phase 1 and 2 surveys were performed there a number of years ago by Landmark Archaeology, Inc.

All interpretations are preliminary at present, but the available information suggests the following. First, there is ephemeral evidence of a Woodland occupation at the site based upon the recovery of a small amount of pottery that is interpreted as Middle Woodland in age. The age interpretation is based upon the pointed lip of the single rim sherd seen so far, plus the following: vessel wall thicknesses of 7.5-8.5 mm, consistent with other Middle Woodland pottery, and the lack of surface treatment that would suggest the pottery has a different age or cultural association. Second, there is a more extensive Middle to Late Archaic period occupation that has produced Otter Creek and Brewerton Eared-Notched points, as well as bifaces of sizes and shapes compatible with manufacturing these point types. Third, the side of the hill containing the archaeological site is composed of Snake Hill shale capped with a thin (usually ca. 30 cm) A-B channery soil sequence. Fourth, chert nodules are present in the soil and apparently the bedrock also. For example, excavation has discovered a prospecting or mining pit hollowed out of the bedrock. A broken, chopper-like, suspected mining tool was found above the pit, while the pit itself contained blocky pieces of chert as well as large, well-crafted, bifacial thinning flakes. The presence of the latter suggests biface knapping occurred near the pit. The nature of these large bifaces is not known at this time, but perhaps the flakes are from resharpening digging tools. Based upon data collected so far, the Hill Road Site appears to have been a quarry-workshop, but there also is a diverse lithic tool assemblage that supported living while working at this site. This combination of manufacturing and camp activity assemblages has been noted at other quarry-workshop sites, with West Athens Hill in Greene County being the most widely known example.



A recently discovered Otter Creek point from the Hill Road Site.

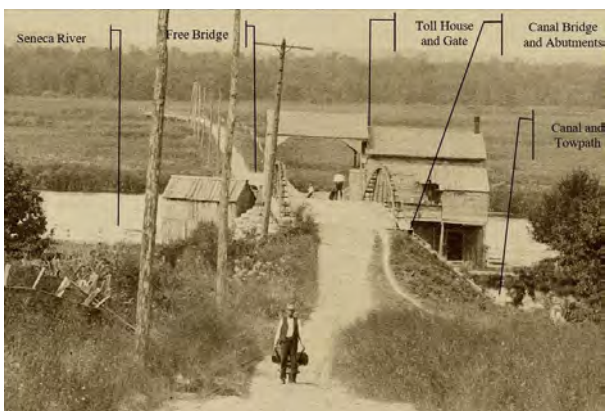
Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## News from the New York State Museum, Cultural Resource Survey Program

### Near the Marsh: CRSP Excavations at Three Sites in Montezuma, NY

The New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program (CRSP) recently completed a Phase II site examination in the Town of Montezuma just north of Cayuga Lake in Cayuga County. The project was undertaken in advance of reconstruction of the NY Route 5/US Route 20 bridge over the Seneca River. The site examination investigated three sites – the Cayuga and Seneca Canal site, the Gill site, and the Nesting Osprey Precontact site – initially identified during a reconnaissance survey completed in 2014.

The Cayuga and Seneca Canal site is located just east of the Seneca River. The canal was originally opened in 1821 to create a link between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, and was expanded in 1828 to connect the system with the newly opened Erie Canal. The site extends north and south of the highway, and includes the location of a bridge built over the canal between 1826 and 1830 (the 19<sup>th</sup> century community of Free Bridge was named for this structure). Today the canal prism north of the road is eroded and partially filled but remains visible and still holds water. South of the road the canal is largely converted to wetland; and there is no surface evidence of the bridge or towpath. Hand excavation at the Cayuga and Seneca Canal site revealed modern fill; it is possible that canal features are present beneath the fill, as suggested by the discovery of what may be stone from the bridge abutment during unrelated utility installation.



Late 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal and “Free Bridge” looking west.

The Gill Site (formerly the Toll House Site) centers on a below-ground stone foundation located between the Seneca River and the Cayuga and Seneca Canal. Artifacts recovered from the site during the initial survey were first believed to be associated with a map documented toll house, but subsequent work suggests the foundation and artifacts are instead related to a house occupied by the Gill family during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Part of a stone foundation exposed at the Gill site.

The Nesting Osprey Precontact site spans a broad swath north of the highway east of the Seneca River. Undisturbed buried A topsoils were identified both east and west of the original Cayuga and Seneca Canal prism. Intact soils yielded a robust and informative material culture assemblage consisting of lithic debitage, formal and informal chipped stone tools, pottery sherds, steatite, and faunal remains. Two wood charcoal samples were radiocarbon dated to 2130±30 BP and 1000±30 BP, dates consistent with Early and Middle Woodland period pottery. While most of the temporally diagnostic artifacts are Woodland period in age, there are also earlier projectile points, suggesting that the multicomponent site represents at least one small short-term Late Archaic camp followed by more substantial residential occupation by the Middle Woodland period.



Chipped stone tools from the Nesting Osprey Precontact site.



Decorated pottery from the Nesting Osprey Precontact site.

Submitted by: Dan Mazeau

## Inside Story Headline

Dr. William Engelbrecht awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## News from the NYAC Awards Committee

At NYAC's annual meeting on April 21, the Awards Committee made three presentations: a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. William Engelbrecht, and Founders Awards to Drs. Lisa Anderson and Charles Vandrei.

### Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. William Engelbrecht

Nominated by Dr. Susan Maguire and Dr. Lisa Marie Anselmi

Dr. William Engelbrecht received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1971. He has been an active member of NYAC since its founding and a driving force in New York State archaeology since 1969 when he came to Buffalo to work for the UB Archaeological Survey. He then taught anthropology and archaeology at SUNY Buffalo State University from 1973 until his retirement in 2003.

Throughout his career, Bill has worked tirelessly to educate and inspire the next generations of archaeologists, to advance the field of archaeology through research and community outreach, and to serve the profession through his leadership of professional organizations, including as President of NYAC from 1981-1982 and NYSAA from 2006-2010. He continues to serve the local Houghton chapter of NYSAA as a trustee.

"Dr. E." is an inspirational teacher both in the classroom and in the field. He received the SUNY Chancellors Award for Teaching in 1990 in recognition of his dedication to his students. In the field, Bill conducted 17 archaeological field schools at the Eaton Site, training multiple generations of archaeologists and producing volumes of data for research.

He continues to support Buffalo State students through sponsorship of fieldwork and research scholarships, and through collaborative research on the Eaton site collections.

Bill's contributions to the study of New York State archaeology are impressive; he has published over 55 articles and 5 books since 1967 with his most recent article appearing in the 2023 issue of *American Antiquity*. His 2003 book, *Iroquoia: The Development of a Native World*, is well regarded by academics and avocational archaeologists alike and has been cited hundreds of times.

Bill has been a trusted mentor, wise counselor, and friend through the years and we are honored to award him with NYAC's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bill's nomination is also supported by letters from Drs. John Hart and Tim Abel.

John Hart states that Bill developed novel methods and techniques to address long-standing research issues. He ensured that research-generated data is permanently, digitally archived and accessible to future archaeologists through the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR). Bill has been a long-term leader and exemplar of professional archaeology in New York.

Tim Abel adds that Dr. Engelbrecht's contributions to New York State archaeology include the examination of chronology and relationships among constituents of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. His data collection formed the foundation for innovative research avenues by new generations of archaeologists. Dr. Engelbrecht has served on the graduate research committees of many students including my (Abel's) own dissertation committee at University at Albany. Dr. Engelbrecht is most deserving of this award.



*Dr. William Engelbrecht receiving the NYAC 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award.*

## Inside Story Headline

Dr. Lisa Anderson awarded the Founders Award.

## News from the NYAC Awards Committee

### Founders Award: Dr. Lisa Anderson

Nominated by Dr. Christina Rieth

Dr. Lisa Anderson is currently a bio-archaeologist and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Coordinator at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York. Over the past several years she has worked with the Town of Lake George on a historic cemetery that was disturbed during the construction of a house foundation. At the Cortlandt Street Excavation (along with Dr. Charles Vandrei), she worked to preserve the remains of more than 18 soldiers that were interred at the site. Museum staff, professional archaeologists, and volunteers worked to remove these remains from a large dirt pile that contained the remains of individual skeletons. The remains were then taken to the New York State Museum where they were analyzed before being reburied in Lake George. Important to this project was the time she took to meet with community stakeholders who will ultimately care for these remains in the future.

In addition to working at Cortlandt Street, she is currently the NAGPRA Coordinator. Since 1990, she has served as the coordinator for federal agencies to repatriate and/or transfer their collections to Indigenous groups based upon their significance as human remains, or sacred objects. She has worked with many groups who live in New York, as well as groups across the nation who may have sacred items in their collections.



*Dr. Lisa Anderson accepting a 2023 NYAC Founders Award  
from Nina Versaggi.*

She has also worked with Drs. Charles Vandrei and David Witt on the legislation commonly referred to as the Unmarked Burial Bill and is currently the co-chair of the New York Archaeological Council's Human Remains Committee. She has worked with the Iroquois Museum in Howes Cave, NY and has served on the Board of Directors at the museum.

Finally, she has worked to disseminate her research to the public through articles, lectures, and outreach efforts to the public. Some of her publications include *A Final Report on Human Burials Associated with the General Hospital at Fort George and the Quebec Campaign of 1775-1776* (with C. Vandrei, and J. Weatherwax), *Rediscovery and Analysis of Copper Beads from Three Iroquoian Sites in Jefferson County, New York* (with T. Abel, J. Bradley, and J. Vavrasek), *Update on the Schuyler Flats Burial Ground*, and *Additional Evidence for cal. Seventh-Century A.D. Maize Consumption at the Kipp Island Site, New York* (with J. Hart, and R. Feranec). She has presented lectures online through the New York State Museum's Women in Science lecture series entitled "Bio-archaeology Basics" (with J. Weatherwax). She has also participated in the New York State Museum's archaeological field school and teacher workshops by educating students about the resources in the museum and the importance of bio-archaeology in assessing past populations.

She is a consummate scholar working to preserve the past. She has helped students to further their needs in bio-archaeology and has worked to disseminate information about the past. The Awards committee was honored to present her with a 2023 Founders Award.

## Inside Story Headline

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Dr. Charles Vandrei  
awarded the Founders  
Award.

## News from the NYAC Awards Committee

### Founders Award: Dr. Charles (Chuck) Vandrei

Nominated by Dr. David Witt

Dr. Charles Vandrei has been the Agency Historic Preservation Officer for New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for many years, where he has worked tirelessly to protect New York's cultural and historic resources. Among these are a DEC historic mural, a bust by famed artist Auguste Rodin, and shipwrecks from the colonial period.

This award acknowledges his significant role in honoring American soldiers and our country's early history. Since February 11, 2019, Chuck has worked with Dr. Lisa Anderson and the Town of Lake George to recover and preserve the remains of at least 30 Revolutionary War soldiers. Their bodies were interred in an area that would later become a construction site on Cortlandt Street. Chuck worked with Lisa to arrange for approximately 20 archaeologists under state employ to recover in situ remains during a week-long period in February 2019. During the spring and summer of 2019, he helped organize a large group of volunteers to sift through more than 750 cubic yards of backfill to find remains moved by the construction activities. These remains were analyzed at the New York State Museum by Dr. Anderson and her staff prior to reburial. The work from this project will continue to shed light on the nature of Army communities during America's early history.

Related to this, Chuck spent several years working towards the creation of a museum at the new Lake George Park Commission headquarters, serving as a key figure linking state agencies with the local Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance. He and Dr. Anderson have also both worked on the Unmarked Burial Bill legislation and continue to advocate for a law that works for the scientific community, Indigenous and descendent peoples, and the general public.

As an expert in the history of New York's battlefields, Chuck has taken many opportunities to share his knowledge with academic archaeologists, government decision makers, and the public. It is apparent to me that his interest is infectious, and his appearances in various media draw people in to better understand New York's history.

The Awards Committee acknowledges these significant contributions by presenting Chuck Vandrei with a 2023 Founders Award.



*Dr. Charles (Chuck) Vandrei accepting the NYAC Founders Award from David Witt.*

Submitted by: Nina Versaggi

## News from the Robert E. Funk Memorial Archaeology Foundation, Inc

The Funk Foundation board has reviewed the draft report from Michele Troutman and has requested that the revised report be submitted by the end of May. Michelle Troutman's grant has been for radiocarbon dating and lithic analysis of the Early Archaic Haviland Site near Cobleskill, New York. This grant research has been part of her larger SUNY Binghamton dissertation project, which compares the Haviland Site to Bob Funk's Johnsen No. 3 site near Oneonta, in terms of chronology and potentially different regional lithic practice communities associated with the Bifurcated Base Point and Kirk Traditions.

The Funk Foundation also expects reports soon on the 2021 grants made to Dr. Ammie Chittim and SUNY Albany Ph.D. Candidate John Garbellano. Dr. Chittim has collected clay samples from a variety of locations across upstate New York in order to create a comparative sample that could assist ceramic clay sourcing. The research focus is on the micromorphology of glacially-derived sediments through petrographic analysis. Her current summary of the research results was presented at this year's NYSAA meeting.

John Garbellano's grant has paid for high precision AMS dates to assist the analysis of the chronology of the Dogan Point oyster gathering site on the Hudson River estuary in Westchester County. The Funk Foundation-supported dates have been augmented by other dates that have been funded by the New York State Museum. The recently received dates are under analysis for reporting.

The Funk Foundation has reviewed and approved Dr. Albert Fulton's current report. This is the report of Dr. Fulton's second Funk Foundation grant for the radiocarbon dating of sediment core samples used to track changing Holocene environmental conditions in western New York State, while assessing evidence of human interactions with the environment. He has offered a perspective on the relationship between climatic and anthropogenic forest stressors in western New York that he refers to as the "Paleoanthropocene." Dr. Fulton has been publishing his research results concurrently with his report to the Funk Foundation. For anyone interested in more on this, we can provide the citation for his publication with

his colleague Catherine Yansa in *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

Albert E. Fulton II & Catherine H. Yansa (2021) Onset of the Paleoanthropocene in the Lower Great Lakes Region of North America: An Archaeological and Paleoeological Synthesis, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 111:3, 771-783, DOI: [10.1080/24694452.2020.1846489](https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2020.1846489)

Finally, the Funk Foundation is seeking proposals by May 31, 2023 for grant research to be performed and reported in 2023-2024. The grant award or awards will be made by June 21, 2023. Application information is on the Funk Foundation website at [www.funkfoundation.org](http://www.funkfoundation.org).

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## News from the NYAC Collections Committee

The NYAC Collections Committee has two working groups, each of which has an active project. The two working groups and their projects are:

- the Curation Facilities Working Group (CC-CFWG) that is identifying repositories that accept archaeology collections from cultural resource management firms, and
- the Collections Disposition Working Group (CC-CDWG) that is developing the *Standards and Guidelines for the Collection, Management, and Disposition of Archaeological Collections in the Field, Laboratory, and Repository*.

If you are interested in being a member of either working group, please send an email to the Collections Committee Chair, Vivian James (vsjames@tds.net). The current Collections Committee members are Joe Diamond, (MSS Editor), David Moyer (CFWG Project Lead), Matt Kirk, and Carol Weed.

The CC-CDWG has two immediate needs. *First*, the working group is seeking subject matter experts to write two-page material specific sheets (MSS) about individual artifact/materials classes/types. The MSS will constitute the material-specific guidance section of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Collection, Management, and Disposition of Archaeological Collections in the Field, Laboratory, and Repository*.

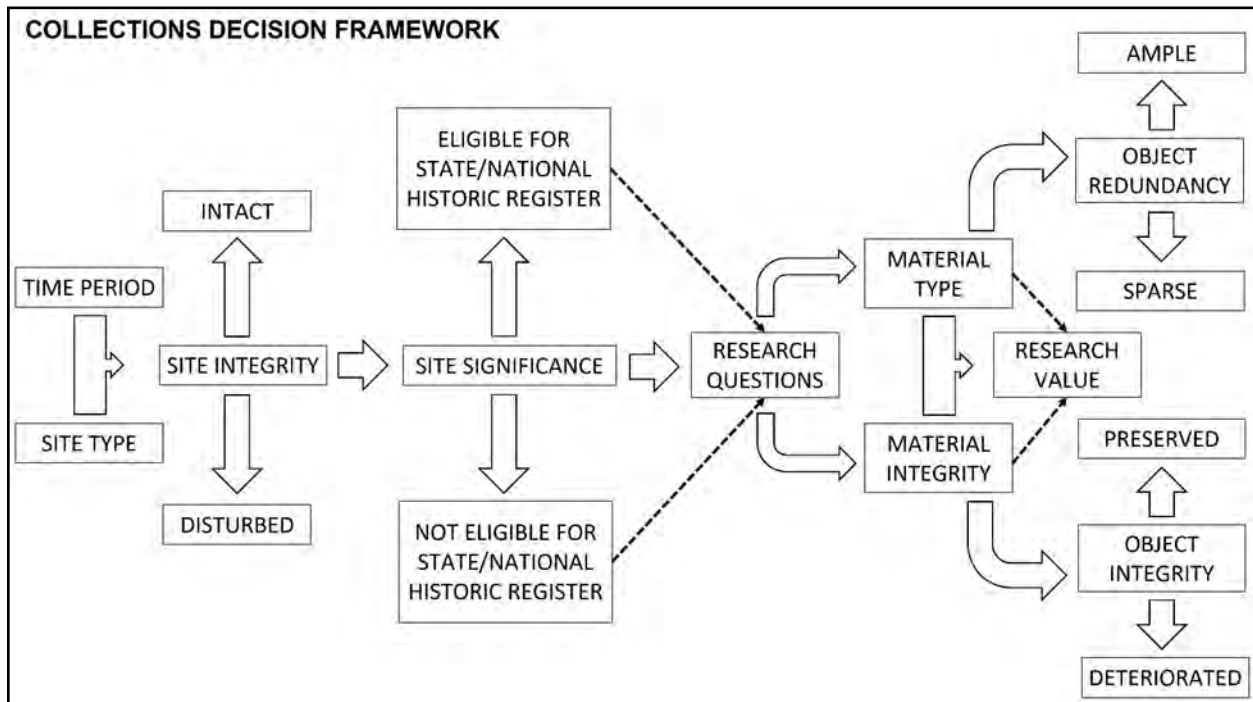
MSS authors may write about any artifact/materials class/type. Some possible MSS topics are:

1. Soil samples- floated
2. Window glass
3. Brown bottle glass
4. Clear bottle glass
5. Bricks
6. Mortar
7. Cement / concrete / cinder block - building materials
8. Metal cans/containers
9. Tobacco pipe stems
10. Stoneware drainage tiles
11. Form Plastic/bakelite
12. Sheet plastic (bags, clear wraps)
13. Grey-bodied stoneware (vessels)
14. Shell (oyster, clam, mussel, snail)
15. Slate roofing
16. Asbestos tile/composite tile (siding, roofing, flooring, heating protection)
17. Redware (glazed and unglazed)
18. Undecorated aboriginal pottery
19. Yellowware
20. Wood (building materials)
21. Paving materials (asphalt, macadam, shell, pebbles, cobbles, slates/bluestone)
22. Headstones / stone markers
23. Table glass (tumblers, decanters, whole and fragments)
24. Lamp chimney
25. Vials
26. Electrical lighting (filaments, mercury, bases, carbon arc rods, wire, glass bulbs)
27. Non-lighting electrical (dry-cell batteries)
28. Needles (medical)
29. Other hazardous materials (lead, mercury, arsenic, radioactive materials)
30. Paper (newspaper, packaging, cardboard)

Please email MSS Editor, Joe Diamond (diamondj@newpaltz.edu), and/or Collections Committee Chair, Vivian James (vsjames@tds.net), with your MSS topic. We will provide information about how to write and submit a MSS. See a MSS Template below.

Second, we need your comments about the Collections Decision Framework (pictured below). The framework was built using data about collection practices in the field provided by NYAC members at the 2016 roundtables, two focus groups composed of CRM archaeologists from New York City and upstate New York, and input from NYAC members during the Spring 2023 NYAC Meeting.

Our question about the framework is: Do archaeologists working in academic settings, laboratories, and museums/repositories follow these same steps? Please email your comments to Vivian James.



## MSS Template

Artifact/Material Type/Class  
and Author:

Artifact/Material Type/Class  
Photograph  
Placeholder

Context:

Analytical Potential:

Suggested Sampling Strategy:

Culling/Curation Options:

Examples:

References/Bibliography:



## NYAC Dues

**REMINDER!** Your 2023 dues are due. Annual dues are \$25.00 for members and \$15 for associate members (What a great deal!).

You can also make a contribution to our funds (Archaeology Month, Legal Defense, Education Outreach) and this year to our 50th Anniversary fund. We can also take donations for the Funk Foundation.

You can pay your dues by check (made out to NYAC) and mail them to me at the address below or by PayPal (use the email [amorton@fisherassoc.com](mailto:amorton@fisherassoc.com)). If you are not sure when you paid last, send me an email at [aewmorton96@gmail.com](mailto:aewmorton96@gmail.com) and I will check for you.

Ann Morton  
Morton Archaeological Research Services  
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(585) 301-0965

## New York Archaeological Council Dues Notice 2023

New York Archaeological Council 2023 dues are now due. Please remember that any NYAC member who falls more than two years behind in dues payments will be removed from the member list. In order to return to membership, the current and previous year's dues must be paid.

The Archaeology Month, NYAC 50th Anniversary Fund, Educational Outreach, and Robert E. Funk Memorial Foundation and the Legal Defense funds need support. Please feel free to use this opportunity to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to one or more of these funds.

Please note that NYAC now uses electronic communication for meeting notices, the annual newsletter, and other announcements. If you have not already done so, please be sure to sign up for communications by submitting your email address in the lower left corner of our main webpage (<https://nysarchaeology.org/nyac/>). Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this notice.

Please check here if you are a NYAC Founder's Award recipient (awardees receive lifetime membership)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are behind in your dues, that amount is included here:

\$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an additional contribution to:

Archaeology Month \$\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Defense Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Educational Outreach \$\_\_\_\_\_

Robert E. Funk Memorial Foundation \$\_\_\_\_\_

NYAC 50th Anniversary Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Member Information** Please check here if any information has changed\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_Home Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **NYAC** and mail to: Ann E. W. Morton, NYAC Treasurer, 1215

Macedon Center Road, Macedon, NY 14502 (dues may also be paid using PayPal by sending funds to Ann at [amorton@fisherassoc.com](mailto:amorton@fisherassoc.com); please be sure to include a note for any funds donated beyond annual dues).



## **NYAC Newsletter**

*For the 2024 newsletter, please submit by **May 15**.*

*Submit news in Word to Laurie Miroff by email at  
[lmiroff@binghamton.edu](mailto:lmiroff@binghamton.edu).*

*Note: please submit photos as .jpg files.*

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## New York Archaeological Council

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<https://nysarchaeology.org/nyac/>