

# COUNCIL OF ALLIED SOCIETIES NEWSLETTER



NOV.

**SAA**  
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

2018

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

*On the cover: Speakers at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual archaeology symposium of The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C.*

### **From the Chair:**

Pat Gilman, Professor Emerita, University of Oklahoma

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You may have noticed on the cover that our name has changed. The SAA Board of Directors met at the beginning of November, and one of the items on their agenda was to vote on changing CoAS's name from Council of *Affiliated* Societies to Council of *Allied* Societies. The reason for the change is a legal one, so as not to confuse this group of societies with the legal and IRS definition of affiliates, which our societies are not.

What issues do you as a society face that CoAS could help you with? Addressing this question is currently the most important thing for CoAS right now; we want to know what our member societies (you!) would like us to do that would benefit your society and archaeology in general. Do you need educational materials for your members or for outreach that you do? Do you want access to videotaped talks on archaeology for programming or educational purposes? Do you have declining membership? Please email me ([pgilman@ou.edu](mailto:pgilman@ou.edu)) with your needs and suggestions.

Last April, the attendees at the annual CoAS meeting during the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference in Washington, D.C. agreed that we would develop a list of priorities to work on. That list includes working closely with avocational groups that are in the vicinity of the annual SAA meeting city, making a list of relevant sessions, talks, and posters at the annual SAA meeting and emailing it to our member societies, having links on our web page (which is on SAA.org under "About the Society," but no links yet) to videotaped archaeology talks and interviews that our members could use, and promoting the goals of archaeology to the public. We are also

developing a logo that represents our values and goals, and we will have a new banner for our booth at the Albuquerque SAA meeting that will be April 10-14, 2019.

With regard to the Albuquerque SAA meeting, anyone can volunteer. You do not have to be a member of the SAA, and the meeting registration is waived if you volunteer. The commitment entails two four-hour blocks of time and can include helping at the registration booth, the SAA booth in the exhibit hall, the SAA office, or as a session room attendant. If any of your members would like to volunteer, volunteer information and applications are available [here](#). There are a limited number of volunteer positions, and so applying early is a good idea. This is a great way for avocational archaeologists to attend the SAA meeting without the cost of SAA membership or conference registration.

Please join us in helping CoAS to move forward with projects that will benefit your society and archaeology as a whole. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Gilman  
CoAS Chair

### **SAA News:**

#### SAA Welcomes New Executive Director

In September, SAA welcomed their new Executive Director, **Oona Schmid, CAE**. You can read about Schmid in SAA's [press release](#).

#### New Titles from The SAA Press

**Just Released!** [\*Food Production in Native North America: An Archaeological Perspective\*](#) by Kristen J. Gremillion provides a highly selective survey of Native North American food production systems from an archaeological perspective.

#### **Released in the spring, [Out of the Cold:](#)**

[\*Archaeology on the Arctic Rim of North America\*](#) by Owen K. Mason and T. Max Friesen tracks the

history of cultural innovations in the Arctic and Subarctic for the past 12,000 years, and includes the development of sophisticated architecture, watercraft, fur clothing, hunting technology, and worldviews.

#### Upcoming Online Seminars

SAA's Online Seminar Series offers professional development opportunities designed for students and archaeologists seeking to enhance their skill sets or knowledge base. Most seminars are RPA Certified and RPAs can receive [Continuing Education Credit](#) on the certified seminars.

#### **November 15, 2018**

##### [Experimental Archaeology: Context, Design, and Impact](#)

This seminar will focus on designing experimental research to test hypotheses by replicating cultural or past processes. (2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. ET)

#### **November 28, 2018**

##### [Integrating Drones into Archaeological Fieldwork](#)

This course will provide basic information on the use of drones in archaeological mapping and other field contexts. Important information regarding the legal use of drones in accordance with associated federal regulations will also be explored. (12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. ET)

#### **December 11, 2018**

##### [Forensic Archaeology: Theory and Practice](#)

This two-hour seminar will introduce participants to the intersection of archaeological and forensic methods and techniques. (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. ET)

#### Now Accepting Renewals for 2019

SAA is now accepting Affiliate Renewals for 2019. Renewal invoices were sent out in the beginning of October. If you have not received your invoice or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Cheryl Ardovini at [Cheryl\\_Ardovini@saa.org](mailto:Cheryl_Ardovini@saa.org). We look forward to your participation in 2019!

As a reminder, CoAS affiliation runs on a calendar year (01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019). Be sure to renew

by the beginning of April to participate in the CoAS' booth at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Editor's Note:**

Christopher M. Rowe, University of Wyoming  
[editor.coasnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.coasnews@gmail.com)

This issue contains a bonus op-ed regarding the current state of archaeological societies in the author's region and the greater United States and the issues they face. Importantly, it offers possible avenues for societies to remedy some of the problems they may currently face. Given the new directions that the Council is heading this piece is a timely contribution and I thank Anne Tobbe Bader for her succinct thoughts and analysis.

As always, thank you for reading and I hope you enjoy this edition of the CoAS Newsletter.

### **Archaeological Society of Maryland:**

#### Annual Meeting

On Saturday, October 13, Archaeological Society of Maryland members gathered at the historic St. John's Episcopal Church on Union Avenue in Havre de Grace for their annual meeting. The one-hour update of statewide archeological projects was followed by 11 short presentations covering archeological investigations in northeast Maryland. The short subjects, presented by members of the Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake, were supported by table displays of maps, photos and artifacts. These included: investigations at the original Susquehanna Canal near Conowingo, newly discovered petroglyphs in the Octoraro Creek, metal-detecting to analyze the Captain Billy Moore property in Havre de Grace, restoration of Welsh slate-workers' cottages at Coulsontown, prehistoric activity at Crown Stone Farm near Fair Hill, discovery of an early stoneware kiln in the St. Mary Anne's Church cemetery in North East, analysis of an archaic jasper quarry near Belcamp, State Highway Administration work at the Revolutionary-era Bush Tavern and soil sampling in support of the Harford Glen ice-house restoration.

Bill McIntyre delivered the keynote address covering the 1813 British sacking of Havre de Grace. The meeting activities concluded at 3 p.m., to provide time to tour the Havre de Grace Visitor Center 1813 diorama, as well as various local museums and the skipjack Martha Lewis.

#### 2018 Field Work

*(From the July 2018 issue of ASM Ink Newsletter)*

The 2018 Archeological Society of Maryland's (ASM) Annual Field Session returned for a second season to Calverton, 18CV22, on the shore of Battle Creek in Calvert County. Don and Jean McDougall again graciously hosted the session on their property to allow the search to continue for what remains of the 17th Century town of Calverton, also known as Battle Town and Calvert Towne, which served as the first seat of county government.

During last year's field session, four features were found and mapped. This year the efforts focused on sampling the large cellar feature exposed then and exploring the area that we called the Taney dependency that we believe to include a portion of the house or an outbuilding connected with the Tawny [sic] house identified on Robert Jones 1682 plat of the town.

The Calvert County Highway Maintenance Division brought a small excavator with a smooth bucket to the site and carefully scraped back the grass mat over two 10 x 10-meter areas that had been staked out. That allowed excavation to begin in short order. Since the plowzone had been extensively sampled last year, including counting and weighing oyster shell, this year only complete oyster valves were retained.

The Taney dependency area produced numerous artifacts from the 17th and early 18th centuries, including a large wine-bottle fragment bearing a broken seal with the initial 'M.' Michael Taney's, perhaps? By the end of the session, several small

features had also been excavated in the dependency, including an apparent line of postholes.

The most notable artifact found was on the edge of one of the postholes. It is a James I silver shilling with a mint mark indicating it was made in 1604. Since the town was not established until 60 years after that, the coin had a long journey and was likely to have been a treasured object. Its placement in a posthole that may have held a doorpost suggests a deliberate act, possibly to bring good fortune.



*James I silver shilling in situ. Photo credit: John Fiveash*

In the area where a large feature had been partially exposed last year, more units were opened to try to find edges of what we were interpreting as a cellar. Three 1 x 1-meter squares were opened in each of three 2 x 2-meter units to sample the large feature. The results were not at all uniform and suggest that what appeared to be a single large feature may in fact have been the result of multiple smaller deposits.

One of the sample units was quite productive and much deeper than the other two. Like the others, it was excavated in 10 cm levels and at 30 cm it was still going deeper. Getting to the bottom of it will have to wait. Among the artifacts found in it were numerous brick and ceramic fragments, and a fragment of what may have been a flute made of bone.

At the end of the 2017 field session, a feature that seemed to be hollow was found with no time left to investigate it. This year, Matt McKnight took it on himself to re-expose it and sample it. He discovered it to be a groundhog burrow. He named the feature Matt's Fally—the spelling is on account of the fact that he fell onto it last year when taking a core sample that must have been aimed directly into the hole.

Troy Nowak and Susan Langley of the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program also returned this year. They took volunteers out to work on the MMAP skiff and slowly plied the waters off the shore, charting the historic shoreline and conducting magnetometry and side-scan studies. Troy also presented two of the lunchtime lectures for the volunteers as well giving as the Spencer Geasey Memorial Lecture one evening.

Other lunchtime speakers were Patricia Samford, director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), who gave a presentation on subfloor pits, which helped us all think about the large cellar feature; Silas Hurry, of Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), who presented and discussed examples of 17th and early 18th-Century ceramics from the HSMC collection, and Roy Brown, who demonstrated primitive skills and shared items from his collection of tools and other objects, most of his own making.

Alex Glass Volack, an archeobotanist, brought her skills to the site and conducted flotation during several days of the session. Her analysis will continue, thanks to the MAC Lab allowing her to finish processing the more than 140 liters of soil that we transported there.

More detailed reports will follow in ASM publications as the analyses continue. Many thanks are due to the many volunteers who took part in the field session. We hope that you found your labor and experience rewarding and enjoyed the effort to uncover and understand Calverton.

Kirsti Uunila - Principal Investigator

## **The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC:**

The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. sponsored its 25th annual archaeology symposium on September 15, with this year's topic being "The Peopling of the Americas: Recent Research and Perspectives." Six archaeologists (pictured on the cover of this issue) considered the still controversial question of when people first arrived in the New World, where they came from, how they got here, and if one or multiple migrations occurred. The archaeologists also addressed the question of the process by which these people populated the unfamiliar landscapes of the New World, spreading throughout the United States and to Central and South America.

As moderator and first speaker, David Meltzer of Southern Methodist University gave an overview of the topic and summarized where we are in understanding who these first Americans were. While he dismissed some theories as improbable or impossible (e.g. aliens), he indicated that many questions were still in dispute and in need of further research.

David Kilby of Texas State University next focused on the collections of tools identified as caches, especially those from the North American Clovis culture, looking at their attributes, distributions, probable functions, and possible relationship to the North American colonization processes. Dr. Kilby spoke about the Volgu cache from the French Solutrean culture and compared it to Clovis caches, commenting that it was significantly different in time, and, in his view, not directly related.

Kelly Graf, a Paleolithic archaeologist from Texas A&M University described the homeland for the first Americans as Beringia, to which peoples from Northeast Asia dispersed both before and after the last glacial maximum. After presenting the current model of dispersal proposed by geneticists, she

spoke about new data from sites in Siberia and Alaska where she has carried out excavations.

In recent years, a number of archaeologists have proposed a coastal route—or “kelp highway-- for the settlement of the New World, and Todd Braje of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, addressed this issue. Dr. Braje, who has done considerable research on California’s Channel Islands, spoke about the recent archaeological investigations along the Pacific Coast, where evidence for the earliest migrations in the New World may have been submerged by rising sea levels.

Jennifer Raff, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas, who studies genetic variation in both ancient and contemporary populations of the Americas, next offered an introduction to the latest technologies and approaches in ancient DNA (aDNA) research. While speaking about the challenges encountered in working with indigenous genomes and the remains of indigenous ancestors, she spoke about the DNA community’s efforts to develop a more productive, ethical approach to their research.

The symposium closed with James Adovasio who presented on the role of nondurable artifacts in Late Pleistocene populations. Dr. Adovasio, who is affiliated with Southern Methodist University and was the excavator of Pennsylvania’s Meadowcroft Rockshelter in the 1970’s, discussed the most recent discoveries of Late Pleistocene assemblages. Among other points, he suggested that the successful colonization of the hemisphere was due in great part to broad-spectrum hunting and collecting by all members of a group, using non-durable technologies (such as perishable plant fiber-derived artifacts), rather than to big game hunting by stone wielding adult males.

The PCS/WDC looks forward to sponsoring another symposium in September 2019.

Rosemary Lyon - Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C.

## **Op-Ed: Anne Tobbe Bader - Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society:**

### **Archaeological Societies...A Thing of the Past?**

The National Directory for Archaeological Societies lists fewer than 100 archaeological societies across the US, with only two in Indiana, one (The Kentucky Archaeological Survey) in Kentucky, and none in West Virginia. Granted, this list does not appear to be inclusive of all the organizations for those states. There are several notable omissions such as the Central Ohio Valley Archaeological Society (COVAS), the Kentucky Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), as well as the Meade County Historical and Archaeological Preservation Society. The longstanding West Virginia Archaeological Society is not included. The Council of Affiliated Societies (CoAS) within the Society for American Archaeology lists only seventeen active groups in the US. Overall, most of the societies across the country appear to be in areas with a strong Native American presence, where archaeological sites are still very numerous and apparent on undeveloped public lands, and which are located in proximity to universities, and by extension, professional archaeologists.

It has been noted within the Ohio Valley region that membership and participation in archaeological societies has been in decline in recent years. Membership is aging, and fewer young people are joining. The Web Society in Kentucky no longer exists. Eleven chapters once existed in Indiana, but only two, the Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society (FOAS) and the White River Valley Archaeological Society, are still active. Multiple society chapters in West Virginia are now defunct. While individuals may maintain their membership status, they do not regularly attend meetings or actively participate in society activities. There are multiple reasons to explain this decline.

### Lack of Leadership

This is a key factor in the failure of avocational societies. No organization of any type will be successful over the long run without strong leadership. Yet there are too few people who are willing to invest their time and energy and assume leadership roles. Leadership can be a single person, or a group of individuals, but it is unrealistic to think that any one person could maintain this role indefinitely without burnout. While this leadership can be lay, professional involvement is a key to the continuance of a society. Yet professional people are hesitant to undertake time-consuming roles, and with good reason. They are involved in archaeology for 40 hours per week in university or CRM positions, and it is understandable that they may need a break from it during their off-time.

### Competing Interests

Today, there are many competing interests for one's time. For any planned society meeting or activity, there are a growing number of unrelated events occurring simultaneously. And in this world where so much is on offer and one must see it all and do it all, people can simply be stretched too thin.

### Social Media and the Internet

Websites, YouTube, Facebook; each of these resources has brought archaeology into the reach of the public. There are so many resources at the tip of one's fingers, and one does not have to leave his or her chair to learn about exciting discoveries and new theories. Videos can be watched, questions can be asked and answered on interactive sites, all without leaving home.

### Exhaustion of Speakers

Most amateur/avocational societies have a monthly or quarterly meeting format that includes a speaker, whether a professional archaeologist, historian, or someone with a specific expertise. These folks generously give of their time and sometimes travel quite a distance to present at a society's meeting

place, often to find only a few individuals in attendance. There are too few speakers within local or easy travel of most societies, and groups find themselves reaching further and further out in the region to solicit new speakers. Even so, the number of available speakers who are willing to participate is finite and soon exhausted, leaving the meeting organizer at odds for what to do at meetings.

### Lack of Student Interest/University Programs

In some cities and even states, there are few anthropology programs that offer graduate degrees in archaeology. This means there are limited professional resources to draw upon for society support and guidance. Some programs are staffed by professional with research interests overseas rather than more local or regional cultural areas. With a low number of degree programs and professors, there are naturally fewer students. While students are always a welcome addition to any society, most choose to align themselves with the academic community rather than avocational or amateur groups.

### Current Laws, Regulations, and Policies

There are fewer opportunities for archaeological societies to become involved in independent fieldwork or excavation. In the past, societies have made significant contributions to our understanding the past in this manner. Today, however, there are laws and regulations to protect and manage our nation's cultural heritage, and with good reason. With ever spreading development and loss of expansive, natural lands, archaeological sites are rapidly diminishing in number. The ramification for amateur/avocational groups, in some states more-so than others, is that there are more stringent requirements governing the excavation of sites, most of which focus on the involvement of a professional archaeologist. Even more than site protection, today's enlightened climate demands a sensitivity to the cultures, beliefs, and ancestral traditions of those peoples whose sites we may disturb. Policies for the appropriate treatment of

traditional and sacred places and burials grounds of all cultures rightly limit the opportunities for disturbance through excavation. Lastly, though it still occurs far too often, there is a growing perception on the part of the public against the collecting, trading, buying, and selling of artifacts. The successful prosecution of ARPA cases and the notoriety surrounding the illegal acquisition of artifacts by large corporations are slowly but surely enlightening the public and attaching a stigma to the inappropriate treatment of artifacts.

### **Is there still a role for Avocational Societies?**

The question must be raised if there is still a value to avocational societies, and the answer is certainly “yes”. However, the role of archaeological societies may need to be reevaluated. During their heyday in the sixties and seventies, societies made significant contributions to the discipline through site excavation and reporting. This is no longer an easy or desirable objective to pursue. That is not to say that fieldwork is off-limits for avocational groups, but rather, that there are fewer opportunities for such work, and that it must be carefully planned and professionally supervised. The following are areas in which avocationalists can make important contributions:

1. Archaeological societies can offer field support for professional investigations which are not funded or underfunded. Some societies offer training in the field, and these skills can—and have been—useful to support professional field efforts.
2. Investigation including excavation (with professional oversight and appropriate permits) can still happen, but should focus on sites that are threatened with imminent destruction and which are not under the purview of Section 106 or other federal and state laws
3. Site recordation remains an important area where avocationalists can be truly useful. These folks know where the sites are, and

often have collections from them.

Recording sites increases the database on known resources which is important to all researchers.

4. There will always be a need for the documentation of private collections through inventory and photography.
5. Monitoring the condition of known resources is also valuable, with appropriate and established guidelines. Avocationalists drive by many sites in their day-to-day routine and are well positioned to report on vandalism or disturbances.
6. Hosting educational booths and archaeology day/month events for the public and providing speakers and demonstrations to local schools and public events are activities that benefit the public and help spread the word regarding the importance of protecting the cultural heritage of our communities.

### **What can be done to revitalize the societies?**

#### Getting back to Basics

So why did people form and join societies in the first place? Let’s face it, people are collectors at heart. They have a fascination with old and unusual items and are captured with the discovery of them. What brought these people together into societies in the first place was the need to share their finds with others, and to learn more about those things they collected. What are they? What were they used for? How old are they? Who made them? Of all the questions received by professionals from the public, these are still among the most asked questions. People have a need to know. This has been a focal point of interest throughout the years and perhaps the satisfaction of that “need to know” is something that today’s societies have moved away from. While instructing society members of proper collecting protocols as well as the unethical practice of buying and selling artifacts, the coming together

and sharing of artifacts is an activity that should continue to draw interest.

### Active Recruitment

During many of the public events, people often express a real interest in the society and its activities but claim they have never heard of the local archaeological society. More widespread publication of society events and accomplishments needs to happen, whether in a local newspaper, on-line through various websites and social media, or postings at local museums, libraries, university anthropology departments, or even high schools. At one time, notices of meetings were circulated to 46 different public media outlets monthly for FOAS in the Louisville area. Membership and participation were high during that period. When dissemination of information through those media was discontinued, membership and participation fell.

### Publications

In any organization, members like to receive something tangible as part of their membership. Whether it is regular email notices, a newsletter, or an annual journal, members see the receipt of these things as a fair exchange for their dues. Members are especially interested in reading about projects or activities they have been involved in and are gratified by publications such as guidebooks or articles that inform them about the artifacts they collect.

### Resource Sharing

With multiple archaeological societies all drawing from the same professional pool of speakers, resources are stretched too thin. With today's technology, it is a simple thing to provide a presentation through Skype or webinars. In this way, each society could take advantage of the experience of the same professional speakers and would eliminate the need for speakers to travel long distances to the society meetings. The problem with many webinars is that they are not held during

society meeting times. This problem could be addressed through the recording of presentations with willing speakers, or advanced scheduling.

### Networking

In the past, the Kentucky Archaeological Association (KAA) brought the various avocational groups across the state together for an annual meeting. This is something that could be revived. An event such as this could be a time where the various societies in the state or region come together and facilitate a discussion of common problems and solutions. It would be a time when avocationalists across the state interacted with each other and shared their common interests. A one-day event, with a luncheon, artifact display, and short talks would surely be welcomed with enthusiasm by amateurs. Aside from this, it also seems a good idea for the various societies that are engaged in public events to combine forces with, or at least extend invitations, to the other groups. This would not only increase a sense of camaraderie but also provide more opportunities for participation to all.

### Hands On

Alternative meeting formats must be developed. It simply is not practical to operate under the assumption that a professional or informed presenter can be found for every meeting. Other activities, such as lab work, collection documentation, and research activities should be devised. A recent experiment with fire-cracked rock at a FOAS meeting engaged the members who now want to see more experimental projects.

Will archaeological societies survive? Hopefully, they will. There is a need for more people, lay as well as professional, to instill and grow an enlightened public that is sensitive to the importance of historic preservation. Come join us.