



Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
of Native Indian Studies
www.SRACenter.org



The Region's Archeological, Cultural and Historical Resource
Premier Issue

Volume 1 Issue 1

December 2005

The Vision

The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (S.R.A.C.) is dedicated to education, research and preservation of the Native American archaeological, cultural and historical assets of the Twin Tier Region of Northeastern PA and Southern NY.

The Mission

To proactively seek out, procure and protect all historically and culturally significant assets relative to Native American History within the Twin Tier Region and supply educational and research capabilities for the public.

The Objectives and Purpose

S.R.A.C. is dedicated to education, research and preservation of the region's Native American archaeological, cultural and historical assets for the communities within the Twin Tier Region.

The Board

- Deb Twigg** Executive Director
- Susan Fogel** Chief Financial Officer
- Lisa Deemy** Secretary
- Dick Cowles** CoDirector of
Archaeology/Education
- Ted Keir** CoDirector of Archaeology/
Education
- Mollie Eliot** Liaison
Eastern Delaware Nations
- Nancy Menio** Director Community
Events
- Chief Eugene Hodge** Liaison
Big Horn Lenape

Drumbeats Through Time a Success!

A special thanks goes out to the Sayre Historical Society, Endicott Tri Cities Chapter of New York Archaeology, Eastern Delaware Nations (EDN), Big Horn Lenape and Pennsylvania's Andaste Chapter for joining S.R.A.C. in our Drumbeats Through Time event that took place at the Patterson Auditorium on the Guthrie Campus in Sayre October 22, 2005.

Many EDN members attended in regalia and provided traditional songs and dances throughout the day.

The Tri Cities Chapter brought artifacts and resources from studies they have been involved with relative to our region's Native Indian history and archaeology. The Sayre Historical Society and the PA Andaste Chapter were also on hand to provide interesting information concerning our local history as well.

Approximately 200 hundred people visited the event throughout

the day. Board Members of S.R.A.C. who presented at the event included Ted Keir, "The Woolly Mammoth Story;" Deb Twigg, "The Spanish Hill Story;" and Dick Cowles, "The Story of the Wyoming Massacre." There was also a "Children's Hour" held in a separate area during lunch break where children were taught some Native Indian Children stories by S.R.A.C. Board member Nancy Menio.



Dan Caister - Triple Cities Chapter NY Archaeology

Breaking News

There will be a Carantouan/ Spanish Hill article in the December 2005 issue of "PA Archaeologist" written by Deb Twigg. More news next quarter.

Video Clips are now available at our website www.sracenter.org/clips

Become a Member Today!

Mammoth Find Remembered

By Ted Keir



Ted Keir

For those unfamiliar with the Newton mammoth story, we have to go back to 1983, to a remnant of the great ice age, a glacial kettle known as Spring Lake. It is located between Wyalusing and Towanda in Bradford County and lies astride Asylum and Terry Townships. The lake was owned by Walter and Jane Newton who lived on a terrace overlooking the 58 acre impoundment.

The Newtons decided to make the lake a better recreational area by making it deeper and building an island in the center for waterfowl propagation. To accomplish this Walter operated his own dragline and dredged out many feet of peat and glacial material. A workman found an unusual mandible unlike any bone from local animals. Taking photos and having paleontologists study the unusual find, it was identified as a 30 pound jaw bone of an ice-age Jefferson Mammoth, containing two huge grinding molars.

Several professionals from the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg visited the site and determined there were remains enough to justify an excavation. However, it was later found that they could not fund the operation. The Carnegie Museum in

Pittsburgh was contacted and expressed an interest in the find and agreed to take charge of the excavation.

On August 29th, a month after the mandible discovery, the team from Carnegie arrived and laid out a site plan. Allen McCrady, a preparator for the museum, directed the work assisted by Norman Wyerthele and Ed Dlutowski from the museum's "Section of Man" and Dr. Stan Lantz, an archaeologist with great experience. Also assisting was Dave Kohler, President of the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology and John Orlandini and others from the Frances Dorrance Chapter No. 11 of archaeology in Wilkes-Barre.

The local archaeology chapter, Andastes No. 5 of Bradford County, led by Dick McCracken and Ted Keir worked every day on the dig and brought meals for the professionals, living in a trailer provided by the Newtons.

For the next 25 days the professionals worked side by side with the amateurs, from early morning until dark, seven days a week. Walter Newton was continually called upon to use his bulldozer or dragline to remove

the heavy overburden. Over 90 bones and pieces of bone and tusk were recovered. Some of the bones were intact, but several of the larger bones were sheared off by the tremendous glacial action. The most outstanding recovery was a ten-foot tusk in a fine state of preservation. The bones were treated with a preservative and sent to Carnegie for future

restoration. Water from rainstorms created a problem, but the Newtons provided a 5000 gpm pump to keep the work area drained.

In September, 1985, the professionals and plenty of local help continued the search for more of the skeleton but very little was found. Every rock and bone was carefully examined for any evidence of paleo man existing and contributing to the death of the animal. The site number is recorded as (36Br164). Projectile points have been found near the lake, but none were found at the excavation site.

It was a tremendous educational experience with different disciplines working together. There were hundreds of visitors who came to watch the digging including buses of school children. Everyone was orderly and did not get in the workers way and tools were left scattered around with no

evidence of vandalism.

Soil samples were taken at three different levels for pollen studies and analysis. Organic material was carefully preserved

for Carbon-14 dating, which came back with a figure of 12,600 B.C. with one sample dating 14,240 B.P. (Before the Present).

Carnegie presented the Newtons with a perfect ten-foot replica of the tusk made of fiberglass and resins which now hangs in the Newton living room. Without question, the greatest contribution to See **Mammoth** Page 3

“For the next 25 days the professionals worked side by side with the amateurs, from early morning until dark, seven days a week.”

Historically Speaking

Many of you may know that the Andastes (Susquehannocks) were forced South in the mid 1600's after being weakened by disease and finally conquered by the Iroquois. These last known survivors settled in Conestoga, PA and became known as the "Conestogas."

On Dec. 14, 1763 a band of nearly five dozen frontiersmen, called the "Paxton Boys", attacked the peaceful Conestoga village. They killed eight of the 22 inhabitants in this unprovoked raid. "The Boys" continued their rampage during the next two weeks.

On December 27, settlers and friends of the Conestogas tried to save them by locking them in the local jail. The "Paxton Boys" broke in and killed the 14 Indians not killed in the attack on December 14th, including women and children.

Benjamin Franklin wrote the broadside "Narrative of the Late Massacres in Lancaster County" condemning the white attackers for brutalizing the Conestogas that day.

Tid Bits

Check out Spanish Hill's Newsletter
www.spanishhill.com

Woapalanne (wopo lonnie) means "Bald Eagle" in the Delaware language.

As information becomes available we will begin including information on committees; speakers lists; and events of interest in the upcoming quarter

(Mammoth From Page 2)
the project came from the Newton family.

Application has been made with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a historical roadside marker with information about the mammoth. Such a marker, if approved, would be located on the right side of the State Route 187, approximately six miles south of Wysox.

The Andaste Chapter is also seeking money for a sign to be erected on the site of the excavation. Donations for this 4-foot by 8-foot sign are to be directed to Clare Borits at the Bradford County Library for the Andaste group. The library is located on Route 6, midway between Troy and Towanda and can be reached by calling 297-2436 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. or by visiting www.bradfordcountylibrary.org.

'Drumbeats' Heats Up the Valley

At the Drumbeats Through Time Event in Sayre October 22 from top left, Mollie Eliot of EDN explains Native Indian culture to participants; it's all about 'hands on' learning at the Big Horn Lenape table; and Dick and Marcia Cowles talk about various artifacts from their collection.



Currently

We are in the process of building our resources and artifacts database. "Research Partner" members will be able to use this resource online. Other members can ask for photos and reports but will not have access to the online database.

Booklet Available

\$5.00

"Carantouan - A Perspective for the New Millennium"

by: Deb Twigg



Mention you read this in the newsletter and the proceeds go to S.R.A.C.

About Memberships

S.R.A.C. members will serve as a forum for information exchange and generate ideas for projects and workgroups including fundraising and will qualify for quarterly newsletters, discounts and more based on their memberships.

Memberships are renewable yearly (or lifetime memberships may be purchased.)

Members meet annually, unless the board of directors fixes another meeting schedule or date and notice is given to the members.

Members will be given at least twenty (20) days notice in writing (including email) of the date, place, and time of all membership meetings.

Please visit the website for further information or to download a membership application: www.sra-center.org/Join/

✂ Clip Here

Membership Type	Annual Fee	Benefits
Student	\$10.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit), and online database collection access
Senior (65 and above)	\$10.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to set limit)
Individual	\$20.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Family	\$20.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Research Partner (Individual)	\$100.00	Quarterly newsletter, free copies (up to a set limit), discount on photos (up to a set limit), and database collection access
Corporation (Group)	\$250.00	Quarterly newsletters, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Benefactor	\$500.00 and Above One time	Lifetime membership and quarterly newsletters, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)

NAME:

EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Become a member of S.R.A.C.!

- 1.) Please check the type of membership you wish to apply for.
- 2.) Fill out the information above.
- 3.) Submit this form and a check for the appropriate amount to :

Susquehanna River Archaeological Center (S.R.A.C.)
772 South Main Street, Athens, PA 18810