



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ARCHEOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

The National Association of State Archaeologists will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 5, in the Cabinet Room of the Atlanta Hilton, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The meeting this year will include a workshop on how state archaeologists can deal with the media. On the same day from 2 to 4 PM Curtis Schaafsma, State Archaeologist of New Mexico, will chair a workshop/symposium on managing federal archaeological collections. It is hoped that NASA business may be concluded a little early to provide members a chance to attend this session.

WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM ON MANAGING FEDERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

Curtis Schaafsma has arranged a session on managing federal archaeological collections to be held in conjunction with SAA meetings in Atlanta. The session is sponsored by the American Society for Conservation Archaeology and is scheduled for April 5 between 2 and 4 PM. Please check the final SAA program for place. Curt writes in the announcement:

"The pending appearance of 36 CFR 79 and the issuance of the GAO Report of December, 1987 have changed the way in which we will curate archaeological materials.

Both the Federal Agency and the museum community need to engage in an active partnership to manage collections for the best possible future use. Legally, collections from Federal lands remain the property of the Government and curators must be aware of what the Government will require and what sources of funding will be available. The discussion will focus on 36 CFR 79 and its implications for Federal managers and museum authorities in regard to funding, development and operating repositories with Federal archaeological collections.

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DEVELOPMENTS IN MARYLAND

Tyler Bastian, State Archaeologist of Maryland reports:

"New Maryland legislation effective July 1, 1988 mandates a comprehensive underwater archeology program in the Maryland Historical Trust, the state historic preservation office. The new program is headed by Paul Hundley, assisted by Sheli Smith. A training program and cooperation with recreational divers are required by the new law. In November, 1988 the Maryland Historical Trust and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration signed an agreement to: 1) develop a plan to establish a National Center for Maritime Preservation Technology, 2) investigate and prepare for nomination as a National Marine Sanctuary the site of the 16-ship Barney flotilla scuttled in the Pautuxent River in 1814, 3) investigate patterns of climatic change in North America using archaeological data, and 4) create a grant fund to promote research in maritime resource protection. Curtiss Peterson, assisted by Dina Hill heads the new National Center for Maritime Preservation Technology. Finally, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has accepted a proposal from the Maryland Historical Trust to establish a graduate program in underwater archeology. Details on the above items can be obtained from

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Proposed legislation currently working its way through the Maryland General Assembly will transfer the Division of Archeology from the Maryland Geological Survey (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) to the Maryland Historical Trust (Department of Housing and Community Development). At that time it will become the Archeology Office headed by the Chief Archaeologist assisted by a State Terrestrial Archaeologist and a State Underwater Archaeologist. The bill transfers the Division of Archeology enabling legislation essentially intact with housekeeping changes and the addition of new provisions recommended by representatives of the archaeological community. The bill introduced last

year on underwater archeology also included language for transferring archeological positions and authority from the Maryland Geological Survey to the Maryland Historical Trust. However, lack of specifics about terrestrial archeology and the introduction of the legislation without prior consultation with the archeological community precipitated broad opposition and deletion of the transfer proposal. Subsequently, the archeological community was advised that an executive decision had been made to transfer the Division from the Geological Survey to the Historical Trust, and representatives were invited to make recommendations on the reorganization. Recommendations prepared by academic, contract, federal, and avocational representatives chaired by Douglas C. Comer were included in the current bill and in a policy statement. Passage is anticipated with a July 1, 1989 effective date.

A policy for burial excavation and treatment has been the subject of extended discussions by the Council for Maryland Archeology since early 1986, and a draft policy is being reviewed by representatives of the Maryland Indian community. In the meantime, a bill was introduced and failed in the Maryland General Assembly last year, and two bills were introduced this year, all of which are designed to protect marked cemeteries. The bills do not address unmarked graves or the importance of archaeological data recovery. A study committee with representatives from archeological, minority, historical, and genealogical organizations is being recommended to the General Assembly as the appropriate course of action at this time.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PLANNING IN OREGON

Leland Gilson reports from Oregon that the archaeology study group has completed a summary of how archaeological planning will proceed in their state. Their draft report is intended to accomplish the comprehensive planning requirements of the National Park Service as reflected in two key

goals: 1) to integrate the identification, evaluation, and protection elements of historic preservation; and 2) to insure preservation concerns are fully considered in planning decisions. The purpose of the plan is to "develop a comprehensive historic resource management process which identifies and organizes information about a state's historic, archaeological, architectural, and cultural resources into a form and process readily usable for producing high reliability decisions, recommendations and/or advice about the identification, evaluation, and protection of these resources."

The report notes that the State Plan Advisory Committee consists of 10 members from universities, federal agencies, state agencies and private consulting firms. Meetings are held generally once a month, and the committee's recommendations represent about 450 person hours of discussion. The committee recommended that geographic study units be defined which made sense in terms of history and ethnography. There are eight such units in the state, and these may be further subdivided into drainage basins, when necessary. There are five temporal divisions: Paleo, Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, and Contact. Finally the committee consolidated a number of themes into four general categories: subsistence, settlement, technology, and geochronology. Each study unit is planned to be discussed following a consistent outline that the committee developed to focus on six major topics: introduction, site distribution analysis, research status (chronological and thematic), investigation standards, management, and bibliography. Finally, the report addresses the conservation ethic in the context of significance, the relative value of resources, and the need to accomplish evaluation of recorded sites. The plan concludes:

"The state plan is intended to be a resource protection planning process for policies, methods, and strategies for making land use decisions. It will suggest avoidance (benign preservation) as the default alternative but it will stress evaluation. It is assumed that research interests will change. They may

change before the study units are published. Significance or insignificance can, and will, vary in space and time. Since significance is assigned by current interests, and not by inherent or intrinsic qualities, if one is to err, one should err on the side of the resource. Until sites are evaluated, one must err on the side of the resource."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTION TRAINING

Federal Archeology REPORT, February, 1989, notes that archaeological protection training for cultural resources and law enforcement managers and specialists is being provided by the Departmental Consulting Archeologist and the Archaeological Assistance Program, National Park Service, in cooperation with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. The 12-hour course is intended to provide an overview of archaeological resource protection against looting and vandalism. It will assist managers in evaluating their programs and suggest effective ways to accomplish archaeological protection. The course will be offered in Atlanta; Washington, DC; Concord, NH; Salt Lake City, UT; Billings, MT; Gallup, NM; Phoenix, AZ; and Reno NV. There is no charge for tuition, but those wishing to attend must apply to the appropriate NPS Regional Office. For more information contact

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The following notes are taken from the *Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter*, March, 1989, and the *NCSHPO/NEWS*, February, 1989, published by the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is requesting \$53.5 million from the Historic Preservation Fund, including \$10 million for restoration of standing structures and for archaeology (used to be called Acquisition and Development, A & D, Funds). However, the President's FY 1990 budget retains the Reagan budget recommendation of zero funding for the Historic Preservation Fund.

Sen. Wyche Fowler introduced at the closing of the 100th Congress the "Comprehensive Preservation Act of 1988" that would essentially restructure the current organization of government efforts in historic preservation at all levels. *SHA Newsletter* notes "It is unlikely that such a bill will actually be passed, but portions of the bill will undoubtedly be reintroduced in various forms in the new Congress and enjoy a modicum of support (particularly things that are seen as 'Federal-funding neutral' or are likely to bolster the economy)."

WHYDAH

Brona Simons, State Archaeologist of Mas-

sachusetts, reports that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts failed in its appeal of the Whydah decision at the Supreme Court level. Essentially, the Court found that the Federal government retained a "paramount right and power" over submerged lands beneath navigable waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth. Ironically, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 was cited as evidence that title to or rights in ancient wrecks were not conveyed in the Submerged Lands Act...."

COLLEAGUES

Daniel Griffith, State Archaeologist of Delaware, has been appointed State Historic Preservation Officer and Acting Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Tom Green, State Archaeologist of Idaho, also serves as Deputy SHPO; his new mailing address is 210 Main Street, Boise, ID 83702.

CALL FOR NEWS

Send me some stuff. Can't have a newsletter without news.

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