

# HORIZON & TRADITION

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference



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Cover Photo: The image on the cover of this issue is of Prospect Hill, an antebellum house and former plantation in Jefferson County, Mississippi. It was founded by Isaac Ross in the early 19th century. In 1830, Ross and other planters founded the Mississippi Colonization Society and planned to eventually relocate freed slaves to West Africa. After Ross' death in 1836, his grandson contested the will and lived in the house during a long legal process. The Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the will in 1845. The plantation was eventually sold and several hundred African Americans enslaved on the plantation were freed and transported in 1848 to what was called "Mississippi in Africa" on the coast of what became Liberia. The house on the cover was built in 1854 to replace the original house that burned a decade earlier. Descendants of the Ross and Wade families, among others, lived in the house until the 1960s. The house and 23 acres of the plantation was purchased by The Archaeological Conservancy in 2011. You can learn more about Prospect Hill by visiting <http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/prospect-hill-plantation-mississippi/>. The photo on the cover and on page 20 come from the [Prospect Hill Facebook Page](#).

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## INFORMATION FOR SUBSCRIBERS

*Horizon & Tradition* is the digital newsletter of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. It is published semi-annually in April and October by the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. Distribution is by membership in the Conference. Annual membership dues are \$16.50 for students, \$37.50 for individuals, \$42.50 for families. Life membership dues are \$500 for individuals and \$550.00 for families. Members also receive three issues per year of the journal *Southeastern Archaeology*. Membership requests, subscription dues, and changes of address should be directed to the Treasurer. Orders of back issues should be sent to the Associate Editor for Sales.

## INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

*Horizon & Tradition* publishes reports, opinions, current research, obituaries, and announcements of interest to members of the Conference. All materials should be submitted to the Associate Editor for the Newsletter. Deadlines are March 1 for the April issue and September 1 for the October issue. Submissions via e-mail are preferred. Style should conform to the detailed guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Volume 57, Number 4 (October 1992).

## CREDITS

*Horizon & Tradition* is designed with Microsoft Publisher 2013 and converted to PDF with Adobe Acrobat 11.0; Questions or comments should be directed to [Phillip.Hodge@tn.gov](mailto:Phillip.Hodge@tn.gov).



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the October issue of *Horizon & Tradition*! Inside you will find information and links to everything you need to know about SEAC 2016 in Athens. Organizer Victor Thompson and his colleagues at the University of Georgia have put together a full program of interesting and informative symposia, plus a full slate of social events, including a kick-off event Wednesday evening, the traditional Thursday night reception, and Friday night dance. The Student Affairs Committee has several events for students, including a session on student publishing. There is also talk that this year's SEAC involves a Wild Rumpus!

You will also find SEAC President Greg Waselkov's letter to the Conference, where he reflects on projects from long ago and their continuing importance for the present. When it comes to archaeological sites, he encourages us to collect all the information we can, whenever and wherever we can, since we never know what questions or problems may arise in the future that such information could inform or answer.

Many of you have also no doubt received email notices regarding the 2016 SEAC Election. If not, information about this year's ballot and nominee statements are also included in this issue. The election is open this year through October 14, so you still have a few days left to vote. The Board did not hold a spring meeting this year, so there are no mid-year minutes to report.

As I was putting the finishing touches on this issue of *Horizon & Tradition*, Hurricane Matthew was churning slowly up the Atlantic coast of Florida. While the human toll of hurricanes and other natural disasters take precedence during the storm and in the days after, archaeologists and cultural resource managers have a little known but important role to play in the aftermath by tracking the effects of hurricanes and other coastal processes on shipwrecks and marine artifacts. The feature article for this issue comes from Austin Burkhard, a student at the University of West Florida, who reports on a pilot program he developed to track the movement of shipwrecks and marine artifacts. He discusses the origin of the project, the tracking process and materials, and preliminary results. I think you'll be amazed when you learn just how far and how often these materials move. Aus-

tin's project has wide reaching implications for the management of marine resources and reflects yet another advance in archaeology made possible by the intersection of digital technology and crowd sourcing.

Jessica Crawford with The Archaeological Conservancy is the subject of the latest edition of *Random Sample*, our occasional interview series. Jessica is the Regional Director for the southeast region and is responsible for managing acquisitions and site preservation efforts in seven southeastern states. We talked about a number of issues related to the Conservancy's work in her region, but spent much of the interview focused on Prospect Hill, an antebellum plantation acquired by the Conservancy in 2011. Prospect Hill was an atypical acquisition, since it had standing structures, but the Conservancy thought it was important to preserve because of its archaeological potential and remarkable history. As Jessica explained it to me, the full history of Prospect Hill is a case where the truth really is stranger (and more tragic) than fiction. I hope you enjoy learning about Jessica's work and the ways the Conservancy is working to preserve and protect archaeological sites here in the southeast.

Finally, this issue also officially closes out my time as the editor of the SEAC newsletter. Sarah Bennett will be taking over after the meeting in Athens. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her interest and willingness to take over. I know she is going to do great in this role and I look forward to seeing where she takes the newsletter. I would also like to thank Rob Moon and Charlie Cobb for inviting me to take over in 2009, and the Board for their support as we updated the format, appearance, and content of the newsletter in 2012. As almost every editor of the newsletter has said since 1938, the newsletter belongs to the Conference and is only as good as what the membership puts into it. So, write-up that idea you've been thinking about, polish that short report you drafted, put opinions and editorials down on paper, or organize your photos into a photo essay and submit them to *Horizon & Tradition*. Let's keep this thing going!

Phillip Hodge  
Newsletter Editor

Send questions, comments, or letters to the editor to [sarah.bennett.archaeo@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bennett.archaeo@gmail.com).

## A Letter from SEAC President Gregory A. Waselkov



As I write my fourth and final president's column for *Horizon & Tradition*, SEAC's outstanding newsletter, recent events have reminded me of the simultaneous truth and falsity of the old saw, "Archaeologists have all the time in the world."

Several projects from my early days in archaeology, projects I thought I'd left behind years ago, have unexpectedly resurfaced in the last few months. An email this spring from O'Fallon, Missouri, invited me to attend that city's Founder's Day celebration, which featured a rebuilt version of a log house known as Zumwalt's fort. Excavation of this house site in 1975 was the first field project I ever directed. My report on that site, published as an issue of *Missouri Archaeologist*, evidently helped to inspire the O'Fallon Community Foundation to reconstruct the old homestead some forty years later.

Another "blast from the past" appeared as an invitation from Barbara Heath to comment on a manuscript she posted on Academia.edu about her long-term University of Tennessee field school in Virginia's Northern Neck. At the heart of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century English colonial community of Chicacoan was Coan Hall, home of John Mottram, the site of which Stephen Potter and I located during a survey in 1976. In Virginia, as in Missouri, others found value in something I'd had a hand in many years before, long after I'd left the scene.

On a recent visit to Tallahassee I had a chance to reflect on the accomplishments of Roy Dickens and Gary Shapiro, two exceptional colleagues who left us when far too young, at the heights of their careers in the mid-to-late 1980s.

Their numerous substantial contributions inform us still. For instance, staff members at the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center are revisiting Dickens' field work at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, location of Tohopeka, one of the few well-preserved Redstick prophets' towns from the Creek War of 1813-1814. And Shapiro's brilliant excavation of the Apalachee townhouse at Mission San Luis led eventually to reconstruction of that stunning building, what I like to call the Superdome of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Southeast.

I relate these reminiscences simply as a reminder that whatever we manage to do as archaeologists will have meaning to others for many years to come. So much has been lost, and more losses will occur as development, looting, and now sea level rise take a continuing terrible toll of our archaeological heritage. Yet whatever we can save through survey and excavation, publication, high-tech data gathering, preservation by easement or purchase or legislation, and public education will be appreciated by those who follow us. Just as the good citizens of O'Fallon rebuilt Zumwalt's log house on stone foundations I excavated many years ago, others will build on the metaphorical foundations we create with our curated collections and written interpretations. I've always viewed a career in archaeology as a race; there are so many threats to our past and so much to do. Archaeologists may have all the time in the world, centuries and millennia through which to roam and marvel at the mysteries of the ancients. But any one of us has only so much time; we need to make the most of it.

Among those who make good use of their

time are the many dedicated folks who serve SEAC as officers, committee members, conference organizers, and reviewers, every one a volunteer. Editor Betsy Reitz particularly deserves our gratitude for transitioning our journal to a second editorial platform in as many years after Maney Publishing was unexpectedly acquired by Taylor & Francis. Our nominations committee (Scott Hammerstedt, chair; Megan Kassabaum; Ashley Dumas) has assembled a fine slate of candidates for this fall's election to the Executive Board. Please exercise your right as a member to vote for President-elect, Journal Editor-elect, and Executive Officer II.

As we look forward to an outstanding conference this fall, and beyond to future conferences in Tulsa (2017) and Augusta (2018), note that 2019 and 2020 remain available for any of you who are keen to host a Southeastern Archaeological Conference meeting. Hotels book conferences many years in advance, so it's to our advantage to begin the selection process as early as possible. We are always looking for new conference cities, such as Augusta, to add to our roster of old favorites. In the meantime I look forward to seeing you all in Athens, Georgia in October.

Thank you all for the privilege to serve SEAC. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference is a remarkable organization, the best of its kind, due entirely to the fine people who support and nurture it. Long may it thrive!

- Greg Waselkov



## **SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY**

### Information for Authors

*Southeastern Archaeology* publishes:

- Articles of a theoretical nature that provide novel insights into a significant question or issue of interest to a wide professional readership.
- Review articles such as updated regional or topical summaries that are also designed to appeal to a fairly wide professional readership.
- Technical and methodological reports that are of regional significance, and that would be comprehensible to most readers.
- Field reports whose results in terms of interpretive content seem clearly to be of regional interest.

Articles should not normally exceed 10,000 words in length, including references. Reports should not exceed 5,000 words including references. Articles must be submitted online at [www.edmgr.com/sea](http://www.edmgr.com/sea).

For an initial submission you must upload

- A PDF file of the complete paper;
- OR a Word file containing the complete paper (i.e., including all tables and figures);
- OR a Word file containing the text, references, table and figure captions, plus an individual file of each figure and/or table, prepared to the specification laid out below. Excel files of tables can be submitted.

You will be asked to input separately the title, abstract, and keywords for the article or report and contact details for all authors. This information may be cut and pasted. You must also download, complete, and return the author agreement. Supplementary information such as datasets, animations, models or videos may be supported in online publication; consult the Editor at the time of submission to determine appropriateness. These files must be submitted offline, but you will need to indicate that an item of this type is being included in the submission.

For additional policies and formatting requirements, see "Author Information" at [www.edmgr.com/sea](http://www.edmgr.com/sea).

### 2017 PUBLIC OUTREACH GRANT CYCLE

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), in order to promote public awareness of archaeology in the Southeast, supports a program of small grants to finance public outreach projects. SEAC provides an annual grant of \$2,000 to an applicant through a competitive application process.

Projects proposed for grant funding should promote public awareness of archaeology in the Southeast through any of a variety of educational and outreach activities. Examples of suitable projects include teacher workshops, printed material for the public, exhibits, workshops for adults or children, Archaeology Week/Month activities, Project Archaeology workshops, Elderhostel programs, archaeology fairs, public field trips, or other public-oriented projects.

The competition is open to anyone in or near the traditional boundaries of the southeastern culture area, and all proposals must have some tie to the Southeast. For purposes of the grant, southeastern states are defined as Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Border states are defined as Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The 2017 Grant Cycle begins in fall 2016. Information about the SEAC Public Outreach Grant—including a history of the grant, description, requirements, and a grant application—can be found on the [SEAC website](#).

All submissions must be received by the committee chair no later than December 1, 2016. For additional information or queries contact Darlene Applegate, Committee Chair, Western Kentucky University, 270-745-5094 or [darlene.applegate@wku.edu](mailto:darlene.applegate@wku.edu).

### SEAC 2016 STUDENT EVENTS

The SEAC Student Affairs Committee will host a student luncheon at the annual meeting in Athens, GA.. Focusing on student publishing, lunch will be provided to attendees by the SEAC Planning Committee. Dr. Robbie Ethridge of the University of Mississippi and Dr. Megan Kassabaum of the University of Pennsylvania will offer advice on choosing an outlet for publishing, as well as submitting, editing, and co-

publishing research. A Q&A and discussion with panelists will follow.

After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, Dr. Robbie Ethridge became Professor of Anthropology at the University of Mississippi. Her primary areas of research include the ethnohistory and colonial experiences of Indians of the Southern United States. Currently serving as a co-editor for two peer-reviewed journals, *Native South* and *Ethnohistory*, Dr. Ethridge will be able to provide insight into how students should approach and engage with the publishing process. Dr. Megan Kassabaum received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Museum Curator at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on monumentality and feasting in both the Southeastern United States and specifically the Mississippi River valley. Dr. Kassabaum's recent transition to faculty member as well as extensive publishing record give her the ability to mentor students on publishing their research and collaborating with colleagues.

The lunch will be held on Thursday, October 27, at noon, and there are 35 spots available to undergraduate and graduate students. To register, please go to the [SEAC SAC homepage](#) and fill out the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Hanvey ([vanessahanvey@uky.edu](mailto:vanessahanvey@uky.edu)).

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### Shell Beads of Eastern America

This volume will feature studies of ancient shell beads from Eastern North America. Surveys and analytical studies of the archaeological record of a site, a state, a culture, a species, or depositional pattern are sought. Please contact the editor to discuss your idea. The papers will be due March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Examples of papers:

- \* shell beads from Paleoindian contexts
- \* a history of columella bead production
- \* shell beads in Texas
- \* temporal and spatial distribution of *Leptoxis* beads
- \* shell beads from Ozark rockshelters

Editor Cheryl Claassen, [claassencp@appstate.edu](mailto:claassencp@appstate.edu)

### **STANLEY SOUTH STUDENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FUND**

Stanley South was a larger-than-life figure that played a prominent role in the field of historical archaeology for nearly 60 years. His passing on March 20, 2016, brought to an end a life and career filled with scholarship and accomplishment.

To honor his many years of work, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) established the Stanley South Student Archaeological Research Fund to support undergraduate and graduate student research in archaeology by University of South Carolina students. Contributions can be made [online](#), or by check or money order (please mail to SCIAA—Stan South Fund, 1321 Pendleton Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208). For more information, please contact SCIAA at (803) 777-8170

### **WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, KYOTO, JAPAN, AUGUST 28 - SEPT. 2, 2016**

The World Archaeological Congress, now 30 years old, recently held its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in Kyoto, Japan, at Doshisha University. Attendees numbered over 1600, including many students, and came from 83 countries to share research and public archaeology, emphasizing the roles of environmental change, global and local politics, and social justice in the practice of archaeology. The inch-thick, 3.5-lb program included numerous sessions within 15 themes (heritage management, development on indigenous lands, postcolonial archaeology, ethics, museums, repatriation, migrations, urbanism, comparative regional archaeology, theory, archaeological sciences, gender, religion and spirituality, disaster archaeology, art and archaeology, war and conflict, to name a few). Besides receptions and plenary lectures, participants could attend tours of Japanese historic castles, burial tumuli, museums, and other sights/sites, enjoy special art/archaeology exhibitions, and see ongoing excavations in the path of government construction in downtown Kyoto, complete with artifact display and workers troweling away in front of the backhoe. The Hyogo Prefecture museum of archaeology, an hour west of Kyoto, was the best integration of research and public outreach I have ever seen, with

hands-on activities for each different display, by prehistoric/historic time period, appealing to both kids and adults, as well as glass floors to see archaeological features right on the real Neolithic site, and a reconstruction of prehistoric houses outside next to the exposed real house patterns and hearths.

Sessions I attended included worldwide comparisons of burial mounds and tombs, global prehistoric and historic urbanization processes, digital methods, Bronze Age horses and riders, colonial archaeology and migration (who knew there were Irish colonists in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Australia who maintained their traditional lifeways, architecture, and religion?), and indigenous archaeologies of many countries. The Gala Dinner featured foods in several ethnic styles, including Japanese delicacies (octopus arms, diverse types of fish, shochu [whiskey made from sweet potatoes and grains]). Several southeastern U.S. archaeologists attended, reaching a wide audience with their work. Opportunities for expanding archaeological knowledge and connections while having a blast are always numerous at WAC, and support for students to attend is available. Since meetings are held every 4 years, there is time to save up for the next one, WAC 9, in Prague. You can see the WAC 8 meeting program at <http://wac8.org/general-program/> and learn of this fascinating professional organization at <http://worldarch.org/>

### **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

This award recognizes excellence in the sharing of archaeological information with the general public and is designed to encourage outstanding achievements in public engagement. The 2017 award will be presented in the Media and Information Technology category; the award will emphasize how nominees used print and/or online media to educate and increase public awareness. This category recognizes outstanding programs or products that reflect collaborative initiatives that engage diverse communities.

Potential applications and nominees who feel their work is eligible should contact the committee in early November to solicit guidance. For more information about how to submit a nomination packet, please email Jayur Mehta at [jmehta@tulane.edu](mailto:jmehta@tulane.edu).

# 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

## October 26—29, 2016

### Athens, Georgia

#### WELCOME TO ATHENS

Welcome to wild, wonderful, weird Athens! We are excited to have the 73rd annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference meeting in Athens, Georgia known as “The Classic City of the South”. This year the conference will be held at the Classic Center located in the heart of downtown Athens from October 26th-29th. Athens is known for its hip music scene, fantastic bars, distinctive vibe, and good (inexpensive) food. Check out [VisitAthensGa.com](http://VisitAthensGa.com) for more information about Athens. Official and current conference information is available on the [SEAC website](http://SEAC website) or the conference Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/seac1conference](http://www.facebook.com/seac1conference).



#### HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

We are excited to offer four different hotels with reduced room rates ranging from \$114-\$142. Book fast as each hotel only has a certain number of rooms available at a reduced rate. All four are within walking distance to the Classic Center. Click [HERE](#) for information and availability for each hotel.

#### REGISTRATION

Advanced registration for those not presenting papers/posters is **October 20, 2016**. ON-SITE REGISTRATION fees will be \$10 more than the costs listed below, unless otherwise noted. Please contact Bryan Tucker at [seac2016.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:seac2016.submissions@gmail.com) if you need registration assistance.

- Regular member: \$100
- Student member: \$60
- Tribal member: Free
- Non-member: \$130
- Student non-member: \$65
- Guest non-archaeologist: \$25 (On-site only)



## 2016 SEAC ELECTION

The 2016 Nominations Committee has identified two candidates for the position of President-elect (a two-year term, followed by a two-year term as President): **Janet Levy** and **Tom Pluckhahn**; one candidate for Editor-elect (a one-year term, followed by a three-year term as Editor): **Mary Beth Trubitt**; and three candidates for Executive Officer II (a two-year term): **Jen Birch**, **David Morgan**, and **Ben Steere**. The nominations committee members were Scott Hammerstedt (Chair), Meg Kassabaum, and Ashley Dumas. If you have any questions, please contact SEAC president Greg Waselkov, ([gwaselkov@southalabama.edu](mailto:gwaselkov@southalabama.edu)) or Secretary Tony Boudreaux ([tboud@olemiss.edu](mailto:tboud@olemiss.edu)).

**Election Dates:** This year's election will be held September 9-October 14, 2016, by electronic ballot. Paper ballots are no longer being mailed out to members. Note that Family and Family Life members are entitled to two votes and their ballots will be counted twice.

**Please take the time to vote!** If you have any questions about the election procedure, contact SEAC Secretary Tony Boudreaux ([tboud@olemiss.edu](mailto:tboud@olemiss.edu)).

***Voting is open until  
October 14, 2016.***

***Check your email,  
find your ballot,  
and vote!***

## NOMINEE STATEMENTS

### President-Elect

#### Janet E. Levy

Ph.D., Washington University - St. Louis, 1977; B.A. Brown University, 1971.



Although I participated in archaeological projects in western Kentucky while in graduate school at Washington University (St. Louis), I started my career as an Old World archaeologist, focusing on northern Europe. I retooled as a southeastern archaeologist when I came to UNC Charlotte as an assistant professor in 1980: the only professional archaeologist for 50 miles in any direction. (Luckily, that has changed). In interests of transparency, you should know that I will retire from UNCC in December 2016; this will allow me to turn my energies to much more enjoyable projects with SEAC, rather than writing more 5-year plans and assessment rubrics. I attended my first SEAC meeting in 1981 in Asheville, NC. My main interests are the development of social complexity, gender, and representation in archaeology. I maintain a strong commitment to the value of comparative archaeology in expanding our understanding of the past of our species. I also have a strong commitment to supporting SEAC as a “big tent” organization. I think one of our strengths is incorporating academic archaeologists, CRM, museum, and government archaeologists, serious avocational archaeologists, community members, and students with a broad range of interests. I have served in the governance of the Archeological Division of the American Anthropological Association (division president) and of the Society for American Archaeology (board member; later Secretary), and I was a department chair for 7 years. I have also been an organizer for two SEAC meetings in Charlotte (2003

## ELECTIONS

and 2008), and recently served on SEAC's board. I have also served on Ethics Committees for both the AAA and the SAA. These experiences inform my goals for SEAC: to maintain intellectual rigor and excitement in publications and meetings; provide mentoring to students; provide outreach to the diverse communities throughout the Southeast who are stakeholders in archaeology; maintain SEAC's fiscal stability and grow its resources for a future which may require professional management; support efficient management of the organization; and, support conservation of archaeological resources in our region. I am honored to be nominated for the position of President of SEAC and would work hard to serve effectively.

### Tom Pluckhahn

Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2002; M.A., University of Georgia, 1994; B.A. University of Georgia, 1988



I attended my first SEAC as an undergraduate in 1987, fresh off a field school. Those were heady times for someone just entering the field, with work at various de Soto and other Spanish sites in full swing. But perhaps not surprisingly, my main memory is of the dance, fueled that year in Charleston by a concurrent wine convention and the archaeo-band Slant 6. If the fun of field school had not already convinced me to become an archaeologist, SEAC certainly cinched the deal. Almost thirty years later, as an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida with a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, SEAC remains the professional organization to which I identify most strongly. Indeed, like many of us, I think of SEAC as more of a community of friends than a professional group.

My career has prepared me to represent much of the diversity of our community. I have extensive

experience in CRM, having worked as a field technician for many firms, a Project Archaeologist for Southeastern Archaeological Services and Brockington and Associates, and as Consulting Archaeologist for Fort Stewart Military Reservation (through Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants). Now, as a professor in an academic department with a strong applied and public focus at a Research I university, I balance research with consultation, advocacy, and education. I am Principal Investigator on two regional centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, as well as Vice President of the Florida Archaeological Council.

My previous service to SEAC has given me a good understanding of the responsibilities of the President and the work of the organization generally. I grew to understand the Board as an Executive Officer. Later, as the Journal Editor, I worked with others to make much needed improvements to our web site and to create the position of Social Media Editor. I also managed much of the transition to Maney Publishing (now Taylor and Francis), a move that has presented some challenges but also many opportunities.

SEAC has undertaken a number of important initiatives in recent years. If elected President, I would endeavor to expand our ongoing efforts to collaborate with descendant communities, to attract membership from under-represented groups, and to support our student members. Regardless of the outcome of the election, however, I am honored to be asked to continue service to the organization that has meant so much to me.

### Editor-Elect

### Mary Beth Trubitt

Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1996; M.A., Northwestern University, 1989; B.A., Oberlin College, 1981.



I am an archeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey (a unit of the University of Arkansas System) and a Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas. Based at the Survey's Henderson State University Research Station in Arkadelphia since 2000, I conduct research, teach anthropology courses at HSU, and work with members of the public on historic preservation in Arkansas. My research interests include craft production and exchange, social complexity, and the archaeology of households and communities in eastern North America. I have published articles in *Southeastern Archaeology*, *American Antiquity*, *North American Archaeologist*, *Journal of Archaeological Research*, *Caddo Archeology Journal*, and *Arkansas Archeologist*. Recent projects have resulted in a co-authored book, *Caddo Connections: Cultural Interactions within and beyond the Caddo World* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014), the "Arkansas Novaculite: A Virtual Comparative Collection" website (<http://archeology.uark.edu/novaculite/>), and an edited festschrift, *Research, Preservation, Communication: Honoring Thomas J. Green on his Retirement from the Arkansas Archeological Survey* (Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2016). I am currently finishing a co-authored book on quarry landscapes for Oxbow Books' American Landscapes series. I also serve SEAC as chair of the Patty Jo Watson Award Committee, and sit on the editorial boards of *Journal of Texas Archeology and History* and *Caddo Archeology Journal*.

### Executive Officer II

#### Jen Birch

Ph.D., McMaster University, Ontario 2010; M.A., Carleton University, 2006; B.A., Trent University, 2003.

Originally from Ontario, Canada, I relocated to the



Southeast in 2011 to take up a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. I was hired as an Assistant Professor in 2013 by the same department at UGA. While my primary area of archaeological expertise is in the archaeology and history of Northern Iroquoian societies of the Lower Great Lakes, my research interests are driven by the desire to understand the relationship between the lived experiences of individuals and communities and broad-scale macroregional processes, including settlement aggregation and geopolitical realignment.

In 2013, I initiated two long-term research projects in the Southeast. One considers the settlement dynamics of the Late Woodland-to-Early Mississippian transition in Georgia. The other is aimed at unravelling the occupational history of the large Mississippian community centered upon Singer-Moye, a multi-mound center in the lower Chattahoochee River valley. I have taught field schools at Singer-Moye since 2013. That field school has evolved into SMASH—the Singer-Moye Archaeological Settlement History Project. SMASH endeavors to involve field school students in the goals and research design of the project such that they are involved in articulating research questions, placing excavation units, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of results. Last year, our students presented four posters at SEAC and we expect to contribute at least that many this year.

It would be an honor to serve as Executive Officer II for SEAC. I have previously served as Vice President of the Canadian Archaeological Association (2012-2014) and on the board of the Ontario Archaeological Society (2008-2010). I would be interested in furthering SEAC's interests and visibility through relations with other regional and national organizations. Other areas I would be interested in pursuing in my role as Executive Officer II include promoting undergraduate involvement in SEAC and facilitating workshops on navigating the job market for undergraduate and graduate students.

## ELECTIONS

### David Morgan

Ph.D., Tulane University, 2003; M.A. University of Alabama, 1992; B.A., Millsaps College, 1988.



I am the Director of the National Park Service's (NPS) Southeast Archeological Center (the "other" SEAC). I am the lead archeologist for the 66 national parks located in the Southeast and Caribbean, and I serve on cultural resources advisory committees within NPS at both regional and national levels. One of my duties is to help ensure that NPS participates in a robust network of partnerships with other stewardship stakeholders including non-profits, management firms, universities, and state and federal agencies. Outside NPS I am active within numerous professional organizations and serve on a committee for the Society for Historical Archaeology (technology), on a committee for the International Council on Archaeological Heritage Management (membership), and on an advisory board to an academic historic preservation program. My prior employment includes duties in grants administration, technology research, cultural resources management, and university teaching. My research in the last decade has dealt primarily with the terrestrial and maritime archaeology of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, with a focus on the processes of creolization. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference taught me what archaeological professionalism has to offer. It was the first conference I ever attended (1994), the first professional body I ever joined, and I have been fortunate to be able to attend nearly every meeting since my initial one in Lexington. I learned what archaeology was about from SEAC, and what archaeology ought to be about in terms of professionalism, collegiality, collaboration, and tradition. In many ways it is my professional home. I would be honored to serve the Conference and its members.

### Ben Steere

Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2011; B.A., Wake Forest University, 2003.



I am an assistant professor of Anthropology at Western Carolina University. My research is focused on household archaeology, domestic and monumental architecture, and the archaeology of the Appalachian Summit. I have worked in academic positions since earning my Ph.D. in 2011, but I also have experience working as a field technician and field director on cultural resource management projects with TRC, Inc. I attended my first SEAC meeting a decade ago, and last year I became a Life Member and began serving on the Public Outreach Grant Committee. With experience in academic, professional, and public archaeology, I would bring a broad, inclusive perspective to issues that concern our members, and several years of relevant experience serving on university committees and organizing local and state-level public archaeology events. I am particularly eager to help the conference continue to tackle sexual harassment and gender discrimination in our discipline, increase participation by underrepresented communities, and advance archaeological knowledge in the Southeast. I get more excited for SEAC each year than I do for the ACC Basketball Tournament, and for somebody who grew up along Tobacco Road, that's saying something. I care deeply about our organization and will work hard to help it prosper.

**If you didn't receive a ballot or have trouble voting,** contact SEAC Secretary Tony Boudreaux ([tboud@olemiss.edu](mailto:tboud@olemiss.edu)). Remember, voting closes October 14, 2016.

# From Sea Turtles to Shipwrecks: A Public Program to Monitor Marine Cultural Resources in Coastal Virginia and Maryland

By Austin Burkhard, University of West Florida

Assateague Island is a small barrier island off the coast of the Maryland/Virginia state line that stretches 37 miles in length. At the southern portion of Assateague Island is a smaller island that is seven miles in length, Chincoteague Island. Assateague and Chincoteague are the start of a series of barrier island chains that stretch from Maryland to the Outer Banks in North Carolina and onward to Florida. Barrier islands by definition are small strips of land that run parallel to the main coastline. They are created and altered by wave and wind action and, because they are ever-changing, navigation through and around these islands and treacherous waterways has historically been a difficult task. Due to the dynamic behavior of barrier islands, hundreds if not thousands of ships have met their demise along barrier island coastlines. Chincoteague Island is no exception. As such, Chincoteague is a prime location for the public to encounter shipwrecks and artifacts from shipwrecks that come ashore or are uncovered in moving sand.

Barrier island morphology

changes daily, but storms and other meteorological phenomena can occur that produce larger than usual shoreline changes. Hurricanes in particular can produce strong winds and ocean currents that cause larger than usual shore erosion and redeposits sand. Increases in sea-level and storm surges will also introduce more erosion with possible new inlets created on the island if shore erosion is severe enough.

Hurricane Sandy occurred in the fall of 2012 and was one of the most damaging and detrimental storms to ever ravish the Eastern Coast of the United States. Days after the hurricane ended, Fish and Wildlife staff at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (which comprises Chincoteague Island and the southernmost portion of Assateague Island) surveyed their beaches to access the damage and



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found something interesting—a large debris field containing dozens of disarticulated shipwreck timbers, historic shoes, and bottles (right). Here's where I come in. I was hired as an intern in the summer of 2013 as a marine archaeological technician to develop and implement a shipwreck tagging program to track the degradation and movement of shipwreck timbers over time through public participation.

In order to get the program started, I discussed the program with marine archaeologists and other professionals, including two other shipwreck tagging programs along the east coast. The main concern they expressed was the durability of their tagging materials due to exposure from harsh oceanic conditions and ultraviolet sun degradation. I then contacted the Marine Biology department at the University of West Florida and worked with them to develop a Plexiglas tag similar to tags used in tracking sea turtles. The tag is composed of two pieces of UV resistant Plexiglas with a piece of Mylar waterproof paper in-between (right). The Plexiglas is then sealed with a chemical solution to melt the pieces of Plexiglas together. One of the major features of the tag is the addition of the quick response (QR) code located in the center of the tag. The QR code provides interaction between the public user and the archaeologist.



*Refuge staff examining historic ship debris after Hurricane Sandy.*



*Example of tag used for the Shipwreck Tagging Program.*

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I set up an experiment to make sure the tags were the best fit for exposure to oceanic and UV elements. The experiment consists of three shipwreck timbers which were deployed with varying types of tagging materials and tagging attachment methods. All three timbers were originally placed in three different locations — sand dunes, intertidal waters, and submerged zones — which would encounter three varying levels of oceanic and ultraviolet

exposure. In 2013, I have found that conventional plastic tags faded and warped quickly. The Plexiglas tags have held up better so far. The one big question I had during this experiment was whether the QR code would still work after prolonged exposure to these elements, and so far it does.

The Fish and Wildlife Service program at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge has two basic components: a “tagging/identification” component and a

tracking component. Numerous archaeologists to figure out what collectively we would all like to see in terms of data collection. For the “tagging/identification” component, the first paperwork I created was a “tagging and identification” protocol. This document explains in great detail how to identify a shipwreck timber and then how to properly affix tags onto the shipwreck timber. Once a tag was deployed, information was entered onto the tag documentation form. This data sheet includes general information such as overall dimensions, GPS coordinates and tag number; however, it also includes specific information ship construction such as fastener material, fastener patterns, and whether the fasteners are machine made or hand hewn. To be used in conjunction with the data sheet, instructions were created to explain how to appropriately fill out the “tag documentation form”; this provided diagrams of specific attributes to look for to help to fill out the document. At the program’s inception, a wreck tagging workshop was held to train 25 volunteers to properly identify, document and affix tags to untagged shipwreck timbers when they are encountered on the beaches. Chincoteague Refuge staff and interns have also been trained. To date, all the forms are still in use by refuge staff, interns and select volunteers from the public who have been through the training program.



*One of the experimental specimens being documented in the dunes. Here it is faced with strictly ultra-violet degradation.*

exposure. I have been systematically documenting the positions of these timbers and tags as well as photographing the tags to monitor their durability throughout the experiment. Since they were de-

“tracking the tag” component. In order to get the program up and running, I needed to create numerous documents in order to have uniformity within the program. Again, I worked with nu-



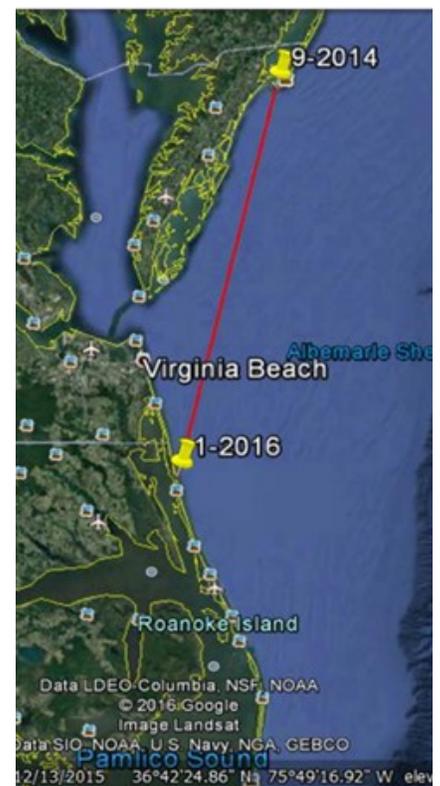
*Timber 67 was originally tagged in September 2014. In a two year period it moved 106 miles from where it was tagged. Its last reported location was near Corolla, North Carolina.*

The second component of the program was “tracking the tag”. A common activity on all beaches is beachcombing. When a member of the public walks along the beach and finds a tagged shipwreck timber, they can scan the QR tag with their smartphone. Once scanned it takes the user to an online reporting form. This form asks for general information regarding the tagged timber but also gives the user the unique ability to upload GPS coordinates and pictures. When the user submits the form, I get an email notification regarding the submission. The form gets placed into an online database where I can easily analyze the data. I then send a response back to the user regarding when their timber was originally tagged, how far it has moved (if it has), and also attach an original picture showing how the timber has changed.

As we all know, archaeologists do not get the opportunity to go out into the field as much as they would like. This program gives a unique opportunity for the archaeologist to visually see how shipwreck timbers/sites change over time and also how they move. Essentially the public are the eyes and ears in the field. If something seems astray with a site or the data received, an archaeologist can then react and go out into the field to quickly work. The sites and timbers being tagged also help protect the cultural resources. The presence of the tag will educate the public that the piece of wood is actually a shipwreck timber. Since the timber is also tagged for a scientific study, there will be less of a chance that someone would tamper or remove the resource.

Chincoteague has a unique

public beach season. The beach is closed for several months for wildlife conservation during bird nesting season. Even with this restriction, throughout the program’s history, hundreds of submissions have been received which have created some fascinating movement data. The specimen shown at left is tag number 67. This timber was first tagged in September of 2014 and is approximately 3 meters long. It moved a year later at least 40 meters to its location in February of 2015. During this past winter, Chincoteague was ravaged with numerous harsh storms. I received a submission in January of 2016 which indicated that the timber now lies in Corolla, North Carolina. As pictured below, the shortest line I drew



from Chincoteague to the GPS coordinates I received just outside of Corolla was 106 miles in distance. The timber could have traveled a further distance than this. This shipwreck timber crossed the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay! This example was the largest movement south I have seen; however, I have a few other examples which have moved varying distances southward. A common thought has been that disarticulated shipwreck timbers which

over 100 miles. How far could a timber/wreck move in 200 years when it first sunk? It is possible that one of the disarticulated pieces of shipwreck I encountered on Chincoteague could be from further North.

Throughout the program's history, we have been lucky enough to tag a few shipwreck sites within the intertidal/beach zone at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. This gave us a unique opportunity to track the

results to determine if this site broke up, whether it moved, and if it did, where to? As stated numerous times throughout this article, this program is a public driven program where the public is essentially gathering the data for us. The Fish and Wildlife staff has also trained their staff members and interns as well as public volunteers at the refuge. In the future, I am hoping to hold more training sessions and public outreach programs to continue sharing our maritime history with the public which will ultimately help obtain the main goal of expanding the program over a larger geographic area.

Overall, the shipwreck tagging program for the Fish and Wildlife Service at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge has been a great success and pilot program to illustrate an effective and efficient method for documenting, protecting, and monitoring cultural resources in the intertidal/beach regions.



Google Earth image illustrating the straight-line distance between the September 2014 location and its last recorded location in January 2016.

occur on the beaches are from a wreck breaking up just offshore. Throughout my program and data collection so far, I do not believe this to be the case. Over the course of two years, one shipwreck timber was able to move

integrity of the site over time as well as monitor site formation processes. One particular site which was tagged was completely inundated this past winter due to one of the winter storms this past season. We are still waiting for

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Have an informal report, article, or editorial? Email [Sarah Bennett](mailto:sarah.bennett@seac.gov) about publishing it in the SEAC Newsletter.



# “The Whole History of a Place”

## An Interview with Jessica Crawford

By Phil Hodge, SEAC Newsletter Editor

Jessica is the Regional Director for the Southeast Regional Office of [The Archaeological Conservancy](#). She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's in Anthropology. A native of Mississippi, she has worked for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and has been in her current position since 2006. She is a member and former president of the Mississippi Archaeological Association.

**PH:** I want to start with Prospect Hill. The [Shantybellum blog](#) said that “Jessica Crawford has her heart and soul invested in saving it.” What is it about Prospect Hill that’s pulled you in?

**JC:** Prospect Hill made me feel the way many people feel when they see a once beautiful place falling into ruin. It had the vines all over it, the leaning columns, the whole thing. I also knew its history: the antebellum owner’s will leaving instructions to allow his slaves the choice to make the journey to what is now Liberia to live in the colony started by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Colonization Society or stay and be sold in family groups. His grandson contested the will for nine years, there was a fire, believed to have been started by some of the slaves and the unintended death of a six year old girl, followed by the brutal execution of several slaves in the yard and the ultimate journey of almost 300 slaves from Prospect Hill to the Mississippi Colony in what is now Liberia. Knowing all of that, I and many others felt that it had to be saved. That story is too important. And it

seemed like such a long shot. It had everything going against it. A difficult, reclusive owner; thousands of dollars of work; located in one of the most economically depressed counties in one of the most economically depressed states in the country. People are moving away, not coming in, and few have the time or money to buy and restore a crumbling reminder of a not so glorious past. Prospect Hill is the ultimate underdog. And, of course, there’s Isaac.

**PH:** Who’s Isaac?

**JC:** Isaac is the peacock who was left alone at Prospect Hill for about ten years when the previous owner abandoned the house. He sits on the porch and is the ultimate reminder that there can be beauty in decay and hope in hopelessness. When you think about the enslaved people who built that house, it’s hard not to draw parallels. Sometimes, I’m sure he has stayed there and survived so long to keep life inside that house. If the house collapsed, the archaeology would still be there and the family would still be there, but the house is the most visual reminder. It’s all

great Southern gothic. I told Ian Brown that peacocks living inside crumbling antebellum houses in the middle of nowhere is the sort of thing that happens only south of the Yazoo River in the bluffs of Mississippi.

**PH:** That’s practically the most Southern Gothic thing I’ve ever heard! Do you find yourself gravitating toward long shots and underdogs in your work with the Conservancy?

**JC:** Really, in my region, the seven southeastern states, the majority of archaeological sites are long shots and underdogs. With large areas in cultivation, agricultural practices put many sites in danger. There is also the lack of legal protection for archaeological sites in some states, so the way the Conservancy looks at it, any archaeological site may one day be in peril, even if there aren’t land-levelers parked beside it right now.

**PH:** Does the Conservancy normally acquire standing structures or is Prospect Hill the first of its kind for the Conservancy?

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**JC:** We try to avoid it, if possible. The Conservancy is set up to manage archaeological resources. Houses or other structures, historic or not, aren't archaeology. Several historic structures that need repair could drain all our funds quickly. However, sometimes, to get a very significant site, we end up having to purchase a house or other structure. Sometimes they're historic and sometimes not. We do it on a case by case basis. We have a couple of modern houses on mound sites that we allow people to lease for a very small amount if they will keep the house up. I've also torn down three houses that were on sites because they were too far gone to be fixed. Prospect Hill was the first site with plantation archaeology on it in my region.

**PH:** Does Prospect Hill have an archaeological component?

**JC:** It does. The grounds haven't been touched and they're covered with foundations of outbuildings. The story it can tell about plantation life in Mississippi in the early 1800's is something that really, only archaeology can tell. So often, all we see is the big house and the rest of the story gets lost. Archaeologists are helping us tell the story of everyone who lived there. It's our plan to find someone who will purchase Prospect Hill from us and restore the house, while we retain an archaeological easement that protects the archaeology and allows occasional research. We've had a couple of sales fall through, but I remain optimistic.

**PH:** What drives your decision to



Jessica Crawford at the Parchman site. Photo by George Lowry.

acquire any particular site? Is it archaeological significance alone, or is it because they're threatened by development or destruction, or all of the above?

**JC:** There are several things we consider. One of the most important being how much research potential is there. Our mission is to preserve archaeological sites not just for the sake of preserving them, but for archaeological research. That doesn't mean they have to be researched right now or even in the near future. As long as we hold title to them, they'll be there. Once we've made sure a site is recorded with the state and we know there is good research potential, we then consider how much it will cost to acquire and manage. We can't pay far over appraised value and when sites are donated we help donors obtain tax credits.

**PH:** I read about your 2013 work with the Chickasaw on the acquisition of Chissa'Talla in Lee County (link below). It seemed like the decision to sell was difficult for the Beasley family. You mentioned that you help landowners with tax credits for donations after the transfer of property, but what about on the front end, when someone like the Beasley family might be struggling with these decisions?

**JC:** I also try to let them know up front that we can't pay a lot, if any, over appraised value. Sometimes, even appraised value is too expensive. I also let them know that we don't value sites by size of the site, height of the mound, or whatever. Some people think the larger the mound, the more valuable the land. Another way of looking at it is that if

A photograph of a peacock standing on a wooden floor in a room. The room has a large window with a view of trees and a fireplace on the left. The peacock is illuminated by sunlight from the window, casting a long shadow on the floor. The walls are white and show signs of wear and peeling paint.

*“...peacocks living inside crumbling antebellum houses in the middle of nowhere is the sort of thing that happens only south of the Yazoo River...”*

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it has a site on it, there may be problems with developing it in any way, so it could be worthless. In the end, it's up to the landowner, and in many cases, it might be property that has been in the family for many years. People become attached to these places and feel very connected to them. It's important for them to know they can trust us to stand by our agreements and to trust me as a person. Acquisitions often take time and I have to establish a relationship with the landowner and get an understanding of what their concerns are. Some don't want any excavations to take place on their site – ever. They think of it as grave robbing or looting. There are all the stereotypes that archaeologists have to deal with and I have to ease them into the idea of careful and respectful work taking place at some point. Landowners have all kinds of completely natural and legitimate concerns about the future of their property so there has to be a lot of trust between us. Many landowners, and the Beasleys are an excellent example, become dear friends of mine and I keep in touch with them and visit them when I'm in the area. The way I look at it, quite often, the life of the owners we acquire a site from often becomes part of the site's story. It's not just the prehistoric archaeology that needs to be remembered, it's the whole history of a place.

**PH:** Sometimes it obviously comes down to dollars and cents and what they can get for the property, but how do you approach helping landowners with the decision to conserve the archaeology on their property?

**JC:** With a couple like the Beasleys, it's easy. They'd always protected the archaeological sites on their land. John Ray literally ran people off with a shotgun. At a time when metal detecting and grave robbing was rampant in Tupelo, everyone knew not to dig holes on Beasley property. If they did, they regretted it. I just happened to be introduced to the Beasleys at a time when they were ready to sell a large portion of their property and build a smaller house on some adjacent land. They were very generous and agreed to sell their 35 acres at the lowest end of the appraisal and then donated about five acres, as well as the structures and their contents on the property. Some people just want the money and don't care what happens to their site. Others will not sell for less than a certain amount and they sometimes walk away. We do our best to work something out, but sometimes we just can't come to an agreement. Or sometimes family members are divided over what is most important. I try to express to people that preserving their site really is like giving a gift to future generations and there is nothing truer than to say that these sites are a finite resource. Each one is an individual and has its own information to share; its own piece of the puzzle.

**PH:** The Chickasaw stepped up big-time on [Chissa'Talla](#). Can you talk about some of the ways that the Conservancy works with descendent communities, whether it be the Chickasaw in Lee County or the descendants of Prospect Hill?

**JC:** We cooperate with any tribe connected to or interested in sites we acquire. We're happy to partner on acquisitions, as well as to help develop management plans and have them act as site stewards, if they want to. I don't have the tribal presence in the Southeast that other regions have, especially our Southwestern region. In addition to the work I've done with the Chickasaw, I've also met with and worked on an acquisition with the Houma in Louisiana. I've worked with the Chitimacha on reburying human remains at one of our sites. I've also spoken with representatives of the Quapaw, Poarch Band of Creeks, and the Muscogee Creek Nation about various sites. The family that owned Prospect Hill is a pretty large group and they have all been very encouraging and generous with their time and monetary contributions toward keeping the house in a state so that it can be restored. I'm especially proud of the number of descendants of people who were enslaved at Prospect Hill who have contacted us and visited. We had one gathering where descendants of the owners family and enslaved families visited the plantation together, which was an amazing experience. I'm hoping that through archaeology, we can determine where the slave cabins were as well as a slave cemetery.

**PH:** Last Conservancy question, as far as acquisitions go, what was your biggest heart breaker and your biggest success?

**JC:** My biggest heart breaker is the Watson Brake Site in Louisiana. It's best known for being one of the sites

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that proved mound building took place during the Middle Archaic. Great work was done there by Joe Saunders, Recca Jones, and many others, who became dear friends of mine. The state of Louisiana asked us to acquire the site with the plan that eventually the State would take ownership and it would become a park. The property line goes right through the middle. We managed to purchase half the site from the timber company that owned it and subsequently resold it to the State of Louisiana. We had a contract with the family that owned the other half and they backed out. Several times since, they've called us saying they were ready to sell, but at the last minute there is one person who refuses to agree to a deal. This individual is determined to make us pay far above appraised value for the site - a ridiculous amount. Even though other family members want to see the site preserved and become a park, they cannot get him to agree. Once, Joe Saunders told me he didn't think he'd live to see the entire site preserved and I told him he was wrong. He may have been right. Perhaps none of us will ever see that entire site preserved. The family will allow visits to their side but they also allow ATV riding on their mounds as well. It may be a lost cause.

**PH:** And your biggest success?

**JC:** Chissa'Talla was a big success for me because, in spite of the break on the price the Beasleys gave us, it was still going to be half a million dollars. We got it all from the Chickasaw Nation and that wouldn't have happened without help from their

tribal historian, Richard Green and Kirk Perry, who also works with the Nation. Since then, I've seen Chickasaw stand on that site and be deeply affected by it. There is just something about seeing the direct descendants so touched by a place and also to see them learn from archaeological research conducted there. It was also the beginning of a very close working relationship with the Chickasaw Nation, and I've learned a tremendous amount from individuals within the tribe that has shaped my thinking as an archaeologist and preservationist, so all of that has been a great personal success to me too. But truly, every site preserved is a great success. Some are more impressive in appearance than others, but they're all important. I have so much assistance from archaeologists and interested locals that it's always a like a celebration when we've all worked together to acquire a site. Honestly, the archaeologists who work on these sites grow to love them and care about them as much as anyone and they go above and beyond to help me. They do things on their own time, they spend their own money, they go out of their way to get me maps, information and arrange meetings. Many of the sites we acquire, I wouldn't even know existed if not for an archaeologist.

**PH:** Let's talk about archaeology in Mississippi and being an archaeologist in Mississippi. For the last few years I've volunteered with a local group to research a well-known site in my hometown that everyone has an opinion about. Digging into the history of this place and learning new things

about my hometown, a place I thought I knew well, has been eye-opening to say the least. I think sometimes it's hard to get a really deep understanding of a place unless you grew up there and have a sixth sense for it. [Tim Pauketat](#) talked about something similar to this in the first interview in this series. Have you found the same thing to be true growing up, living, and working in the Delta? How do you think about the archaeology of Mississippi, as both a professional and as a native of the Delta?

**JC:** Most of the archaeological field work I've done has been pretty much in my back yard, so to speak, here in Mississippi and mostly in the Yazoo River Basin. I've done a little work in Arkansas and some with Joe Saunders in Louisiana, but most has been pretty close to home. It's been enlightening and I learned that although I grew up here, there was much I didn't know about the prehistory, geology and hydrology of this area. Like lots of kids, I grew up taking school trips to Winterville Mounds in Greenville or Chucalissa in Memphis, so I thought I knew those sites, but only when I became an archaeologist did I begin to understand and appreciate those places. Driving down Highway 61 I now see things that a lot of people don't notice or think much about. A dip in the road is a relict river channel, I understand oxbows and how they're formed, depending on my location, I can predict the approximate age of a site that's on a natural levee. Archaeology has given me a much more complete and intimate knowledge of my home. It has given

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me a new appreciation for it, too. Being local does help when I'm working for the Conservancy here, or in adjacent states, because it's so agriculture oriented. I grew up in an agricultural community and am married to a farmer, so I understand the concerns of farmers and landowners. I can look at a field and know why a farmer won't want to lose the part of a field where a well is located or where his center pivot has to pass. Recognizing the crops, knowing the prices, how the production year has been and other things like that helps me gain the trust of someone I'm hoping will consider taking a site out of production. To them, I don't seem like some stranger coming in and nagging him about an Indian mound, and that's an attitude lots of archaeologists have to deal with. I can speak the language of Delta farmers, but at the same time, I've been around (and away) enough to cringe at a lot of the old, out of date attitudes. Some of the things that come out of people's mouths, well, I just have to kind of ignore if I'm going to do my job. I've learned to feel comfortable kicking dirt clods in a field with an old farmer, meeting with a developer in his office in Miami or discussing reburials at a site with a tribe's cultural representative. Sometimes being a woman makes it a little different, too. If I had a nickle for every time I've arranged to meet a man I didn't know out on some dirt road...It sounds a lot worse than it is!

**PH:** Talk about your experiences working with John Connaway at MDAH. I was at Southern Miss studying with Ed Jackson about the

same time you were at Ole Miss. I was new to the state, but it didn't take long for me to figure out that John Connaway was practically an institution in Mississippi archaeology and the archaeology of Mississippi Delta. I know you're close to John. What did you learn from him that stuck with you?

**JC:** I feel so fortunate to have worked with John Connaway and he remains one of my closest friends. With over 40 years with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, you're right, he is an institution! I spent so much time with him really because he's just 15 miles from me and when I went to Ole Miss, Jay Johnson was working in the Delta so he was happy to have a student with John so much. John started working in the Delta when agricultural land clearing and leveling was going on at a frightening rate and he spent years chasing dirt buckets trying to salvage as much as he could. In the process, he learned how to work with landowners and how to work fast when tractors are racing past you. He's also old school—partly by choice and partly because he's never been provided with much more equipment than shovels and trowels. His transit is ancient. One of the first things John did was lay out a quad map and show me how to read it and record the location of a site using UTM coordinates. He always stressed the importance of going to meetings and giving presentations—especially when you're a student and you plan to work in a certain area, it's important to be involved on the local level. He insisted that I give a paper at my second [Mississippi Archaeological Association](#) meeting. I was a nerv-

ous wreck and didn't want to, but it's so important to do that and now it's easy for me. John says I won't shut up now. I followed him around all over the place doing salvage work or checking on sites when someone called Archives needing information or help. I got to see all kinds of sites, meet all kinds of people and hear all kinds of great stories. Driving through the Delta with Connaway is a real trip. He can point to hundreds of high spots or clusters of trees and tell you about a site right there. He's also seen a lot of archaeology lost and has put in tremendous amounts of personal and professional time into saving as much as possible. He's a little quiet at first, but he loves to share what he knows with others and is great with kids.

**PH:** I want to finish up with your experience at Ole Miss and research you did early in your career. How did you land in the Anthropology program at Old Miss and how did come to work with Jay Johnson?

**JC:** I'm sort of a late bloomer in archaeology. I was at Ole Miss and finishing a few classes for my English degree when I really became interested in archaeology. I'd wanted to go into Historic Preservation, but Ole Miss didn't have a program. I was also taking some Southern Studies classes and showed Robbie Ethridge some points I'd found on our farm and she sent me to Jay Johnson. I had a couple of nice paleo points which is unusual for the Delta, so Jay referred me to John Connaway who came over to look at my collection and record my sites. I'd already

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done a lot of reading and had figured out how to keep up with what I found and where. I had Mississippian and Woodland sites that had pottery and were close to the main river channel and larger points from sites that were in "gumbo" or backswamp fields without pottery and I'd figured out that all meant something, but John really enlightened me and he gave me lots of reading material and I started spending time with him and doing volunteer work. I'd go with him to the Hollywood site when Jay was working there and finally, one day Jay said something like, "Why don't you just enroll in my program?" I was in my early thirties and felt so much older than all the other graduate students and thought I just didn't know enough-until I heard one of his students ask which was older, Woodland or Marksville, so I thought, "OK, I'm doing it!"

**PH:** How did you come to study stone effigy beads in grad school?

**JC:** Because I spent a lot of time with John Connaway, I naturally heard a lot about one of his interests which was Archaic effigy beads. He'd worked at the Denton site near Lambert, where collectors had found about 20 stone effigy beads. It was also the type site for the Middle Archaic Denton and Opossum Bayou points. John had spent years tracking down every effigy bead of this style he could find and had built a considerable database. Relatives of mine owned the Denton site, which made it even more interesting to me, but I was just fascinated by the beads and the idea of an in-depth analysis of them, so Jay allowed me to do my thesis on them. Only three have been professionally excavated and there are things about each of the three that make me a little uncomfortable but I do think I presented a good argument for them being Middle Archaic and earlier than Poverty Point.

**PH:** Last question, looking back on your career so far, how have your archaeological interests changed?

**JC:** Years ago, I was all about Middle Archaic and I'd have considered Prospect Hill "tin can archaeology." Not now. I'm learning so much about historic and plantation archaeology that I didn't know then because I never really paid attention. The great thing about my job, of course, is that I don't have to be an expert. That's not my role. My role is to manage Conservancy sites and deal with anyone who requests to conduct excavations on them. But still, I can't help but want to know all about it!

**PH:** Wanting to know about it all is every archaeologist's blessing and curse! That's a good place to end. Thanks for sharing your story.

Have an idea for a Random Sample interview? Contact Sarah Bennett at [sarah.bennett.archaeo@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bennett.archaeo@gmail.com).

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