



Newsletter of the

# Archaeological Society of New Jersey

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## Reviving the Past, Empowering the Present: Archaeology at Stockton University Reimagined

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If you haven't checked in on archaeology at Stockton University in a while, you might be surprised by what you find. Not too long ago, archaeology was perhaps just a step above a fleeting rumor in the campus hallways. Students enrolled in the Sociology/Anthropology Program have long been able to declare an archaeology concentration; I myself chose to do so as a starry-eyed and hopeful undergrad at Stockton in the second half of the aughts. Over the past couple of years, we've rebuilt the program to blend education with service, placing real-world learning at its core. Students excavate cultural landscapes, preserve artifacts, and make archival materials accessible to the public, contributing work that has immediate relevance beyond the classroom. The curriculum now offers a full course sequence for the concentration and a new minor open to students across disciplines. Archaeology at Stockton is not confined to lectures, but practiced through museum work, field research, archival investigation, and community partnerships.



Student catalogs redware recovered from Cresse-Holmes House property; Photographer: Susan Allen/Stockton University,

Stockton's revitalized program also reflects archaeology's interdisciplinary nature and encourages students to think across disciplinary boundaries. The new curriculum mirrors this reality by combining core training in methods and theory with specialization coursework drawn from the natural sciences, humanities, and cultural studies, depending on students' interests. *Continued on page 7*

## Great Meadows South Site, Independence, Twp, Warren County, Help Needed

By Bill Sandy

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum (SHMM) in Ogdensburg, Sussex County recently received a donation of a box full of Native American artifacts once in the possession of the late Newfoundland Postmaster James "Jim" Bruce Norman from the Great Meadows South Site in Warren County. This has joined a sizeable collection from sites in Sussex County and Orange County, New York (Daum et al. 2025). Help is needed to maximize the archaeological value of this impressive collection of stone tools and ceramics.

Jim Norman was well known in historical and archaeological circles in northern New Jersey. He was a founding member of the West Milford Historical Society in 1954. In 1957, he initiated a stagecoach run reenactment between Paterson and Deckertown (Sussex). He played an important role with the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society and the discovery of Peter Hasenclaver's 18th Century Middle Forge (northjersey.com 2016; Edward J. Lenik, personal communication 2025).

For over 40 years he collected thousands of Indian arrowheads and artifacts from the early times in this area. He displayed some of them during the township's 150th anniversary field day at Brown's Point.

Always loving the outdoors, he hunted, trapped and fished. He found his first arrowhead while trapping mink and muskrat near Clinton Brook. His wife Dora and their friends then continued spending many weekends searching for arrowheads. He became a member of the Archeological Society in 1943 (northjersey.com 2016).

This collection from the Great Meadow South is large and impressive. It includes about 80 triangular points, various other projectile points, other tools and various types of Native American ceramics, all labeled "GMS".

*Continued on page 5*



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-New Jersey History and Historic Preservation  
 Conference, Morris County, NJ June 17 & 18,  
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 -Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference  
 2026 March 11-15, 2026 Gettysburg PA  
 -Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology annual  
 meeting DuBois, PA April 10-12, 2026

**ASNJ Bulletin Update:** By Michael Gall The  
 Editor also is in receipt of three articles for Bulletin  
 No. 81 and is requesting suitable, article-length  
 content for consideration.

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is keeping warm during this particularly cold winter! We had a great conference in January in Atlantic City with a full day of archaeological talks on Saturday and a great keynote and productive business meeting on Sunday. I would like to thank all of those that attended, presented and volunteered. Please note we will be retaking a vote at the next meeting for a member-at-large position because of a tie.

I am also happy to see that Bulletin #80 was mailed in February. It is another great volume of articles that really shows the breadth of research taking place in our little state. Please consider contributing to future Bulletins and Newsletters. Details for submissions are available in the publications and on our website: [www.asnj.org](http://www.asnj.org). We are also looking for new material. Also, please consider presenting at our upcoming meetings.  
 Jim Lee



Provided by Jack Cresson

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**Apply for the Sean Bratton Memorial Research Fund (due May 31, 2026)**

The Sean Bratton Memorial Research Fund will provide up to two (2) yearly research \$400 grants/scholarships to students or working professional archaeologists who are conducting original archaeological research on New Jersey topics. Grant applications will be due via email to [asofnj@gmail.com](mailto:asofnj@gmail.com). Additional information available on the ASNJ website.

**Student & Young Professional Committee**

If you have anything you'd like to share, please email us at [asnstudentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asnstudentcommittee@gmail.com) or contact us on Instagram @ asnj\_student\_comittee to join.

**Treasury and Annual Update By Danielle Cathcart**

As of February 16, 2026 our PNC Non-Profit Checking assets total \$22,601.00 in the General Fund and \$50,384.31 in Earmarked funds, including \$24.01 available for transfer in our PayPal account. The PNC Fixed Rate Certificate of Deposit interest accrual on December 31, 2025 totaled \$29.79. Since December 12, 2025 deposits totaled \$8,112.28 from membership dues, donations, Annual Conference registrations, and merchandise sales. Withdrawals totaled \$4,687.19 in supplies for the Annual Conference, publication costs associated with Newsletter 290 and Bulletin 80 (2025) printing and distribution, merchandise shipping costs, ESAF renewal dues, and ESAF memberships purchased via [asnj.org](http://asnj.org). A report of the Society's 2025 fiscal year will be presented in the May newsletter.

On behalf of the Conference Committee, I am pleased to report the Society's third Annual Conference held at the Tropicana in Atlantic City between January 16-18 was a banner year for student participation and attendance. Among the 64 registrants and presenters, students represented 30% of our total conference compared to 20% last year! Students hailed from Stockton and Monmouth Universities, University College London, and The College of New Jersey. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, totaling \$8,866.52, we were able to reimburse registration for all 20 students. We hosted three Trowel- and one Shovel-level sponsors including the New Jersey Historic Trust, Passaic County, Hunter Research, Inc., and Richard Grubb and Associates, Inc. The Conference generated \$2,920.17 in addition to the sponsorships and donations, resulting in a total of \$5,856.40 allocated to the Publication Fund (from 50% of all Registrations and Sponsorships, and 100% of merchandise sales). The Conference cost the Society approximately \$4,977.91 excluding an estimated 100 hours in donated labor (worth \$1,592.00) on the part of the Conference Committee and approximately \$400 worth of supplies with pending invoices.

**Website and YouTube Update by Evan Mydlowski**

From December 10th, 2025-February 16th, 2026, we hosted 1,824 unique visitors (1,721 from December 10th, 2024-February 16th, 2025), had 2,221 visits (2,135 from December 10th, 2024-February 16th, 2025), and had 3,820 total page views (4,142 from December 10th, 2024-February 16th, 2025). We received 1,585 (70.4%) of these visits from the United States, compared to the 1,884 (88.2%) visits from December 10th, 2024-February 16th, 2025. The referrals from social media (49 visits) made up 2.21% of the total visits to the website (51 visits and 2.39% from December 10th, 2024-February 16th, 2025) and 40 came from Facebook, 5 came from Instagram, 2 came from YouTube, 1 came from LinkedIn, and 1 came from Reddit. In the period from December 10th, 2025-February 16th, 2026, YouTube had a total of 0 video(s) uploaded to the channel, gained 16 subscribers, had 421 views, 43.2 total hours watched with an average watch time of 6:09 minutes, and a total of 4,810 impressions with a click rate of 4.5%. Additional YouTube Statistics from this period included: Total Views in the US: 78, Total Views from Non-Subscribers: 393 and Total Views from Subscribed: 28. YouTube Views by Device Type consisted of: Computer: 113; Mobile phone: 105; Tablet: 26, and TV: 177.

**Membership Report Cheryl Schlagenhaft**

As of February 18, 2026, there are 202 current members of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey. These memberships include 86 Individuals, 10 Sustaining Members, 56 Life Members, 14 Students, 15 Families, 6 Institutions, and 15 Organizations.

Member Type	Individual Total
EO	4
EX	11
FM	15
ID	86
IN	6
LF	51
LF/GF	5
ST	14
SUS	10

**ASNJ RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Archaeological Society of NJ has funded research interests of Society members since its inception in 1977. At the time it focused on underwriting all or a portion of the costs of conducting C-14 assays.

Today there is a greater variety of costs considered for grant funding requests for research conducted in NJ and adjacent States. The numbers and Amounts of the awards (up to \$750) are contingent upon money available in the ASNJ Research Fund.

Grants are open to active members in good standing. The submission of applications is open from January 1 to June 30th. Please contact Jack Cresson ([Knapperjack@gmail.com](mailto:Knapperjack@gmail.com)) for applications and addition information.

**March 2026 Quarterly Meeting**

Date: March 21, 2026, Board Meeting 10am to 11:30am, Lecture Series: 12:30-2pm, Tour 2pm

Location: Clayton Park Activity Center (Historic Imlaystown School), 202 Davis Station Road, Upper Freehold, NJ 08514 (Parking is immediately adjacent)

**Public Lecture Series**

12:30 PM Kristen T. Hohn, MA, RPA

The Crookedest Street in America: Archaeological History and Management at Imlaystown and Clayton Park, Upper Freehold, NJ

1:00 PM Richard Veit, PhD. RPA

Public Archaeology at Merino Hill, the Samuel Gardiner Wright Estate in Allentown, New Jersey

1:30 PM Reagan Miller, MA

Conservation, Community, and Cemetery Stewardship

Tour: 2:00 PM A walking tour at the nearby Old Yellow Meeting House, an early 18th century Baptist meeting house, parsonage house and cemetery with members of the OYMH Board of Trustees.



Feature stain at Gruno Site 28BU129 (image courtesy of Jack Cresson)



*Continue from page 1*

They await inventory, analysis and hopefully Site Registration, and a full report. However, several issues complicate analysis. Very little paperwork accompanies the collection. There are no maps, site forms, or anything else to indicate where or how the artifacts were found. The site has not been registered with the New Jersey State Museum and has so has no NJSM 28Wa Site Number. No dates of investigations are known; presumably it was between 1940 and 1990.

Great Meadows is located in Independence Township, Warren County (US Geological Survey 1982:72).

Any information about the investigations is greatly appreciated, including who, when, and how the collection was created. This type of information is most likely known by senior experts in history or archaeology. Contact with the West Milford Historical Society did not locate anyone who knew him.

Also, someone with expertise in New Jersey ceramics who is willing to donate some time working on the collection is needed. There are about 100 assorted sherds.

The photo shows a selection of them.

Please contact me at [billsandy1936@hotmail.com](mailto:billsandy1936@hotmail.com) if you have any information or have any questions. Mailing address follows. Bill Sandy, c/o SHMM, 30 Plant St., Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Daum, Darryl, Everett Conklin, William Sandy, Jane Deech, Karen Nelson, Kaylee Mccloud, Anthony Lombardo and James Kotcho.

2025 The Bihn Collection -A look into the lower Wallkill River Valley and the Upper Delaware River, Paleo to Contact. Paper presented to the Archaeological Society of New Jersey. October.

Lenik, Edward J. 2025 Personal communication, October. [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com), 2016 Rest of the Story - May 1, 2016: Newfoundland Postmaster James Norman preserved history. <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/morris/butler/2016/05/01/rest-of-the-story-may-1-2016-newfoundland-postmaster-james-norman-preserved-history/94668658/>

US Geological Survey 1982 The National Gazetteer of the United States of America \_ New Jersey. U.S. Geological Survey, Alexandria.



Ceramics from Great Meadows South (provided by Bill Sandy)



**Inside the New Jersey State Museum** by Susan Orr

The Bureau of Archaeology & Ethnography (BAE) at the New Jersey State Museum (NJSM) had a busy 2025 answering cultural resource management questions, registering new sites, accessioning collections, assisting young inventors during the First Lego League Challenge, and working with researchers and thesis students.

In August the NJDOT transferred the 1997-1999 Phase III excavation by McCormick, Taylor, & Associates, Inc. of 28-Mr-256, Beverwyck Plantation Site. This northern plantation site located in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township offers a unique study into the everyday life of pre and post-Colonial New Jersey. Most importantly it offers the opportunity to better understand plantation lifeways and chattel enslavement in the northern states.

Between 1752 and 1768 English merchant William Kelly acquired various properties in Morris County to create a 2000 acre estate called Red Barracks. Advertised for lease March of 1768 the property came with twenty-seven buildings, a large orchard, land suitable for fields, 300 acres of timber, and twenty enslaved persons including a blacksmith, shoemaker, and mason. Lucas Von Beverhoudt, a Dutch West Indies plantation owner, purchased the property in 1772 renaming it Beverwyck and sent ten enslaved laborers from his plantation to Beverwyck in 1775. By the beginning of the Revolutionary War Beverwyck Plantation was an integral landmark both politically and socially in northern New Jersey. The plantation families residing at Beverwyck entertained the elites of the Revolution, including Generals Washington and Greene. In 1803 a fire consumed the manor house, and original farm house creating a time capsule from 1758 – 1803. Other structures excavated include: enslaved labor quarters, blacksmith shop, distillery, well, and numerous outbuildings.

References

Silber B. H. and W. P. Catts 2004 Archaeological Data Recovery Investigations at the Beverwyck Site (28Mr256); U.S. Route 46 and South Beverwyck Road Parsippany-Troy Hills Township; Morris County, New Jersey, Volume I: Introduction. Prepared for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Trenton, New Jersey.

Silber B. H. and W. P. Catts 2005 Archaeological Data Recovery Investigations at the Beverwyck Site (28Mr256); U.S. Route 46 and South Beverwyck Road Parsippany-Troy Hills Township; Morris County, New Jersey, Volume II: Historical Overview. Prepared for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Trenton, New Jersey.

One of the functions of the BAE is to assign site numbers for newly recorded sites in New Jersey. Below is a total of new sites registered in 2025 but county.

**New Sites Registered in 2025 by County**

County	Site Count
Bergen	2
Burlington	8
Camden	12
Cape May	2
Gloucester	4
Hunterdon	1
Mercer	7
Middlesex	1
Monmouth	7
Morris	1
Passaic	2
Salem	1
Somerset	3
Sussex	8
Union	2
Warren	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>



Shackle from Enslaved Labor Quarters



*Continued from page 1*

Our Stockton University program works directly with the Museum of Cape May County on projects that connect academic learning with preservation and community engagement. Students enrolled in the Archaeological Field Methods course become part of the museum’s Digging History Project team, joining ongoing excavations at the historic Cresse-Holmes House. One student in Stockton’s 4+1 American Studies Program is developing a master’s thesis on John Holmes’s plantation; Holmes was a Revolutionary War-era enslaver and privateer financier. Other students have also joined the museum’s archival initiatives aimed at expanding public accessibility to historic records. Getting used to this meticulous work now will likely lessen the blow when students realize archaeologists often spend more time in archives than in the dirt.



Julio "Gabe" Ruiz, Socy/Anth major concentrating in archaeology, conquers back soil screening duty during the summer 2025 field season; Photo: Bobbi Hornbeck.

A particularly meaningful component of Stockton’s hands-on training involves student work with the Richard Cook Collection from the Nature Center of Cape May. This several-thousand-piece collection of Native American lithic and ceramic artifacts provides a rare opportunity to learn professional collections stewardship. Students have been diligently sorting, cataloging, and analyzing the artifacts to prepare the collection for long-term preservation and educational use by the wider community. They will soon begin photographing and 3D scanning select artifacts to create a digital collection. Work with the R. Cook Collection gives students experience in identification and labeling, long-term storage planning, ethical documentation, and the

importance of methodological standards.

The next phase of the program’s growth is already underway. Stockton is currently developing a formal laboratory that will give students a dedicated professional space to work directly with artifacts and other archaeological materials. When the archaeology lab opens for student use in fall 2026, it will dramatically expand opportunities for hands-on training, collections care, and research. The archaeology program is growing quickly, and our students are doing work we’re excited to keep sharing with the Archaeological Society of New Jersey in the future. If you are curious to learn more about the program, interested in student projects, or simply want to explore ways to get involved, I’d love to hear from you.



Alex Schmitt, Socy/Anth major concentrating in archaeology, holds a Native American stone tool recovered from a shovel test; this is the only Native American artifact to be recovered archaeologically from the Cresse-Holmes property as of Feb. 2026; Photo: Bobbi Hornbeck, 2025



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Student*.....	\$20.00	Sustaining.....	\$35.00	Corporate.....	\$100.00
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\*Student Membership requires a photocopy of a valid Student ID.

**Dues received after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be applied to the next calendar year**

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