Dear Interest Group Members,

We hope that those of you who attended the SAA meeting last week had a fun and productive time in Portland. Seeing old friends and meeting more of you was a highpoint of my (Brandon) own meeting experience. In our first issue of The Current in 2023, we want to thank those of you who submitted research highlights, recent publications, and field school opportunities. We want to specifically bring attention to the important public and applied work of our group members.

The North American Heritage at Risk working group offered us an introduction to their group and an example of the work that they hope to encourage as we all are forced to engage with the accelerating impacts of rising seas and stronger coastal storms. We encourage you all to considering following NAHAR on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnvArch/) and visiting their website (https://nahar.hcommons.org/) to join their email list to receive announcements of regular talks on Zoom. Most importantly, you will join a group of like-minded and concerned scientists who are eager to compare notes and collaborate on developing methods and projects to mitigate the loss of heritage resources to climate change. While the group is focused on North America, scholars and residents of other regions are welcome to participate.

Finally, we would like to thank Isabelle Holland-Lulewicz for her many years of leadership. As of the annual meeting, she has stepped down as co-chair after the completion of her (extended) term. We would like to introduce our new co-chair and co-chair-elect, Dr. Carey Garland (UGA) and Hannah Hoover (UMich)!

Be well,

Brandon T. Ritchison
Chair

Elizabeth Moore
Editor
MEETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

The 14th ICAZ International Conference in Cairns, Australia, August 7 – 12, 2023

The meeting will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre and the organising committee is comprised of Patrick Faulkner, Melanie Fillios, Jillian Garvey and Tiina Manne. Further details will be made available in the near future, and the organising committee can be contacted via email at admin@icaz2022.org.

North American Heritage at Risk

Lindsey E. Cochran¹, Sarah E. Miller², Lori Lee³, Meg Gaillard⁴, Karen Y. Smith⁴, Emily Jane Murray²
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Coastal researchers are documenting increasingly severe rates of sea level rise, nuisance flooding, coastal erosion, and beach migration. These climate-driven processes are actively impacting, even erasing, the archaeological and historical records along coastlines around the world. Yet, the vastness of our coastlines negates the ability of professional archaeologists and heritage managers to be the sole active monitors of site destruction. A different, more collaborative and scalable approach is needed to document and salvage, where possible, at-risk, threatened, and damaged cultural resources.

Recognizing the challenge, the North American Heritage at Risk (NAHAR) working group was formed during the fall of 2020, in the midst of another global crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic. We are motivated to develop and deploy a unified and scalable response to the impacts of climate change on our cultural heritage. Our approach is rooted in a praxis that prioritizes community-based collaboration and resource sharing informed by scientific modeling and analysis. Each member brings to NAHAR a mosaic of success in the areas of outreach, modeling, and mitigation. Click here to learn more about NAHAR and our research pipeline.

We hope to make the most efficient use of every heritage at risk tool available in the Southeast to address the enormous issue of impacts to cultural resources from climate change at the very time action is most critical. You can read more about the working group here, sign up to get involved here, or check out our upcoming events here.
The Old Providence and Santa Catalina Islands Archaeological Project

-community focused, archaeological & ethnohistorical field school-

SUMMER 2023
June 24-July 19

Dr. Tracie Mayfield
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Fishing across the food web on California’s Channel Islands

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People have had strong connections to the oceans for millennia, and studies of past interactions among people and marine ecosystems offer important insights for modern management.

In a recently published paper in *The Holocene*, our research team explored these ideas on the California Channel Islands, a region with at least 13,000 years of settlement by coastal peoples. The work focused on a late Holocene archaeological site on Santa Rosa Island. This site, along with another nearby locale, likely correspond to the historical Chumash village, *Qshiwqshiw*, which means ‘bird droppings’.

*Archaeologist excavating a 0.5x1m Unit at CA-SRI-85 on Santa Rosa Island. (Photo courtesy of T. Braje and B. Campbell.)*
Analysis of faunal remains from an excavated unit showed that people foraged in diverse marine habitats, including kelp forests and offshore waters, and consumed many species. However, the vast majority of fish remains came from coastal mid-sized carnivores such as surfperches and rockfishes. Local fishing strategies thus did not involve the preferential removal of large-bodied pelagic fishes – a pattern known as ‘fishing down the food web’ which results in the collapse of marine ecosystems and is infamously common among modern commercial/capitalist fisheries.

Further, isotopic data of archaeological fishes revealed that the local offshore and coastal food webs were interconnected, meaning energy from each habitat provided important resources for fauna in the other. This coupling is thought to make ecosystems more stable and less prone to collapse, an important finding for contextualizing modern conservation efforts.

These results provide a window into the dynamics of pre-industrial Pacific ecosystems and reflect a broader strategy of long-term fisheries management by the Island Chumash and other Indigenous communities of the Pacific Coast.

A few of the many fish remains identified from CA-SRI-85. Visible in the center of the photo is a fragment from a Pacific barracuda (*Sphyraena argentea*).
People of Guana: Understanding and Responding to Climate Change Impacts in Northeast Florida

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In 2021, the Florida Public Archaeology Network launched the People of Guana project, funded through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System’s Science Collaborative grant program, which seeks to respond to climate change impacts to sites on the Guana Peninsula in Ponte Vedra Beach. The project is the first case study for a research pipeline developed by the North American Heritage at Risk (NAHAR) working group: modeling potential impacts to the landscapes and cultural resources, monitoring to ground truth and document sites, meeting with a variety of stakeholders and communities, methodizing best methods to use at sites, and mitigating the impacts using methods including excavation where appropriate.

Team members Summer Brown, Emily Jane Murray, and Jillyan Corrales look for artifacts in tree roots while documenting impacts to sites from storm events and flooding through FPAN’s Heritage Monitoring Scouts (HMS Florida) program.
In the first year of the three-year project, the team created draft Sea Levels Affecting Marshes Models (SLAMM) of the project area and ground truthed and monitored sites. The team is utilizing innovative technology to document shorelines including mapping erosion using a GNSS receiver with RTK and using terrestrial laser scanning and photogrammetry to document shoreline change through time. The team also created a stakeholder survey, held several small focus groups, and conducted follow up interviews to better understand what people know about resources, what impacts they are concerned about, and which resources they are most interested in. In the second half of the project, they hope to conduct a limited shovel test survey to better understand site boundaries and use all of this information to guide limited excavations at several sites deemed most at-risk and most significant to the community.
The North American fur trade (1600-1850 AD) shaped landscapes and cultural dynamics for centuries. In the Fur Trade Project, an interdisciplinary team of researchers, students, and community members are exploring the biological and cultural legacies of the fur trade with support from the Conservation Paleobiology Research Network (CPN) and the National Science Foundation. From Indigenous harvest to Euro-colonial harvest to modern management, this project combines archaeological data sets, and ancient biomolecular techniques, with resource management concerns to understand our past and present relationships with beaver, mink, and muskrat.

Last summer, Elizabeth Austin (undergraduate at Middlebury College) and I embarked on a journey into the archeological collections at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. We combed through the archaeological collections from Wabanaki ancestral territory along the coast of Maine to identify archaeological sites with beaver, mink, and muskrat remains. These sites were flagged as potential samples for DNA and isotopic analysis, which could reveal exciting insights into the lives of these animals and the people around them. After our time at the museum, we traveled to the CPN funded Furbearer Workshop on the Isle of Shoals, Maine, where we presented our findings to various stakeholders. The workshop provided an excellent platform for sharing the knowledge and discoveries we made at the museum. I also presented my findings on the diet and microbiome reconstruction of the American mink and its correlation to the decline of coastal seabirds. The workshop allowed the
stakeholders to express what they wanted and needed from the project. We heard a renowned trapper and taxidermist Tom Berbube, speak about his experience with Maine mink. Bonnie Newsom, a University of Maine archaeologist and Penobscot citizen, asked questions about deeper timescales and the Wabanaki’s involvement in conservation. And Linda Welch, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, spoke about the threat minks present to protected seabirds in Maine. The goal of project is to combine historical and modern data to explore the relationships between people, environments, and furbearers, and to ensure the health of future ecosystems.

After hearing all the different voices and opinions at the workshop, the Fur Trade Project plans on taking the next steps forward to answer the stakeholders’ questions by integrating ecological knowledge, Indigenous language, archaeological collections, ancient DNA, and isotopic analysis to document human-furbearer relationships. By studying the impact of the fur trade on these species and ecosystems, researchers can develop strategies for their conservation and ensure the survival of these creatures for future generations.

For more information about this project contact Courtney Hofman (Courtney. hofman@ou.edu) or Alexis Mychajliw (amychajliw@middlebury.edu)
Historic Resources Associated with the African American Watermen of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay

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The National Trust for Historic Preservation partnered with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on an ambitious project to survey and document historic resources associated with African American watermen who have worked the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries since the colonial era. The resulting report, a Multiple Property Document (MPD), describes and recognizes the contributions of African American watermen to the seafood industries of Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay. The Bay’s watershed is defined as the tidal waters east of the fall line that drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

In order to document and recognize the full extent of African American watermen’s contributions, the historic context provides a summary of the colonial-era work of Africans and African Americans, and a deeper dive into their fascinating history from Reconstruction to the present day. The first property to be nominated under this new MPD will be the Samuel D. Outlaw Blacksmith Shop in the Town of Onancock, Accomack County. An accomplished blacksmith, Outlaw owned and operated his shop from 1927-1972. In addition to traditional blacksmithing work necessary for repairing farming and vehicular equipment, Outlaw specialized in hand crafting watermen’s tools, such as crab dredges, clam rakes, oyster tongs, rudders, and rudder shafts for local watermen. A prominent member of the Onancock community and one of the most successful and long-lasting blacksmiths on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Outlaw continued working part-time through the early 1990s.

Old Meets New: Blending IOS Smartphone Technologies with Citizen Science to Record and Monitor Indigenous Site Loss in Coastal Maine

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Indigenous shell heaps along the Maine coast preserve a cultural and environmental record spanning millennia. However, climate change-related sea level rise and increased storm intensity and frequency, as well as more numerous freeze/thaw events, are destroying sites at an alarming rate. Yet, few studies of New England/Maritimes shell heap erosion have taken place. The Midden Minders program is a citizen science initiative created to record and monitor coastal shell midden loss on the Maine coast through photography and on-site measurements. Repeated measurements and images allow researchers and cultural resource managers to better understand the processes endangering these irreplaceable archives and take
appropriate steps. In the past, distances at shell midden edges were recorded from a pre-established baseline using tape measures and data record sheets. This data and accompanying photos were then hand entered into a data base. An interdisciplinary team of students and researchers at the University of Maine designed and developed an IOS Smartphone Augmented Reality (AR) application that streamlines this process. The new system uses previously established endpoints, allowing continuity in data gathering, but combines Augmented Reality with built-in LiDAR to create measurement paths. Volunteers select the measurement location along the path, and data is recorded directly to the database where cell service is available. Stored data is automatically download later if coverage is absent. The ease of use and immediate downloads makes this system attractive to volunteers. A second level of testing is planned for this field season, with plans for broader adoption following.
Investigating the Fauna at the Bayou Jasmine site (16SJB2) in Louisiana

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Bayou Jasmine is a very large shell midden that today is submerged due to subsidence. Investigations in the 1970s examined the upper 2.8 m of the deposits but did not reach the base. A report on the 1970s excavations was finally completed in 2013 (Heller et al. 2013). This report sampled the extensive faunal remains but much remains unanalyzed. More recently, the author has examined over 311,000 additional faunal remains from the site. Together the two samples provide a comprehensive look at the subsistence choices at the site.

All of the sampled deposits date to the Early Woodland Tchefuncte culture (3,000-2,000 BP). At the time of occupation, the site lay in a freshwater marsh environment, with brackish water available to the east near Lake Pontchartrain. The assemblage is dominated by fresh/brackish-water fish, with the most abundant including bowfin, catfish, freshwater drum, garfish, and suckers. Some salt-water species like mackerel are present. Mammals make up less than 3% of the assemblage and are dominated by muskrat. Deer are present in very small numbers. The bird and reptile remains reflect the generally aquatic landscape with ducks, herons, geese, alligators, and turtles present.
The site represents the largest and one of the best preserved faunal assemblages from Tchefuncte times in Louisiana. The raw data for the recent study is curated at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science and is available to interested researchers.

Heller, Nathanael, Dave Davis, Haley Holt, David Chatelain, Wayne Boyko, Charlotte Pevny, Raegan Buckley, Emily Meaden, Martha Williams, and R. Christopher Goodwin
The Discovery of Megalithic Structures at Point Reyes, California and the Implications for Prehistoric Water Born Travel Along the Coasts of the Americas

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The recent discovery of megalithic structures on the central coast of California was accomplished through the analysis of stone piles and soil mounds on the crest of Tomales Point located on the Point Reyes National Seashore.

These features were generally ignored because at a distance they look like bedrock outcrops. However, the presence of two stone lines in the area suggested that prehistoric builders were active there. To test this hypothesis an analysis of the geomorphology surrounding the lines and the geology of specific stone piles was conducted. Data from both geomorphology and geology support the hypothesis that the structures are artificial. Further confirmation was provided by the discovery of two archaeological features, a large petroglyph on the face of the largest megalith and a circular cut into bedrock that appears to be a former roundhouse foundation. The unique location and construction of these megalithic structures allows for viewing great distances including the Farallon Islands some 50 km to the southwest. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean to the west and Tomales Bay to the east suggests it may have played a role in prehistoric human migration to the Americas on foot or by watercraft along the coast of the Americas. Future work should include dating select structures using 14C and cosmogenic 10Be; analysis of celestial markers in the stone lines; a survey of the Farallon Islands; and offshore exploration for similar structures.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Featured New Books:

1. **Building and Remembering**
   - An Archaeology of Place-Making on Papua New Guinea's South Coast
   - **Chris Brown**

2. **Human-Animal Relations in Bronze Age Crete**
   - A History through Objects
   - **Andrew Shapland**

3. **The Rural Landscapes of Archaic Cyprus**
   - An Archaeology of Environmental and Social Change
   - **Catherine Kearns**

4. **Lithuanian Baltic Sea Coasts during the Holocene**
   - Sea Level Changes, Environmental Developments and Human Adaptations
   - **Edited by Audrius Sireikis and Vladas Zulevičius**
Other Recent Publications:


Douglass, Kristina, Priyangi Bulathsinhala, Teresa J. Feo, Tim Tighe, Scott Whittaker, Zanell Brand, Helen F. James, and Torben C. Rick.

Elliot Smith, Emma A., Rick, Torben C., and Hofman, Courtney A.

2021 People have shaped most of terrestrial nature for at least 12,000 years. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 118 (17) e2023483118. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2023483118.


Leppard, Thomas P., Robert J. DiNapoli, John F. Cherry, Kristina Douglass, Jon M. Erlandson, Terry L. Hunt, Patrick V. Kirch, Carl P. Lipo, Sue O’Connor, Suzanne E. Pilaar Birch, Torben C. Rick, Timothy M. Rieth, and Jillian A. Swift.
2021 The premise and potential of model-based approaches to island archaeology: A


Urwin, Chris 2022 *Building and Remembering: An Archaeology of Place-Making on Papua New Guinea’s South Coast*. University of Hawai‘i Press, Honolulu. Further details for the book can be found here: Building and Remembering: An Archaeology of Place-Making on Papua New Guinea’s South Coast – UH Press (hawaii.edu)

Urwin, Chris, Lara Lamb, Robert Skelly, Joshua A. Bell, Teppsy Beni, Matthew Leaviesley, Bruno David, and Henry Arifeae 2023 Rethinking Agency in Hiri Exchange Relationships on Papua New Guinea’s South Coast: Oral Traditions and


SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT

A variety of interest pieces and announcements are accepted for publication in the ICAIG newsletter. Generally, the deadline for submission for the Spring/Summer Issue is March 1st and for the Fall/Winter Issue, September 1st. Submissions and inquiries may be directed to The Current co-Editor, Elizabeth Moore (elizabeth.moore@dhr.virginia.gov). Contributions need not follow any specific format, with the exception of “Research Highlights” and “Recent Publications” (instructions below).

Instructions for Submitting Recent Publications
PLEASE NOTE: The editors will no longer be surveying literature for the Recent Publications section; Recent Publications will only contain those citations sent to us.

- Citations submitted for the “Recent Publications” section of the newsletter should follow the American Antiquity / Latin American Antiquity style guide.
- “In press” citations should be accompanied by a digital object identifier (DOI).
- Submit recent publications to elizabeth.moore@dhr.virginia.gov

Instructions for Preparing “Research Highlights” Descriptions
- Prepare a short description, written in the third person, that includes the purpose of the research, location, brief review of findings to date (if relevant), and other information of potential interest to the membership.
- Descriptions should be single spaced, using 12 pt, Times New Roman or Calibri font, and should be submitted as an MSWord file (.doc or .docx).
- Be sure to provide a title (project name or site name) and include the names and organization of the author(s)/principal investigator(s) submitting the description.
- Provide a valid email address for a single contact author/principle investigator.
- Proof read and spell check the research description, especially place names.
- Word limit: please keep the description to a maximum of about 250 words (i.e., abstract length).
- Only include literature citations if absolutely necessary. List these after the research description using the citation format for American Antiquity.
- Images: One or two (maximum) JPEG or TIFF format photos/images/illustrations may be included with the research description. Image resolution should be 600 dpi. Please note that photos may be cropped to fit to the page if images are too large or include significant “empty” space. To avoid this, please format images prior to submission to include only necessary content.
- Include a caption for any images submitted.
- If your images contain identifiable photographs of people, each person in the photo will need to sign a release form, which we will provide for you.

Submit descriptions and images as separate files to (Elizabeth.moore@dhr.virginia.gov). Submissions that do not meet the above guidelines will be returned to the author for revision, which may delay publication in The Current. Due to space constraints not all submitted pieces may be included in a given issue of The Current. If this is the case, your contribution will receive priority listing for the next issue. Do not hesitate to contact the editor if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Past Issues of The Current are available on the Island & Coastal Interest Group’s Website.