

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X ISSUE FIVE

MISSION: TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THE WALLENPAUPACK AREA AND TO
MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE TO PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
1:00 PM AT PPL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 20, 2011

The first order of business was the report of the Nomination Chair, Bruce Taylor, who read the slate of officers offered by the Board of Directors. The president asked for additional nominations and hearing none, a motion was passed for the secretary to cast the vote. New Officers for 2011 are:

Audrey Graybill-President

Nancy Gumble- Vice President

Jon Tandy-Secretary/ Ass't Treasurer

Jim Pellington- Treasurer/ Ass't Secretary

The second order of business was the list of new Directors recommended by the Board. They are **Donna Stuccio, Robert Ammon, Robert Essex, Robert Morgan**. The membership voted for them unanimously. Other Board members who are continuing to serve are Donal Coutts-Township Historian, Bruce Taylor- Palmyra Township member, Teresa Cescot, Ann Wiedenman, Rolf Moeller, Dick Briden, Anthony Waldron.

The 2011 proposed budget was distributed and explained to those attending. The budget was approved. Members who wish to receive a copy of the budget should write to Jon Tandy, Secretary, PO Box 345, Paupack, PA 18451.

REVISED KITCHEN LIST FOR 2011 DUE TO SOME GLITCHES

FEBRUARY

SHIRLEY COUTTS

TERESA CESCOT

MARCH

DOTTIE VOLLMER

JANET M.-STRAUSS

APRIL

ANN WIEDENMAN

JANE PELLINGTON

MAY

BARBARA BRIDEN

SALLY THOMSON

JUNE

EDNA HEMSLEY

VICKI GRIM

JULY PICNIC

BARBARA GROPPER

JEAN TAYLOR

AUGUST TBA

SEPTEMBER NONE

OCTOBER

GERT SCHLEIKER

ALICE EHRHARDT

NOVEMBER

NANCY GUMBLE

ETHEL PATTISON

THANKS TO
ALL



FEBRUARY PROGRAM-2/16, 1:00 PM

AT THE PPL LEARNING CENTER



SPECIAL GUEST

DR. KURT CARR, Ph. D
SENIOR CURATOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY
PENNSYLVANIA STATE MUSEUM
HARRISBURG

Dr. Carr is visiting WHS to photograph and document the Native American artifacts in our collection. He has kindly agreed to speak to us about archaeology in Pennsylvania.

He is interested in the locations of the discoveries around the lake's shores and to determine if they match well with the designated sites on record.

HISTORIC EASEMENT

You may remember that several years ago WHS accepted oversight for an historic site. A yearly inspection is made to insure that no changes have been made to the property. A restricted account insures that WHS has funds for legal action should that ever become necessary.

In Pennsylvania, whenever a developer is considering a piece of property in or near a designated archaeological site, he is required to finance a search by state officials to make certain that no artifacts will be disturbed. This was the case with the Nemanie development.

In Nemanie the search required additional investigation, with cost borne by the developer. A few items were identified and the potential owners of the lots may not disturb anything within the area.

Ironically, these were found a few feet from JR Singer's home in which the large collection we showcase today was housed.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

A list of memberships is included in the this newsletter. It will not be sent to sponsors and non-members. Please respect the privacy of this list and do not use the information for any other purpose.

Telephone numbers are not included generally because many of our members live out of the local calling area and the extensive use of cell phones has changed the way we do things these days.

Remember to notify Jon Tandy at our website or postal address if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.

If you have not paid your dues up to this time, this is the last newsletter you will receive. Please consider keeping your membership current. Your support is very valuable to us. Dues, payable to WHS, may be sent to PO BOX 345, PAUPACK, PA 18451.

Thanks for your many kind comments about the newsletter. **DO YOU WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE? SURE!**

JR SINGER PROJECTILE POINTS COLLECTION –NEW ACQUISITION

JR's daughters decided to donate their father's entire collection to WHS and WHS is very, very grateful. These important artifacts will now remain in the Wallenpaupack Area where they were found and present and future generations will be able to see them and understand their importance. In addition to these displays shown here, more than one hundred arrowheads are mounted on two large boards. We are fortunate to have two other arrowhead collections and these will join them. They are thought to be from the Woodland era and were all found along the lake's shores.

To understand their significance, we need to get re-acquainted with our knowledge of the Old Stone Age and the introduction of humans to the North and South American continents. If you have a computer, type "Paleo-Indian" and scan the pages. Here's a brief summary.

DNA studies have proven that the original people of North America originated from migrating tribes in Asia who followed the large animals across a natural land bridge between Asia and Alaska about 23,000 years ago. The northern world was very cold and covered with glaciers which caused the ocean level to drop enough to expose this bridge. It took 10,000 years to reach Montana; they followed a thawed pathway through western Canada.

Eastern Canada and eastern US were covered with glaciers so they continued southward-eventually to the tip of South America. There is little evidence of their passing except for fossil remains of the large animals they killed and their weapons. They traveled southwest and then across southern US, making their way northward as the ice melted. The large mammoths, mastodons, and great bears were over-hunted and smaller animals were targeted requiring somewhat different weapons. The bow and arrow was not developed until 100 A.D.

The hunters had to get up close to the large animals and thrust a stick with a sharpened stone into the body. They developed a skill to put a point on a stone (knapping). These stones were found near the fossil remains of animals that could be dated. The first site was Clovis, NM (11,000 BC– 9,000 BC). The stones were shaped into large fluted points. The second site was Folsom, NM (10,900 BC– 10,200 BC). These people developed a distinctive point made from native stone– narrower, smoother, and sharper than the Clovis stones. **THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART– Jr. found a FOLSOM POINT on the shores of the lake. It is pictured in the center of the display to the right. Part of it was broken off. How did it get to Palmyra Township???????????**



POINTS-CONTINUED The third site was Plainview, NM (10,200 BC.– 8,000 BC) These people made delicately shaped spear points. Archaeologists have designated 8,000 BC as the beginning of the ARCHAIC period and they divide it into three periods based on the changes in the diet and habits of the people. The last of these period is the Woodland stage (1,000 BC-800 A.D.)-the one we most closely identify with Native Americans. The glaciers that covered the Wallenpaupack River Valley receded and altered the course of the river. The river was used as hunting and fishing grounds for migrating groups of Delaware Indians.

In the Woodland stage, people hunted and fished, planted some crops, utilized the “three sisters”, and made more elaborate stone tools. The climate had warmed and forests of hardwoods covered the land. Different hunting methods were necessary and more sophisticated tools evolved.

This area was covered with miles of Indian paths as people traveled to and from the stone quarries that gave them the best materials. A jasper quarry near Allentown, other quarries in southern NY state and Northern VA attracted visitors. Rivers were used as roadways whenever possible.

JR’s collection had been authenticated by Dr. Vernon Leslie and identifications made. JR mounted and labeled his findings. Some of that information is lost and WHS is seeking to find some professional (s) to provide us with more interpretive information. We can be glad his eyes were so good!

The collection of stone implements shown below were also found around the lake. The stones with slight indentations were used as drilling platforms when drilling a hole in hides or plants. The others appear to be grinders and mashers, scrapers, and drills.



ARTIFACT LEAKAGE

Preservationists spend their efforts trying to prevent artifacts of all kinds from leaving their point of origin. When items leave the original area, they lose their significance and interested persons no longer have the ability to learn about them.

WHS is about providing a place where artifacts can be kept for future generations to see. These can be bottles, photos, maps, articles of clothing,- anything at all. This is the reason that your financial support is important to WHS.

We thank the Singer family and all others who have given us important items to preserve. These items raise new questions with each observer –i.e. **How DID that Folsom point get here?**

AN EXPLANATION-

This brief explanation of 22,000 years of history was included in this newsletter to help the reader to understand the artifacts. This was before arrangements were made with Dr. Kurt Carr, who really can explain the 22,000 years! When Dr. Carr speaks with the members on Feb 16th, he will clear up this editor’s inaccuracies and all will be forgiven.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Friends with a Heart are working tirelessly every Wednesday afternoon at the Palmyra Township Building assembling next year’s quilt. We should remember that this group is always working on other items which they donate to hospitals and where needed. If you have time to volunteer, you are welcome to go help. You don’t need to quilt. If you can press, stuff, clip, sew, pin-they can use you.

The Purdytown Cemetery waits for Spring to come so work can continue on the repairs and improvements. The large pine logs need to be removed before any ground work can be done. The committee will begin shopping for fencing that we can afford.