

2018 Division of Archaeology Report (presented to TAAC on January 18, 2019)

2018 DIVISION PERSONNEL (see TDOA organization chart in packet)

Mr. Daniel Brock was hired effective June 1 as the new State Programs Archaeologist.

FY18-19 DIVISION BUDGET (see TDOA budget sheet in packet)

The FY19 budget spreadsheet presents expenditures and revenue through November 2018. As with past years, the current budget is a continuation of the previous year's budget.

We completed three federal grant contracts (60% federal-40% state match) in 2018 through the Tennessee Historical Commission (contract cycle October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018).

- Review and Compliance position (\$83,333 total)
- Mound Bottom Remote Sensing Project (\$19,000 total)
- Rosenwald School Testing Project (\$6,666.57 total)

We currently have two federal grant contracts (60% federal-40% state match) through the Tennessee Historical Commission (contract cycle October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019):

- Review and Compliance position (\$83,333 total)
- Burgess Falls State Park Survey (\$9,000 total)

2018 GENERAL DIVISION ACTIVITY

TDOA Web Page (Sarah Eckhardt)

- <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/arch-archaeology.html>
- Sarah and Mike represent the approved staff to work with the Division web page that was substantially revised last year. However, Sarah continues her role as the staff person responsible for web page presentation, content, and changes as needed;

TDOA Facebook Page (Aaron Deter-Wolf and Sarah Eckhardt)

- <https://www.facebook.com/TNArchaeology>
- People following our page increased to 2165 as of December 2018;
- Average post reached around 200, peaking at 4607 in March (that same post garnered 204 reactions);
- Average page views were around 30 per day, peaking in October with 182 per day.

Fee-Based Tours

- The Division of Archaeology conducted ten fee-based tours of state-owned archaeological sites/areas over the 2017-18 performance cycle (October 2017 through September 2018). The tour price was \$10 per person (with kids under 12 free);
 - The ten tours comprised three Reelfoot Lake tours by Bill Lawrence, two Link Farm tours by Bill Lawrence, two Mound Bottom tours by Aaron Deter-Wolf, one Ropers Knob tour by Ben Nance and Sarah Eckhardt, one Sellars Farm tour by Sarah Eckhardt, and one Cannon County/Short Mountain tour by Sarah Eckhardt.

Site File and Record Digitization (Aaron Deter-Wolf and Sarah Eckhardt)

- Aaron and Sarah continue to digitize site information files and other records to support the TDEC strategic goal for digitization and e-services;
 - these scanning tasks comprise a work outcome in their job performance plans;
 - Counties completed in 2018 include the remainder of Davison through Dyer;
 - Completed digitization of TDOA audio cassette tapes.

Site Files (Paige Silcox and Satin Platt)

- 343 new sites were added to the site files;
- Total statewide database of 26,665 sites, and 1232 survey areas;
- 1338 site forms added to Division digital files;
- ~200 survey reports added to statewide report database;
- 455 reports added to Division digital files;
- 915 responses to external customer inquiries by email/phone;
- ~250 responses to external customer office visits;
- Steps continued toward electronic services improvements for Site File customers;
 - Continued project to convert site reporting process to web-based submission and automated database entry and site form production processes,
 - Project nearly complete but recent STS problems need to be resolved;
 - Wrote User Manual for Online Site Submission
 - Set up and trained on FileNet,
 - Attended TDEC GIS User Group meetings,
 - Attended TnGIC regional forum,
 - Attended ESRI training classes for using ArcGIS Pro,
 - Coordinated w TVA to discuss digitizing archived records,
 - Coordinated limited data sharing with NRCS, COE, Metro Planning, TDOT.

Federal Programs/SHPO (Jennifer Barnett)

- Reviewed 958 formal review response;
- Reviewed 218 reports (includes drafts and finals);
- Continued consultation with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, the United States Forest Service, and federally recognized tribes to address the adverse effect (significant damage) to a portion of the Trail of Tears in Monroe County;

State Programs (Dan Brock)

- Reviewed 455 state projects;
 - This total includes reviews for NRCS state projects conducted as a courtesy to help alleviate an extensive backlog created by NRCS staff retirements;
- 108 permits issued for archaeological work on state lands;
- 11 artifact and collection transfers;
- 15 site visits.
- Constructing revised collections management database.

Historic Cemetery Assistance (Ben Nance)

- The Division continues to serve as the default contact for historic cemetery information from the general public, although this responsibility falls outside our legislated mandate;
- Responded to 57 requests for information and technical assistance.

State Parks Assistance (Bill Lawrence)

- Provided technical assistance to 16 park projects;

Public Archaeology and Outreach

- Division personnel continued to maintain a presence in the public arena despite limited budget and staff time.

Aaron Deter-Wolf

- Authored two blog posts for T CPA “30 Days of Tennessee Archaeology”;
- Assisted with revision of Tennessee Social Studies curriculum on Tennessee prehistory;
- Coordinator of Mound Bottom Facebook page;
- Provided public lectures to various education and civic/historical organizations including Lockeland Elementary, Cumberland Compact, Warner Parks, and Safe house Tattoo;
- Provided invited lectures at Northern Kentucky University, Florida State University, and the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society;
- Provided media interviews for American Archaeology magazine, Wisconsin Public Radio, Australian Public Broadcasting, Mental Floss, Hyperallergenic, Seven Ages podcast, and National Geographic magazine.

Sarah Eckhardt

- Provided presentations to education and civic/historical organizations including Camp Bells Bend in Beaman Park (5 weeks), Bells Bend Park, Springfield Church, Abintra Montessori School, Legacy Homeschool, and Leadership Brentwood;
- Co-organized the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology (T CPA) Archaeology Day at Bells Bend Park.
- Assisted with Rutherford County Archaeological Society Archaeology Day;
- Served as Board Member for T CPA;
- Authored a blog post for T CPA “30 Days of Tennessee Archaeology”;
- Provided interviews to students for various school projects.

Bill Lawrence

- Provided a program for Eagle Tour weekend at Reelfoot Lake State Park;
- Provided three programs for Archaeofest at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park;
- Provided a non-fee tour of the Link Farm site;
- Provided a program at Pickett State Park;
- Conducted an artifact id and presentation for World Archaeology Day at the Discovery Park of America.

Mike Moore

- Authored a blog post for T CPA “30 Days of Tennessee Archaeology”;

- Presented lecture to MTSU Forensic Anthropology Class;
- Presented lecture to ETSU CRM Anthropology Class;
- Provided a presentation to the Daughters of the American Revolution;
- Continued to co-organize the Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology (CRITA) event;
- Continued to provide technical assistance to the Friends of Aittifama for Metro Nashville Aittifama Archaeological Park;

Ben Nance

- Served on Board of Advisors for Save the Franklin Battlefield;
- Served on Board of Advisors for Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area;
- Provided a presentation to Daughters of the American Revolution;

Satin Platt

- Co-authored a blog post for TCPA “30 Days of Tennessee Archaeology”;
- Provided a presentation at Tennessee Women in Science, Technology, and Research event;
- Provided a presentation at Tusculum Elementary School;
- Volunteer at TCPA Archaeology Day at Bell’s Bend.

Paige Silcox

- Prepared SAA Public Education Award nomination form for TCPA Archaeology Day;
- Co-organized the TCPA Archaeology Day at Bell’s Bend;
- Co-authored two blog posts for TCPA “30 Days of Tennessee Archaeology”;
- TCPA Board member, Events Committee member, and Facebook page administrator
- Provided a presentation at Tennessee Women in Science, Technology, and Research event;
- Provided presentations at two elementary school Career Days.

Division Personnel Research and Publication

Dan Brock

- research and assessment of the CCC camp at Montgomery Bell State Park.

Aaron Deter-Wolf

- co-presented paper titled “*Archaic Tattooing and Bundle Keeping in Tennessee, ca. 1600 BC*” in the symposium In the Service of a Greater Good: Broader Applications of Zooarchaeology in the Era of Interdisciplinary Research at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Washington, DC;
- co-presented paper titled “*Shell Heaps as Indicators of Resource Management*” in the symposium In the Service of a Greater Good: Broader Applications of Zooarchaeology in the Era of Interdisciplinary Research at the 83rd Annual Meeting, of the Society for American Archaeology in Washington, DC;
- technical assistance included Travellers Rest, Rosenwald Schools, Bells Bend, Headwaters WMA, and various landowner site reports;
- edited a revised version of the 1992 TDOA Brandywine Pointe report, electronically published on the Division webpage

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/archaeology/documents/reportofinvestigation/s/arch_roi9_Brandywine_2018.pdf

- co-initiated archaeological survey at Burgess Falls State Park;
- co-initiated Middle Cumberland Mississippian research project to update available information and explore palisades;
- co-authored an article titled “*Return to the Great Mound Group: 2016 Investigations at Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area*” in the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;
- co-edited book titled Baking, Bourbon, and Black Drink: Foodways Archaeology in the American Southeast, published by University of Alabama Press;
- co-editor of book titled The Cumberland River Archaic, in production with University of Florida Press;
- co-published journal article titled “Finding the Positive in the Negative: Archaeology and Data Collection in the Face of Natural Disasters” in Advances in Archaeological Practice;
- submitted a book chapter titled “*Tattoo Bundles as Archaeological Correlates for Ancient Body Ritual in Eastern North America*” for Shamans, Priests, Practice, Belief: Archaeological Examinations of Religion and Ritual in the Eastern Woodlands, edited by edited by Stephen B. Carmody and Casey R. Barrier. University of Alabama Press.

Sarah Eckhardt

- co-initiated archaeological survey at Burgess Falls State Park;
- co-organized video interviews with former Division employees as part of 50th TDOA anniversary project, six interviews conducted to date;
- continued work with Ben Nance on the Rosenwald Schools Survey project;
- co-presented Rosenwald School poster to the 2018 Society of Historical Archaeology conference in New Orleans, Louisiana;
- co-presented Rosenwald School poster to 2018 CRITA event;
- technical assistance included Rosenwald Schools, Travellers Rest, Vanderbilt University students, Bells Bend, various landowner site reports, cemetery near Beech Grove;
- co-initiated Middle Cumberland Mississippian research project to update available information and explore palisades;
- co-authored an article titled “*The Copper Creek Site (40SU317): A Multicomponent Mortuary Site in Goodlettsville, TN*” in the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;
- co-authored an article titled “*Return to the Great Mound Group: 2016 Investigations at Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area*” in the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;

Bill Lawrence

- presentation on tree removal at Pinson for the 2018 CRITA event;
- completed NAGPRA inventory of mortuary objects from Pinson Mounds excavations;
- completed Donaldson Collection loan inventory and agreement for Reelfoot Lake exhibit.

Mike Moore

- co-authored an article titled “*A Preliminary Assessment of Mississippian Settlement in the Little Harpeth River Watershed*” in the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;
- co-authored an article titled “*Middle Cumberland Mississippian Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future Directions*” in the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;

- continued research on crystal artifacts in the Middle Cumberland Region;
- continued research on Middle Cumberland Mississippian sites;
- continued as co-editorial coordinator of the electronic journal Tennessee Archaeology;

Ben Nance

- continued final report preparation for the Rosenwald School Survey project;
- technical assistance/investigations at Charles Howell Descendants Park, Carter House State Historic Site, Cragfont, Fort Southwest Point, Parkers Crossroads, Rippavilla, Franklin Battlefield, Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site, Wynnewood State Historic Site, Rock Castle, Tipton-Haynes, and Marble Springs;
- co-presented Rosenwald School poster to 2018 CRITA event;
- co-presented poster on Rosenwald Schools project at the Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Satin Platt

- co-presented paper on TDOA Site Files for the 2018 Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology event.

Paige Silcox

- co-presented paper on TDOA Site Files for the 2018 Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology event.
- co-organized video interviews with former Division employees as part of 50th TDOA anniversary project, six interviews conducted to date;

DIVISION PROJECTS

Mound Bottom Remote Sensing Project

- Under a THC grant to the Division, Dr. Tim de Smet (Binghamton University) led a remote sensing investigation between May 12-27 assisted by Division and Harpeth River State Park staff;
- A variety of aerial and near-surface non-invasive archaeo-geophysical techniques were employed;
- Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) collected multispectral and thermal infrared data across the site core in an effort to identify below-ground prehistoric features;
- Near-surface applied geophysical techniques included electromagnetic-induction (EMI), electrical resistivity, and ground-penetrating radar (GPR). These techniques were focused on the slopes and summit of Mound A, the residential area west of Mound A, and the area surrounding Mounds L, F, and E;
- Preliminary findings include:
 - GPR data suggest that Mound L, visible today as a low, circular rise, may have originally been a four-sided platform mound;
 - Combined data indicate the presence of a large (>50 m) circular grouping of features in the central plaza in the vicinity of Mound L. These features, which are reminiscent of a large structure or “wood-henge,” are offset south of Mound L, and likely pre-date mound construction;

- GPR returns from the summit of Mound A revealed the presence of a possible intact structure floor measuring around 12x24 m, set in the northwest corner of the summit. This structure appears to be approximately 1-m below modern ground surface, and is associated with an early mound stage. Its positioning also reiterates that the summit of Mound A likely held multiple structures;
- Initial GPR returns appear to show intact stair construction from an early mound stage on the eastern face of Mound A;
- Data gathered will be used to update the existing National Register of Historic Places form for Mound Bottom.

Rosenwald School Survey and Testing Project

- starting around 1917, Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears and Roebuck, initiated a grant program to help fund school building construction to benefit rural African-American children. This grant program continued until 1932;
- Substantial progress was made toward completion of a comprehensive Rosenwald Schools volume based on the previous TDOA surveys funded by Tennessee Historical Commission grants. This volume will be published as a TDOA Research Series report;
- Testing of two sites was conducted under a THC grant.
 - The still-standing Lee Buchner School in Williamson County yielded some school-related artifacts (desk parts), but mostly artifacts related to use of the structure as a house.
 - The Christiana School in Rutherford County is no longer standing as it was torn down and replaced with another structure in the 1940s. The testing did yield a number of desk parts.

Report of Burial Disturbance at Prehistoric Site 40DV13

- In March, the Division was notified of heavy machinery digging along the bank of the Cumberland downstream from downtown Nashville;
- Since private property, Division personnel attempted to visit the location with Metro police but were denied access by the landowner (May family);
- Frustrating as digging continued for months, legal under current state law with permission of the landowner, even if known archaeological site;
- Burials known for the site but no actual proof they have been illegally removed.

NAGPRA

Ft. Loudoun, 40MR1

- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) initiated an inquiry regarding Ft. Loudoun in 2012. The EBCI claimed the skeletal remains and associated burial objects from this site in January 2018. Substantial progress has been made on this case;
- The Division holds the partial remains of two individuals, one discovered in the 1950s (Burial 1) and the second (Burial 2) removed during the 1970s. The majority of Burial 2 was returned to the University of Tennessee McClung Museum many years ago and subsequently reburied at Sequoia Museum with other Cherokee remains. The Burial 2 box in our possession contains dirt matrix and partial long bones;
- Personal adornments with Burial 2 have been on display at Ft. Loudoun State Park. The Director consulted with the EBCI in July 2018 to ask if they would allow the park to retain

the Burial 2 objects on display at the park interpretive center. The EBCI declined to allow those objects to remain on display;

- The objects were removed from display by Tennessee State Parks in October 2018 and returned to Nashville. A NAGPRA inventory report has been completed;
- The Division is currently working to complete a draft NIC to submit to National NAGPRA.

David Davis Farm Site, 40HA301

- This case began as a court-ordered burial removal in May 2007, and entered NAGPRA in April 2008 when the skeletal remains and associated burial objects were claimed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;
- Substantial progress has been made on the David Davis Farm site (Chattanooga) case. Over the past year, the Division and National NAGPRA, in consultation with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, began negotiations regarding acceptable language in the draft NIC. These negotiations have resulted in an agreed-upon draft NIC that is being finalized at this time, currently waiting for National NAGPRA to send a final NIC for Division approval;
- All human skeletal remains have been returned to the Division.

Chickasaw Nation Claims from 2015 Inquiry for Information

- The Chickasaw Nation has formally claimed four (40WM51, 40RD77, 40WM33, and 40WM5) of ten sites submitted as an inquiry of information in October 2015. NAGPRA inventory reports have been completed for these four sites. The Division is currently working to complete a draft NIC to submit to National NAGPRA;
- The Chickasaw Nation also formally claimed in a separate letter the remaining six sites (40MD1, 40HR35, 40TP1, 40OB6, 40LN16, and 40PY207) from the original October 2015 claim;
 - All human skeletal remains and associate burial objects from 40MD1 (Pinson Mounds) were inventoried over the past year. The Division is in the process of preparing our NAGPRA inventory report;
 - Analysis of the 40OB6 human skeletal remains was discontinued at the Director's request due to diminishing returns (substantially jumbled as the result of looting activity. These remains have been returned to the Division. The Division is in the process of preparing our NAGPRA inventory report;
 - Inventory assessments for 40LN16, 40PY207, 40HR35, and 40TP1 have yet to be completed. As noted in previous TAAC reports, the assessments will take an unknown amount of time due to the lack of dedicated funding/staff, as well as the lack of a bioarchaeologist on staff (so must rely on the expertise at MTSU).